

Amwell Church of the Brethren

Amwell Echoes

REACHING OUT WITH LOVE AND COMPASSION
SO OTHERS MAY KNOW CHRIST

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Summer 2011

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Leadership at Amwell

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• **CIRCLE OF SERVANTS**

• **BOARD of TRUSTEES**

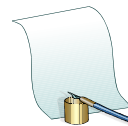
• **DEACONS**

Brother Jeff Kiskurno
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From the Pastor's Pen

By Pastor Robert DiSalvio



Do you feel safer now? It was just a week ago (April 31) that President Obama made an unprecedented nighttime speech to announce that American's most wanted terrorist Osama Bin Laden was captured and killed.

The news eclipsed other events, tornadoes, floods, the flaming Middle East and the economy. Folks whose homes were destroyed in the violent weather were probably not jumping up and down in the streets for joy about Bin Laden. The late radio personality Paul Harvey used to say "you can run but you can't hide".

We Christians can't run away from the various and sundry problems that face our nation or us personally. But God has made himself available to us as a place of Refuge

or a hiding place in such times as these! This idea of God as our "hiding place" or "Refuge" appears throughout the Bible and particularly in Psalms and is often coupled with God being called a "shield".

Please take a few minutes with a cup of coffee or snuggle into your comfortable chair and open your bible to Psalm 119:113-120 and let the word and the Holy Spirit strengthen, comfort and encourage you: vss 113 says fear, stress, anxiety and trouble begins in your mind. The psalmist writes the Antedotes for troubling or "stinkin thinking" are found in God's Promises. Vss 114 The Psalmist states as fact, borne of faith and borne of experience that God is the source of protecting from the power of things in life to drag you down and tear you up! Where do you go when you feel like

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Blanche's Corner

by Blanche Carl

Some years ago there was a radio program called the "Old Fashioned Revival Hour", with Dr. Charles E. Fuller. He had a friend Dr. Harry Rimmer who was an inspiring and challenging Bible Teacher that had come down with terminal cancer. Dr. Rimmer listened to Dr. Fuller each Sunday.

One Sunday Dr. Fuller advised his audience that on the next Sunday he would speak on his favorite subject – HEAVEN. After that broadcast Dr. Rimmer wrote Dr. Fuller the following letter.

My dear Charlie:

Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have a clear title to a bit of property there for over 50 years. I did not buy it, for it was given to me without money and without price. But the donor purchased it for me at tremendous cost. I am not holding it for speculation, for the deed is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot, for I have been sending materials there for over fifty years out of which the greatest Architect and Builder of the Universe has been building a

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FROM PASTOR'S PEN

Do you feel safer now? . . .

Things are closing in on you and your own strength just isn't enough to carry you through today?

Vss 117 Reminds: Your strength is not all you have to rely upon – The Lord will hold you, hold you up by His strength and keep you safe – in the tumultuous whirlpools that confront us on the sea of life. Jesus Christ is your life line!

Vss 114, 116 Record that belief is entrusted and empowered with what C.H. Spurgeon said was “of all the ingredients that sweeten the cup of Human life there is none more rich or powerful than HOPE! You have all the Grace God knows you need to get through today's challenges – without that Hope today will be a bitter experience.

Thoughts for today:

Vs 116 Let God uphold you, a kite soars high when the wind lifts it: let God be “the wind beneath your wings”.
Vs 119 Delight in God's word: it is your source of Hope.
Vs 114 Depend on God's word: it is your source of Hope.
Vs 115 Keep God's word: Just do what it reveals to you. Remember the little song? “Every promise in the book is mine, every chapter every verse every line”. So do you feel safer now knowing they got Bin Laden or do your feel safer now knowing God is your refuge, hiding place, shield and hope?

I know my answer!

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BLANCHE'S CORNER

. . .home for me which will suit me perfectly and will never need to be repaired. Termites cannot undermine its foundations, for it rests upon the “Rock of Ages”. Fire can not destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks or bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no devious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands, almost completed. It is ready for me to enter in and rest in peace eternally, without fear of being ejected. There is a valley of deep shadow between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a short time. I cannot reach my home in that city of gold without passing through this dark valley of shadows. But, I am not afraid, because the best Friend I ever had went through the same valley long ago, and drove away it gloom. He has stuck with me through thick and thin since we first became acquainted fifty-five years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form never to forsake me nor leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of the shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me.

I hope to hear your sermon on Sunday next from my home here, but I have no assurance that I shall. My ticket to Heaven has no date stamped upon it, no return coupon, and no permit for baggage. I am all ready to go, and I may not be here when you are talking next Sunday, but if not, I shall meet you there someday.

Signed,
Harry Rimmer, Sc.D.

Compassion International

Sponsoring children in need is breaking the cycle of poverty

Compassion International exists as a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults.

Founded by the Rev. Everett Swanson in 1952, Compassion began providing Korean War orphans with food, shelter, education and health care, as well as Christian training.

Today, Compassion helps more than 1 million children in 26 countries.

Helpful tips . . .

- From Cindy Kiskurno: How to clean wood cabinets of all grease and dirt: Ventilate kitchen. Boil 1 quart of water add 3 tablespoons of linseed oil and 3 tablespoons of turpentine. Dip rag into solution and wring dry, wipe small area at a time Remove excess solution with a soft, dry cloth .Makes wood cabinets look like new.
- From Sherry Ferello: White Vinegar can be used in the washer in place of fabric softener. Vinegar washes away excess soap and locks in the fabric color and no vinegar smell.
- From Sherry Ferello: In a well ventilated kitchen, ammonia sprayed onto burnt oven messes and left to sit five minutes, sprinkled with baking soda to absorb, then add drops of white vinegar, allowing to sit for five minutes and wiping clean with a wet sponge. In less than fifteen minutes and very little effort your oven is clean.

Recipes

Mandarin Orange Salad from Cindy Kiskurno

1 head of Romaine lettuce, washed and torn into bite size pieces

1 head of Ice berg lettuce, washed and torn into bite size pieces

2 stalks celery, chopped

4 scallions, chopped

2 11 oz cans of Mandarin oranges, drained and chilled

2 cups of slivered almonds

1/2 cup of sugar

Put lettuce, celery and scallions in a bag in refrigerator overnight. In a skillet place almonds and sugar on medium heat, toss until sugar is melted on the almonds, cool. Place almonds in an air tight container .

Dressing

1/2 cup oil

4 tablespoon red wine vinegar

4 tablespoon sugar

Salt and pepper to taste

Sometimes I double dressing. Just so I have extra, but I usually do not use all of the dressing when I double it.

On the following day, prior to serving, toss almonds and oranges in bag with lettuce, pour 1/2 of the dressing into bag and shake add more dressing to taste. You do not have to use the bag. I usually use a large bowl.

Suggested to substitute oranges with granny smith apples, add grilled chicken and a splash of balsamic vinegar for a change.

NEIMAN-MARCUS COOKIES (Recipe may be halved) from Tanya Drake

2 cups butter

24 oz. chocolate chips

4 cups flour

2 cups brown sugar

2 tsp. soda

1 tsp. salt

2 cups sugar

1 8 oz. Hershey Bar (grated)

5 cups blended oatmeal

4 eggs

2 tsp. baking powder

2 tsp. vanilla

3 cups chopped nuts (your choice)

Measure oatmeal, and blend in a blender to a fine baking powder.

Cream the butter and both sugars. Add eggs and vanilla, mix together with flour, oatmeal, salt, baking powder, and soda.

Add chocolate chips, Hershey Bar, and nuts. Roll into balls, and place two inches apart on a cookie sheet.

Bake for 10 minutes at 375 degrees.

Recipe yields 112 cookies.

DO YOU SMELL THAT?

Submitted by Tanya Drake

A cold March wind danced around the dead of night in Dallas as the doctor walked into the small hospital room of Diana Blessing. She was still groggy from surgery. Her husband, David, held her hand as they braced themselves for the latest news. That afternoon of March 10, 1991, complications had forced Diana, only 24-weeks pregnant, to undergo an emergency Cesarean to deliver couple's new daughter, Dana Lu Blessing. At 12 inches long and weighing only one pound nine ounces, they already knew she was perilously premature. Still, the doctor's soft words dropped like bombs.

"I don't think she's going to make it," he said, as kindly as he could. "There's only a 10-percent chance she will live through the night, and even then, if by some slim chance she does make it, her future could be a very cruel one." Numb with disbelief, David and Diana listened as the doctor described the devastating problems Dana would likely face if she survived. She would never walk, she would never talk, she would probably be blind, and she would certainly be prone to other catastrophic conditions from cerebral palsy to complete mental retardation, and on and on. "No! No!" was all Diana could say.

She and David, with their 5-year-old son Dustin, had long dreamed of the day they would have a daughter to become a family of four. Now, within a matter of hours, that dream was slipping away. But as those first days passed, a new agony set in for David and Diana. Because Dana's underdeveloped nervous system was essentially 'raw', the lightest kiss or caress only intensified her discomfort, so they couldn't even cradle their tiny baby girl against their chests to offer the strength of their love. All they could do, as Dana struggled alone beneath the ultraviolet light in the tangle of tubes and wires, was to pray that God would stay close to their precious little girl.

There was never a moment when Dana suddenly grew stronger. But as the weeks went by, she did slowly gain an ounce of weight here and an ounce of strength there. At last, when Dana turned two months old, her parents were able to hold her in their arms for the very first time. And two months later, though doctors continued to gently but grimly warn that her chances of surviving, much less living any kind of normal life, were next to zero, Dana went home from the hospital, just as her mother had predicted.

Five years later, when Dana was a petite but feisty young girl with glittering gray eyes and an unquenchable zest for life. She showed no signs whatsoever of any mental or physical impairment. Simply, she was everything a little girl can be and more. But that happy ending is far from the end of her story.

One blistering afternoon in the summer of 1996 near her home in Irving, Texas, Dana was sitting in her mother's lap in the bleachers of a local ball park where her brother Dustin's baseball team was practicing. As always, Dana was chattering nonstop with her mother and several other adults sitting nearby when she suddenly fell silent

Hugging her arms across her chest, little Dana asked, "Do you smell that?" Smelling the air and detecting the approach of a thunderstorm, Diana replied, "Yes, it smells like rain." Dana closed her eyes and again asked, "Do you smell that?" Once again, her mother replied, "Yes, I think we're about to get wet. It smells like rain."

Still caught in the moment, Dana shook her head, patted her thin shoulders with her small hands and loudly announced, "No, it smells like Him. It smells like God when you lay your head on His chest."

Tears blurred Diana's eyes as Dana happily hopped down to play with the other children. Before the rains came, her daughter's words confirmed what Diana and all the members of the extended Blessing family had known, at least in their hearts, all along. During those long days and nights of her first two months of her life, when her nerves were too sensitive for them to touch her, God was holding Dana on His chest and it is His loving scent that she remembers so well.

Summer at Amwell

Saturday, June 4th Afternoon Tea

Sunday, June 12th Children's Day

Sunday, June 19th Father's Day

Sunday, June 26th Summer Hours Begin

Monday, July 4th Independence Day

Monday, July 11th Opening of VBS 9 am

Friday, July 15th VBS Closing Program 7 pm

Cards and calls brighten the receipts day and the sender/caller too.

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Mother's Day

Did you know?

The tradition of this holiday seems to have stemmed from an English celebration in the 1600's honoring the mothers of England called, "Mothering Sunday." Employees were given the day off to visit their mothers, and many people gave their mothers a special treat called a "Mothering Cake." With Christianity came a different celebration called "Mother Church," which honored the spiritual protection from the church. This holiday eventually combined with "Mothering Sunday" to form one day of celebration.

In 1872, a Boston poet and suffragist named Julia Ward Howe organized "Mother's Day" meetings in an attempt to create a day for peace. You're probably more familiar with her for the song lyrics she wrote for the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

In 1907, a woman from Philadelphia, named Ana Jarvis, started a campaign for National Mother's Day to be held on the second day of May in honor of her mother. Her mother, also named Ana, died two years earlier in 1905. She gave her daughter the idea after she organized a "Mother's Friendship Day" to heal lingering emotional wounds of the Civil War.

Finally in 1914, Woodrow Wilson made an official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day a national holiday. West Virginia was the first state to recognize the holiday, and today the holiday has spread beyond the USA to countries such as Australia and Denmark, which also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

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THE BRETHREN
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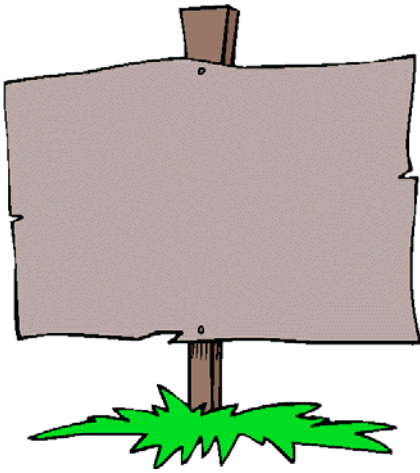
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Church signs Karen Harclerode has seen
in Maryland:

“Be content with what you have but not
what you are”

“Who are you when no one is watching?”

“There is no PART B in God's Plan for
Salvation”

Church sign in Flemington:

“Faith does not make things easier it
makes things possible.”

“Visitors Welcome, Members Expected”

**the date for Easter is
determined on a
lunisolar calendar,
as is the Hebrew
calendar**

The precise date of Easter has at times been a matter for contention. At the First Council of Nicaea in 325 it was decided that all Christians would celebrate Easter on the same day, which would be a Sunday. Prior to this, it was celebrated on the day of the full moon of Spring -- regardless if it were a Sunday.

The early Catholic church decreed that Easter should fall on a Sunday:

- that this Sunday must follow the fourteenth day of the paschal moon;
- that the moon was to be accounted the paschal moon whose fourteenth day followed the spring equinox.

The fourteenth day of the moon's phase is the full moon (28 days per lunar cycle with the full phase in the middle). Therefore, Easter is to occur on the first Sunday following the full moon AFTER the first day of Spring.

All the other dates in the Christian Liturgical calendar are calculated forward and backward from there. Six weeks prior is Ash Wednesday, Lent follows up through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, then Easter. Following Easter there is Ascension or Pentecost, etc etc.

BLESS

Shared by Veda Drummond

I don't know about you, but praying for other people doesn't really come naturally to me. I don't know how many times I've told someone I'd pray for them, and then forget. I guess that's my selfish, "old man" nature. Most of the time it's just forgetfulness, but sometimes I'm not really sure what to pray. You know, "bless so-and-so and give them a nice day, and make them feel better, and, um, help them with whatever they need today, and, um....." Ever do that?

I was at a ladies day at a friend's church recently, and before a brief prayer time, one of the women shared 2 acronyms to help us as we pray. The first one, ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication), I had heard many times. The second one was newer to me, and applies more to our prayers for others, especially when we're not sure specifically how to pray.

B - body - physical needs, material needs

L - labor - their work, whether at home or outside employment

E - emotional - what are the stressors in their life?

S - social - relationships with others

S - spiritual - relationship with God

This is a great tool to cover all possible areas of need in someone's life. A co-worker frequently comes and prays for me, and always asks God to meet my needs, whether they be physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial - I think he's on to something! (And thanks, Jacqui, for this great tool!)

So today, as you tackle your prayer list, remember to BLESS others.

Ruth Schmidt is on full-time staff at America's Keswick, and grateful to be a daughter of the King.

Shared by Karen Harclerode

"Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live..."

-Isaiah 55:3

My wife is a singer. A couple of years ago she was preparing for a concert at Radio City Music Hall when she lost her voice. Her throat doctor diagnosed swollen vocal cords due to over-rehearsing and prescribed total vocal rest. "Don't speak a word," he said. "Not a sound until the morning of the show."

Julee, I can tell you, is not the silent type, and those few difficult days were an odyssey. Everywhere she went Julee carried a pad and pencil. Our apartment was festooned with those little yellow stick-on notes. And when it came to our having a simple difference of opinion, I would have my say, then wait for Julee to write out her response. That lull in the action invariably gave my hackles time to go down a bit. Julee's words, tempered in the very writing and devoid of vocal inflection and volume, seemed so much less threatening. I had to focus on what she wrote if I were to understand her. The funny thing was the less Julee said, the harder I had to listen. We learned a lot about communication—the importance of a passing touch, a lingering look, the communing comfort of shared silence.

Julee's voice returned stronger than ever, and the concert was a success. While she chatted with friends in her dressing room afterward, I slipped across the street and got her a small box of fudge, chocolate having been at the top of the disheartening list of foods forbidden by the voice doctor. As I put the box in her hand, she was about to say something. Then she grabbed her pad and scribbled, "Thank you!"

Thank You, God, for showing me how to listen. In Your words I find all wisdom.

By Edward Grinnan

Classifieds at Amwell

CHOPPED BEEF FOR SALE

All natural fresh ground chopped beef for sale. \$2.25 a pound, quantities are limited. See Pastor Bob if you are interested.



CD MINISTRY

See Joe Ferello after service for a CD of Sunday sermons.

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Evalyn and Susie are collecting used toner cartridges as part of a fund raiser at their school. Phillipsburg Christian Academy will benefit from this effort. Please help if you can! See David or Stacia if you have any questions!

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