

The Witness

Volume XIX, Issue IV

Newsletter

April 2022

Remember your Citizenship

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion ... He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:1, 3b-5, ESV)

Sometimes we need to hit reset. Sometimes we need perspective. We can become so 'connected' to the world that we lose our way. The world around us decays. Our 'interim' country changes, but the eternal kingdom to which we truly belong does not.

I've traveled a lot. In other places, things never seem the same. Guards carrying automatic weapons may watch your every move. The filth and dirt and stench of undeveloped countries may turn your stomach. Unruly characters and pickpockets may constantly seek for an opportunity. The empty eyes of hopeless people striving to survive another day may strike empathy within one's heart. Everything different. Constant anxiety. Nothing 'normal'.

And after each trip, it is so good to be home. Safe. Secure. Able to drink the water. Not worried about who is around you. It all seems okay again. All is the way it should be. Normal. A place of rest.

And so it is with us while we live in

this world. This place is not 'normal'. Our citizenship is only secondarily 'American'. The US is not really our home. Our status quo may change here. It may become less and less comfortable. But it is not our true home. Perhaps we have lulled ourselves into thinking it was.

Our home is with Christ in His kingdom. We have been born into a new family. A new country. Our citizenship is in heaven now. This world, even this country, will fritter away. It will become less and less comfortable, i.e., 'normal'. But that is okay. Our citizenship is somewhere else. And that place is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It isn't going anywhere. And that citizenship is irrevocable. There is where we find 'normal'.

Let's not be confused. There is a reason we are not comfortable here. We are only temporary residents. So when things decay, may we cling that much more to that which is imperishable. When sin invades and becomes prominent around us, may we cling to that where sin will not be present. Let's reset our minds and place our hope in the kingdom that lasts.

So let's reprioritize. Let's make eternal kingdom matters the priority. May we seek to have our minds under control. May we live godly. May we be encouraged. May we share about our citizenship in His kingdom to others that don't have that security, so that they might enter that kingdom as well. The kingdoms of this world will decline. But we don't belong to

them. Our kingdom is secure.

Pastor Danny

From the Heart

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

No matter what we face in this life, we can rejoice in our Lord and Savior. As the hymn writer, Horatio Spafford penned, "Whatever my lot Thou has taught me to say, it is well with my soul!" If all goes wrong, we know that our souls are secure forever because of Jesus. It is a matter of where our focus is. When we begin to rejoice in Him our anxiety begins to subside. When our anxiety subsides and we are trusting in Jesus, we are able to deal gently with other people as well. We can rejoice that our God is near us. He promised to never leave us or forsake us. If we believe this, we can cast off our anxiety by taking advantage of His presence, pouring our hearts out to him in thankfulness and laying down our burdens knowing that not only is He near but He truly cares. The end result of focusing on Jesus and trusting Him will be peace in our hearts. During these uncertain times, we can remember

that God never changes, is constant and His love never fails. If we truly receive God's love personally, then we can allow God's love to flow through us to others to the praise of His glorious grace.

As we prepare to celebrate Resurrection Day this month, let's focus on Christ and give Him the glory as we move for on life's journey.

Melaina

We had a great D-Now Weekend Retreat in March with 18 in attendance. In May, we begin to raise funds for this years Youth Camp on June 6-10th. Please be praying with us as we plan and prepare for Youth Camp, VBS and other ways in which we can serve as a church body.

In Christ,
Bro. Chad

Worship Matters

Isn't God good? He not only saves us spiritually; He loves us dearly and never lets go. Our world can be filled with chaos and heartache but He stays steady and strong. We can't go wrong as a church or an individual as long we keep Christ the center of everything. He never turns His back on us as His children and loves us dearly. Life is all about Him. Reminds me of the old praise and worship song called "Center".

Center (by Charlie Hall)

*You're the center of the universe
Everything was made in You Jesus
Breath of every living thing
Everyone was made for You
You hold everything together
You hold everything together
Christ be the center of our lives
Be the place we fix our eyes
Be the center of our lives
We lift our eyes to heaven
We wrap our lives around your life
We lift our eyes to heaven, to You*



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Prayerfully consider giving to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**. Though the week of prayer took place last month, the offering will continue through the month of April.
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The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO)** is the primary way we support mission efforts in North America. One hundred percent of gifts given to AAEO are used to support more than 2,200 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada.
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At A Glance	
February's Gifts:	\$19,026. ⁵⁰
2022 Gifts So Far:	\$42,563. ²⁶
2022 Budget:	\$262,763. ⁰⁰

Your Church Staff...	
Pastor:	Bro. Danny Parker
Cell:	620-397-1753
Email:	fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net
Youth Minister:	Bro. Chad Ferrell
Cell:	903-243-7103
Email:	brochadferrell@gmail.com
Music Minister:	Bro. Chad Ferrell
Cell:	903-243-7103
Email:	brochadferrell@gmail.com
Secretary:	Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
In the office Mon. - Thurs., 8:30am - 2:30pm	
Church Phone:	903-383-2393
Church Fax:	903-383-2384
Church Website:	www.fbcyantis.com

Give online!
Go to:
<https://onrealm.org/fbcyantis/give/now>

Don't miss mid-week activities at FBC Yantis!

Prayer Meeting on Tuesday mornings, 7am.

Ladies' Bible Study on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am.

Men's Bible Study on Tuesday evenings, 6:30pm.

Children and Youth after school programs on Wednesday until 5:30pm and 6:30pm respectively.

Get involved and pray for these activities!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3