

THE CERESCO MESSENGER

February
2019

Drop the Potatoes!

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:13

What do you do when someone says something that hurts? Do you carry it around like a sack of potatoes day after day, week after week? Sometimes when we do that, the sack gets heavier with each passing day.

God's way to deal with that sort of pain is to lay it down. That's it. Just lay the thing down. "But that's hard," you say. Yeah, sometimes it's hard, but remember this:

It's harder to keep on carrying it. The difficulty in laying it down is momentary.

Carrying the weight of your hurt will accomplish nothing.

Nursing a grudge can become an addiction. You get used to the feeling of resentment and miss it when it's not there.

If you're willing to carry one sack of potatoes, the enemy will eventually load you down with another sack. You develop the bad habit of taking offense when no offense was intended. The more sacks you carry, the slower you travel toward God's will.

Do you have a hurt you haven't let go of yet? Don't wait another day. Drop the sack of potatoes on this Day One. ~ Matthew West

God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us, Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book, To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man, So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us, So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines, Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs

The Pastoral Search Committee met on January 22, 2018 to discuss what we want out of an interim pastor. We need to have an interim pastor in place so we can then start the process of searching for a new permanent pastor.

If you have questions, feel free to talk to one of the search committee members:

Bob Beltz, Glen Cary, Barry Vavrina, Gretchen King, Rick Frey, or Joy Sommers.

A Prayer for Spiritual Warfare

Jesus, sometimes I can almost sense the heaviness of pressure mounting and the ominous presence of darkness around me. I recognize my enemy is at work again. Whether he's trying to discourage me to get sidetracked, to fall into temptation, to give up, or to take my eyes off you, he's always hanging around.

I need your supernatural power, Lord, to stand strong and not surrender. Physical force won't help, because you've said the weapons of our warfare are different from those in this world. As believers, ours are powerful and can demolish strongholds and lies. These supernatural weapons originate from You. By Your precious name and blood, Jesus, I'm asking you to confuse Satan and cancel his attempts to shut me and my influence down. Help me not to become discouraged or to give in when heavy times of testing come.

When I'm tired and weak, You are strong, Lord, and You are my only source of help. I cannot fight without You. Teach me how to pray and to trust You to pull down those strongholds that keep me or others helpless. Guard me from isolation that leaves me exposed and vulnerable. I believe You destroyed the power of my enemy by Your death and resurrection. But like a bad penny, my enemy keeps showing up, whispering lies, twisting the truth, and attempting to inflate my selfish pride. He never gives up.

I am declaring the devil and his demons liars today, Lord. Through the power of Your precious name and blood, I agree with Your Word and the truth that You are in me and that You are greater than my enemy who wants to rule the world. You, Your Word, and prayer, Lord, are my secret weapons. I belong to You, and that fills me with a powerful God-confidence. I want to constantly dress in the spiritual armor You give me. Help me use it to defend others from Satan's fiery darts as well. No one and nothing can snatch me away from Your hand.

Strengthen my faith, Lord. Forgive my sins, so that I may be clean in Your righteousness. Make me brave, so I can stand and fight the spiritual battles in my life and in our world. Give me Your wisdom and discernment so I won't be caught off guard. Together, Lord, we'll win, because in truth, You already have.

God Does Miracles Every Day . . .

God can and does miracles for people today because of His incredible love for us. It was the same in the Bible times: "the whole multitude sought to touch (Jesus), for power went out from Him, and healed them all" (Luke 6:19). But the ones who saw miracles every day were those who were with Him all the time. Rather than living our own lives, ignoring Jesus and then coming to Him when we need a miracle, we should enter into a close personal relationship with Him, following Him every day. When we do this, we will see the greatest miracle of all, as our life changes to become like His.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

— John 10:10

No More Lies

How many lies from the enemy run through our minds in a day? Thoughts like: You're not good enough; God doesn't really hear your prayers, or God won't really do what He promised. God's word is true. He is not a man that He would lie (Numbers 23:19), yet Jesus said the devil "does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44 NKJV).

As God's children, we can take Him at His word. He loved and adored us so much that He sacrificed His one and only Son so that He could have a father/child relationship with us. Every scripture written with a promise belongs to us. Whatever He says He will do, He'll do. (He may not do it at precisely the exact time we want Him to, or in the specific way we imagine.) In His time, every time, He faithfully delivers what He promised to each of us.

One way to ensure we won't fall for the devil's schemes is to know God personally. He desires an intimate relationship with each of us. In addition to time in prayer, His Word is a picture of God's character. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Today's One Thing

Take time today to find scriptures that affirm the promises God has given you and write them down. Take them with you and look at them throughout the week.

A REQUEST FROM JOHN & KATE DENNER

Pray For Us...

We arrived in Florida happy and ready to minister for Him! We had just purchased a newer travel trailer when tragedy struck. We got a phone call from our house back in Michigan. Long story short. We needed a new propane furnace. The total comes to \$2,831. It's a huge financial blow to us this year - especially having just spend a fortune just getting to the Florida mission field. PLEASE PRAY that God will do a miracle and take care of this awful situation.

Our very best and hugest thanks for your prayers,

John & Kate Denner

PO Box 88, Emmett, MI 48022

JohnandKateMusic.com

810-282-6181



Mar 11 Michael Meng & Angela Sommers
 Mar 24 Bill & Laurann Frey

- Feb 4 Nicole Thomas
- Feb 9 Chris Sorell
- Feb 17 Carlton Anthony
- Feb 18 Glen Cary
- Feb 25 Kelcie Collins
- Feb 26 Gretchen King
- Mar 1 Tommy Burke
- Mar 3 Derek Holtz
- Mar 4 Chris (Chip) MacCrossen
- Mar 4 Garrett Skinner
- Mar 9 Ron Chisholm
- Mar 9 Monica Entsminger
- Mar 10 Barb Griffin-Hart
- Mar 11 Ruth St. John
- Mar 13 Martin Coats
- Mar 13 Lucas Finch
- Mar 13 Bill Westphal
- Mar 15 Joanne Henley
- Mar 15 Vi Halder
- Mar 18 Pam Kirkland
- Mar 20 Deborah Beltz
- Mar 21 Mike Halverson
- Mar 22 Cassidy Hart
- Mar 22 Danny Sommers
- Mar 27 Sarah (Frey) Collins
- Mar 29 Hainsley Casey
- Mar 29 McKenzie Babcock
- Mar 30 Jody Davis

Congregational Input Needed

In the next month or so, the Pastoral Search Committee will be asking the congregation to answer questions regarding what you want in a new pastor, etc.

Please be prayerful about the search process, and in thinking about what you think we need in a new pastor for the church. Then you will be prepared when we ask for your input!

Thank you!



Forgiveness

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your sins. (Mark 11:25,25 NIV)

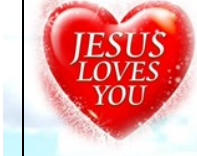
"In the midst of our failed attempts at loving Jesus, His grace covers us." – Francis Chan, *Crazy Love*

1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

"There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still." ~ Corrie Ten Boom

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	Boy Scouts 7 pm					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion Sunday, Mike Mudgett preaching	Boy Scouts 7 pm					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Rev. Edgar Owens preaching	Boy Scouts 7 pm		Martha Circle Meeting 6:00 pm		Admin Council Agenda Items DUE NOW!	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Presidents' Day	Pastoral Search Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	Worship Ministry Team Meeting 5:30 pm, Family Night Potluck 6:30 pm			
24	25	26	27	28	1	2-Mar
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale!	Boy Scouts 7 pm		Information for March Messenger due by noon			Church Breakfast 8:00 am, Admin. Council 9:00 am

Ceresco Baptist Church
230 C Drive North
P.O. Box 35
Ceresco, MI 49033-0035
269.964.9669

"For God so lo**V**ed the world,
That He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
Begott**E**n
So**N**
That Whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish
But have **E**verlasting life."

-- John 3:16

