

NORTONVILLE NEWS

"A Biblical View of America"

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

A few days ago our country celebrated its 246th birthday! As Americans we have so much to be thankful to God for: a stable government; a prosperous nation with many opportunities; the right to vote and voice our opinion; the right to elect men and women to represent us at local, state and federal levels; the right to freedom of speech; the wonderful right of freedom to worship God without government interference, and much, much, more.

As we consider our nation, the Word of God speaks to us clearly about the effects of both righteousness and sin on a country or a nation. Righteousness here describes right living, or actions and behaviors that are right in the sight of God. On the other hand, the word sin describes actions that are wrong in the sight of God. Righteousness and sin are polar opposites.

There are great and certain consequences that come upon countries for taking either the path of righteousness or the path of sin. We are told in Proverbs 14:34, **"Righteousness exalts a nation."** When leaders or citizens of a nation do what is proper in the sight of God, the nation will be strengthened and lifted up. God Himself exalts nations who do what is good in His sight. And what is good in God's sight? The commandments of God, as given to us in His Word, describe to us what is pleasing to God. When a nation pleases the Lord, it will be exalted and honored.

The flip-side of exaltation is shame. We are also told in Proverbs 14:34, **"But sin is a reproach to any people."** Sin describes the practice of disregarding God's commandments and living contrary to what He has revealed. And when a nation lives in disobedience to God, reproach will come upon that nation. The word reproach means shame or disgrace. When a nation rejects the commandments of the LORD, the ultimate result will be dishonor and degradation. (Cont. on page 2)

Stay Connected

Sunday

10:00 am Sunday morning

6:00 pm Sunday night

6:00 pm Sunday Youth Group

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting 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.

The Bible gives us examples of how righteousness exalts nations. The nation of Judah was strengthened and honored when their kings feared the LORD, promoted the knowledge of God, and practiced justice in the courts. Time and time again, the good LORD exalted that country when the godly kings seriously endeavored to follow the Word of God and honor Him (see 2 Chronicles 17). We see too how the large city of Nineveh was spared from destruction. The whole city repented at the preaching of Jonah. The Ninevites humbled themselves before God - even the king of Nineveh put on sackcloth and ashes and fasted and turned from his wicked ways (Jonah 3)! God honors righteous behavior.

God's Word also gives many examples showing how sin results in shame for nations. The Pharaoh and the Egyptians suffered shame and destruction for disobeying the LORD after He commanded Pharaoh to let His people go (Exodus 5-14). The nation Israel suffered shame and trouble when they disobeyed God and worshiped the golden calf (Exodus 32). We know also of shame and destruction poured out on Sodom and Gomorrah, when fire and brimstone fell upon those unrepentant cities for their pride and sexual immorality (Genesis 19).

Years ago, Billy Graham's wife said to him, "If God doesn't punish America, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." Ruth Graham said this as a response to what she saw and heard happening in our United States. Many leaders and citizens today are actively promoting greed and sexual immorality though they are clearly against the commandments of God. Many are also actively promoting abortion, calling it health care for women when it is actually death for unborn children. Behaviors such as these and all other sinful actions rage against the commandments of God and will surely result in shame for our nation. Sin never makes a nation better. It always weakens and degrades and brings the judgment of God.

By God's grace, let us be people who strengthen our country by living holy and pure lives in the sight of God. And may we be people who speak the truth in love. As we proclaim the good news of Christ, let us also warn of the wages of sin. Let us faithfully pray to God for our leaders and our nation and our neighborhoods, that all may repent and come to the knowledge of the truth. God's Word is true: **"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."**

Upcoming Events

7/11 24 Hour Prayer Noon—Midnight

7/14 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm

7/19 Board Meeting 5:30 pm

Teen Evangelism Camp

August 16-20 at Camp Kaskitowa (near Allegan, MI). Learn how to share Christ with practical experience! For teens 16-19. See Pastor Josh for more information.

Spotlight: Todd and Carla Witters

Recently, Nortonville voted to support give regular support Todd and Carla Witters, missionaries from Children's Bible Ministries (CBM). They are working to start a "released time program", off-site Bible classes offered to public school children during the school day twice a month. It is their desire to reach unsaved children in the public school system with the truth of the gospel.

Todd was saved at age 22 while attending college. He had heard the truth of the gospel while growing up, but was still not a believer. But when he saw and met a group of men who were true believers, he realized that he didn't have what they had, which moved him to accept Christ as his savior. Carla was 13 when she heard the gospel while attending a Baptist boot camp, and became a believing Christian.

They met while participating in marching band, when Todd was a sophomore and Carla was an incoming freshman. They started dating, but later broke up because Todd was not yet a believer. They would get back together after Todd became saved.

The Witters had worked with various kids ministries for 20 years before entering the ministry full time. Todd's undergrad degree was in engineering, and he had been a software engineer for 17 years. However, he got to a stage in his life when he felt he was called to do more than just making car parts. They began praying for opportunities, and in 2009, their home church Jenison Bible opened up a position for an education director and administrative pastor. He had no formal biblical training, but began taking classes from Moody Bible Institute.



In 2015, Todd finished his degree at Moody. The Witters took stock of their experiences and gifts, and it all led them back to children's ministries. Todd found a position at Children's Bible Ministry, as a release time director at Camp Cornerstone in Jefferson, PA.

CBM has been pursuing starting released time programs in every state, and when an opportunity opened up in Michigan, and they took the chance. They are hoping to establish CBM as a totally self supporting mission in Michigan.

Release time is now coming to Jeffers Elementary School thanks to the Witters ministry, and they want help getting the word out! The Grand Haven Coast Guard Parade is coming August 6th, and will be their biggest opportunity to promote the program this summer. "If anybody wants to be a walker in the parade, handing out candy and flyers to the kids, please let us know!"

Nortonville Gospel Chapel officially began supporting the Witters as missionaries in May, and they are using the office on the second floor of the church. Thank you for your generosity in allowing us to support missionaries like the Witters who are eager to share the gospel and reach others for Christ.

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.

July Birthdays



July 1
Joe O'Neill



July 3
Eleanor Ambrose



July 5
Vince Blake



July 5
Nancy Marshall



July 6
Karen Huggins



July 10
Randy Arnson



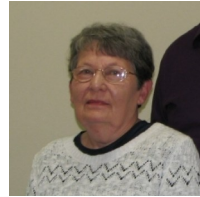
July 10
Maureen Czinder-Sherman



July 10
Israel Hildebrandt



July 10
Donna Moe



July 13
Ann Vink



July 16
Bonnie Buckley



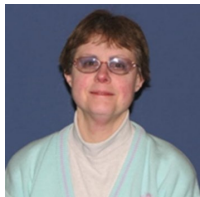
July 18
John Ambrose



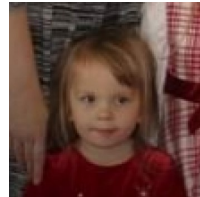
July 18
Pat Blake



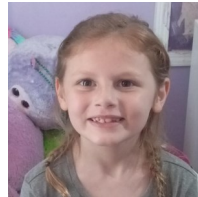
July 21
Joe Sherman



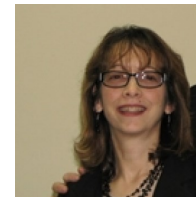
July 24
Beth Epplert



July 25
Moriah Reynolds



July 29
Kensley English



July 30
Dianne Lunt



July 30
Lydia Reynolds

July Anniversaries



July 17
John and Barb Bar



July 25
John and Emily Ambrose

Prayer and Praises July 6, 2022

Praises...

Services have started at Robbinswood Nursing Home. Opportunities to share Christ with others.
Answered prayer for wisdom and guidance! Continued need for God's guidance. Little victories for all of us.
Praise the Lord for a good week at CEF (Outreach five day youth Ministries)
Praise the Lord for a great outing for Mini Golf for our Youth!

Pray for ...

Recent attack in Chicago – Pray for the families affected by recent murders over the holiday weekend.

President Biden, World Leaders, President Putin, President Zelensky, Governor Whitmer.

Our Supreme Court Justices:

John Roberts, Clarence Thomas, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elana Kagan,
Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett.

Student of the Week: Lydia Reynolds

Board Member of the Week: Elder Israel Hildebrandt

Shut-in of the Week: Alice Shumake

Volunteer of the Week: Collin Hildebrandt

Missionary of the Week: ***Daniel & Karen DeVerna** (BMW-Japan): See page 2 for updates.

Prayer Request:

Paul Snyder has asked for prayer for a 19 year old girl who has been in a car accident.

Marilee Stroebe has fallen and needs prayer.

Pastor Hopkins wife, Lynne has made some progress

Lillian Johnson for leg pain. Pray for Chuck's infection and son-in-law Tim. Also, for her daughter, Diane Wessell.

Dick Vink experiencing lots of pain in his hip. He is now doing a little better.

Eric Walker, Dorothy Walker's son.

Melissa Dalman and family.

Pray that the Lord would open doors for ministry opportunities for our church, especially in nursing facilities.

Pray for our next generation that Pastor Josh and our young people will be dedicated to Christ, and for spiritual growth. Ben; Aven; Mason; Madison; Robert; Mackenzie; Olivia; Clayton; Collin. Russell; Adelina; Charley; Anna; Margaret; Josh; Colton..

Pray for victory over alcohol, drugs, and other addictions: Craig, Larry, Tim, Brad, Darren, John, Carol, Brianna, Jeff

Those needing help & healing with health issues: Marilee Stroebe, Vicky Snyder, Carla Bartow, Melissa Dalman, Paul Snyder, Bridget Gazlay, Vicki Snyder, Hammond's daughter Dana, Miranda Lunt, Sam and Lynne Hammond, Laurie Snyder, Chuck and Cindy Johnson, Mike Feistel, Pat Dawes, Linda Dood, Sam Gnuck, Kurt French.

Those with cancer: Jim Dufford, Jim Postema, (Friend of the Hoexum's), Tarah, Belinda Klein (Linda Vink's friend), Norm Kaufman, Marge (Dianne Lunt), Kelly Vipond, Bob & Diane Brondyke, (Ken Brondyke and Cheri Young's cousins), and Bob Lunt (Greg's brother, needs Christ), Walt Curtis, Sam Gnuck

In need of the Lord: Collette, Kevin O'Neill (has cancer), Gary (Sue Brooks' nephew), Rod and Jaqueline (Dorothy Walker), Justin White, John and Carol Marrano, David and Catherine, Nina, David, Joe Moran and Ben, Brian and Leanna McMahon (friends/relatives of the O'Neill's), Bonnie Schultz' 3 sons, Al Gazlay, Brad Coon, Jerry Pellegrom, Renan, First, Jim, Mike & Amy (Anna's Dad & Stepmom), Sawyer (Robbie Snider), Mark Dean (Maureen Sherman) Rob Marshall Jr., Ann (Georgia Kamphorst's sister-in-law), Maria, Abigail, Erin, Kevin, Mary, Jody (Karen Huggin's sister), Becky, John (Charlene Easey), Pam & Jean (Dottie), Ashley, Justin, Dale (Bev Jackson's son).

Prayer and Praises July 6, 2022

Caleb & Emily Arnold: (Ethnos 360): We could not get peace about moving to a new location in town. Please pray with us for guidance on this issue. “We can make our own plans, but the Lord gives the right answer

Rev. Dave and Dolores Bauer (BRM-Illinois): Praise God for the installation services of Pastor’s in several of our churches. (Can be seen on our Facebook page). Please pray for the new pastors and their families.

Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya (Shelby MI) Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya and Stony Lake retreat center exist together as a Christian youth camp and retreat center for all ages. Contact us at Ao-Wa-Kiya to volunteer and please pray for vital staff needs.

Nicole Condra (SWMI-Georgia): The single woman who had left Ukraine because of the War has found an Apartment. The war and other circumstances have been very hard on the Ukrainian children and we feel for them. I am working toward a greater understanding of the Romanian language.

Reed & Donna Condra (SWMI-Georgia): Please pray for our annual conference for training deaf workers from churches in several states. It is called “American Sign Language Institute”, coming up in July. Our daughter Nicole is coming to the end of her first term in Romania. She plans to take a short break and be back in Romania after the Holidays.

John & Dee Cook (IM-Colorado): The heat in India has set records this summer, so bear that in mind as you pray for the children at Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. Last year many of our students had shared they were looking for secular work after one year of Bible School, now things have changed and many look to attain their Bachelor’s degree!

***Daniel & Karen DeVerna** (BMW-Japan): Japan has been hit by a heat wave with temperatures in the 100’s. English camp is coming up on July 18th. Please pray for preparations, the Gospel seeds need to be planted!

Love in Action (Tri-Cities): We appreciate your generosity, as we are seeing more and more challenges develop.

Joe & Ursula Morell (BMW-Sweden): Joe is enjoying his sabbatical. Please pray for church planting.

Mario Audai Shaba (IM Supported Child: Iraq): Mario fled with his family from the Islamic State in 2014 and are still refugees in North Iraq. He lives with his parents and sister. Mario would like to be a teacher, his favorite subject in school is Arabic and he struggles with English classes.

Andy & Michelle Shinabery (East-West Ministries International): The Lord opened up the door for a few of us from East West to go and see the work the Lord is doing. We are working on training and bringing on board more partners.

Tim & Karol Svoboda (YWAM-San Francisco): They have asked us to pray about financial help for their building

Anna Sytsma (CEF-Kent & Ottawa Counties): It has been a good week for the CEF five day Outreach Ministries.

Norman & Karen Tober (GEM-Germany): Norman started a sabbatical on January 15th. We have been with GEM in Germany for almost 18 years and it seems that a short sabbatical time is way overdue. Norman continues to conduct counseling and coaching sessions online.

Todd and Carla Witters – CBN – (Children’s Bible Ministries): Todd and Carla Witters are our Newest Missionaries. They are teaching at Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya this week.