

## Living for the Future Behold He Cometh . . .

### Revelation 1:7

By Daniel Mark

Right from the get-go the Lord Jesus prophesied to the Apostles an event that was yet future to His mission on earth. While preparing His disciples for the crucifixion on the cross, the Lord gave perhaps the most intimate version of His return to this planet at a time, i.e., hour and day known only to the Father. John's Gospel in the fourteenth chapter sets up the scene when our Lord lovingly informs His followers that He would, upon returning to the Father, carve out places for them so that where He is they may be also. (John 14:3)

The Blessed Hope, as Christ's return to earth has been designated in the Scriptures, has furnished believers throughout the Church Age with all the incentive necessary to live in anticipation of a truly future earth-shattering occasion. It will be the event of events since it ultimately cements all that preceded it, specifically the death and resurrection of our Lord. The Gospels and Epistles give copious descriptions of the revelation of the Son of God to the entirety of the human race, believers and rejectors alike. Whereas a precious few were pre-ordained by God to see the resurrected Savior (Acts 10:41), the Conquering King will be visible to all of earth's denizens.

That Jesus will return to earth has been an integral staple of Christian doctrine across denominational lines for as long as the Church has existed. As a matter of fact, in a curious irony, the Old Testament which predates the Church, is rich in details about the reign of Christ on the earth. His millennial reign with its incredible blessings of peace, prosperity and righteousness, won't come soon enough to a

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## The Blessing of Backpacks



*We would like to thank our Windsor Chapel family for their generous support for our back to school book bag giveaway. We received thirty-five book bags. Many children will attend school without feeling the shame of lacking the needed supplies their parents could not provide.*

*We thank you for your compassion for those less fortunate. May God continue to bless you all.*

*With love and thankfulness,  
Harris Ministries*

## “Living for the Future...” continued

world crying out in desperation for divine intervention.

The manner and timing of the Second Coming have sparked intense and largely unresolved debates for thousands of years. It avails of no spiritual benefits to attempt a contribution to a fruitless controversy. But with respect to His reappearance, the Lord gave many parables to help us be primed for this most significant of events. Fortunately, there’s scarcely a branch of Christianity that doesn’t believe that Jesus Christ is due to revisit the earth in great power and glory. (Mark 13:26)

Our attitude in anticipation of the Blessed Hope can only be shaped by the Word of God. John, the Apostle, in one of his epistles, tells us exactly what our lifestyle should be as we await His coming. In 1 John 3:3, we read, “*All who have this hope in him purify themselves just as he is pure.*” John here lays out the bedrock of the believer’s preparatory activities and attitudes. The failure to attain to increasing holiness will mean shame upon seeing the Lord Jesus. A life steeped in worldliness is sure to deaden our sensitivity to the voice of God and blind us to the priority of God’s program this side of heaven.

In light of eternity and the certainty of appearing before the Judgment Seat of Christ, we must be leery of the spirit of this age or of these times. Jesus warned us against two specific attitudes that could be ruinous to a life of service and holy living. In contrast to time setters, He said He will return just when all of their presumptuous predictions fail. (Matthew 24:42) In two pointed parables, the five wise virgins and five foolish ones (Matthew 25:1-13), and the wise and faithful servant (Luke 24:42-48), Jesus makes exactly the same point. Taken together, these two parables alarmingly seek to rouse believers out of laziness and complacency. Throughout the New Testament,

from the Gospels to the Epistles and onto the Book of Revelation, believers are exhorted to cultivate an attitude of holy vigilance and diligent occupation in our Lord’s vineyard. That’s how we prepare for the Rapture!



## Fall Festival!

Come Join Us for Our  
Annual Fall Festival  
Sunday, October 27

We will gather together  
immediately following the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Class  
for a warm and friendly time  
of fellowship and food.

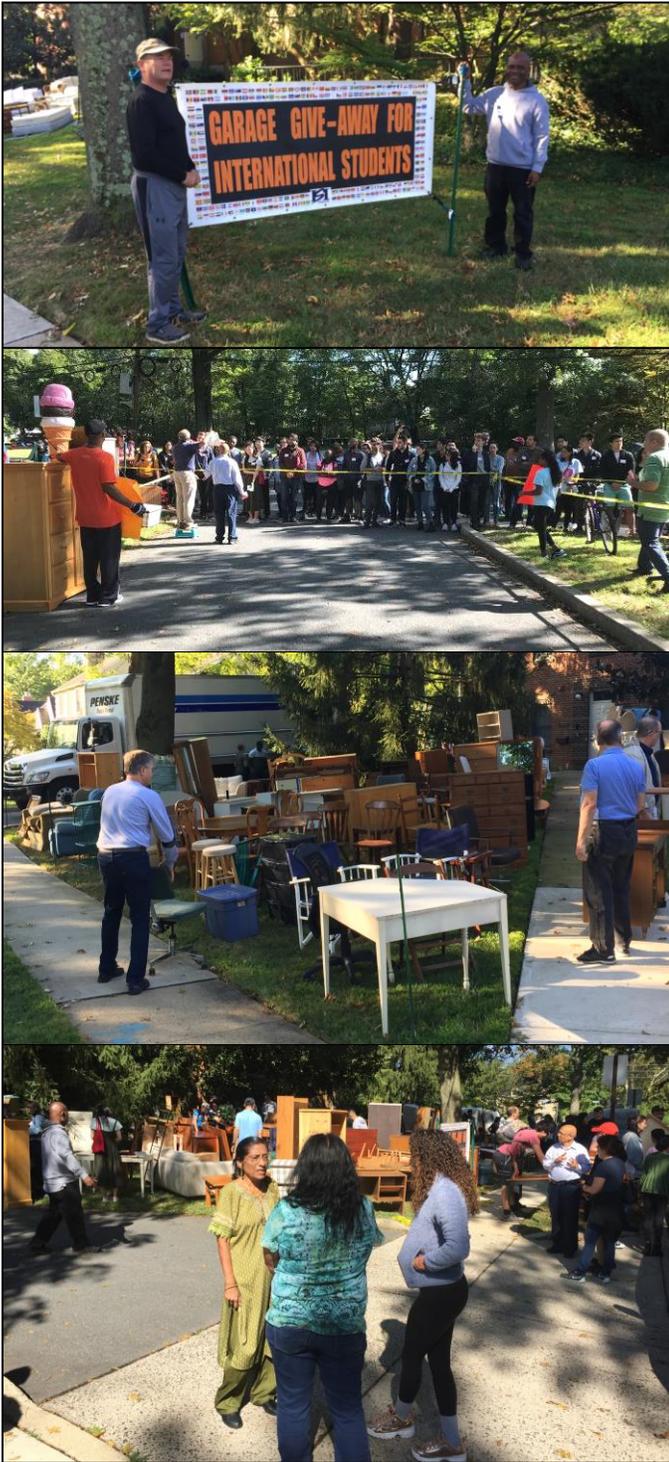
Hot dogs, apple cider and donuts will be  
provided by the Fellowship Team.  
Please bring a side dish to share.



The Fellowship Team can use a few extra  
hands for the next two events (Fall  
Festival and Christmas Dinner). If you can  
help with planning and preparations,  
decorating, activities, and/or clean up,  
please contact Lorraine at  
[lorrainebrown4866@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainebrown4866@gmail.com)



## Blessings By the Numbers



It was a beautiful Saturday in September for the ISI Garage Give Away in Princeton. One hundred twenty-five volunteers from thirty-two churches assisted one hundred-fifty international students from over fifty countries receive free donated household goods. Blessings all around!

## Answered Prayer

By Evelyn Vargas

### Praying With Others

For quite some time I have been having thoughts about death. It made me feel very anxious and not worthy of being a Christian. I was reluctant to approach the UPLIFT Prayer and Praise Connection because I didn't want anyone to know about the types of thoughts I have been having. But after yet another sleepless night, I decided to ask for help in prayer.

I felt a deep sense of relief when I unburdened myself to someone who prayed for me and asked the Lord to help me manage these thoughts. A few days later, I went to the library to find a book on media marketing. I turned to the bookshelves behind me and saw a book called the "10 Best-Ever Anxiety Management Techniques," by Margaret Wehrenberg. I borrowed the book and read it.

The two techniques that I use daily are: (1) the deep breathing and muscle relaxing exercises, and (2) when a negative thought pops into my mind I say, "Self Stop." Then I replace the negative thought with a prayer or affirmation. I recite the Serenity Prayer. *"Lord grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things that I can and the wisdom to know the difference."* At first, I used this technique 10-15 times a day. Now, the need to stop myself has gradually decreased to the point that I go days without having to use the technique! What a relief!

I went back to the UPLIFT Prayer and Praise Connection to thank God for helping me and pointing me in the right direction. *"For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them."* (Matthew 18:20) Praise God!

*If you have experienced answered prayer or been aware of God's encouraging presence during a challenging time in your life, we invite you to share your story in this new CC column. Let your personal 350-word story inspire and be a blessing to others.*

## Elder's Corner

By Pastor Andy Straubel



**Pastor Azhar Alam and his outreach team.**

For almost nine years the elders have been praying about reaching out to our community. Neighbors are now from all over the world. As pastor I am the first one to admit we need help. After much prayer and conversation, a proposal was made to the elders to consider doing an outreach to our Indian and Pakistani neighbors.

In 2018 I met a new pastor to the Evangelical Free Church, Pastor Azhar Alam. He is a graduate of PBU, now Cairn University. He has been pastor of Trinity International Christian Church in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, since 2008. It is primarily a Pakistani and Indian congregation speaking three languages: Urdu, Hindi, and English.

Several weeks ago Pastor Azhar and his team came to Windsor Chapel to explore outreach opportunities. Together we surveyed five area neighborhoods where we found kids playing cricket, couples taking a walk, people just enjoying the evening. The team's excitement was infectious.

We identified four neighborhoods on which to focus. They include Quakerbridge Road, two neighborhoods on Clarksville Road, and a neighborhood behind Cosco. Outreach will include literature distribution, personal contacts and advertising.

The plan at this point is to meet together for prayer and worship on the second Sunday of the month starting at 5 pm. We don't know where this initiative will lead, but we are excited to see what the Lord is going to do. Please pray for everyone involved. All are welcome.

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### Financial Update

(Through August 31, 2019)

*"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."*

	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$182,541	\$190,000
<b>Expense</b>	\$181,117	\$190,000

Windsor Chapel has sent \$26,190 to our missionary partners this year. That's 14% of your giving!

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### Men's Band of Brothers Retreat

All chapel men are invited to attend a refreshing Band of Brothers Weekend hosted by Camp Orchard Hill on the weekend of October 18 - 20. You can expect adventure activities, great fellowship, excellent teaching and worship rooted in God's Word. There is something for everyone! The program includes Wiffleball, Go-Carts, Basketball, Volleyball, Archery, Skeet Shooting, Fishing, Boating, Paintball, and Chef Steve's Man Food!

The cost is \$85 for one day and \$150 for the weekend, which includes two nights, four meals, worship, and an incredible speaker, Bruno Giamba. For additional information, visit the website at [www.camporchardhill.com](http://www.camporchardhill.com) or speak with Pastor Andy.

## Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in  
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

### The Lonely Only

After the Lord created man, He observed that it was not good for Adam to be alone. And while the animals God created were plentiful, diverse, and wonderful, not one was a suitable mate for Adam. Adam needed a companion of his own kind, like him. As creatures made in the image of God, we are, at the very core of our being, made for relationship with Him and with one another.

God created mankind to first and foremost have unrestricted relationship with Him and then to exercise relationship with one another in managing His creation. Relationship with their Creator would define their identity and value and provide significance and security. This foundational relationship would make it possible for person-to-person relationships to develop without tension or conflict.

But when Adam and Eve chose pride over obedience, their capacity for relationship became a casualty. No longer satisfied to find their identity and value, significance and security in their relationship with their Creator, they turned to one another to have those needs met. And so began a new strategy to feel good about themselves: compare and compete. By the time Cain and Abel came along, we see Cain take this to the extreme—when his offering was not as well received by the LORD as Abel's, he eliminated the competition.

As King Solomon has observed, there is nothing new under the sun. As a matter of practice, we humans look to one another to find ourselves. The consequences are devastating. We continually find ourselves falling short of cultural (even Christian cultural) standards and looking to fit in and to meet the expectations of our peers. And as we do so, we lose sight of who we are in Christ and short-

circuit the process of becoming who He has created us to be.

If we find ourselves not fitting in, feeling like we don't belong, not able to go with the flow, we find ourselves feeling alone. My experience in high school was one of isolation as I sought academic challenge in a learning environment that expected mediocrity. Our adopted daughter Ruth struggled with feeling that she did not fit in at home among her light-skinned family members and at school as she faced learning disabilities that her classmates did not share. Some young men feel like they're the only one among their friends who isn't athletic, or tech-savvy. I often hear young women bemoan the fact that they're "the only one" who isn't married or at least dating, or the only one without a baby. Cancer patients are often encouraged to participate in a support group so that they do not feel alone.

It is lonely to be alone. Aloneness is not good. We are created for relationship. But our experience in society does not tell us the truth. We are never alone. Our Creator is always with us, and we have a place of belonging in Him and in His body, the church. He always intended us to find ourselves in Him and not depend on one another for this basic need. This is a crucial truth because only our Creator knows how He has designed us. And when we try to tell the potter that we want to be the kind of vessel that is like other vessels, we are failing to appreciate the creativity of the Lord of the universe. The Apostle Paul regularly used the human body to exhort his readers to appreciate their unique roles in the body of Christ. We can also use Paul's analogy to appreciate the unique roles the Lord has created our brothers and sister to fill.

There may indeed be times when we are an "only." But those times are wonderful opportunities to appreciate who we are in Christ and to remember that only does not mean alone. And as we support and encourage one another to be and become who the Lord has created us to be, being an only does not need to be lonely.

***Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or  
cibills@verizon.net) to continue the dialogue....***

## Following Jesus Does Not Always Mean Smooth Sailing

By Janet Berrill

I think I differ from many people these days in that when I am home, I do not keep my cell phone with me. There is a counter in my kitchen where I put my purse, keys, and cell phone. If I get a call on my cell when I am home, I usually have to sprint from where I am in the house to the kitchen to answer the phone before it stops ringing. In the evening, before I go to bed, I plug my phone into the charger and leave it on the counter; I do not bring it in the bedroom with me.

A few weeks ago, I was woken up by my cell phone ringing long before my alarm went off. My motherly instincts immediately kicked in as I jumped out of bed and ran to the kitchen to answer the phone. If someone is calling me that early in the morning, something must be wrong. Sure enough that was the case. A friend of mine, Jessie, was calling to tell me she had just been in an accident. Fortunately, no one was hurt but her car was undriveable. Could I come and pick her up?

I quickly dressed, got in the car, and drove to the site of the accident. When I saw Jessie, I gave her a hug and told her everything would be okay; she would get through this. She was tired and full of emotions. As I drove her home, we talked about how the accident happened. It was her fault; it all happened so quickly. She started to cry and said, "Why do these things happen to me? What am I doing wrong?"

At that moment, Jessie needed a word of encouragement. I thought of the passage in Matthew 8 when Jesus calms the storm and said, "There's a story in Matthew's Gospel where Jesus tells the disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake (Matthew 8:18). Jesus gets in the boat and the disciples follow Him (Matthew 8:23). Jesus had had an exhausting day and He promptly fell asleep in the boat. Some time later, without warning, a furious storm comes up and the waves splash into the boat. The disciples, who were experienced fishermen, became so frightened that they woke Jesus up and said, '*Lord, save us! We're going to drown!*' Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and the

waves and it became completely calm (Matthew 8:24-26).

"The point I want to make here, Jessie, is that the disciples were following Jesus when the storm came. He directed them to go into the boat to the other side of the lake, and they obeyed Him. The storm did not come because the disciples were not obeying. So just because storms come into your life, it doesn't mean you are doing something wrong. Sometimes God allows storms because He wants to teach you something. Think about it, would the disciples have learned that Jesus could calm the wind and waves if there hadn't been a storm? And the other important point to keep in mind is that Jesus was with them. In the beginning, He was sleeping in the boat. Sometimes we feel that way when a storm comes, and we ask 'Where is God?' But we can trust that He is in the midst of the storm with us.

"Don't get me wrong. Sometimes storms come because we did not obey God, and there are consequences to that. But whether the storm comes when we are following God or because we've gone our own way, we can still learn from it. Ask God, 'What do you want me to learn from this? How do you want to reveal yourself to me?' Keep your eyes focused on Him, and watch and see what He does. You might be really amazed, just like the disciples in the boat were."

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**If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please**

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