

From Pastor Greg's Heart ~ The Power of Gratitude

I was listening to "Life Transformation" radio show featuring psychotherapist Michael Hart on CHRI 99.1 FM on the first Monday of this month. His topic was on "The Power of Gratitude." It was based on **1 Thessalonian 5:16-18**, *"Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. New International Version (NIV) "*

What my friend and brother was teaching resonated with my spirit. How often do we need to be reminded to be thankful or grateful in all circumstances? It is so easy to be dragged down by the daily news concerning COVID.

How can we be thankful in these COVID times? One way is to realize that God's love for us is still the same. God's presence in our lives is still the same. God's mission for us to tell the world about salvation in Christ Jesus is still the same. We can thank the LORD that we have new ways to share the Gospel through live-streaming. We can thank the LORD that some people are more open to talking about the meaning of life.

Ask God to give you a grateful heart. Thank Him for Spring! Isn't it amazing how God is faithful to His creation and how He awakens His creation from dormancy? Ask God to awaken us from our dormancy imposed by the fears of this world. Let us awaken with thanksgiving and with songs of praise for our living Saviour Jesus! Because He lives, we can face tomorrow!

We are an Associated Gospel Church

What I appreciate about our church is the association we have with churches of like faith who share the same Statement of Beliefs. We are a member church of the Associated Gospel Churches - AGC. We are part of a movement of healthy reproducing churches

Last year, Marion and I had planned to fly to Kelowna for the National Conference that was supposed to be held at the end of May. Fortunately, we bought travel insurance. This week we got an email that a check is in the mail to reimburse the church for the flights. Thank you LORD!

Check out the latest news from our Associated Gospel Churches team at headquarters in Burlington, Ontario by connecting to this link - <https://agcofcanada.com/blog>. You will find our President Bill Allan's blogs and more.

Mel Coker, Anne Ryan, Mike Roy and I participated in a Ministry Leaders Gathering hosted by our AGC Regional Director Tom Lamshead last month. We joined approximately 12 other leaders from our AGC churches in Eastern Ontario. The topic of discussion was "making disciples" as commissioned in Matthew 28:18-20. This is definitely why we exist as a church. What intrigued us was the importance of having a "Discipleship Pathway" in our church ministries. In other words, "making disciples" is something we have to do in all our ministries at Calvary Bible. Pray for the elders and stewards as we look at this discipleship pathway. How do we start discipleship relationships? Our brother Jake Giesbrecht, as mentioned in the last month's newsletter, has a practical book on discipleship called "Relationships." He writes about how simple it real is to disciple someone. You just build a relationship and ask the person where they are at in understanding who Jesus is and offering to help them grow through God's word.

Let's keep praying for the AGC as they will help us to become a healthier church that is making disciples who will make disciples. If you have any questions about discipleship or you yourself would like to be discipled (growing in your faith and living it out) then please call (613-283-6474) or email Pastor Greg calvarysmithsfalls@gmail.com or contact one of the elders.

Bits and Bites:

1) Breaking news! The Province of Ontario and the Ontario Camping Association have been working hard to ensure a safe plan to allow campers to come back to camp this summer. Please checkout these camp website links for more information. Also, our church has a Camp Fund to assist each camper. We have a camp fund form with more information. Ask our Secretary Anne for this form for your family.

<https://www.galileebiblecamp.ca/>

<https://www.cherith.ca/>

<https://iawah.com/>

<https://www.joycamp.ca/>

<https://www.csranchbigclearlake.ca/>

2) Jearim and Sarah Woodall were officially welcomed into membership on Sunday, March 7th. We kept it a private moment. It was not on livestream.

3) Welcome Phil Hogan as our new Building and Property steward. He was officially recognized and prayed for on Sunday, March 14. If you have any ideas for facility improvements, want to volunteer for maintenance jobs or have facility concerns have a chat with Phil.

4) Kids Church has come back to life. The ages are 4 to Grade 6. They are the Kinders four- and five-year-old; Grade 1 to Grade 3, and Grade 4 to Grade 6. The lead teachers are Marion and Hannah Ryan. The helpers are Heidi, Kelly, Sarah Woodall and Melanie Doornekamp and Youth: Isabella, Maya, Annie and Tim. If you have any more questions have a chat with our Children's Ministry stewards Heidi Wills or Kelly Reynolds.

Prayer Corner

1) Dr. Paula Stewart (Medical Health Officer of Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit) has issued a Section 22 Class Order to impose greater restrictions in Perth and Smiths Falls due to more COVID cases. https://healthunit.org/wp-content/uploads/Section_22_Class_Order_COVID_Perth_Smiths_Falls.pdf We can still meet for worship on Sundays at 30% capacity. However, our worship team must only be one performer/singer. Please remember to wear your masks at church and physically distance. Please enter at the Office entrance and exit at the Front doors closest to our stage. Pray that the spread of COVID and its variants will be halted in Smiths Falls and Perth. Thank the LORD for our essential workers and medical teams.

Remember you can always watch us live on our Calvary Bible Church Facebook. If you do not have Facebook you can still visit our FB page. When a pop-up window asks you to sign-in press the "Not now" caption to enter our FB page.

- 2) Thank the LORD for Francine Hill. Her cancer is responding to the medication she is taking. Surgery will still be necessary. Please keep her in your prayers.
- 3) Beth Laming had her appointment for her shoulder. She is opting for surgery. Pray that she will have her surgery sooner than later.
- 4) Pray for the safe arrival of Luke and Kim Hogan's baby on Good Friday. Pray that all will go well for Kim's last weeks of pregnancy.