

NORTHERN LIGHTS

NORTHERN MICHIGAN DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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Romans 4:20

HE
STAGGERED
NOT AT THE
PROMISE OF
GOD THROUGH
UNBELIEF; BUT
WAS STRONG
IN FAITH,
GIVING GLORY
TO GOD.

Faith That Staggers Not

BY DANIEL GILMORE

In the March 6 "Streams in the Desert" devotional by Mrs. L.B. Cowman, the subject of disappointed hopes is in focus from Luke 24:21: **"But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done."** Of the haunting phrase, "We trusted," she writes:

I have always felt so sorry that in that walk to Emmaus the disciples had not said to Jesus, "We still trust"; instead of "We trusted." That is so sad—something that is all over. If they had only said, "Everything is against our hope; it looks as if our trust was vain, but we do not give up; we believe we shall see Him again." But no, they walked by His side declaring their lost faith, and He had to say to them "O fools, and slow of heart to believe!"

This test of faith is not unique to those first disciples. We must all learn to trust in Jesus' promises when all the evidence is against them. Perhaps even deeper, we must sometimes grasp hold of nothing more substantial than the revelation of His character. Yet, in these times we are privileged to learn the depths and heights of faith. Anyone can say they have faith when the sun is bright and the wind is mild. But the child who trusts when the heavens are black and the tempests roll is the child who dwells in the secret place of the most High and abides under the shadow of the Almighty (see Psalm 91:1). It is this child's faith that is **"unto God a sweet savour of Christ..."** (2 Cor. 2:15).

As we approach the commemoration of Christ's passion, let us testify by our life and our hope that we believe Christ's promises. Let us affirm, No matter the temporal circumstances, we trust you, Lord Jesus. The tomb may be full and the entrance sealed, but we will not stagger! Like the heroes of faith, having received Your promises, we wait, persuaded of them, and embracing them, and confessing that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth (see Hebrews 11:13).

NAZARENE DISCIPLESHIP IS A JOURNEY FROM GRACE TO GRACE TO GRACE.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." John 14:6

Discipleship

Discipleship is a journey of grace with Jesus as our guide and companion.

Christian discipleship helps believers grow in the Lord Jesus Christ as they are equipped by His Holy Spirit, who resides within them, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike.

Grace

Grace is the active love of God in our lives and in the world.

Our minds cannot fully comprehend the mystery of God's grace. However at various times in our life, God's grace leads us to Him, through **prevenient grace**, frees us to understand the truth through **saving grace**, and empowers us to become Christlike through **sanctifying grace**.

We are drawn by holy love through prevenient grace. We are captured by holy love through saving grace. We are purified and set apart by holy love through sanctifying grace. We grow in grace as we abound in holy love. This is how we experience the fullness of life in Christ.

THE WAY

PREVENIENT GRACE

God **PREPARES** the path before us. His hand reaches out and beckons us to Him, drawing us into a deeper relationship with him. This grace both precedes our response and enables our response.

THE TRUTH

SAVING GRACE

Jesus **RESCUES** us from sin and leads us into the truth that sets us free. We receive the gift of saving grace by believing in God. He redeems us, makes us a new creation, and adopts us into His family.

THE LIFE

SANCTIFYING GRACE

The Holy Spirit **EMPOWERS** us to a life fully consecrated to God. Sanctifying grace begins the moment we experience salvation. Initial sanctification is followed by spiritual growth in grace until, in a moment of full consecration and complete surrender on our part, God purifies and cleanses the heart.

UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

Virtual Interview with Kay Browning

Sunday, March 21, 2021
4:00 - 5:00 pm



Interview with Missionary Kay Browning

Author of the 2020 NMI Mission Book:
To the Shelter



Sunday, March 21, 2021
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Go to: Zoom.us
Meeting ID: 856 3516 3770
Passcode: NMI!

The Brownings and their young family served as missionaries in the Middle East during a time of war and strife. They learned how important it was to find a place of shelter during difficult times. Join us as we learn first hand from Kay what it was like to serve as a missionary during the Gulf War and to hear her testimony of the strength and courage that she and others found from Christ in those stressful times. He will encourage us, guide us, help us and protect us. He is our shelter and rock of strength. (Psalm 27:5)

Please call or text Jill Rice at (231) 218-1134 to register for the Zoom Call.
You won't want to miss this exciting interview!

Registration is required for this event
Call Jill Rice 231.218.1134 to register for this Zoom meeting

NMI Convention

Saturday, May 15, 2021 - 9:00am
Clare Church of the Nazarene
10160 S. Grant Ave. Clare, MI 48617



Jay and Teanna Sunberg, Field Strategy Coordinator Team for Central Europe, will be our guest speakers.

2021 DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



FAITH - OUR VICTORY

April 23-24, 2021

Clare Church of the Nazarene
10160 S. Grant Ave.; Clare, MI 48617

Ordination Service - Friday at 7:00pm
Business begins Saturday at 8:30am



Jurisdictional
General Superintendent
Dr. David Graves
presiding

Hotel rooms are blocked at the Doherty Hotel - 989.386.1562 (rates available until March 23) and Quality Inn - 989.386.1111 (rates available until April 8)

OLIVET HAPPENINGS



Join us on March 27th, 7:00pm, as we celebrate 30 years of University leadership by Drs. John and Jill Bowling. Featuring Orpheus Choir, Proclamation Gospel Choir, the University Orchestra and Bands, and Special Musical Guests. This black tie optional gala will be a wonderful event to honor our longest-serving president. All proceeds will benefit student scholarship initiatives. Tickets are available [here](#)

Olivet announces new tuition-free course



Olivet Nazarene University's School of Graduate and Continuing Studies announced Your Way, a ground-breaking initiative that features tuition-free general education courses that will provide adult students with a pathway to earn a bachelor's degree.

[Read more](#)

Great People Know Great People

Do you know a high school student who might be interested in information about Olivet? Olivet Nazarene University is excited to present the "Great People Know Great People" advocacy partnership. They are asking for people to recommend high school students in your circle of influence to attend Olivet. Not only will you be moving forward the mission of Olivet, "Education with a Christian Purpose," but you will also have opportunities to get free Olivet swag! Check out the different items and recommend your first student.

Receive Olivet gifts when you recommend high school students to Olivet



Click for complete details: [ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP](#)
Click: [RECOMMEND A STUDENT](#)



The latest issue of NCM Magazine is now online!
We are excited to share stories of Nazarene churches who are serving
with Christ's compassion around the world.
[See how churches are spreading hope.](#)

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

2021

Mar. 21 NMI Virtual Event with Kay Browning
March 28 - PALM SUNDAY
April 2 - GOOD FRIDAY
April 4 - EASTER SUNDAY
April 17 - Ladies' Day at Olivet Nazarene University
April 23 & 24 - District Assembly @ Clare COTN
May 8 - ONU Commencement
May 15 - NMI Convention, SDMI & NYI Mini Conventions
Oct. 7 - Prime Time & Grandparents Day @ ONU
October 8-9 - District Women's Retreat - Lakeside Resort in Houghton Lake
October 22-24 - Homecoming @ ONU
Dec. 11 - Pastor's Family Christmas Gathering - West Bay Beach Resort, Traverse City

Note: COVID restrictions may change some of these events. Camp events and dates are still being determined.

2023

June 9-16 - General Assembly - Indianapolis, Indiana

District Personnel

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