

NORTONVILLE NEWS

"Our Way or God's Way?"

"So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart."

- 2 Samuel 6:3

We enjoy learning about events in the life of King David because he is a man after God's heart. David is a devoted follower of God. But though David loved God, he often sins and falls short of the glory of God. David is described in the pages of the Bible as a man who is learning the ways of God but hasn't yet fully arrived. And that is true of us as well. We can easily do things our own way rather than God's way. So, let's look at an example from David and then apply it to ourselves.

2 Samuel 6 and 1 Chronicles 13 tell us that King David had a desire in his heart to move the ark of God to Jerusalem, the new capital. David consulted with the leaders of the army and all were in agreement that moving the ark to Jerusalem was a great idea. They decided to gather thousands of people, have music playing and people singing, and then transport the ark to Jerusalem. The ark of God would be placed on a cart and pulled by oxen that were under the care of two brothers named Uzzah and Ahio.

The day came to move the ark. King David and all Israel played with all their might on harps, stringed instruments, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets. There was singing as well. Everything seemed to go smoothly, until the oxen that were pulling the cart began to stumble. When the oxen stumbled, Uzzah reached out and held the ark. The Bible says, **"Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God"** (2 Samuel 6:7).

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Stay Connected

Sunday

10:45 am Sunday morning

6:00 pm Sunday night

6:00 pm Sunday Youth Group

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting at 6:30 pm

Olympians meets at 6:30 pm

If you have internet and would like to watch our Sunday morning service, search for Nortonville Gospel Chapel on **Facebook** or **YouTube**. You can also see the video and discover more resources on our website:

www.nortonvillechapel.info

nortonvillechapel.org

No Internet? Simply call **616-846-7309** at 10:45 am on Sunday and you can listen to the whole morning service.

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At first, King David was angry about what had happened. Then, David was afraid that he would never be able to move the ark into Jerusalem. But the dilemma was solved in 1 Chronicles 15:11-15 as we see that David understood the real reason God was angry at Uzzah and brought judgment against him. According to Numbers 4:15, men were commanded to never touch the sacred ark. David learned that the proper way to move the ark was for Levitical priests to carry the ark on their shoulder by holding on to special poles that God designed for that very purpose. The Philistines had once moved the ark by a cart pulled by oxen, but the children of Israel were never told to do that.

So, after 3 months of learning the right way to move the ark according to the Scriptures, David organized the Levites to do their duties: some would carry the ark on their shoulders by the poles (without touching the ark) and the rest of the Levites would lead the congregation with singing and music. And when the ark was moved the way God said to move it, everything went smoothly. The ark of God was safely delivered to Jerusalem into the tabernacle that David had set up. It was a day of great rejoicing and nobody was struck down dead.

What do we learn from David's experience? First of all, we learn that God's word is to be carefully followed. David was well meaning the first time he tried to have the ark moved, but he was seriously mistaken in how it was to be done. Sincerity is important, but it is not a substitution for God's revelation in the Bible. Uzzah's action was irreverent, and against the clear command of God. We even say today that "ignorance of the law is no excuse." Certainly that is true when it comes to God's word. The lack of the knowledge of God's Word always leads to destruction. To follow God's instructions, we need to *know* God's instruction. That is why daily Bible reading and the regular gathering together with the saints in the Church is greatly encouraged (Hebrews 10:25).

Secondly, we learn from David that the Lord allows us to learn His ways after past failures. And though we have disregarded God's Word in the past (and we all have in one way or another), we can repent before God and do God's will in the future. David didn't keep making the same mistake. He learned what God said and he adjusted his thoughts and actions accordingly. That may be why he is called "a man after God's own heart."

Let's be a learner like David! Instead of doing things our own way in 2022, let's be careful to follow the revealed Word of God, the lamp to our feet and a light for our path. By God's grace we can learn to do things God's way instead of our own way. The results will surely be a lot better!

2022 Directory Update

We are updating our church directory! Please email us at office@nortonvillechapel.org with any recent pictures, phone, address, or email changes you would like us to include in the updated directory. Our church phone number is **616-842-4285** if you have any questions.

2022 Giving Envelopes

Throw away your old 2021 envelopes and get new 2022 envelopes in the foyer.

Quiet Time with the Lord

by George Mueller

George Muller (1805—1898) was director of the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol England, where he cared for 10,024 orphans during his lifetime and established 117 schools offering biblical education to more than 120,000. This is an excerpt from the writings of Muller, in which he reflects on the importance of daily Bible reading as part of his morning routine. We share this with you to encourage your own bible reading.

“Before this time my practice had been, at least for the last ten years previously, as a habitual thing, to give myself to prayer, after having dressed in the morning. Now I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God, and to meditate on it. That this my heart may be comforted, encouraged, warned, reproved, instructed; and that this, whilst meditating, my heart might be brought into experimental communion with the Lord. I began therefore, to meditation on the New Testament, from the beginning, early in the morning.

The first thing I did, after having asked in a few words the Lord’s blessing upon His precious Word, was to begin to meditate on the Word of God; searching, as it were, into every verse, to get blessings out of it. Not for the sake of the public ministry of the Word; not for the sake of preaching on what I had meditated upon; but for the sake of obtaining food for my own soul. The result I have found to be almost invariably this, that after a very few minutes my soul has been led to confession, or to thanksgiving, or to intercession, or to supplication, so that though I did not, as it were, give myself to prayer, but to meditation, yet it turned almost immediately more or less into prayer.

When thus I have been for awhile making confessions, or intercessions, or supplication, or have given thanks, I go on to the next words or verse, turning all, as I go on, into prayer for myself or others, as the Word may lead to it; but still continually keeping before me, that food for my own soul is the object of my meditation. The result of this is, that there is always a good deal of confession, invariably is even sensibly nourished and strengthened and that by breakfast time, with rare exceptions, I am in a peaceful if not happy state of mind.

...The difference between my former practice and my present one is this. Formerly, when I rose, I began to pray as soon as possible, and generally spent all my time till breakfast, or almost all the time. At all events I almost invariably began with prayer... But what was the result? I often spent a quarter of an hour, or even an hour on my knees, before being conscious to myself of having derived comfort, encouragement, humbling of the soul, etc. And often after having suffered much from wandering of mind of the first ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour, or even half an hour, I only then began really to pray.

I scarcely ever suffer now in this way. For my heart being nourished by the truth, being brought into experimental fellowship with God, I speak to my Father, and to my Friend (vile though I am, and unworthy of it!) about the things that He has brought before me in His precious Word... it is as plain to me as anything, that the first thing the child of God has to do morning by morning is to obtain food for his inner man.”

Important Upcoming Events:

- 1/10 24 hour prayer opportunity
- 1/11 Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- 1/12 Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm
Olympians 6:30 pm
- 1/13 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 1/18 Ladies Quilting 12:30 pm
- 1/23 Elders Meeting 5:00 pm

January 9, 2022 Morning Sermon Outline

"The Lord Jesus Feeds 5000 Plus"

John 6:1-15

- I. The Lord Jesus is _____ of _____ for people.
- II. The Lord Jesus already has a _____.
- III. The Lord Jesus always pleases _____ not _____.

January Birthdays 2022



Jan 2
Ruth Nietering



Jan 3
Mackenzie Byron



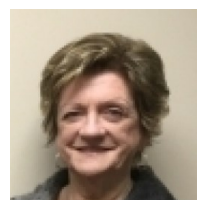
Jan 5
Collin Hildebrandt



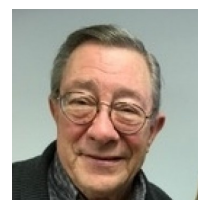
Jan 6
Chris Dean



Jan 7
George Czinder



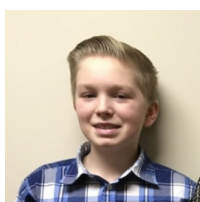
Jan 10
Linda Dalman



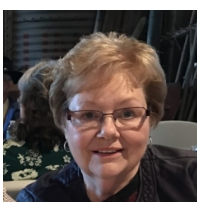
Jan 14
Ken Cott



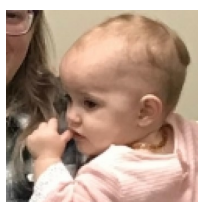
Jan 17
Ron Anderson



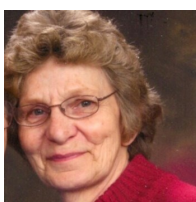
Jan 20
Benjamin Heinrich



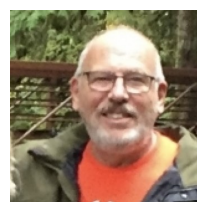
Jan 21
Nancy Brondyke



Jan 24
Annabelle Steadman



Jan 25
Bev Jackson



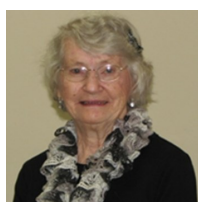
Jan 26
Bob VanDyke



Jan 27
Tom Collins



Jan 27
Leonard Noell



Jan 29
Lillian Johnson



Jan 30
Sam Hammond

Songs for Sunday

I Sing the Mighty Power Of God

Verse 1

I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day
The moon shines full at His command
And all the stars obey

Verse 2

I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food
He formed the creatures with His word
And then pronounced them good
Lord how Thy wonders are displayed
Where'er I turn my eye
If I survey the ground I tread
Or gaze upon the sky

Verse 3

There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known
And clouds arise and tempests blow
By order from Thy throne
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care
And everywhere that we can be
Thou God art present there

CCLI Song # 29097

He Leadeth Me

Verse 1

He leadeth me O blessed thought
O words with heavenly comfort fraught
Whate'er I do where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

Chorus

He leadeth me He leadeth me
By His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful follower I would be
For by His hand He leadeth me

Verse 2

Lord I would clasp Thy hand in mine
Nor ever murmur nor repine
Content whatever lot I see
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me

Verse 4

And when my task on earth is done
When by Thy grace the victory's won
E'en death's cold waves I would not flee
Since Thou through Jordan leadeth me

CCLI Song # 62762

I'd Rather Have Jesus

Verse 1

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold
I'd rather be His than have riches untold

I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands

I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand

Chorus

Than to be the king of a vast domain
And be held in sin's dread sway
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today

Verse 2

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause

I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame

I'd rather be true to His holy name

Verse 3

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb

He's all that my hungering spirit needs
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead

CCLI Song # 2998772

Trusting Jesus

Verse 1

Simply trusting every day
Trusting through a stormy way
Even when my faith is small
Trusting Jesus that is all

Chorus

Trusting as the moments fly
Trusting as the days go by
Trusting Him whate'er befall
Trusting Jesus that is all

Verse 2

Brightly doth His Spirit shine
Into this poor heart of mine
While He leads I cannot fall
Trusting Jesus that is all

Verse 4

Trusting Him while life shall last
Trusting Him till earth be past
Till within the jasper wall
Trusting Jesus that is all

CCLI Song # 22537