



“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” -- John Wesley



--The Lord is good to those who wait for him. He is good to those who look for him. It is good to wait quietly for the Lord to save them.
Lamentations 3:25-26 (ERV)

On August 9th I was among family and friends who celebrated the life of my Uncle Jack. In the eulogy that was given by my Aunt Bobbi, something was said that caught my attention. She shared that when people would see him and ask how he was doing, Jack’s response was, “I’m right on schedule with God.”

In researching Scripture to find the appropriate verses to touch upon this, God gave me the verses just above this article. Verse 25 highlights God’s inherent goodness and His favor towards those who actively seek Him and place their hope in Him. It suggests that God’s goodness is not just a general attribute, but a specific blessing for those who diligently pursue a relationship with Him. Verse 26 emphasizes the importance of patient waiting and trusting in God’s timing. It suggests that waiting, even when difficult, is a virtuous and beneficial posture for those who believe in God’s promises.

Jack was always someone that I looked up to as a young boy. I can remember his love for repairing vehicles, as well as restoring them. I was thrilled the day, as a teenager, when he gave me a ride in a 1967 bright red Corvette. I was amazed when I looked over to see that we were going around 110 mph on a blacktop road. Of course I may not have mentioned that part to my parents. In my 20’s, before and during the time I was married, when I needed repairs on my cars, he offered to have the kids he was teaching in the auto mechanics shop he started at Seneca High School work on them. Of course he double and maybe triple checked the work they were doing.

It was when Jack and Bobbi moved back to central Illinois almost 10 years ago from Texas, that I saw what God was doing in their lives. I was early in my ministry at the time, and we had a few good conversations about God which was helpful for me. Sadly, when I came to serve this Parish, the conversations didn’t happen as often as they used to.

The Scriptures from Lamentations encourage believers to cultivate a spirit of hope and patience, trusting that God’s timing is perfect and that His salvation will come in due time. It also highlights the importance of seeking God’s presence and guidance in all circumstances. So when my Uncle Jack would share that he was right on schedule with God, I know that he listened for God’s voice in everything he did in his life. And he was greeted by the Lord at the time he was scheduled to see Him in the Kingdom! Rest in Heaven Jack and I look forward to one day talking to you again when God schedules it.

Blessings, Pastor Keith



Inside this issue:	
Bible Quiz & Puzzle	2
Kids Puzzle	3
Prayer List	4
UWF	5
Honoring the Gift of Work	6
Birthday List	7
Calendar	8
Contact Info & Service Times	9
Pork Chop Dinner	10

Church Conference: Church conferences' will be held on Saturday, September 6 for the sole purpose of acting on the purposed closings. Only members can officially participate. Any questions please contact your Ad Board chair. Grand Prairie will have their conference at Grand Prairie at 10am. Evan will have their conference at Evan at 11am.



Movie Events: Movie showing on every 3rd Monday of the month at 1pm in the upper room at Evan; for more info contact Vickie G. The next showing will be September 15.



September Memory Verse

"Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" Psalm 95:2

Bible Quiz

Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is *not* accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.



Answer: C (See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:2)

Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle. Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST, YIELDS, US, LAND

ACROSS

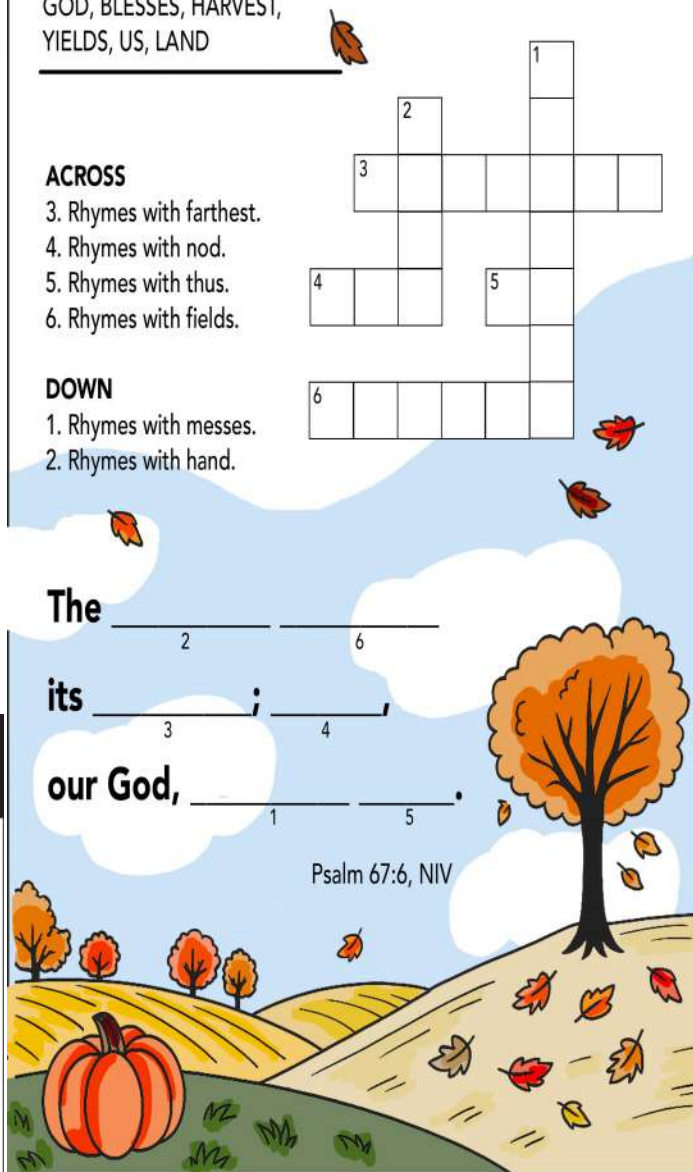
- 3. Rhymes with farthest.
- 4. Rhymes with nod.
- 5. Rhymes with thus.
- 6. Rhymes with fields.

DOWN

- 1. Rhymes with messes.
- 2. Rhymes with hand.

The _____
its _____;
our God, _____.

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV



Create adorable sheep using graham crackers, marshmallows, and a little imagination!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie

What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!



Lesson tie-in

Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

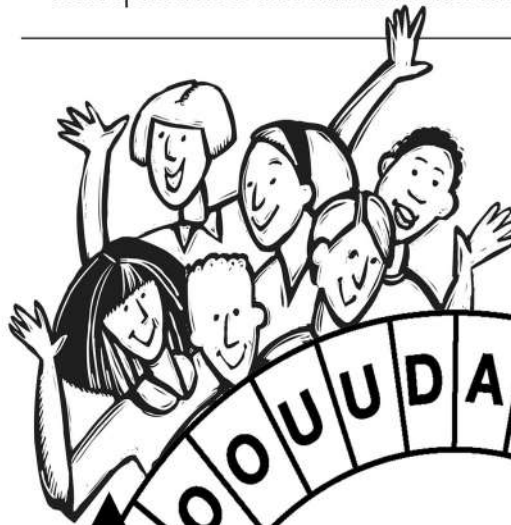
John 10:11, KJV

PUZZLE

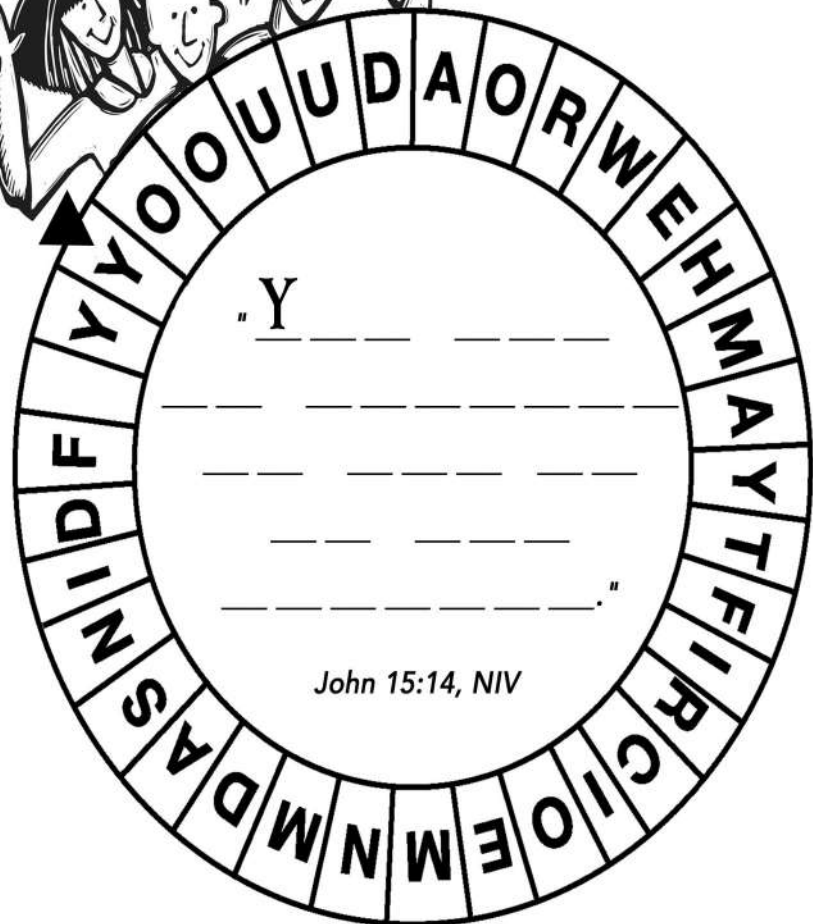


WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?



Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below.



Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV



Pastor Keith invites you to join
in praying for the following
names and causes.

From Our Church Bulletin: Candy Bauer,
Mel Brinkman, Jay Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny
Cruse, Donna Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Herb
Foltz, Patterson Friese, Rick Gaffield, Kevin
Jordan (Dana VanVoorst's brother), Wendy Low-
Metzka (Kim's sister-in-law), Ardis & Allen
Messer, Mark Mulder (Kathi Nichols' son),
Marilyn Ohrt, Harry & Sharon Pfeiffer, Aimee
Simbeck, Stan Stone, & Marion Wenzelman.

Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

At College

Gretchen Brinkman

Isabell Lowey

Kamden Lockwood

Villas at

Herscher

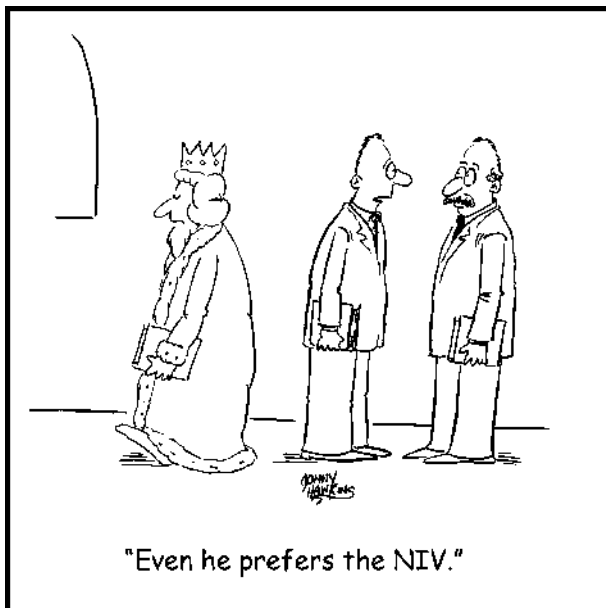
Ralph Grob

Randy Riegel

Compassion International Kids

Ebenezer Forson.....Ghana
Melany Samantha.....Aguilera
Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh
Janny Boya.....Ecuador
Witney Juarez.....Guatemala
Lucky Hubiagbe.....Ghana

Do you or your family sponsor a compassion international
kid? If so, please contact the office at 815-802-9805 or
bonfieldgp@gmail.com.



A Prayer for Autumn's Arrival

Lord of all seasons,
As the leaves change and the days grow cooler,
help me embrace the rhythm of your creation.
Teach me to let go of what I no longer need
and to trust your timing in every part of life.

Thank you for the beauty of autumn—
for crisp mornings, golden trees, and the promise of
harvest.

May this season deepen my gratitude,
renew my spirit,
and draw me closer to your heart.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

+Christian Symbol+

BURNING BUSH — In Exodus 3, God speaks to
Moses from a bush that is burning but not consumed.
When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians
questions who sent him to lead the Israelites out of
slavery, God states, "I AM WHO I AM." Centuries
later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers
hint at his divinity: "I AM the light of the world; I AM
the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life" and, per-
haps most profoundly, "Before
Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58).
On Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit
comes upon the apostles as fire.
Thus the burning bush is a powerful
symbol of God's presence echoed
through time.



JULY 2025 ATTENDANCE

	7/6	7/13	7/20	7/27
Evangelical	43	49	47	49
Grand Prairie	13	24	21	31
Total	56	73	68	80



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith of the Parish

Purpose of the United Women in Faith -The organized unit of United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.

Sunshine Circle - The Sunshine Circle will be sponsoring our annual drive thru pork chop event on Saturday September 27th from 4pm to 7pm. Cost will be \$10.00. Individual pork chop can also be purchased. More details will be on fliers posted or on website. Hope to see you there to support us. Sunshine Circle will be held in the Upper room on Sept 18th at 6:30. Rita Overacker is our hostess.

2025 Hostesses are: September 18 - Rita, October 16 - Donna, November 20 - Ardis,
December - Progressive Dinner

Martha Circle - 2025 meetings: September 10, November 12, & December 10

The Gift of Music: I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them. Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song. Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God. —Martin Luther



More than Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic: You may recall that many followers of Jesus called him "Rabbi." In essence, the word means teacher. Clearly the word describes the brilliant Nazarene who was constantly teaching his listeners about God and God's expectations of humans.

In a secular society, it is of paramount importance that the teachings of Christ be proclaimed and affirmed wherever possible. In the early days of our country, it was customary for public schools to teach reading, writing and arithmetic as well as Christian principles. Subjects being taught were presented in a setting of morality, religion and character development.

The reading book compiled by William H. McGuffey in 1836 focused on such themes as self-denial, temperance, obedience, and warned against laziness, profanity, stealing and vanity.

In our time, however, when it is difficult to focus on God and spiritual matters in public schools, our churches and families have a great responsibility. Sunday school attendance, not only for children but for adults as well, must be of primary importance. Prayer, as well as discussion of social issues from a Christian point of view, must be practiced in the home and church. We must learn and teach about Christ.

"Learn from me," Jesus said. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29 NRSV). Where shall we learn of him or from him if not in our churches and homes?

Honoring the Gift of Work: The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden “to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15, ESV). In the fourth commandment, we are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: “Six days you shall labor, and do all your work” (Exodus 20:9, ESV).

Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world.

Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, “We are God’s fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV).

On this Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, and labor with purpose and care.



Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace: “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God’s faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God’s ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God’s steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.







September 2 Jason Graf, Conner Wenzelman, Becky Sikes
September 3 Jason Adams, Mary Robbins, Ean Meyer-Marrieta
September 4 Sara Davis, Michelle Ladonna Hobbs
September 5 Victoria Wells, Tim Holohan
September 6 Roger Kuipers
September 7 Ivan Brunner, Devynn Lynn Coffman, Timothy Sullivan, Dorothy Powell, Ralph Sharper
September 8 James Riegel, Emily Metzka, Ivy Aldridge
September 9 Michael Smith
September 10 Lidia Lehnus
September 11 Chris Loyd
September 12 Stan Wenzelman, Craig Rice, Sharon Lowey
September 13 Kristi Davis, Jennifer Davis, David Dettman, Todd Robinson
September 14 Dean Dau, Rhae Anna Riegel
September 15 Jim Davis
September 16 Jennifer Waid, Jason Pfeiffer, Heather Ward
September 17 Ron Fritz
September 18 Melissa White, Linda Meyer, Michael Wells, Michelle Hanson
September 19 Susan Wilson, Doreen Ouelette, Deanna Brinkman
September 20 Susanna Wilson, Bill Buckman, Meredith Weber, Shawn Lawrence, Debbie Norton
September 21 Donna Diefenbach
September 22 Kevin Buente, Janet Meyer, Jennifer Cochran
September 23 Edwin Riegel, Adam Kuipers, Michelle Dettman, Darin Mecklenburg, Stacy Wood
September 24 Jordan Coiston
September 25 Landon Hertz, Troy Riegel, Ron E. Metzka, Gayle Brunner, Amy Wenzelman
September 26 Benjamin Grant, David Scholl, John M. Kuipers, Sheila Berns, Roger Hertz
September 27 Paul Meyer, Steven Robbins, Christopher Wolch, Chelsea Goodman, Mary Hertz
September 28 Donna Sauer, Payton Overacker, Christine Brinkman
September 29 Tyler Lotton
September 30 Jerry Fecke, Mary J. Monelith -Anderson

Please notify the church office of any names and birthdays which need to be added, removed or corrected, 815-802-9805.



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2 - Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30am	3	4	5	6 - Church Conference Grand Prairie at 10am Evan at 11am
7 - National Grandparents Day	8 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	9	10	11 	12	13
14	15 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	16	17	18 - Sunshine Circle	19	20
21	22 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am - First Day of Autumn	23 - Newsletter Article Deadline at 8am	24	25	26	27 - Sunshine Circle Pork Chop Drive Thru Dinner at 4-7pm
28	29 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	30				

Little Quotes, Big Truths:

“The ultimate aim of the human mind, in all its efforts, is to become acquainted with Truth.”

—Eliza Farmham

“By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn.” —Latin proverb

“If God is your copilot, swap seats.” —Anonymous

“The truth is that people always act according to what they believe. It may not be what they say they believe, but deep down it's what they really believe. And false beliefs lead to false actions.”

—E. Chris Curvin

**Fellowship Breakfast**

We are changing our monthly breakfast gathering to the FAMILY HOUSE on Kennedy Dr. in Bradley, IHOP is closing. It will remain on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30am. Hope to see you on Tuesday, September 2nd, the day after Labor Day. The group orders from the regular menu and pays for their own meals.



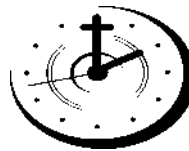
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bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Check out the newsletter on our website at www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org and click on the newsletter tab at the top.



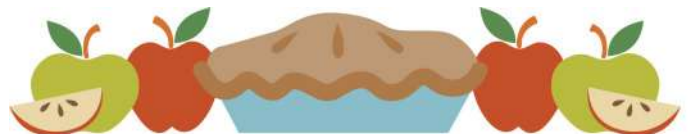
We are a Parish of 2 United Methodist churches: Bonfield Evangelical (Evan) UMC & Grand Prairie UMC. Our minister is Keith Blankenship. It is our goal to share God's love with the world through our words and actions! We welcome you to visit us for Sunday service that works best for you and/or your family at the times listed.

**Time For Church****Grand Prairie**

At 12408 W Rt.17 Bonfield, IL
8:30 am Sunday Worship Services
9:45am Sunday School

Bonfield Evangelical

At 348 Smith St. Bonfield, IL
10:00 am Sunday Worship Service
8:30am Sunday School



Pastor Keith Blankenship's Information

Email: imredeemed59@gmail.com

Cell: (309) 830-0875

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11AM - 3PM
& evenings upon request

Mailing Address: 225 Country Lane

Parish Office Information

Hope Raymond, Secretary

348 E. Smith St., PO Box 66 Bonfield, IL 60913

Phone: (815) 802-9805 or (815) 671-5590

Email: bonfieldgp@gmail.com

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Hours: In office- Thursday 8:30-10am

The Sunshine Circle will be sponsoring our annual drive thru pork chop event on Saturday September 27th at Bonfield Evangelical UMC at 348 E. Smith St. Bonfield, IL from 4pm to 7pm. Cost will be \$10.00. Individual pork chop can also be purchased. More details will be on fliers posted or on website. Hope to see you there to support us.



God's Left Hand: A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

Take Courage: Trusting the One Who Overcomes: A young woman was deeply troubled by the suffering she saw in the world, as well as by struggles within her own family and friendships. Unsure of how to help or where to begin, she turned to her pastor for guidance. He responded with a heartfelt letter. A portion of it read: "Life is difficult. It is sometimes like a mindless boot camp. We seem to be rehearsing for something that is beyond our present knowing. We come from a beginning that we cannot remember, and we move toward a destiny that we cannot see. Only imagination, faith and a friend here or there give us the strength to go on. When Jesus said that we would always have trouble in this world, he added an encouraging word that we should never forget: *'Take courage; I have overcome the world.'* I cannot fix you. You cannot fix you. Do not put your ultimate faith in me, or in yourself, or in any human being. Trust the Lord of the Harvest. He will fix you when he comes."



The Power of Prayer Warriors: Prayer warriors are spiritual soldiers—men and women who faithfully lift others in prayer, often behind the scenes. Though their work may go unnoticed by the world, it is deeply valued by God. Their intercession can strengthen the weary, comfort the grieving, and open doors for God's will to be done.

In Scripture, we are urged to "pray one for another" (James 5:16, KJV), reminding us that healing and restoration often come through the prayers of the faithful. A prayer warrior stands in the gap, bringing needs before the Lord with boldness and persistence.

The Apostle Paul recognized the power of prayer, often asking others to pray for him as he shared the gospel. In the same way, prayer warriors today uphold churches, pastors, families, and communities. Their prayers may be silent, but their impact is mighty. Never underestimate the difference a praying heart can make.