# Southwest Church of the Nazarene

CHURCH NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 3, 2021 – VOLUME 46

### WORK FOR THE LORD

Growing up in the country taught me a few things. One thing it taught me is that taking care of a home and a barn, acres of ground, a large garden, raising animals and children, feeding the neighbor's cows, painting an extremely long split rail fence, takes a lot of work. It seemed like there was always something to do for our family of seven – even though I was relatively young at the time. Like one farmer observed, "The hardest thing about milking cows, is that they never stay milked."

With each new sunrise God offers us another opportunity to accomplish what we can for ourselves and our families. Some days we feel up to the challenge while other days we'd just soon stay in bed. But, up we go trying to accomplish the day's tasks – not always because we feel like it, but because it is the right thing to do. At the same time, we should have also a "things to do" list for the Lord. Paul told the believers in Ephesus, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for <u>good works</u>, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). In other words, God has something prepared for us to do as believers!

*It may be to pray for a list of people each day.* Believe me, this is work. However, this is how the kingdom of God advances.

*It may be to serve at the church.* The Body of Christ is only as strong as its members. True, not many may thank you or recognize your contribution, but we do what we do for the Lord... not people.

#### It may be to be a good worker at your company or a good student at your school.

When Christians are dependable, trustworthy, and have a good attitude, they are a testimony to the Lord!

When we face each new day as another opportunity to "work for the Lord" it brings purpose to each day. As well, pray about the work He wants you to do and for Him to help you accomplish it. As the Psalmist says, "Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:16-17).

Ultimately, we have only One person we want to please with our efforts, our Savior. Our greatest privilege is to bring Him honor with the life we live and the "work" we do each day. Will the world understand you? Probably not, because we serve two different masters. As Paul spoke to Christians about their masters (which is the equivalent of a boss to employee relationship today), he said, "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord and not to men**, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:22-24).

Today is new day...let put in a good day for the Lord!

Pastor Scott and Cindy

### We'll Work till Jesus Comes

O land of rest, for thee I sigh! When will the moment come When I shall lay my armor by And dwell in peace at home?

To Jesus Christ I fled for rest; He bade me cease to roam, And lean for comfort on His breast Till He conducts me home.

I sought at once my Savior's side; No more my steps shall roam. With Him I'll brave death's chilling tide And reach my heav'nly home.

We'll work till Jesus comes, We'll work till Jesus comes, We'll work till Jesus comes, And we'll be gathered home.

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### Mission Donation Opportunity

With missions oversees greatly impacted by COVID-19, Allen Brown has a vision to do more mission work here in the United States with a project very near to his heart. He would like to purchase a "Jesus Film Backpack" and use this equipment to go and show the Jesus Film to many others sharing the Good News with fellow Americans who haven't yet seen this important film. His cost to purchase the backpack is \$2,000. He has already managed to raise \$700. If you would like to help provide a donation to his project, please see Allen Brown. If he receives more than the \$1,300 needed, he'll apply that to the next Jesus Film project. Thank you from Allen!

**Baptisms & Memberships:** If you have received Christ in your life and have not been baptized or if you are a believer and want to go through our membership class, please see Pastor Scott.

- <u>Baptism</u> is a symbol of our leaving the old life and rising to new life in Christ. It is our testimony to the world that we are a Christ follower and desire to belong to the family of God.
- Membership is when a believer makes a commitment to their local church, to support it with their attendance, tithes and offerings, and to use their talents and gifts to help accomplish Christ's Great Commission. It is agreeing with the doctrines and polity of the Church of the Nazarene as they have outlined from the Scriptures guidelines for the church. With membership you have the right to be a part of the Annual Elections, voting, and even being a candidate for a position.
- If the Lord is leading you to either of these areas, please contact Pastor Scott, and we will set up a class time for you.

# **Praises:**

- Praise the Lord that many conquered the Proverb Challenge! Such a great way to start the new year, with filling our hearts and minds with God's wisdom.
- Praise the Lord we were able to have church Sunday! We weren't sure we would be able to meet because of the snow. Thankfully, the temperature was warm enough, and we had a wonderful time of worship and fellowship!
- Praise the Lord we are getting more done around the church facilities! The nursery is being updated, new entry doors are ready to be installed, and we have new lights installed in the sanctuary.

# **Prayer Needs:**

### Prayer Needs can be found in the emailed and mailed versions of the church newsletter.

 Our Country – for a renewal in morality and sacredness of human life.

# **Upcoming Events:**

- February 7th, Sunday 10:40am Worship Service: Special service – Swahili Church Ministry.
- February 8th, Monday 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- February 9th, Tuesday 6:30pm Nominating Committee Meeting
- February 14th, Sunday 10:40am Worship Service
- February 21st, Sunday 10:40am Worship Service: New Members, Baptisms.
- February 22nd, Monday 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- February 28th, Sunday 10:40am Worship Service: District Superintendent Dr. Ron Blake will be speaking.
- February 28th, End of Church Year
- March 4th, Thursday End of Church Year: Reports Due (SDMI, NMI, NYI, Treasurers, Etc.)
- March 7th, Sunday 10:40am Worship Service: Annual Church Elections
- March 8th, Monday 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- March 14th, Sunday 10:40am Worship Service
- March 21st, Sunday 10:30am Worship Service: Olivet Music & Preaching Ambassadors
- March 22nd, Monday 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- March 28th, Sunday 10:40am Worship Service

Exciting News! We have been working for a few months on our new Swahili church ministry, and things are starting to come together. We hope to have plans finished for this soon and have it approved by the District Superintendent and our church board. Their ministry, under Pastor Acrame Charles, will be focusing on the African refugees in our area who speak the Swahili language. One of the ways we can help: we would like to have 5 people who would commit to pray for this ministry in its beginning stages. There are many needs, and we want God's protection and blessing upon everything. If you would like to be a part of this team, please let Pastor Scott know. Also, we will be asking for volunteer help soon for other areas. It is exciting to see how God is going to use this new ministry for His glory! 

## **CHURCH CLOSING OR DELAY NOTIFICATIONS:**

Do you ever take a look at the weather forecast and think... "I wonder if we'll still have church services."? Well, here are the "Snow Day" or any other closing/delay procedures for Southwest Church of the Nazarene.

If we make the decision to cancel or delay a planned church service or activity, we will be sure to put this information out there (typically by 8:00am for morning service or as soon as we know for any service) on our Facebook page (at Indy Southwest Naz), website (<u>www.swnazarene.org</u>), and on several local new stations (both can be found on the television channels or on the websites). Please check more than one – as sometimes they are potentially slower to get updated due to the high volume of changes/calls submitted.

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