

Handling our Expectations

By Janice Straubel

*“Expectations are resentments
under construction”*

Anne Lamott

The gospel singer Mandisa recently came out with the book ***Out of the Dark: My Journey Through the Shadows to Find God's Joy***. In the beginning, she shares the story of her best friend Kisha's battle with breast cancer and her faith and expectation that God would heal this godly mother of two young children. Mandisa even brought her up on stage at one of her concerts and introduced her as the “overcomer in my life” leading to the song “Overcomer.” She announced to Kisha before the crowd, “We are believing for you. We are praying for you. And you're going to get through this thing. We're going to help you get through it.” Kisha went to be with her Lord within that year. Mandisa felt angry and disappointed in God, which eventually led her to a dark time of depression.

Our expectations can lead to disappointment. We can feel disappointed with God, with others, and even with ourselves. These past two years of the Covid pandemic have resulted in many disappointing canceled plans: family get-togethers, vacations, weddings, school activities, sports, concerts . . . so many life events interrupted. Political parties, church people and close friends can let us down. How do we handle the emotions resulting from unfulfilled expectations? Does having no expectations result in no disappointments?

We just celebrated Palm Sunday. Crowds celebrated Jesus entering Jerusalem fully
Continued on page 2...

Easter Egg Hunt



“Expectations,” continued...

expecting Him to be their new political leader. Within days, Jesus was put on the cross and died. This was not what they had planned or expected. Job lived a godly life and yet lost everything he valued. His response in Job 13:15, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust him,”* shows a different type of expectation of God. Even when things don’t go according to our plans, our trust is in an all-knowing God.

Our expectations of others is another area of potential disappointment. Parents can be disappointed by their children; children can be disappointed by their parents. Spouses, jobs, aging, grandparenting can all be areas of unrealistic and unfilled expectations. Our hopes and goals for ourselves can be our biggest disappointments when we are unable to achieve what we imagined. Disappointing others can be the worst feeling of all.

So, what is the answer to this? I haven’t quite figured it out, but I think it might have to do with taking one day at a time and acknowledging James 4:15, 16, *“If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”* As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. I can plan and prepare, but ultimately each day brings its own challenges. I’m trying to reign in my high expectations and replace them with hopeful, flexible faith knowing that Jesus said, *“In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) Why am I so surprised when life is difficult?

What expectations have you had to adjust to recently? What helps you handle expectations and deal with disappointment? I’d love to have some honest conversations about this topic!

***Though you have made me see troubles,
many and bitter, you will restore my
life again; from the depths of the earth
you will again bring me up. (Psalm 71:20)***

*Dorothy Soi has been blessed
with the birth of her third grandchild.*



*Eliana Marie Soi
was born on April 22, 2022,
at 12:22 pm.
She weighed 6 pounds and 7 ounces
and was 19-1/4 inches long.
Her overjoyed parents are
Sonny and Nicole Soi.*

***For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s
womb. I praise you because I am fearfully
and wonderfully made; your works are
wonderful, I know that full well. My frame
was not hidden from you when I was made in
the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths
of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed
body; all the days ordained for me were
written in your book before one of them came
to be. (Psalm 139:13-16)***

Happy Mother’s Day!

On Sunday, May 8, we will celebrate Mother’s Day. It is an opportunity to honor, love and cherish the special women who have given us life or have cared for us as their own. These unselfish women have nurtured us, taught us and prayed for our well-being. Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude to all mothers whose love is wondrous evidence of God’s tender guiding hand.

Elders' Corner

By Pastor Andrew Straubel

There are times when a little goes a long way. April 9-10 was one of those times. After three years of not having the egg hunt, we were able to dust off the tables and chairs, power wash the playground, and dig out the egg hunt decorations. With everyone's help, the little went a long way. Thank you one and all for making it happen!

I am reminded of the story of the five loaves and two fish used by Jesus to feed over 5,000 people. The story is found in all four Gospel accounts: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, and John 6:1-14. It was recorded to encourage believers that a little can go a long way. Each Gospel writer adds a few details not found in other accounts. I find it ironic that the disciples try to convince Jesus that the task of feeding the crowd is impossible. Yet, with such willingness a child offers up his meager lunch. Again, a little can go a long way.

There are so many lessons to learn from this passage: 1) Jesus can do anything, and He doesn't panic or get mad at his disciples. 2) Jesus uses the "little things" to accomplish his purposes. If there is a 3, it is that Jesus has compassion on the crowd. They had listened all day. They were tired. That compassion is without boundaries. In the end the boy who offered his loaves and fish walked away full and with more than enough, twelve baskets full. The blessings of the Lord makes us rich, and He adds no sorry with it. Blessings to all in this Easter season.



It was a cold, windy Palm Sunday with rain and even brief hail. But the sky cleared as the time grew close for the egg hunt to begin. The weather did not deter the hundreds of people from gathering in our wonderful field to enjoy the egg hunt, face painting, balloon creations, crafts and Pakistani food provided by Pastor Azhar's congregation.



A recent motorcycle trip to Sweetwater, New Jersey, led by Joe and Randi Herrity, included seven people and four motorcycles. They had lunch in Sweetwater, which is near Wharton State Forest, and stopped for ice cream on their way back. It was a fun one hundred and twenty miles in the fresh air. More trips are planned!

Save the Date

Windsor Chapel will offer a free in-person 5-Day Club for all children ages 5 – 12, from 7:00–8:30 pm, on July 18 – 22. The children will enjoy music, games, Bible stories, outdoor play and more! Please spread the word. All are welcome!



Financial Update

(Through March, 2022)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$46,874	\$58,886
Expense	\$59,363	\$58,886

Windsor Chapel has sent \$7,130 to our missionary partners this year. That is 15% of your giving!



Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Happy Birthday!

Janice Straubel	May 9
Luke Yamamoto	May 9
Allison Warner	May 10
Jonathan Ventura	May 11
William MacQueen	May 12
Jean LaRosa	May 29

Rejoice
in hope,
be patient
in tribulation,
be constant
in prayer.

Romans 12:12, ESV



Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

The Joy of Christ

Even as we head with great enthusiasm into spring and summer, I think it would be profitable to take a look back at the Easter holiday that we just celebrated. Christmas and Easter are the historical bookends of the Christian faith, and it is vital that we live in their truths even as we go about our lives post-holiday.

Easter is a glorious celebration, but it absolutely depends upon Good Friday: If Jesus doesn't die, He can't be resurrected. And Good Friday gives us plenty to think about. Jesus—the Creator and Lover of the universe—is subjected to the most humiliating treatment and the most agonizing death. Astonishingly, we mark it with *Good* Friday. Not *Bad* Friday; nor *Black* Friday. And it is good, very good, as far as we are concerned. Jesus' submission to this treatment and death pays our sin debt; that, along with His resurrection, opens for us a path to heaven to live in the company of the Holy Trinity for eternity.

But more astonishing still is that Jesus considered that long-ago Friday "good." The author of Hebrews teaches us that Jesus endured the cross *for the joy set before Him*. Our Lord and Savior wanted restored relationship with us so much that He paid for that joy with His dignity and His life. And while Jesus' death and resurrection have glorious eternal consequences, the events of Easter weekend are relevant to us in the moments of our lives in the here and now as we walk toward heaven.

Jesus challenged His disciples with these words: Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24) If we apply Jesus' future modeling to this passage, then we have some serious issues to consider.

Just as Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him, He invites us to view a life of faith as one of pursuing joy. I am afraid that I, for one, too often settle for comfort, for peace, for happiness. C.S. Lewis observes: "It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum, because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

So what does it look like to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus? While most of us will not be asked to submit to execution for the kingdom of God, there are plenty of opportunities to practice the denial of self that enables us to follow Jesus and experience His joy. Can we put aside our pride and apologize when we have done something hurtful, intentional or not? Can we put our hurt in the Lord's redemptive hands and forgive someone who has hurt us? Can we offer kindness and patience to someone we really don't like? Can we put aside our plans when the Lord calls us to use our gifts in His service or move out of our comfort zone to minister to someone in need?

It is important to be clear that choosing self-denial in random fashion will not generate the joy we are looking for. It is the self-denial that we practice at His bidding that makes us able to follow Christ faithfully that brings His joy. And the joy of Christ often comes at the cost of discomfort. This concept is counterintuitive and difficult for us to accept let alone welcome. But if we remind ourselves that the willingness to be uncomfortable, and even to suffer, is a privilege that brings God glory and us the joy of heaven.

*Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or
cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue...*



The Right Way to Go

By Janet Berrill

I enjoy spring. After a cold winter, I particularly enjoy the days when it is warm and sunny. When the weather is like that, I love spending time outside, and I especially enjoy bringing my grandchildren out with me. On one such warm, sunny day recently, I took my six-and-a-half-month-old granddaughter, Emma, for a walk in the stroller. Luke, almost two, was already outside with his dad, Stephen. I asked them if they wanted to come with me. They decided to stay at home, so Emma and I proceeded down the block on our walk.

As I got toward the end of the block, Luke saw us and decided he wanted to walk with us after all. In his almost two-year-old talk, he said to Stephen, "Walk Gramma," and started to walk toward where we were. Stephen knew that since we were nearly at the end of the block, if he walked with Luke he would never catch up with us. If they walked in the same direction we were walking, they would always be behind us. So Stephen said to Luke, "Luke, you have to trust me. We are going to walk this way," and pointed in the opposite direction. At first Luke took Stephen's hand and walked with him, but then he turned around and said, "Go this way!" He wanted to go in the direction where he saw us last for he thought that was the way to get to us. But Stephen knew that if he went the other way around the block, we would eventually meet up with them and then we could walk together. Luke did not understand that, but he took his Daddy's hand and walked with him where he was going. And sure enough, as they rounded the block, they met Emma and me coming in the opposite direction, and we were able to walk the rest of the way around the block together.

In 2 Kings 5:1-15 we read about Naaman, the commander of the army of Aram. Naaman had leprosy and he traveled to Israel to find healing. When Naaman appeared at Elisha's house, Elisha sent a messenger to tell the mighty warrior to wash seven times in the Jordan river and he would be healed. Naaman's initial response was anger! He expected Elisha to come out to him, call on the name of God, wave his hand and cure him of his

leprosy. But that is not what happened. The path Naaman saw to his healing was not the path God had for him to take. When Naaman changed his mind and chose to follow the directions of Elisha, he was cured!

The message here is clear: God knows the way we should go, and we are only going to get to where He wants us to be if we follow Him. The wrong way can look so right sometimes! For Luke, it made total sense that if he wanted to get to me, he should walk in the direction of where I was. But the truth was that going in the opposite direction was the better way to go. For Naaman, washing in the river made no sense – how would that cure him? But he didn't need to understand how it would work, he just needed to obey, i.e., in faith follow the directions he was given.

Sometimes we don't understand the path that God leads us down, especially if it involves hardship. How can it lead to anything good? But God is never going to lead us astray. He has good plans for us. He knows what is best for us and the best way to get there. Our responsibility is to be in close fellowship with Him so that we can follow His voice as He leads us, even if where He leads us doesn't make sense at the time. We need to walk in the path He has laid out for us and trust that He will lead us to a good place.



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