

Greetings from Ceresco Baptist Church!

Ceresco Messenger, August 2020

A Prayer Against Spiritual Warfare

By Rebecca Barlow Jordan

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - John 16:33

Are you in a battle today, and it's taking more than just a physical toll on you? Are you finding it difficult to find the words to tell the devil to be gone? Spiritual warfare is crippling, real, and troublesome, but Jesus has already won us the victory! Pray along with these words now and let the Lord break the chains of fear and bondage!

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 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.

In Jesus's powerful name before which every knee shall bow, Amen!



ANNUAL TREASURE SALE

Saturday August 22, 2020, 9 am - 3 pm

We appreciate your donated items for the Martha Circle fundraiser! Donations will be accepted Aug 15th 8am-noon, Aug 16th before/after church, Aug 18th 9:30-11:30am, Aug 19th 5-7 pm.

We will be setting up for the sale on Friday, Aug. 21st at 10 am.

Be sure to come on Saturday, Aug. 22nd and shop the sale!

Since all items for the sale are donated, the 'price' of all items for sale is by donation!

You decide what amount you want to give for your purchase!

Dear friends in Ceresco Baptist Church,

"You really practice that!" It was 1955 and as my Dad told it, he had just washed his hands, a courtesy his skeptical dinner host, a Congolese school director, had not offered. Back then, teaching good hygiene went along with preaching the gospel because God's precepts of purity and cleanliness, introduced millennia ago, were unknown by large swaths of the world population. The COVID 19 pandemic highlights how much these practices have evolved in Congo.

Hand washing requires water that in rural Congo is often carried on the heads of children many miles, uphill. As hand washing became accepted, folks used a common basin to wash before meals. On our return to Congo in 2004, I was impressed on several trips into the heartland to be presented before meals with a basin of water, soap, and towel. I felt that the battle to change behavior in favor of better routine hygiene had been won. However, there were often up to a dozen folks being served and for the last in line, the water and towel were pretty grimy.

Sanru, the group I worked with at the time, introduced the concept of falling water for hand washing, similar to water from a faucet. This required going 'high tech' and suspending a container to pour water. There were LOTS of variations on the theme. One involved a can with a hole that one had to rush to use before the water ran out. Others suspended a jug that could be tipped to produce water as needed. All of these were a significant improvement over the 'common basin' because they used less water, and it was clean for every user.

Over the ensuing decades the idea caught on. Someone introduced a pail with a faucet for hand washing. Soon a market developed for home hand washing stations comprising a welded frame to hold a bucket, soap, and a basin to catch the used water. This is appropriate because indoor plumbing is still unavailable for 90% of urban households in Congo cities.

With the Covid 19 pandemic, diligent hand washing is crucial. Hospitals in the Baptist network have begun to receive patients with COVID symptoms, but most rural hospitals don't have plumbed-in water. To slow infection spread, hand washing stations are need at multiple strategic locations. A hand washing station and gallon of liquid soap cost about \$45. Katherine used White Cross and other funds to purchase several dozen hand washing stations and sent them to Baptist hospitals, along with soap, hand sanitizer, bleach, masks, and gloves.

How grateful we are again for the network of supporters God has gathered around us through International Ministries, and the generosity you share with us, even amidst your own suffering and hardship. As you pray for us, be assured we thank God for you, and pray for you.

God bless you. Wayne & Katherine Niles, Global Servants in Democratic Republic of the Congo

It Is Well with my Soul

By Bill Dagle

The story behind the writing of It Is Well with my Soul.

The author, Horatio Spafford, born October 22, 1828 in Troy, New York, grew up to become a successful lawyer in Chicago. He wrote the words to It Is Well with my Soul after receiving the tragic news of the death of his four daughters.

On the fateful night of November 22, 1873, the Ville de Havre, a passenger ship, sank in a mid-ocean collision. Out of his entire family, only his wife survived. The rest of the story would take me all the way to Jerusalem.

During February of 1997, my wife, Linda, two Christian friends, and I boarded a plane in New York City for the Holy Land. During our ten day stay, I was able to visit the American Colony Hotel and the Children's Hospital—both establishments founded by our author, Horatio Spafford. To add more intrigue to the story, I met the last living member of the Spafford family. It was there in the lobby of the American Colony, I found the chilling details of that horrible voyage plus the explanation of how a descendant of Spafford has always owned the hotel even though all his children had died in that horrible accident.

Back in 1873, Horatio had decided to take his family to France and then on to Switzerland. That's why passage had been booked on the French liner, S. S. Ville de Havre. Because of last minute business, Horatio planned to stay behind a few weeks, then catch up with his family. Having gone to New York and after boarding the ship, an uneasy feeling caused him to have the family's cabins changed to the bow of the ship.

It would be just a few days later, at two in the morning, that the ship would be cut in two right at the cabins the Spaffords had left. In less than twelve minutes, the children succumbed to the rushing water, but Anna survived. If the changing of cabins hadn't happened, she too would have died. Had Anna died, history would have taken a different course because it was when Spafford was in route to reunite with his wife, after the accident, that he penned the words to the song.

When finally back in Chicago, they would eventually have three more children: a boy, Horatio Jr., who died of scarlet fever at the age of four, and two girls, Bertha and Grace. Both of the girls would eventually travel to Jerusalem with their parents—starting the legacy of American Colony ownership and the beginning of the hospital.

The shipwreck of the Ville de Havre would remain one of the unexplained tragedies of the sea and its greatest disaster up until the sinking of Titanic. For many of us, when troubles come our way, it is hard to understand why. If only we too could say, "When sorrows like sea billows roll, it is well, it is well with my soul." I believe, with Christ Jesus, we can. Horatio Spafford did.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

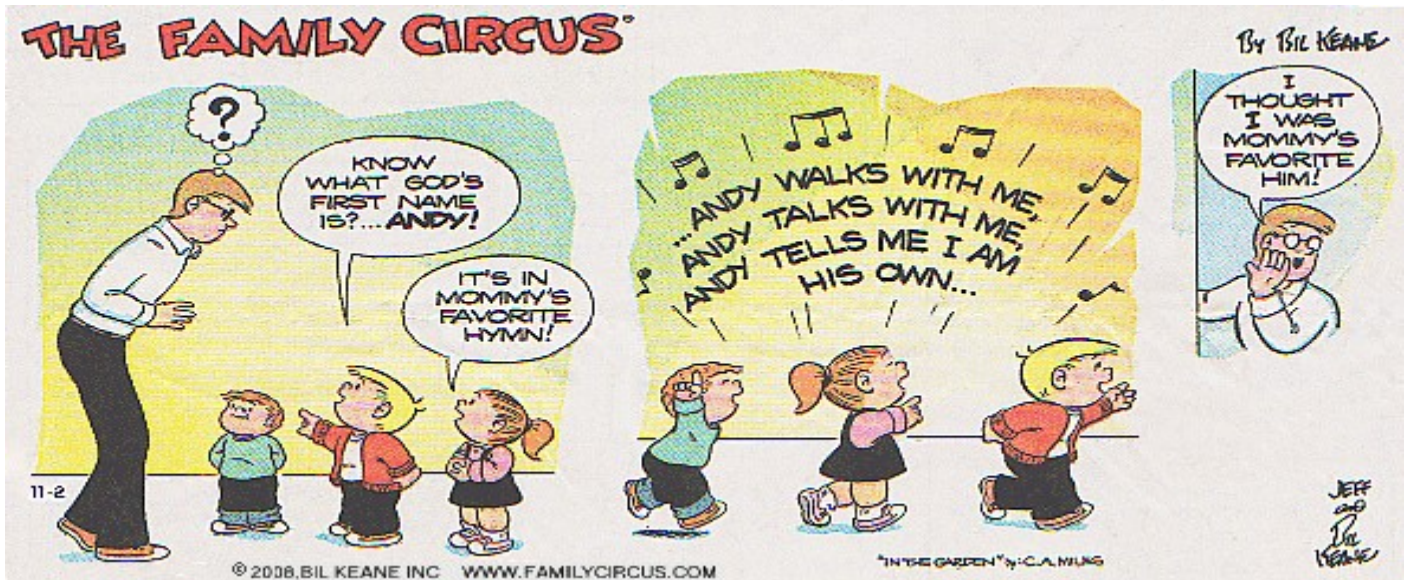


- Aug 1 Sharon Hadley
- Aug 5 Christy Phelps
- Aug 10 Kaleb Collins
- Aug 12 Veronica Anthony
- Aug 13 Allison Biljum
- Aug 16 Joy Sommers
- Aug 19 Reginald Matthews Sr
- Aug 22 Jack Biljum
- Aug 25 Rick Bonney
- Aug 25 David Hadley
- Aug 26 Whitney Ivey
- Aug 28 Kristen Sommers
- Aug 29 Brynlee Collette Rogers
- Aug 30 Scott Boysen

- Aug 11 James & Darlene Anthony
- Aug 19 Reginald & Mary Matthews
- Aug 24 Bud & Vi Halder
- Sep 9 Stephen & Christy Phelps
- Sep 10 Andrew & Kristen Sommers
- Sep 14 Danny & Rayna Sommers
- Sep 18 Bob & Deb Beltz
- Sep 19 Alex & Stacey Goodman
- Sep 30 Jayme & Diane Biljum

Happy Birthday!

- Sep 2 Ted Finch
- Sep 5 Ken MacInnis
- Sep 8 Matthew Ivey
- Sep 10 Sierra Phelps
- Sep 14 Mary Ivey
- Sep 20 Jason Ivey
- Sep 20 Robin Johnston
- Sep 22 Justin Casey
- Sep 25 Kay Davis
- Sep 30 Ellie Daevy



August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<p>Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews cell: 313-303-3301, email: mary.fairmatthews@yahoo.com Office hours: Thursday by appointment, Fridays 1-4:30 pm, Saturdays 8:30-11 am</p>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Communion Sunday		Bible Study 10 am				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Bible Study 10 am	Martha Circle Meeting at 6 pm		Drop off donations for treasure sale 8 am - 12 noon	
Pastor Mary vacation						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Rev. Edgar Owens, guest pastor Drop off donations for treasure sale before/after church		Bible Study 10 am Drop off donations for treasure sale 9:30-11:30 am	Drop off donations for treasure sale 5-7 pm		Setup for Treasure Sale! 10 am	Annual Church Treasure Sale 9 am - 3 pm
Pastor Mary on vacation this week, through 21st						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Bible Study 10 am	School Resumes for Calhoun County districts		Memorial Service for Olive Derrick 11 am	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		Bible Study 10 am	Information for the September Messenger is due by noon, Wednesday, August. 26. Please email to cerescobaptist@gmail.com. Thank you!			

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Prayers for parents, teachers, and students as they begin their fall schooling under a new 'normal'. Whether at home or back at school.

