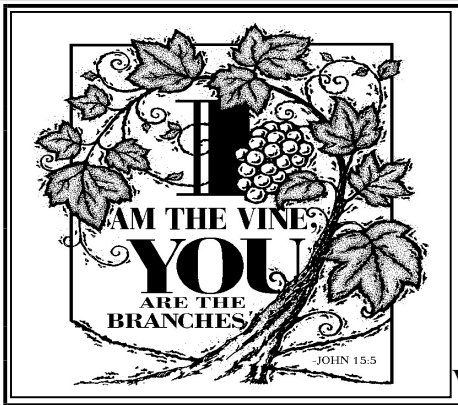


THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LIV No. 2 **February 17, 2020**

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS CONFERENCE RECAP

"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3

Voice of the Martyrs has a network in place to rescue the imprisoned and persecuted and/or their families; distribute Bibles; and gives many other forms of aid to front line workers. The organization was formed by a Lutheran minister, Richard Wurmbrand, in 1967, after he had spent 14 years imprisoned in Romania for his faith, three years of which were in solitary confinement. This group sponsors conferences periodically, one of which was held in Columbus, Texas, on Saturday, February 8. What an awesome day experienced by about 700 attendees. Four main speakers shared their experiences and each speaker was preceded by worship with music and prayer led by Amy Shreve

Jonathan Ekman, VP International Ministries at the Voice of the Martyrs

He shared amazing, sometimes humorous stories about front line workers smuggling and distributing Bibles and persons witnessing for Jesus. Christians who commit to be church planters in Columbia are asked to sign a three line form:

I am as right with God as I can be; I have said goodbye to my friends and family; and I will not run.

Pastor Hormoz Shariat from Iran

Pastor Hormoz has a television ministry in Iran and he shared how regular citizens and government officials in Iran have satellite dishes, even though they are illegal; therefore the people can listen to his Christian messages. He has a call- in show and he showed a video about a lady and her daughter calling in to say they were going to commit suicide because the mother had MS and they felt hopeless. He convinced them to pray to Jesus and wait at least one week. If nothing felt different after one week, then they could still commit suicide. The woman was actually healed and now they use this same line on others. Pray to Jesus and see if anything changes in one week. Pastor Hormoz says that Iranians hate their clergy and government, the mosques are empty, and that the people love America. There are many house churches since physical churches and Bibles are illegal. He predicts that the entire country will become Christian, including the government and asks that everyone pray for that to happen.

Pastor Bob Fu from China

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed". 2 Cor. 4:8-10

The crosses from all the churches in China were removed by the government and only churches that the government sanctions can be open. But the Pastor has to sign a document that they believe that president Xi Jinping is worshipped above God. Most of the Christians, therefore, worship in secret in home churches. He gave a statistic that in 1949 there were 1M Christians in China and now there are 116M.

Gracia Burnham

Gracia and Martin Burnham were missionaries for New Tribes Mission (now called Ethnos360) in the Philippines for 17 years. Martin was a pilot and delivered supplies and patients for other missionaries. On May 27, 2001, Gracia and Martin were captured by the Abu Sayyaf Group and held captive, marching in the jungle for one year. They endured much hardship and during their rescue, Martin was killed. They have three children and now Gracia continues the ministry by speaking of her experiences and the Lord's faithfulness.

Some quotes: *"A little faith, an amazing God".*
"We have today's day of grace".
"It doesn't matter that far better men and women have carried the cross better, just that we carry ours today."
"Jesus died, took our sins, and gave us our righteousness."

What can we do?

1. Pray for the front line workers. There are cards available in the narthex to complete to get a name or you can go to the website **wwwpersecution.com** to get information or a name.
2. Write letters to the Christians who are in prison by going to **wwwprisoneralert.com**
3. Get information about VOM or to donate, go to **wwwvom.com.au/**

In His Service, Milton & Viola Bade and Lisa Sitz

Thank you so much to all of you who joined us for our Family Night and Auction. It was a success! We raised just over $2,200 to go toward the updating of our pre-school playground fence.

Enrollment opened on February 18th, and we already have almost filled a few of our classes. Our current families have until March to enroll before we will open enrollment to the waiting list families.

In March, we will have our Dr. Seuss' birthday celebration. We always enjoy seeing one of our teachers dress like the Cat in the Hat. Some classes will make green eggs and ham, and everyone will enjoy Dr. Seuss books.

March also brings our school's spring break, which the students and teachers always look forward to. The school will be closed the week of March 16th and classes will resume on March 23rd.

I hope and pray you are all doing well. Please continue to pray for our school, teachers, and families. We love what we do, and we are excited about the summer program and next school year!!

In His Service,

Kim Perry

Family Night is back in February & March!

Enjoy dinner and fellowship in the Life Center on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm from February 5th through March 25th

Prices

Adults - $4.00

Children ages 5 to 11 years - $2.00

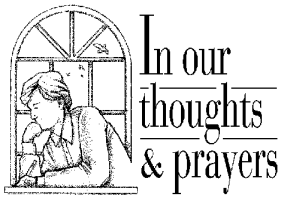
Children under 5 years - Free

"To go's" for homebound and caregivers - $4.00

Other "To-go's" - $5.00

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8th

Turn clocks forward one hour!



The following people are experiencing problems with their health – Herta Adams, Francisco Briones, Mark Byerly, Brenda Criss, Lois Dobson, James Ellison, Evelynn Gersch, AnnaBella Heckmann, Jason Johnson, Barbara Marburger, Stacy Mooney, Bill Reed, Wyatt Riner, Donna Romeo, Mike & Marion Theodore Sr, Doris & Fritz Warncke.

Please pray for the following 7 families of our congregation:

Week of March 1st

Jim & Janet Goodman
Patsy Green
Chuck & Beverly Greeney
Dee Griffin
Larissa Grubbs
Debra Gryder; Austin
Shirley Gryder

Week of March 8th

Glennette Hancock; Andrew and Bonnie
Mary Haneline
Michael Hayes
Joyce Heckmann
Alice Hejl
Chris Hejl
Craig Hejl

Week of March 15th

Craig & Kim Hendrix
Kevin & Lynne Hengst; Joshua, Jacob, & Jordyn
Max Hengst
Teresa Hengst
Kenneth & Pat Herbrich
David & Amanda Hill
Rev. Howard Hilsabeck

Week of March 22nd

Joshua Hines
Karen Hirsch
Ed Holcomb
Anne Hukill; Jack
Hutchins, Cody & Jennifer
Ideus, Jeff
Jackman, Rhonda; Brooke London

Week of March 29th

Joe & Janet Janes
Michael Janes
Danny Jatzlau
Andrew Jennett
Gilbert & Laura Jennett
Karen Jennett
Jacob & Chelsia Jensen; Justin James

March 2nd

The Bible readings are:

Genesis 3:1-21
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 9th

The Bible readings are:

Genesis 12:1-9
Romans 4:1-8, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 16th

The Bible readings are:

Exodus 17:-1-7
Romans 5:1-8
John 4:5-30, 39-42

March 22nd

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 42:14-21
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 29th

The Bible readings are:

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:1-11
John 11:1-53

God Bless & Keep Our Members & Friends in the Military

Taylor Lowe (Alan Lowe's son & Jim & Jan Taylor's nephew), Freddy Mendoza (Bill & Marcia Reed's grandson), Joshua Goldsmith (Melissa Aasgaard's brother), Caleb Becker & Adam & Ethan Heckmann, (Joyce Heckmann's nephews), Valarie Sparks (Don Look's niece), Christopher Kieschnik, Doug Yates (Cheryl Yates' nephew), Andrew Fair (Dolores Karkoska's nephew), Kiera Vernon, Adam Fingleman, Crystal Briones, Curtis McDonald, Erica Lewandowski (granddaughter of Ken & Pat Herbrich), Christopher Ambrose, Tala Raus (granddaughter of Charlene Raus), and Chris & Mike Handy, and Tyler Copeland (Megan & Simon Martin's cousin & family friend).

Autumn Group Trips

The next Autumn Group trip is scheduled on Saturday, April 4th to **BeeWeaver Honey Farm** where we will be in an enclosed shaded area and the bee keeper will demonstrate how to tend the hive.

We will eat lunch prior to our 2PM tour at Mallett Brothers Barbeque, also in Navasota.

Because this is a working bee farm, all attendees are required to sign a waiver before arriving. This is to protect them from liability due to injury from possible bee stings. Theresia will have copies on hand for signature.

For your safety, no perfume, hair spray, after shave or other fragrance is to be worn. Also no dark fuzzy clothing or high heeled shoes.
While we are not going into the field to view the hives, there is still a possibility of a sting.

Cost of the tour is $5.00 and if you don't wish to go outside, you are welcome to stay in the gift shop

Departure is from Gethsemane
Call Theresia and let her know you plan to attend.

Please be on the lookout for the next Autumn Group trip.

COOKIES FOR SUNDAY MORNING

Every Sunday cookies and coffee are enjoyed by our members and visitors in the gathering area prior to Sunday School. Help provide these cookies! **The sign up sheet** is on the table in the gathering area. Approximately 6 dozen cookies are needed each week.

Our thanks and appreciation to everyone who provides the cookies enjoyed each Sunday morning in the gathering area.

Lay Reader Ministry

The mission of the lay reader is to proclaim the Word from the lectern by reading the first lesson and the epistle lesson during Sunday morning worship. If you want to be a part of this ministry, sign-up on the form in the narthex. The readings may be picked up in the church office Thursday mornings, or call the office to ask for an email copy.

AUTUMN GROUP

The Autumn Group will meet for games and a meal on **Tuesday, March 10th**. The menu is casseroles, salads, vegetables, bread or rolls and desserts.

We start at 10:00 am so come early to visit, play games and then join everyone for the meal at noon. See you then!

Flowers beautify the sanctuary of our church, and are a gift to God and to those who attend our worship services.

Placing flowers in church is a meaningful way to honor or remember a loved one!

The new flower chart for 2020 is posted in the narthex. The cost of one arrangement is $25.00.

Do you have a picture from a Gethsemane event?

Email it to Marissa at mpennekamp@earthlink.net

with a caption to be featured on the Gethsemane social media pages.

This is a great way to show our community the events happening at Gethsemane!

MINISTRY ASSISTANCE MANNA OF THE NEAR NORTHWEST ALLIANCE

MANNA FOOD PANTRY is gladly accepting food items and appreciates all donations of non-perishable items, as long as they are not out of date. Items greatly appreciated are flour, sugar, shortening, oil & oatmeal.

The Manna Resale Shop is also open! We are accepting donations now, so feel free to bring your donations.

Address: 6760 Antoine Drive, Houston, TX 77091

Dear Friends,

I'm inviting you to join me on the trip of a lifetime, a ten-day tour of the Holy Land. Every Christian I know who has gone on a Holy Land trip says "seeing the places of the Bible changed my life! You have got to go!" After my trip there in 2011, I came to think of seeing the land of Jesus as a "fifth Gospel." Susan Wasson and I are setting up a trip November 10-19, 2020.

I'm excited and ready and I hope you are, too! This is a spiritual pilgrimage--a journey into the story and the very places of the Bible. Your faith will experience a new richness as we walk where Jesus walked in Jerusalem and visit such awe-inspiring points of spiritual interest as the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, Mt. Zion, and the Upper Room.

We'll also visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Shepherd's Field, and Nazareth. Add to that the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mt. of Beatitudes, the site of the Sermon on the Mount, Tabgha, the site of the Miracle of Loaves and Fishes and much more! Can you imagine communing together on the Mount Of Olives or singing of God's love as we stand among the same olive trees where Jesus prayed? Sharing these and other spiritual experiences with Christian friends makes the trip even more wonderful, and that is why I am inviting you to join us in a journey that will be treasured forever.

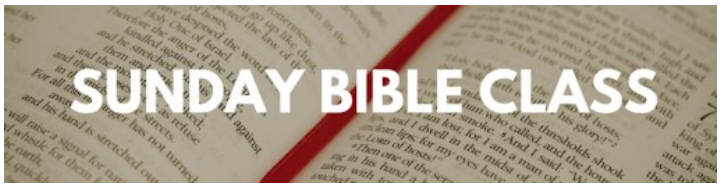
Thousands of tourists are flock to the Holy Land each year, now it's *your* turn! The weather in Israel in November is wonderful and we won't have the summer crowds or heat to overcome. Now is the time to make this dream, this "trip of a lifetime" a reality! Of the many places you may visit, only one gives such an emotional and spiritual impact….the **Holy Land**!!

It's been said that seeing the Holy Land is the fifth gospel. We invite you to join our group on this inspiring journey!

Registration forms are now available in the church office or visit our website **tripswithsoul.com/Israel2020**. Look over the brochure, and feel free to reach out with any questions. But don't miss this chance!

Sincerely,
Pastor Jerry McNamara

Don't forget to save pull-tabs, and bring them to church on Sunday. The pull-tabs benefit our local Ronald McDonald House. Thank you!



Sunday Morning Bible Classes

(10:30 am)

"2 Peter"
Led by Doug Pennekamp, meets in the Life Center

"When Love Abides"
Women Only – meets in the Library

"The Pastoral Letters"
Led by Pastor Jerry, meets in the Sanctuary

Tuesday Morning Bible Class

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in the library to study God's Word with Pastor Jerry teaching the class. The topic is "The Gospel of John".

Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

February 26th
Ash Wednesday
Worship
Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Midweek Lenten Worship
Wednesdays at
4:30 pm & 6:30 pm
February 26 – April 1

THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SPRING LUNCHEON IS SET FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH!

Start Time:	**10:00 a.m.**
Presentation:	**10:30 a.m.**
Lunch:	**Following Presentation**
Guest Speaker:	**KSBJ's Rachelle**

We will begin at 10:00 am and (along with delicious food) will feature KSBJ's on-air personality, Rachelle (from the Rachelle & Carder Morning Show), as our guest speaker.

Rachelle has been proud to call Houston home since her move from New York in 2014. She and Carder host the KSBJ morning show weekdays and enjoy laughing AND crying with you! She's passionate about spreading the love of Christ and humbled to share Jesus and His music with you.

When she's not on-air, you can find Rachelle spending time with her husband, Sammy, their two boys, Sammy and Caleb, their spoiled Jack Russell terrier, Chrissy and their pet corn snake, Michael Scott.

Rachelle is an OU alum where she graduated with a degree in Theatre. It is on the air where she gets to scratch the itch for performance and, thanks to Carder, experiences "drama."

Her favorite scripture passage is **Romans 8:38-39:** *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Rachelle, and be sure to invite your friends, neighbors and relatives!

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is being revilatized at Gethsemane!

If you have a prayer request, or would like to be a part of the prayer chain, call:
Barbara Stuart Chase at 281-861-8619.

Prayer chain volunteers are able to use: phone, text, or email to communicate.

GET READY TO DIVE DEEPER INTO GOD'S STORY

Pastor McNamara announces 31-week overview of entire Bible to follow Easter

Following Easter, Gethsemane will begin a 31-week adventure to better learn the story of the Bible and everyone is welcome to attend!

Pastor Jerry McNamara is inviting all members or families to purchase a $5 The Story Bible. Sermons, small groups, and Sunday classes will all be available to help us all go through the Bible in 31 weeks. Rather than read every single verse and chapter, The Story helps us understand the higher, overarching story of God's work in the world by seeing the stories of key individuals throughout the Old and New Testament. "We will read a least a portion of every book of the Bible," Pastor Jerry McNamara explained, "but what's most exciting is that we will get clearer about the 'big picture' of God's loving plan in our lives."

Watch for more details to follow.

Note: The Story Bibles in NIV will be available for members who cannot afford one. Large print copies and even different translations are available for additional costs.