

MIDWEST

# Pilgrim News

Summer 2020

*Publishing Holiness since 1962*







## From the Editor

### DOUBLE DANGER

A store cashier yells angrily at a customer for stepping a toes-length across the social distancing tape on the floor. An elderly lady slips furtively through the supermarket; the mask on her face cannot conceal the anxiety in her large, frightened eyes. A burly man leans nervously toward his co-worker and lowers his voice, "Is this the end of the world?" he asks? "Do you think that God is punishing us?"

Fear has become an everyday part of people's lives. With every report of another Corona Virus victim, our pulses quicken and our stomachs churn. Questions race through our mind for which there are no immediate answers: "Is my family going to survive this situation? Am I going to survive this situation? Will things ever go back to normal, or is this the end for us all?" Thus, we rush to safeguard ourselves from the threat. We make a desperate dash to the store for more hand sanitizer, bleach, and Lysol; and then return to our homes to isolate ourselves against anything, or anyone, that may pose a threat to us.

This survival instinct is understandable. No one wants to get sick and die. We should be as wise as we can in regard to Covid-19 (See page 9); But as a Pastor, I can't help but notice Corona's potential to deal death in more than one way and it would be foolish to safeguard ourselves against one at the expense of the other.

Covid-19 has the ability not just to extinguish our physical life but our spiritual one as well. Stop and think about this for a moment. During this time of quarantine, we are living in increased spiritual danger. Satan is fighting as never before and there are a number of new things that are working against us. We are cut off from the fellowship of the saints. We are spending more time on the internet than we have in the past. Spiritual laziness calls our name. Frayed nerves encourage us to respond to those who are around us in un-Christlike ways, and isolation limits the use of God-given gifts in a time they are needed most. We even face the temptation to grow satisfied with an online worship experience rather than going back to the Hebrews 10:25 model.

This last tendency especially concerns me. What will the church be like in the future if this practice becomes a habit? What effect will it have upon the soul? Thank God for the new ones our online ministries have brought to us, but online worship should never become the norm for those who can show up in person. Virtual services should be reserved for shut-ins, the sick, and evangelistic purposes. God forbid that we regulate worship to a mere click on our favorites list.

Can I encourage you to protect yourself physically? Don't be foolish when it comes to safeguarding your health, but don't allow Corona to be your killer spiritually either. Stay close to God through the means of grace available to you. Spend quality time with God and your family. Discipline yourself in your internet use and time management practices. Look for creative ways to use your talents in regard to others; And finally, get back to your regular church worship as soon as you can. With God's help we can beat both dangers presented to us by Covid-19.

*Rev. Timothy Forsee*



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**Mission Statement:** The mission of the PNN is three-fold: 1.) We desire to glorify God and facilitate the worship of His person. 2.) We seek to promote the Gospel of Christ with its beautiful message of heart holiness. 3.) We seek to be an encouragement to our readers spiritually, as well as, an informative source of information to those who are connected with, or interested in, our Conference.

Direct comments to the editor: [midwestphc@gmail.com](mailto:midwestphc@gmail.com)

**Cover Photo:** Our cover photo was taken by Patricia Reed Grissom. Patricia is the owner/photographer of Portraits by Patricia. We are featuring Patricia's photography over 4 issues on the cover pages for the MPN. You may visit her Facebook page to enjoy more of her work.

*Don't just cry over your 10- or 20-member congregation. Sometimes God gives you your future first. The ones you call little carry in them every possibility you desire for the future. God would send you leaders but they may come as weak men and women first. Don't be so gift conscious that you fail to realize that certain things are results of growth.*  
 (Kingsley Opuwari Manuel)



# *The President's Page*

It is amazing how adaptable the Church of Jesus Christ is. History reveals many ways the Church has triumphed over all that has tried to set it back. Heresy, persecution, and every other demonic force have bowed to the stunningly self-sacrificial disciples of Jesus who have continued to preach and teach in His Name. The Coronavirus that has shut down so much of our world could be seen by some as another attack of the Enemy to silence the church. Quite the opposite has happened as more churches than ever have been getting the Gospel out by more methods than ever. It is a joy to hear of what is happening across our conference of churches. Some have

used the telephone; others have used low-power FM radio transmitters so worshipers could take part while sitting in their vehicles. Some have used livestream and others Facebook Live, but all are working toward the goal of serving the church and sharing Jesus with those who do not yet know Him. It seems that Christians are much more motivated to do something than before. At a recent meeting of the Conference Council, one member who was leading the group in prayer even thanked the Lord for the virus, because of the great good that has come with it. Some have been motivated by the fear of God to consider where they would "spend" eternity if they should come down with it. Others have thought with all talk of tracing, chipping or forced immunizations, that Jesus' coming must be soon. Whatever God must do or allow to motivate the church to move forward is of His divine mercy. May it bring real revival and an ingathering of souls.

An associate church, the Jefferson Christian Church, near Upland, IN, pastored by Rev. Connie Hull, illustrates how God has helped the church to advance under adverse circumstances. Rev. Hull and Mrs. Ann Jones have been having church services on the front porch of the Jones' home. Along with some who listen by phone, the church is reaching nearly three times the number normally ministered to, as neighbors have gathered to worship and hear the message from God's Word. An elderly couple that had not come during twenty years of invitations, is now listening to the service by phone. We are praying that they will give their hearts to Jesus.

Though our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean are not permitted to gather for worship, many are able to join our churches in the U.S.A. for worship by means of livestreaming.

Conference and Camp meeting must be changed this year due to restrictions brought on by the virus. Frankfort Camp Ministries had to close for the summer due to the inability to conform to CDC guidelines. Instead we will have Conference at the Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church, June 19th and 20th. Our camp meeting will be held over three days July 7-9, at the Kokomo Pilgrim Holiness Church. You will be blessed with the ministry of Evangelists Dr. Paul Kaufman and Rev. Paul Stetler. Ablaze, a men's quartet from Hobe Sound Bible College will be singing and leading singing for the camp. Other Bible Colleges will be presenting in pre-services as usual. There will be children's and youth services as well as a lock-in. We are trusting God to wonderfully bless our adjustments to His glory and to the great up-building of His Kingdom. Though we cannot have the social fellowship quite like other years, I am waiting to hear of the great results that God gives, because we refuse to give up. Instead the church is adjusting and marching forward. May God's great Name be praised!

*Rev. Don Nichols*

*Rev. Donald Nichols pastors the Lima PHC. He also directs an ACE school operated through his church. Rev. Nichols is married to Ruth, and has 3 grown children and 8 grandchildren. Rev. Nichols was elected to the Conference Presidency in 2015.*



Danny and Teresa Gilley  
Youth Pastor, Corydon, IN



Rev. Jack and Ruth Hart  
Pilgrim Holiness Church, Batavia, OH

## Amended Conference Calendar

Due to the closure of Frankfort Camp Ministries for the summer, our scheduled events there have been canceled.

\*The 2020 Conference will now be held on Friday and Saturday, June 19-20, at the Noblesville PHC. You may contact Pastor John Forsee for information concerning lodging. (989-280-1162)

Conference will convene on Friday evening at 6:30 P.M. with a PR team from God's Bible School. A love offering will be taken for the school at this time. Conference will begin at 7:00 P.M. The second Conference session will convene on Saturday at 10:00 A.M. Committees will meet at 8:00 A.M. on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope to be done with Conference by 5:00 P.M.

\*Camp Meeting will consist of a Tuesday evening through Thursday evening camp, July 7-9, held at the Kokomo PHC. No meals or lodging will be provided. RV parking will be available at Frankfort Camp Ministries, and an RV Park near Kokomo. There are plenty of motels and restaurants roughly three miles due north of the church. You can Google or call Rev. Bryan Line for a list of Motels.

Bible school groups will minister in pre-services each evening. Concurrent with the morning services Wednesday and Thursday, Sarah Robberts will lead

children's meetings; Likewise, John Zeigler will lead youth services concurrent with the afternoon services. Thursday morning will be an ordination service, and we will make a spot for a Missions update. Service Times are 10 A.M. 2 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Special Music services are 6:30 P.M. each evening.

\*See Conference website for more info.

### 2020 Camp Workers



**Top:** Dr. Paul Kaufman, Paul Stetler, (Evangelists)  
Sarah Robberts (Children) **Bottom:** Ablaze  
Quartet, Hobe Sound, Rev. John Zeigler, (Youth)

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Rev. Martin Laramie received his PhD in Business Management with a specialty in Leadership from Capella University. Dr. Laramie pastors our church at Bloomington, Illinois with his wife Nancy, and is involved with missionary work in Asia. He is an adjunct professor part-time. We congratulate Dr. Laramie on this great achievement.

### PHC EVANGELISTS AND SONG EVANGELISTS

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*"I would never want to reach out someday with a soft, uncallused hand-a hand never dirtied by serving-and shake the nail-pierced hand of Jesus." - Bill Hybels*





## Noblesville, IN



We broke ground for our new Family Life Center in 2016. There have been some real challenges to reaching our goal but we are finished except for some minor finishing touches. The building is 108 ft. X 104 ft. (Approx. 11,200 square feet.) It includes a gymnasium, kitchen, restrooms, foyer, and dining/conference room. This project has expanded our ministry potential significantly. We thank God for making this possible.

## Kokomo, IN



The Lord answered our prayers by allowing our congregation to purchase a much-needed new facility. After a significant remodeling project, we were able to move into our new church building in the fall of 2019. We now enjoy a new sound system, gymnasium, large circular sanctuary, balcony, and classrooms. We appreciate all our people who helped in this project and the Lord who made it all possible.

## Corydon, IN



We broke ground for our fellowship building, the Shiloh P.H.C. Life Center, September 8, 2018. We had a dedication service, April 6, 2019. The men of our church worked very hard every Saturday, with the possible exception of the Christmas holiday. We received approved engineering/building plans in ten days, which had been submitted to the state. That doesn't just happen. God was in this project all along! We have approximately 6,000 square feet of space; with a kitchen, dining room, restrooms, mechanical room, and 3/4 size gymnasium. This facility has been a tremendous blessing to the Shiloh Pilgrim Holiness Church congregation, and community of Corydon, Indiana. We give God all the glory!

## Palestine, IL



The Palestine, IL PHC Family Life Center is 72 x 100 and will provide a kitchen and dining area, foyer with rest rooms, a prophet's chamber with kitchenette, living room, bedroom and full bath, a teen classroom, and a gym. The Lord has been helping us to build debt free. We so appreciate the donated labor by some of our men.

## Churches to be Built

**Bradford, OH:** This church and parsonage is located in a village of 2000 people in the Dayton Metropolitan area. It has a small congregation and needs a pastor with a heart for outreach.

**Maryville, TN:** This church sits in a neighborhood of a city of 30,000 people. Maryville is listed in the Knoxville Metropolitan area. There is no parsonage, but the church has a small fellowship hall. Maryville needs a pastor with energy and vision to build a congregation.

**Madison, IN:** This church sits in a community of 12,000. Over 55,000 people live within 15 miles of Madison. It has a parsonage that has been newly remodeled and needs a pastor to both shepherd and increase the flock there.

**Ste. Marie, IL:** This church sits in a farming community of several hundred people. It offers a parsonage and a warm welcome to a godly and energetic pastor.

**Kokomo, IN:** This newly purchased facility sits outside of Indiana's 8<sup>th</sup> largest city. It offers a remodeled church, spacious sanctuary, SS rooms, gymnasium and a congregation that is dedicated to outreach.

# The Building Program

## 2 Kings 6:1-7

Rev. Mark Arnett



Hopefully, all of us who profess the name of Christ have an earnest desire to build-up the Kingdom of God rather than tear it down. We may not all be qualified professionally to know how to build something in the realm of physical construction, but we all should know something about spiritual construction. Perhaps the following poem gives us an idea of whether we fall into the category of construction or destruction. It is entitled, **A Builder or a Wrecker?** *As I watched them tear a building down a gang of men in a busy town, with a ho-heave-ho, and a lusty yell they swung a beam and the side wall fell. I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled and the men you'd hire if you wanted to build?" He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed, just common labor is all I need." "I can easily wreck in a day or two, what builders have taken years to do." And I thought to myself, as I went my way, which of these roles have I tried to play? Am I a builder who works with care, measuring life by rule and square? Am I shaping my work to a well-made plan, patiently doing the best I can? Or am I a wrecker who walks to town content with the labor of tearing down? "O Lord let my life and my labors be that which will build for eternity!"* **Author Unknown**

We need this kind of admonition, especially when we consider the unfortunate churches that have experienced divisions, splits, splinters, and even closures. There is a passage of Scripture in the Old Testament which provides us with some insight into the program of building. In II Kings 6:1-7, we read about the Prophet Elisha's encounter with the sons of the prophets. His miracle working ministry was bearing fruit, and his followers had increased. There was a common feeling among these believers in verse one that they were dwelling in a place too small for their accommodation. The verse reads - And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, "The place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us." I call this a place of constriction.

### A PLACE OF CONSTRICTION

*A constriction is a tight squeeze. If you have asthma, you know that the constriction of the airways makes it hard to breathe. If you're a snake, you know that the constriction of a mouse makes a good dinner.* (vocabulary.com)

These Bible School students felt that they just had to have a place to expand. They refused to just shrivel up and die. In our churches, when God gives us a significant numerical increase that crowds our borders, it is a good indicator for us to consider making our facility larger, or even building a new one. Well, evidently these sons of the prophets had talked this thing over, and had even discussed it with Elisha. One of them said in verse two, "Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell." Before they ever ventured toward Jordan, they were still in a place of consultation.

### A PLACE OF CONSULTATION

As a church, before we ever begin the process of any type of building construction, we need to consult with each other about the project. Organize a committee, or form some kind of a group, and develop a plan. We need each other. We need to talk among ourselves, formulate a strategy, and agree together for the glory of God. It is always imperative to be unified in any physical or spiritual enterprise we attempt. If we discover a strong faction of our congregation opposed to a particular endeavor, it is best to refrain from moving forward. We should always strive for harmony among our people. In our Scripture lesson, the soon-to-be builders manifested a place of cooperation. They cooperated with each other, and the Prophet Elisha cooperated with them.

Listen to the dialogue in verses three and four. And one said, "Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants." And he answered, "I will go." You know you are right on track whenever your leader is in favor of what you are doing.

### A PLACE OF COOPERATION

*The story is told of two ducks and a frog who lived happily together in a farm pond. The best of friends, the three would amuse themselves and play together in their water hole. When the hot summer days came, however, the pond began to dry up, and soon it was evident they would have to move. This was no*



*problem for the ducks, who could easily fly to another pond; But the frog was stuck. It was decided that **they** would put a stick in the bill of each duck so the frog could hang onto it with his mouth as they flew to another pond. The plan worked well—so well, in fact, that as they were flying along a farmer in his field looked up in admiration and mused, “Well, isn’t that a clever idea! I wonder who thought of it?” The frog said, “I...did.....!”*

This story illustrates cooperation to a certain degree, but it’s greatly hindered whenever one person wants to claim all the credit for the team’s concept. The building program is progressing nicely, and Elisha’s builders are now at a place of construction.

### A PLACE OF CONSTRUCTION

We read in verse four: “And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood,” This involved work. May God give every Christian servant the desire to labor for the Master. May the Lord impress upon us the attitude developed by the workers building the wall in Nehemiah 4:6 - “For the people had a mind to work.” Part of what we see accomplished in building the kingdom of God will simply involve hard work and a dependence upon God. Jennie Wilson expressed the urgency of building for eternity in her inspired song, Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand. *Time is filled with swift transition. Naught of earth unmoved can stand. Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God’s unchanging hand! Chorus: Hold to God’s unchanging hand! Hold to God’s unchanging hand! Build your hopes on things eternal, hold to God’s unchanging hand!* “EXCEPT the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it!” (Psalm 127:1)

Now just because God is on our side, does not necessarily mean that everything we do is going to proceed without some problems and difficulties along the way. The intent of these young men was commendable. They were hard at work and doing their best to construct some type of edifice for their ministry. But you know, as-well-as I, that life sometimes becomes frustrating and troublesome. It happened in the narrative, in verse five – But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried and said, “Alas, master! For it was borrowed.” Why is it that whenever we borrow something from somebody, generally speaking, something happens to the item we borrow? I guess it’s just the complications of life.

A funny thing happened in Darlington, Maryland, several years ago. *Edith, a mother of eight, was coming home from a neighbor's house one Saturday afternoon. Things seemed too quiet as she walked across her front yard. Curious, she peered through the screen door and saw five of her youngest children huddled together, concentrating on something. As she crept closer to them, trying to discover the center of attention, she could not believe her eyes. Smack dab in the middle of the circle were five baby skunks. Edith screamed at the top of her voice, "Quick, children...run!" Each kid grabbed a skunk and ran.* I believe these sons of the prophets had also reached a place of complication.

### A PLACE OF COMPLICATION

What were they going to do now? The cry of the young man was to his master, Elisha. If anybody should know what to do, it should be the man of God. It is comforting to know that whenever life becomes complicated, and we have exhausted our human resources, our Father’s full giving has only begun. I have been there, and so have you. It was now time for a place of correction.

### A PLACE OF CORRECTION

God’s prophet supernaturally had the answer to the dilemma in verses six and seven – And the man of God said, “Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.” This was a miracle Elisha had wrought through the power of God, and witnessed by all who were present that day. If you have experienced the complications of life, and have a situation that is beyond the scope of mortal man, you may want to contact Elisha the Prophet. Oh, that’s right, he’s unavailable. Take heart. Jesus has it covered. Shirley Cantrell expressed it in a song she wrote: “*Jesus is right for whatever’s wrong in your life. Jesus is right for whatever’s wrong in your life. Just give Him a chance and Jesus will prove, that every promise He made is true. For Jesus is right for whatever’s wrong in your life.*”

I may not have covered all the areas of The Building Program, but I believe you will agree that these places are important to consider: A Place of Constriction, A Place of Consultation, A Place of Cooperation, A Place of Construction, A Place of Complication, and A Place of Correction.

Ultimately, we must build upon the right foundation. The words of Simon Peter should register in the hearts of all believers, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!” And the words of the Master should reverberate throughout the ages of time: “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Church, we have been given the authority by Jesus Christ, “Let us rise up and build!” (Neh. 2:18)

*Rev. Mark Arnett and his wife Juanita, pastor the PHC in Corydon, IN. They have 4 adult children and 12 grandchildren. Bro. Arnett is also the Vice President of the MPHC Conference.*



**“There are three stages in the work of God: Impossible; Difficult; Done.” Hudson Taylor**

# *A Blessing in Disguise*



By Ruth Nichols



HOW can something so devastating be a blessing?

As we reflect on the disruption and chaos that COVID-19 has caused our nation, not only physically but economically, I would like for us to shift our vision momentarily to the blessings this disaster has afforded us.

**FAMILIES ARE SPENDING QUALITY TIME TOGETHER.** In our neighborhood, we see families out for walks, on their bikes, playing ball in the yard or sitting around a bonfire in the backyard sharing time together. That has not been a common sight through the years. Usually, you only see this happening on holidays or other special events. In the busyness of life, many times parents come home from work late, exhausted, and after relaxing in a recliner and catching up on the news, drop into bed. The next day is a repeat. What a blessing to watch families bond and enjoy quality time together!

**CHURCH LEADERS HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONES.** Who would have dreamed of drive in church services and Zoom Sunday School classes just a few months ago? Pastors and lay

leaders have had to learn new technology to minister to their church families. I heard of a small church in our fellowship that has been having services on the porch of a layperson's home. Neighbors are coming to those services, and the attendance has increased weekly. They are thrilled about this new way of reaching the community. The gospel is being spread in novel ways such as Facebook live, Zoom, telephone, drive-in services with loud speakers or over FM radio waves, or the front porch of a home. It doesn't matter where or what method, we know that the gospel continues to go out, and new ones are being reached for Jesus. What a blessing for churches to learn new ways to spread the Gospel!

**WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF TIME:** Have you ever had a time in your life when you just had "time"? With stores and businesses being shuttered and mandatory stay at home orders, most of us have been blessed with time. My puzzle is almost completed, and games have been pulled out and dusted off. Many of us have had time to play those games, time to get rested up, time to reflect, time to commune with Jesus, time to share with immediate family in the household, time to reconnect with

Trisha Grissom, Paul Durgan, Janae Zeigler, Lynette Williams, Nadine Karnes, Cathy Williams, Jonathan Lyons, Twila Drummond





a long lost friend over Facebook or the phone, time to get those jobs done that we never have time to get around to, time to try new recipes since the restaurants are closed, time to do some deep cleaning and yard work, or time to work on projects that have been neglected. What a blessing for us to have time for what is important, our relationships, with Jesus and family!

COVID-19 is bad. It has physically been deadly for some, and caused others to be deathly sick. It has caused the death of some businesses, and our economy has suffered a terrible blow. It has changed our way of worship and wreaked havoc to the educational institutions and our Bible Colleges. We cannot overlook the devastation it has caused our country. We cannot afford to be like the proverbial ostrich with his head in the sand. We must be aware and remain vigilant. But the bible also tells us in I Thessalonians 5:18 that it is His will for us to give thanks in everything. In Philippians 4:8 we are commanded to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report. Let's reflect on our blessings, knowing that this has not taken our Heavenly Father by surprise. For those of you who have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, rest in the promise of Romans 8:28 that "...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

*Ruth Nichols is married to Rev. Don Nichols, the Conference President of the MPHIC Inc. They pastor the PHC at Lima, Ohio and direct the Christian Day school there. Sis. Nichols is a nurse, as well as a mother and grandmother.*

## PRAY FOR ALL OUR MEDICAL WORKERS

Elizabeth Price, Rebekah Welbaum, Nancy Thompson, Isabell Rundell, Cindy Rundell, Lisa Price, Leeza Jackman, Jamie Russell, Samantha Seitz, Leanne Habecker, Debbie Bailey, Dr. Steve Miller, Melissa Miller, Anna Forto, Wayne Kennedy, Linda Heddon, Kim Johns, Jacinda Young, Amber Petty, Brandon Petty, Olivia Harper, Julie Snyder, Mary Beth Sproles, Dr. Sarah Kovacic. **If your medical worker is not listed, please contact the editor for the next issue.**

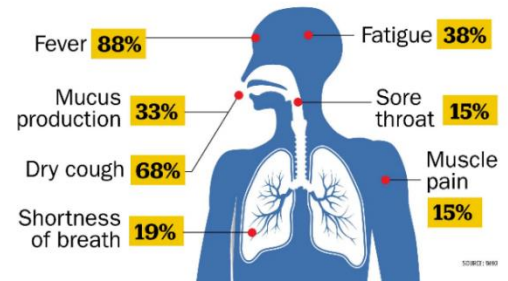


### Covid-Contemplation Two Minute Message - #34

Just a few things to think about. I recently posted a response to a question about the virus, but I will make some further observations. First, I will state again that I believe this is the Lord's doing. Regardless of its origin, it has all the earmarks of a

God-sent event. Amos 3:6b says, "Shall there be calamity in a city, and the Lord has not done it?" How much more is this principle true when the calamity is world-wide? Second, we are living in the last days as foretold and described in Bible prophecy. Third, Bible prophecy will be fulfilled regardless of any opposition of mankind. Fourth, Bible prophecy warns of special troubles that will come in the last days as judgments of God because of mankind's sins. Fifth, I believe this present event is meant to alert us to more and worse things to come. Sixth, I believe this is meant to awaken a worldly, materialistic, and sleeping church to last-days realities. Seventh, I believe this is meant to alarm sinners to repentance and to seek God for salvation. Eighth, I observe that this is making it easy to depend on government, which promotes government control. Along this line, there are those in government who, if they were in power positions, would be only too glad to impose their will on all those who disagree with them. Ninth, I observe a new willingness on the part of some in government to overplay their hand in what amounts to a measure of persecution of Christians. Tenth, I observe that all of this is already bringing a fresh call for world cooperation and the investment of power in a global governing body. After the virus, the world will not be quite the same, and our nation will not be quite the same. These are serious and dangerous times. Perhaps the words of Amos 5:13 can help us: "Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time." These are days in which we need to exercise wisdom in what we say, and sometimes wisdom dictates that we say nothing at all. *Rev. Larry Grile is a professor at Union Bible College. This article was taken from his Facebook page.*

## Symptoms of Covid-19



## REFUSE FEAR TRUST GOD CHOOSE SAFETY

\*Clean your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

\*Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

\*Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet).

\*Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.

\*Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

\*Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.

congrats!

GRADS

2020

Kaitlyn Sproles recently graduated from Heartland Christian School. She attends the New Castle PHC. If you would like your graduate featured in the next issue, please send a picture and a brief bio to the editor. The Mini Aussiedoodle was one of her graduation gifts.

# I Will Build My Church

Rev. Paul Gray



When we were asked to submit an article for the Midwest Pilgrim News, we thought we might share something in the way of a personal illustration that has been of help to us in our ministry here. I'm sure many young pastors have had the experience of going to a new church where perhaps the attendance was small, but were thrilled to be in the service of the King. Soon after accepting the charge, however, they have heard the news that from their small congregation; a family was leaving. What a discouragement to a young minister!

When Nancy and I first came to pastor the church here in Palestine, a little over 38 years ago, the church was very small in number. We had been in full-time evangelism for the previous 13 years and had thoroughly enjoyed working in that capacity. But we felt the Lord leading us to Palestine and Bro. Southerland had asked if we would be willing to shepherd the flock for six months and if nothing advanced, it looked like the conference would be forced to close the doors. There weren't any children attending and only 9 or 10 senior adults. However, we were thrilled when a new family started coming who had two teenage children and all four of them had become Christians. What a bright spot and great encouragement to our hearts!

However, while we were in a revival meeting out of state, the missionary president, who was not a member of our church, had taken it upon herself to address a certain situation during the missionary service on Wednesday night that greatly offended our new convert family. When we came home, we found that they had made the decision to never come back. What a shock and great discouragement!

I am not one who is given to seeing visions, but the Lord knew I needed something to help me at that very discouraging time. One morning while kneeling at my chair in prayer, it seemed as if God showed me a vision of a brick wall that was being built before me. Both sides were already completed, but there was a gap or opening in the middle. It seemed that the hands of the One laying the bricks were not mine, but they were God's. As I knelt there, I watched as on either side of the Bricklayer, there was a pile of bricks. He would pick up a brick from the pile on the left, set it in the opening, then shake His head and put that brick on the pile on His right side. One after another, I would see Him again pick up another brick ~ put it in the opening ~ move it from side to side and shake His head and again, place it in the pile on the other side. Then I watched Him pick up a brick, set it in the opening and nod His head, take the mortar and mortar in that brick and it became a part of the wall. In watching this for some time, I saw Him build and fill in the opening, It seemed that I heard the voice of the Lord as He said, "Son, I will build my church. Just be sure it is My church

and not yours. I know what is needed to build My church. Just trust me."

Suddenly, my heart was flooded with peace as I came to the realization that if I would make certain it was His church then He would build it according to His will. Consequently, ever since then, through these many years, as at various times it would look like a new family might be starting to attend or word would reach us through the grapevine that some might be thinking about leaving, as long as I knew the church was still His, then I could relax knowing that God is building His church and I have confidence in His choice of the material He needs.

So fellow pastor, we have the awesome privilege of working with the Master Builder. May we joyfully follow and accept His blueprint, pattern, and plan; making certain the church we pastor belongs to Him. Jesus said, "*I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" Matt.16:18

*Rev. Paul Gray and his wife Nancy pastor the PHC in Palestine IL. They do evangelistic work and are active in the Inter-Church Holiness Convention.*

## YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

- \***Parking Lights On:** "I am ready to worship."
- \***Headlights On:** "I am singing along."
- \***Right Turn Signal:** "Raising one hand in worship."
- \***Wipers On:** "Lifting both hands in worship."
- \***Flash Bright's:** "Amen/Praise it."
- \***Toot the Horn:** "Shout out to Jesus" / "Hallelujah."
- \***Left Turn Signal:** "I want to turn from my sins."
- \***Hazard Lights:** "I am in need of prayer."
- \***Spray Washer Fluid:** "I want to be baptized."







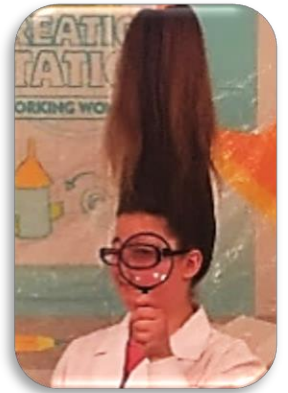
## The Poison Dart Frog

Imagine yourself walking through the Amazon, and then you see a tiny colorful frog on a branch. Suddenly a bird swoops down, and tries to eat it. In a few seconds the bird falls out of the sky – DEAD! You just witnessed a poison dart frog in action. The poison dart frog is said to be the most poisonous animal alive. It is only two inches long, but has enough poison to kill ten grown men. Now, just touching the dart frog won't kill you. You have to actually get the poison in your blood, so you would have to lick it, eat it, or get the poison in a cut to die.

The poison dart frog gets its name from natives who used it to make poison darts. They would catch these frogs and hold them over a fire so that the poison dripped off. They caught the poison in bowls and then dipped their darts in it. Now, if God created this creature, shouldn't it have a special purpose? Well, some scientists analyzed this poison and found it to be 200 times better than the best-known pain killer we have.

The poison dart frog gets its intense poison from the things it eats. It has special glands in its skin that put out poison onto their skin so that if anything tries to eat it, it will die. However, there is one animal that is immune to poison dart frogs. The fire-bellied snake eats poison dart frogs all the time. It doesn't even get sick even though a poison dart frog could kill a water buffalo!

A poison dart frog is very small and hard to see, but its poison is very powerful. Just like a poison dart frog, you may feel small and insignificant, but God can use you to show the world His amazing power. If you obey Him, He will work through you in ways you couldn't even imagine. Let Him use you, and be what you were created to be.



*Larissa Robberts (Dr. Booplesnoot) is 14 years old and lives in Kansas. She travels with her parents doing Vacation Bible Schools in the summertime and loves to teach others about the Christian faith. She attends the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Ottawa and has one sister and one brother. We are featuring her creation lessons over 4 issues of the MPN.*



KIDS

## Coffee Break



HAPPILY  
*ever after*



### Return Address



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