

Westgate Witness

November 2020

2235 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-394-1071



Greetings in the Name of our LORD !



Treespiration

I know “treespiration” is not a word, nor is zinspiration (the name of my website,) but I like the idea of inventing new words even if Webster’s won’t publish them. My made up definition of “*Treespiration*” is simply: *the inspiration and appreciation we derive from contemplating Trees.* Trees can inspire and teach. Trees offer natural and metaphorical abundance as they not only beautify the planet, but also serve to purify our air, provide food to eat, heat for our homes, and materials that we build our lives around.

This past Sunday I preached a message entitled *Our Good Guardian God*—which focused on the Guardianship of God. It was the first message in a two part series. As a conclusion to the message I included words of poetry from a card my daughter sent me. I shared with you how providential the timing and the substance of the poem was to me. As I write this article I am fondly looking at the card mounted on my refrigerator—it will likely stay there for a very long time. I dedicate this Pastor’s Article to my wonderful

daughter, Brittany, she is one of God's greatest gifts to me. In light of the great feedback I received regarding the poem, I offer it in print.

"The Oak Tree" A Message of Encouragement
Author Unknown

A mighty wind blew night and day. It stole the oak tree's leaves away,
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark. Until the oak was tired and stark.
But still the oak tree held its ground. While other trees fell all around.
The weary wind gave up and spoke, *"How can you still be standing, Oak?"*
The oak tree said, *"I know that you can break each branch of mine in two,
carry every leaf away, shake my limbs, and make me sway.
But I have roots stretched in the earth, growing stronger since my birth.
You'll never touch them, for you see, they are the deepest part of me.
Until today, I wasn't sure of just how much I could endure.
But now I've found, with thanks to you, I am stronger than I ever knew."*

In the same sermon I also recited a portion of a poem written by Douglas Malloch 1877 entitled **"Good Timber."** The poem was written metaphorically concerning his own childhood while working in a lumber yard in Michigan. May both poems provide some Treespitation without further dissertation. It's a wonderful thing to be fortified and inspired by the great wonders of God in both nature and in holy writ. I hope you agree.

Good Timber

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil
To gain and farm his patch of soil,
Who never had to win his share
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man
But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow with ease,
The stronger wind, the stronger trees,
The further sky, the greater length,
The more the storm, the more the strength.
By sun and cold, by rain and snow,
In trees and men good timbers grow.

Where thickest lies the forest growth
We find the patriarchs of both.
And they hold counsel with the stars
Whose broken branches show the scars
Of many winds and much of strife.
This is the common law of life.

He told me to tell you!

Faithfully,

Pastor Robert Zimmerman

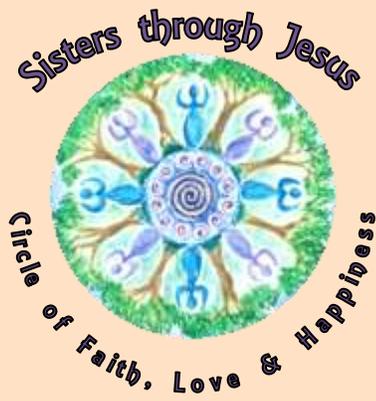


As the cold weather sets in, we plan to
RETURN to the SANCTUARY
On November 22nd or 29th
depending on the weather.

We will also attempt to provide our radio broadcast to those who wish to remain in their cars for the service. Further guidance will be conveyed before coming inside as it relates a creating a safe and responsible worship experience.

COMMUNION SUNDAY

We will continue to hold Communion the first Sunday, after the sermon.
You will be given the elements (uniquely packaged) along with the bulletin when you arrive Sunday, this will maintain this practice when we return to worship in the sanctuary.



ABW Ministries

Our next ABW meeting is:
Thursday November 5th at 1:00
In the Fellowship Hall

We will be working in the Fellowship Hall on our hand-sewn Teddy Bears. We are still searching for a home for them when it is safe to donate them.

Other current ABW programs are:

Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoebox gifts.

We will have gift boxes available for pickup on Sunday, October 25, when you pick-up soup you may have ordered from our ABWMOPAD fundraiser for the Thrift shop in Vitoria, Brazil, which helps homeless children and provides employment. Please tape envelope on lid with check for \$9.00 to cover shipping costs.

Also our friends over at Manor Buffett have re-opened and again, graciously given us their Wishing Well coins. We use these contributions to support various programs in Lancaster.



This will be the 3rd year that Westgate's American Baptist Women will be supporting Water Street Rescue Mission during its holiday food drive.

November 29, December 6th, and 13th-Westgate ABW will again help through the Angel Tree financial donations this year for the holidays. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season, Water Street will need 120,000 lbs. of food! Due to Covid-19, we are asking for **monetary contributions** only this year.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Many thanks to those who have helped through the year.

Blessings,

Pat Rust and the Ladies of ABW



Our Missionaries in Haiti Eye Clinic Helps the Smallest Ones

Dear Loved Ones,

Greeting. This Monday October 12, someone asked the eye clinic staff the tough question like Jesus disciples asked Him "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?" John 9:2.

Here is Kevin Ulyssee Debrun, only one month in this world but was born with a Conjunctival cyst. The eye clinic staff are there to alleviate the suffering of our poor people. They are there to cry with those crying and to rejoice with those who are rejoicing. Kevin is too young to operate on now, but he will be monitored until he is old enough for them to fix this.

In the month of September, we consulted 473 patients. We operated on 28 patients and our lab performed 185 tests.

Thank you for praying for them as they work in the most challenging situation.

Serving Him in Haiti,
Nzunga & Kihomi

Treasurer's Report-

Month Total	October
Budget Income	\$9,951.00
Non-budget income	\$1,151.00



Support RMMO this December

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) originated in the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched RMMO to continue this appreciation of God's service.

This year, to honor this tradition and acknowledge the current circumstances, we chose Hope for Today, Hope for Tomorrow as our theme. This theme encompasses the true strength and dedication of ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for November



11/14 Martha Herdwig
Nancy Williams
11/15 Hannah Tebie
11/22 Richard Adams
11/25 Kayleen Martin



11/27/2010 Rich & Laura Schramm



*Please welcome baby Theodora
Whyles into the
world!*

*Also celebrate Mr. &
Mrs. Richard Cook*



Let's make a day brighter!

Martha Herdwig birthday November 14th

The Gardens at Stevens, Room 313

400 Lancaster Avenue

Stevens, PA 17578

Baptist Potpourri

Flexibility, Adaptation and Innovation in Ministry

In the midst of Covid-19 and all its social and economic upheaval, I am blessed to see how our global servants and partners have continued their ministries in creative, flexible and innovative ways. Some examples of this are as follows:



Counseling without Walls

In Accra, Ghana, IM Global Servant Rovaughna Richardson provides holistic counseling to young women who are survivors of Trokosi slavery. As Covid-19 shut down travel and the ability to meet with the young women in person, Rovaughna creatively shifted her programs to an e-based platform. She now provides counseling and support via phone, messaging and other video service applications. Today – regardless of where they live throughout Ghana – young women are receiving the support they need and continuing their journey towards full emotional and spiritual health.

Building Bridges

Glen and Rita Chapman serve at the Baptist University of the Congo (UNIBAC), which is located in a very rural, remote area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. When UNIBAC and the village schools were forced to close in March, some of the young people grew restless. Without school, church, choir practice and even the opportunity to play soccer together, they started drinking and getting into trouble. To address this concern, Glen initiated a special bridge-building project. The community designed the bridge. They laid reinforcing steel bars and mixed cement. After two months of working together, the bridge was complete! The people gathered together to celebrate, and Glen shared a message based on Jeremiah 29. He said “Don’t just sit around! Look for ways to build, and plant, and restore relationships”. The new bridge was such a success and the activity so popular that the group was persuaded to build a similar bridge in a nearby area.

Radio Broadcasts for Peace

Boaz Keibarak, one of IM’s international associate global servants, lives and works in West Pokot, Kenya. He has led peace-building activities for over a decade and currently provides conflict transformation training, mediation and reconciliation among rural tribal communities. There is no electricity and internet access in the area where Boaz lives, and Covid-19 has prevented him from conducting trainings and doing conflict mediation in person. In light of these challenges, Boaz has expanded his radio ministry. In weekly broadcasts from a local radio station, Boaz speaks about peace building and the Biblical principles of conflict resolution. This radio program is now reaching thousands of people, many of whom are isolated in their homes because of Covid-19 restrictions.

How is God calling you to respond, to adapt, and be innovative in this challenging season?

Karen Smith, Area Director for Africa

<https://www.internationalministries.org/mission/>

THE NEXT CENTURY OF WHITE CROSS



The importance of White Cross is immeasurable, and God multiplies the impact of your support in the countries IM serves. 100 years of White Cross was celebrated in 2019. For generations, American Baptists' helping hands have been reaching out to people in need. During World War I, women in the church assisted the American Red Cross by providing surgical dressings, bandages and other medical supplies for U.S. service personnel. As they met these needs, the women became convinced that similar methods would be of great help in the work of Christian mission. In 1919, following the end of the war, American Baptist women organized the White Cross Service League, "channeling the war effort into support for Baptist mission," to use their words.

Today, men, youth, and children have embraced White Cross. Your gifts continue the legacy of providing practical help and needed supplies where IM serves around the world. White Cross gifts are vital to IM global servants and partners. Through God's grace, this crucial ministry continues to bless those who give, those who serve and those who receive. Thank you for your loving commitment to meeting the needs of ministries around the world.

The new and updated White Cross information package for 2020-21 was sent to each of your White Cross coordinators. You can download a copy below and use the reply form if you wish to mail in your gifts.

WORKING WITH YOUR HANDS FOR WHITE CROSS

If you have been a longtime supporter of White Cross, kindly note there are two opportunities. One for birthing baby kits that will be sent to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and another opportunity upon request for Nicaragua baby layettes. You can assemble the kits or send a financial gift to purchase the needed baby and medical supplies. Please only include the items listed on the instruction sheet.

Links:

[White Cross information package](#)

[Find a White Cross project](#)

[CLICK HERE to see a sample White Cross 100 Year Certificate for your region or church. Request yours by email to Monica Walker at: \[mwalker@internationalministries.org\]\(mailto:mwalker@internationalministries.org\)](#)

Westgate Baptist Church Events November, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Church life continues during Covid

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communion Sunday 11:00 AM Worship				1:00 ABW Meeting		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM Board Mtg					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
11:00 AM Worship						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
11:00 AM Worship Our last outdoor service				Thanksgiving		
29	30					
11:00 AM Worship						

“Who Is Doing What” Coordinators-
Please remember to provide me with your
lists when church resumes.
Thank you, Elisa