

# BRIGHT HOPE FELLOWSHIP SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

A LOVING COMMUNITY PURSUING GRACE, TRUTH, AND HOPE IN JESUS



## *Pastor's Tidbits*

BY PASTOR JITESH SOANS

A very old Chinese man named Sai had only one son and one horse. One day the horse ran away and Sai was very worried. Only one horse, and now it was lost! Someone said, "Don't suffer, wait a little." The horse eventually came back.

Not long after this, Sai's only son learned to ride the horse. While returning home one day, he fell from the horse and broke his leg. Poor Sai was very sorrowful! He could not eat, nor sleep. Only one son, and now crippled! But someone said, "More patience, Sai!"

Soon after the accident a war broke out. All the young men went to war; none of them returned. Only Sai's son, the cripple, stayed at home and remained alive to his father's joy.

Romans 8:28 states, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (NIV)

It's easy to read this one verse out of its context and apply it to old Sai and his crippled son in the illustration above and say that all the things they faced ultimately worked for their good.

However, the Bible verse clarifies the established fact ("we know") that in all things (the good, bad and ugly), God works for the good, not of all people, but "of those who love Him".

Not those who love the idea of a God, not those who ardently profess that they love God, but those who love God every moment of every day as they live in a loving and obedient relationship with Jesus. These are the true believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord, Master and Savior.

God works for the good of such believers.

Now each of us understands "good" in our own special way. I may call a spicy Indian curry 'good', while some of you may think I'm crazy.

If we love God and are called according to His purpose, God does not work all things according to our subjective definition of good.

In the next verse (Rom. 8:29) Paul explains the ultimate good that God is using all things for in a true believer. "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

God uses 'all things' to transform a true believer to Christlikeness. God allows circumstances, especially the difficult ones, to come into a true believer's life to ultimately develop the character of Jesus in him/ her.

This is a continuing activity of God (literally, God continues to work for the good), that He keeps on doing for our good and His glory.

But if we love God and are called according to His purpose, what's the proof that God truly loves us so much that He continually works all things for our good?

Look down a few verses to verse 32: "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

If God loved us enough to send Jesus to suffer His wrath for our sins; if God loved us enough to allow Jesus to pay the price for our sins and to die the death we justly deserved, "how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

As we travel with Jesus towards His cross during this Passion Week, as we witness Jesus nailed to the cross and dying there for us on Good Friday, may we come to truly believe in Him as our Lord, Savior and Master. Then, as we continue to love God, and live in a loving, obedient relationship with Jesus every day, God will continually work all things for our good and for His glory!

## BIC Atlantic Conference

The Atlantic Conference of the BIC Church met recently at the Free Grace Church in Millersburg, PA with 3 delegates representing our congregation. Under the theme TOGETHER, 200 delegates representing 38 churches with an average attendance of 7500. Delegates traveled from geographical regions east of the Susquehanna River to Philadelphia, NY, Del, and NJ. We met for worship and discussed the state of the church.

Group session revealed what churches are excited about and what they are struggling with. Some celebrating gratitude, and some dealing with grief are still trying to recuperate from the Covid years and remembering the way it used to be. While the church keeps its eyes on Jesus and follows faithfully the cultural pressures, then and now issues, shifting political winds, and differing opinions on life choices that have been impacting the togetherness of the church.

Positively the Holy Spirit guidance has been influencing the BIC Church for almost 250 years. With Jesus centered interpretation of scripture, the encouragement of people, and sharing of faith, 5 new churches have been started helping to meet needs in the past year.

As National Director of the 7 districts across the US, Alan Robinson said "there are on-going discussions of the cultural shifts in society, the impact of political climates and elections, and we see ourselves as exiles wrestling with consistency and how our values are shaped." And so, while we are in the world, may our lives let people see Jesus through us. Every time present I am impacted by the kindness of this denomination.

Your delegates, **Steve and Robin Martin**



Welcome to our 9 o'clock Grace Café. As we adjust our springtime thinking, what did Jesus say concerning his second coming, his kingdom being established? His ruling and reigning forever? Until that time comes, how then shall we live?

We will be looking at a Stanley C. Baldwin book titled, "What Did Jesus Say About That? Some themes included are:

*God, Faith, The Word, Himself, Prayer, Sin, Following Him, Life and Death, Money, Freedom, Obedience, Relating to Others, Marriage, Divorce, His Return*

More books have been written about Jesus than anyone else in history "yet", as Stanley Baldwin writes "few authors" have actually taken the trouble to survey what Jesus actually said.

In April, we will continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Him as always. Let's continue to build our lives on God's promises. Please join us in Grace Café each Sunday at 9:00, See you then.

**Steve Martin**

# YOUTH GROUP

Please join us for Youth Group, grades 8 and up, every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm. Bring your friends for a time of Bible Study, fun and fellowship.

## Contact Information

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*Your heart should be holy  
and set apart for the Lord  
God.*

*Always be ready to tell  
everyone who asks you why  
you believe as you do.*

*Be gentle as you speak and  
show respect. "*

*1 Peter 3:15*





# What's Happening

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

APRIL 20, JUNE 8, JULY 13

BREAKFAST	
OMLET	
FRENCH FRIES	45 <sup>KL</sup>
BREAD	
ORANGE JUICE	
BACON WITH EGGS	
FRENCH FRIES	45 <sup>KL</sup>
BREAD	
ORANGE JUICE	
CROISSANT	35 <sup>KL</sup>
COFFEE OR TEA	
ORANGE JUICE	
JAM, BUTTER, HONEY	
COFFEE OR TEA	
BREAD OR TOST	45 <sup>KL</sup>
ORANGE JUICE	
ENGLISH BREAKFAST	
(BACON WITH EGGS	
SAUSAGE, CROISSANT	
FRENCH FRIES	75

## BREAKFAST - EASTER SUNDAY - March 31st

9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

See our Information Booth for more details.

## COMMUNITY SPRING CLEAN UP - April 27th

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us in helping your neighbor clean up their yards



## FELLOWSHIP MEALS & GAMES

April 14th, Chess and August 11th, Checkers

Immediately after Sunday services

Please bring a hot and a cold dish

## CHURCH SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, May 4th at 9:00 a.m.

Rain date - May 18th

Please help us clean GOD'S house

## PRIMARY ELECTIONS - April 23rd



## MOTHER'S DAY

### SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER + GAME NIGHT

Friday, May 10th - 6:00-9:00 p.m.

See Darlene Velter for more information.



## YARD SALE

Saturday, May 25th - 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

\$7.00 to \$10.00 per parking space

bring your own table.

See Darlene Velter for more information.

Rain date - June 1st





## CRAFT SALE

**Saturday, July 20th - 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Share, sell, and show off your talents.**

**More information coming soon.**



## CHURCH PICNIC + MEMORIAL LAKE FALL WALK

**Saturday, September 28th**

**More information coming soon.**



**"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**



**"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus"**

**Philippians 4:19**

**FALL FEST - Saturday**  
**October 12th 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER**  
**Thursday, November 28th**



**See you  
Soon!**

**We would love to have you join us for worship in-person!**

**OR**

**Watch the livestream on <https://www.bhbic.com/livestream>**

**OR**

**View the worship recording on our church Sermon Library page**

**[https://www.bhbic.com/message\\_library](https://www.bhbic.com/message_library)**

**OR**

**Our Church YouTube channel**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRmINsDU234nH3NHwUCvxXA>**



# Vacation

# Bible

# SCHOOL

## Mark your calendar

### JUNE 17 - 21

### 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

More details to follow...

If you would like to help, please sign up at the information booth. We need help in many different areas (Bible lesson teachers, volunteers to lead in Crafts, Science Experiments, Games, Refreshments, Singing and Action songs), etc.

Please prayerfully consider helping.

Contact Pastor Jitesh or the church office for more information.

For Registration and details please check the church website or the link below:

<https://bhbic.myanswers.com/jungle-journey/>  
or scan the QR Code



Every day, our kids are bombarded with questions: Did God really create everything? Why do bad things happen? Was Noah's ark real? Why do I need to be saved? Can I trust the Bible? At this VBS, your kids will explore the biblical answers to these questions as they set off on an epic adventure from Genesis to Revelation. Amid sloths, butterflies, river dolphins, and dart frogs, your children will sail along on a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call. These ports are the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Kids will discover how these events shape our world, and they will learn to reconnect the Bible to their everyday life. Prepare to swing into fun as we head out on The Great Jungle Journey!

## Prayer Group



Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. in the Boiler Room of Bright Hope.

To join us online, use the link below.

<https://meet.google.com/zwj-bwcq-vrg>



## Tim's Small Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The group will be starting a new session so please join us.

Contact the church office for more information. (717) 944-4400



## Same Power Women's Bible Study



Robin Martin leads this study that meets every other Thursday at Doug Lamb's Construction. Please contact Robin at [robin17020@yahoo.com](mailto:robin17020@yahoo.com) or the church office for more information.



**"Let every person be subject to governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement."**

**Romans 13:1-2**



**"I have learned in whatever situation I am in to be content."**  
Philippians 4:11b

**"Keep your life free of love of money, and be content with what you have, for Jesus said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' "**

**Hebrews 13:5**



# Walking with Jesus..... .....What does that mean?

What does it mean to be saved?  
How do I know if I am?  
Will there be a sign?  
Will I feel differently?  
What if I don't?  
What if I never do?  
Does that mean I have been rejected?

How will my life change?  
How long will this take?  
Is this going to cost me money?  
What are my friends going to think?

Will I have to go to church every Sunday?  
Can I still kick back and have a beer and  
smoke every once in a while?

Who / What is the Holy Spirit?  
What does it sound like?  
Is it guy's voice or a girl?  
Is it my voice?  
Is it my conscience talking to me?  
What if I never hear it?

I've picked up the Bible, how do you  
understand this?  
And Jesus talks in parables? Say what?  
Is there a Bible for dummies?  
What if I don't find the Bible interesting?  
Is something wrong with me?  
Will I go to hell?  
What is hell?

This sounds like a lot of work.  
This sounds scary.  
Who's going to help me do this?  
Why should I?

***Join us as we discover the answers in God's Word***

345 N. Deodate Road, Middletown, PA 17057  
Sunday mornings - 10:15 a.m.





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