



AUGUST 2022

ISSUE 22-8

The Diligent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARP LAKE WALES, FL

“...a Christ-centered fellowship of believers devoted to glorifying God through true worship, personal evangelism, discipleship, and servanthood.”

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Leadership

ON MANNA

From Pastor Mackay

We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

- 1 Corinthians 10:9-14

I have a few vivid memories of my dad presenting my sister and I with an unexpected treat after Sunday worship: a handful of communion bread. My dad served (and continues to serve) as an elder, and following his service on communion Sundays, I presume he grabbed a handful as the leftover bread was destined for the garbage. Regardless, it came as a welcome treat. As a child who had not yet professed faith, I was rightly not allowed to take the elements in church. As a child who approaching the normal lunch hour, I was hungry! How good those first pieces of salty, sweet, rich bread tasted. Yet, as I shoveled piece after piece into my mouth, I quickly became tired of it, and was ready to head home for something more substantial at the lunch table.

In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul warns the worldly Corinthians against, well, their worldliness. They have leaned dangerously close to presumption. That is, their external religion seems good, and they seem to be flourishing materially in life, and so they are tempted to live with the thought, "Of course God loves me. It is *me* after all..."

The symptoms of this attitude were shown in the Corinthian's laziness in working out their faith. Like a spoiled child who assumes his father's fortune will keep him fat and happy throughout life, the Corinthians often didn't see the need to try. Since God was so clearly for them, what difference did it make whether they lived lives of

obedience or not? It was clear to Paul that this was especially true in matters of idolatry and sensuality (which are really one in the same). Though the Corinthians presumed God to be their God, they actually served and worshiped themselves, seeking pleasure and prestige in the world around them.

Paul points them back to their forebears: the nation of Israel on the exodus from Egypt. They had a similar presumption which led to similar sin. They became impatient and annoyed at God. This God who claimed to love them and bless them seemed to be giving them the bare minimum of blessing. So, the Israelites chafed against their master.

In Numbers 21 we read of one of their chief complaints, which led God to scold them with the horrendous serpent attack Paul references. They complained about their bread; the famous manna that came down from Heaven each night. God had miraculously and richly blessed them with a wonderful grace: food! It had sustained them in a wilderness land where there were no crops to make such a precious resource as bread.

Yet, the Israelites come to a place where they have had enough. "...We loathe this worthless food," they cry (Num 21:6). The gift of God has grown stale in their presumptuous mouths. They believe they are entitled to richer foods!

We can fall so quickly into this habit of presumption. When we think we have managed to keep ourselves from the "big" sins of our culture (sexual, criminal, etc.), we strut around as if we deserve a medal. So, when God guides our lives to repeatedly teach us that his provision is greater than all the world has to offer; that in Jesus we have the greatest blessing, how quickly our mouths and stomachs turn sour. We come to worship and think, "This, *again?*", Can't we get some richer blessings? Can't we just dip our toe into the sin of the world to experience a bit of its fun and pleasure?

Christian, let us heed Paul's direction. Israel stands as a reminder of our constant need for God's sustaining grace, and the constant blessing that God's grace in Jesus truly is. It is when we

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think that we stand on our own strength that we must be wary, lest we fall. God is faithful to guide us through every temptation, as long as our trust remains in him.

If you go back and read Numbers 21 (the whole thing about the snakes), it's one of the instances where you may think, "Goodness, God got a bit harsh there." However, this betrays yet again the shallow understand we have of our sin and God's grace. Who cares if our appetites get a little out of hand? Doesn't God love us? As long as I don't cheat on my spouse or defraud my business, can't I just cruise? God's answer is clearly, no! Hearts leaning toward sin are leaning toward destruction. It's no laughing matter.

The solution to loving God more and living a holy life is the same: a life devoted to entirely to him. May we seek and savor Jesus Christ! ■



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are highlights from the meeting in July.

- The Session continued a study of *The Shepherd Leader* by Timothy Witmer
- Needs of the congregation were shared, and a time of prayer was held for the people and ministries of our church.
- Standing committees reported their various ministries
- Stewardship and Finance reported from their July 12 meeting. As of end of June, YTD giving was at \$469,798 which is slightly behind budget. Expenses YTD stood at \$399,373. The Operating Fund balance was \$259,900.
- The Session approved an August hiatus for Children's Sunday school with thanks for the hard work of our teachers and leaders. Children's Sunday school will restart Sept 4 and middle and high school Sunday school will restart Sept 11.
- The Session will constitute the Nominations Committee in August to begin the officer nominations process for next year. ■

PRAYER FOCUS

AUGUST 7 - School Start

AUGUST 14 - Adult Small Groups and
Children's Sunday school

AUGUST 21 - Evangelism

AUGUST 28 - Vince Treadway/Music Ministry

Associate Pastor Search

Associate Pastor for Family Discipleship Search Update

The Search Committee continues its work. Though the committee has received interest from potential candidates, there is prayerful consensus that this process may take considerable time. Please pray for the committee as they continue their work and keep an ear out for further announcements. ■

Discipleship

ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall

Looking forward to gathering together again beginning **Wednesday, September 7th, at 6:00pm!**
Join us for our **kick-off pot-luck!**

Contact David Nelson (Discipleship Committee chair) if you'd like to help with...

- Kitchen crew/clean up
- Children's Program
- Fellowship Night Programs



Missions & Outreach

BRIDGE EUROPE UPDATE

From Bridge Europe Director

The identity of the author is kept anonymous to protect our Bridge Europe Missionaries.

In Mark 4:26-29, Jesus tells of the farmer who plants the seed and goes about his duties faithfully, yet it is the seed itself that grows and bears fruit. After the many challenges of Covid from the past couple years, we in Bridge Europe are beginning to see some fruit.

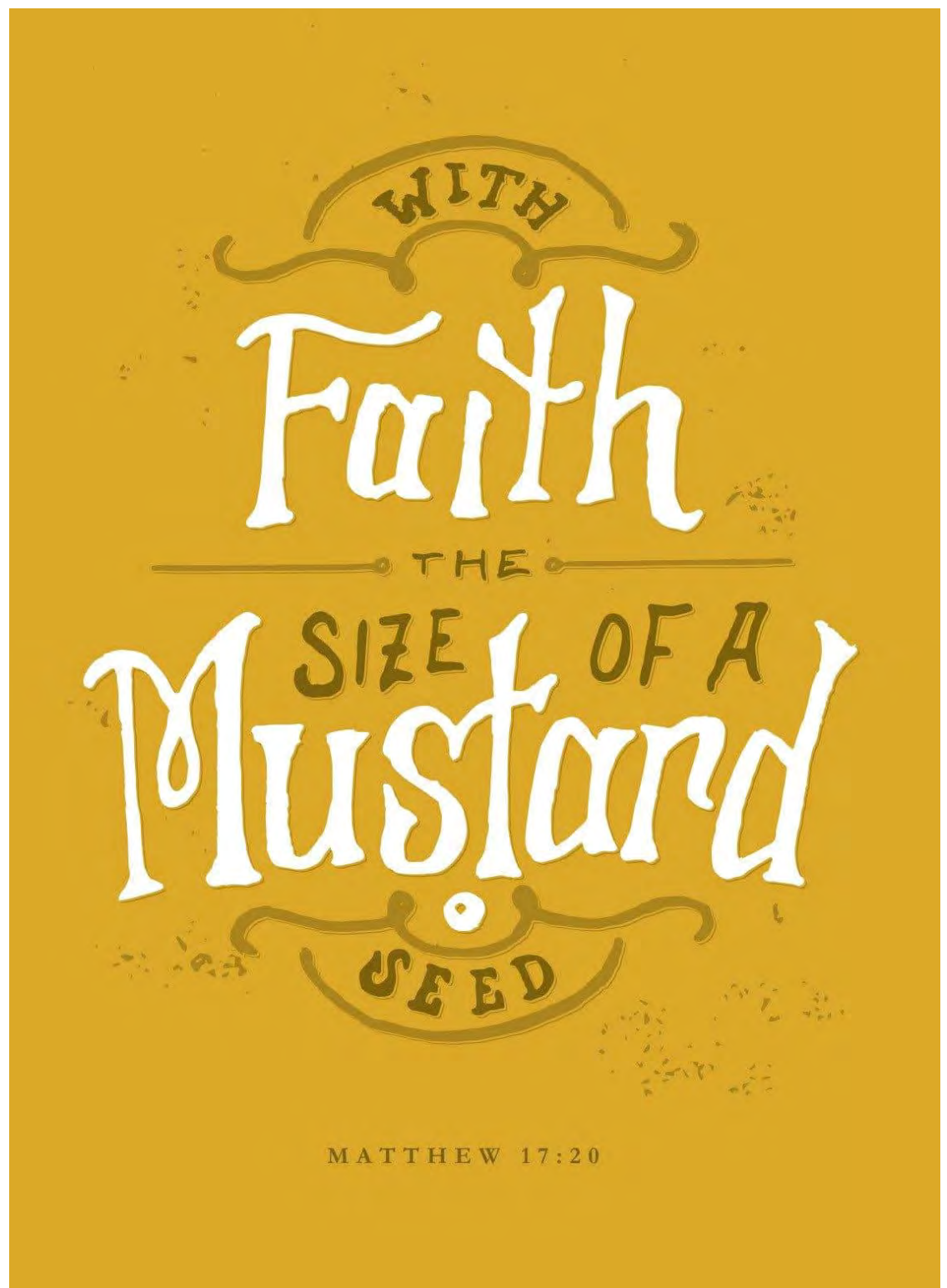
There are at least 20 million Muslims living in Western Europe coming from the most unreached places on earth. The challenge is how to effectively engage them with the Gospel. As most European churches struggle to keep their heads above water, the desire - let alone the know-how to actively witness is simply too much for many of them. In France for example, Muslims outnumber evangelical Christians 10 to 1.

Given the immense challenges I just mentioned, it would be easy for us to become discouraged and disillusioned. Yet, we remain hopeful because the Word of God is powerful and will accomplish what God intends. Far from being a dry theological truism, this truth liberates us to pour out our lives to see people come to mature faith in Christ. We believe that the Lord is sovereignly at work in bringing these precious souls to Europe for them to taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

We want to use our unique calling and experience as Bridge Europe in service of the local church to better reach out to and integrate believers from a Muslim background. Where possible, we seek to work with the existing local church. Where there is a need and the context calls for it, we will seek to plant a church. For example, some of our missionaries are seeking to plant a multicultural church in a diverse and unreached neighborhood where more than 95% of the community is foreign-born and 113 nationalities are represented and where there is no current evangelical church presence.

Everything we do is done openly in the name of Christ and with the goal to create relationships where the Gospel can be shared in more effective ways. Gilles is a middle-aged French Christian who never thought twice about Muslims or refugees. However, after attending our prayer meetings, he signed up to become a language partner. He now meets weekly with an Iranian refugee named Reza. Gilles invited Reza and his family to church where Laurie and I were able to give him a New Testament in his language. When we asked him if he is a Christian, he smiled and said, "Not yet. But I love what I have seen and experienced." Even more, Reza's wife was baptized this summer!

That is the power of the growing seed in Mark 4 - mustard seed capable of growing to do immeasurably more that we can imagine. ■



BEN & TRISH ALEXANDER

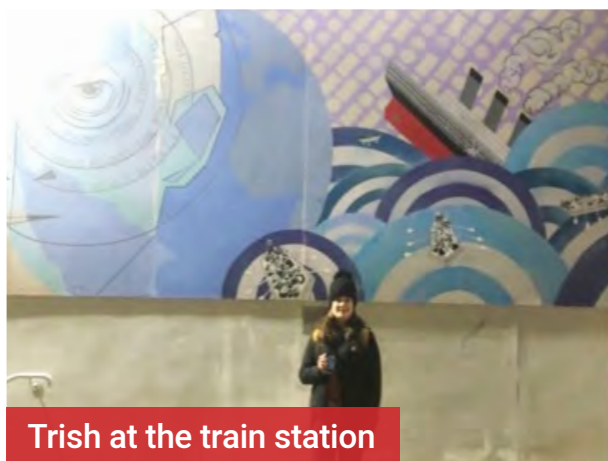
MISSIONARY CANDIDATES | UK/ENGLAND | MAY 2022



Ben preaching in Chelmsford



Impact ministry with college students in Chelmsford



Trish at the train station

Please join us in praying for:

1. Full funding by the beginning of 2023 for ministry in Chelmsford, UK.
2. People in Chelmsford to have ears to hear. Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
3. Chelmsford Presbyterian Church to be strengthened and able to secure sponsorship for our visas.
4. Our children, as we travel to share about this mission and transition to England.



Ben & Trish with Haddon (11), Piers (8), Charlotte (6), Swithin (2)

Hello Everyone,

We are excited to announce our missionary candidacy with World Witness. Ben currently serves as pastoral assistant at Neely's Creek ARP Church in Rock Hill, SC, which has been home to our family for the past 5 years. Ben has a Master of Arts in Christian Thought from Gordon Conwell Seminary and is licensed for Gospel ministry by the Catawba Presbytery. But this is only the beginning of our story.

We believe that we have been called to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in England. It is the burden of our hearts to share the Gospel in that land. This desire has been confirmed by the session of our church, by World Witness, and now by the Evangelical Church of England and Wales (EPCEW).

We prayed we would have the privilege to partner with a church in England who needed and were praying for laborers. The Lord answered that prayer through a call from Chelmsford Presbyterian Church (CPC) in Chelmsford, Essex, England. CPC has called Ben (as a World Witness missionary) to be their associate minister, and we are excited to engage with CPC ministry in the city of Chelmsford (160,000 people).

A church of any Christian association in Chelmsford is made up of a very tiny fraction of the city's population, due to the decline of Christianity in England. We would ask that you partner with us and send us out (Acts 13:1-5) and that God would once again bring many people to Himself in this place (John 6:44). With God's provision through your prayers and support, we hope to be fully funded and sent out at the beginning of 2023. Your partnership would allow us all to go and remain in England. We welcome any opportunity to share more with you.

Your immediate financial support will help us transition to England by early 2023!

Ben & Trish

For your own personal prayer time • Please do not reprint, forward or place on Internet

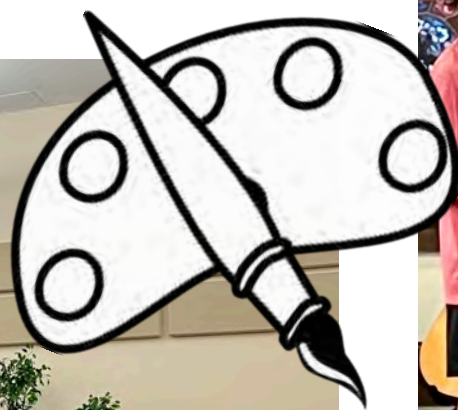
WORLD WITNESS • 918 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Suite 218 • Greenville SC 29607 • 864-233-5226 • worldwitness.org

Music Ministry

FINE ARTS CAMP 2022!

From Vince Treadway

Praise the Lord for a wonderful Fine Arts Camp, July 18-22! We had 43 campers and 20 volunteers, and the days were filled with great teaching and fun. The students started the day with Bible from Pastor Mackay, then music and drama from Vince, then a snack time followed by art by Katie Lippert and finally the students chose between dance with Theresa Hankin and handbells with Vince. The final program was on Friday at noon where the students displayed their works of art and presented a portion of the musical, Camp Willimocky, played two handbell selections, and performed a dance routine. Pastor Mackey also gave a brief synopsis of his teaching for the week as well as a presentation of the Gospel to the parents. Many thanks to all the volunteers and staff who gave generously of their time and talents to bring this great week together! What a beautiful picture of the family of God working together for His Glory!





Family Ministry

Opportunities abound for all ages to learn from God's Word! Contact a pastor, elder, or a teacher for more information!



Thanks to everyone who came out to kickball with Frostproof ARP! Keep an eye out for info on our next gathering!

Current Youth Ministry Opportunities:
Sunday Worship at 9:30am
Sunday school restarts Sept 11th

Church Family

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

July 1, Keaton Kohl
July 1, Kevin Kohl
July 2, Marguerite Bacon
July 2, John Beck
July 2, Pat Frankenburger
July 5, Tami Estes
July 5, Maggie Clare Hixenbaugh
July 5, Victoria Stevenson
July 6, Whitney Brewer
July 6, Tom Galloway
July 7, Chip Carter
July 7, Caroline Swanson
July 8, Bob Brookes
July 8, Doug Pace
July 10, Becky Jahna
July 13, Bob Meeker
July 17, Cash Cockrell
July 17, Alison Freeland
July 17, Faith Treadway
July 20, Chuck Loveless
July 21, Jack Brandies
July 21, James Ebel
July 23, Wanda Bryan
July 24, Dick Bailey
July 25, David K Nelson
July 25, June Ullman
July 26, Charlotte Nelson
July 28, Ellen Horn
July 28, David Nelson
July 29, Carol Bourdette
July 29, Charlie Henry
July 31, Dawn McCollum

ANNIVERSARIES

Maria & Jeff Herman, July 1
Emma & Colby Pike, July 5
Laureen & John Beck, July 11
Diana & Jim Smith, July 13
Luciana & Tim Abele, July 22
Julia & Michael Berkau, July 24
Lynne & Bob Hulen, July 29
Joyce & Carl McCollum, July 29

BIRTHDAYS

August 2, Dottie Bailey
August 2, Tom Freeland
August 3, Steve Sorensen
August 7, Shelly DiNunzio
August 7, Michael Kahler
August 7, Marie Steensma
August 9, Ann Story
August 10, Kathryn Bielawa
August 10, Amy Crews
August 10, Tom Kohl
August 13, Margo McCollum
August 12, Rory Brewer
August 15, Ellis Hunt, Jr.
August 16, Lisa Portwood
August 17, Kathy Gibson
August 18, John Baust
August 22, Dan Miller
August 23, Shay Hixenbaugh
August 24, Nancy Ayers
August 24, Bob Hulen
August 27, Dave Falk
August 28, Linda Reeves
August 28, Alli Violette
August 29, Virginia Okie
August 29, Ryan Paros
August 29, Hayes Seay
August 30, Dick Miller
August 30, Cindy Nelson
August 31, Larry Oliszewski

ANNIVERSARIES

Faith & Vince Treadway, Aug 2
Dawn & Rob McCollum, Aug 8
Ashley & Jake Cockrell, Aug 9
Jennifer & Richard Fugate, Aug 10
Lori & Chuck Loveless, Aug 18
Ruth & Milo Miller, Aug 18
Ellen & Ronald Horn, Aug 19
Kay & Jim Weaver, Aug 20
Janice & Jack Brandies, Aug 22
Irene & Harry Nelson, Aug 23
Diana & Charles Schmidt, Aug 25
Julie & Jimmy Seay, Aug 27
Susan & James Ebel, Aug 29
Patty & David Falk, Aug 29



Dear Lake Wales ARP,

Thank you all for your gracious invitation to minister and stay in Lake Wales over the last two weeks. It was a privilege to preach the Word. I am thankful to Mackay and the session.

Our family enjoyed staying in the mission house so much. It was wonderful to have a place to stay so that we could make so many relationships with people here and other sister churches.

In Christ,

Ben & Trish, Haddon, Piers, Charlotte, Swithin



Thank you!

My profound thanks to my fellow Presbyterians and beyond for your inspiring get-well cards, gifts, and visits during my rehab in Winter Haven. God Bless you all!!

In Christ,

Milford Myhre



Congratulations!

To Tom & Jean Ingram, parents of Lala Ingram, who celebrated 77 years of marriage on June 20th





First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales
 16 N 3rd St, Lake Wales, FL 33853
 Phone: 863.676.0711
 fpclw.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

2022

Frank Hunt III
 John Matteson
 Vince Treadway

2024

Daniel Hunt
 David Nelson
 Andy Hunt

2023

Scott Crews
 Doug Pace
 David Falk

2025

Tony Woods

DEACONS

2022

Bea Meeker
 Aaron Nelson
 Laura Hunt

2024

Leah Gibson
 Dan Miller
 Randy Shear

2023

Susan Coyne
 Bob Hulen
 Michael Matteson
 Karla Campbell

Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith
Clerk of Session: Frank Hunt III
Chairman of Deacons: Aaron Nelson
Deacon Secretary: Susan Coyne
Chm. of the Congregation: Jim Weaver
Treasurer: Michelle Hurst
Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt