

The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of LaPlata

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True Peace Isn't Found in the Absence of Conflict

by Joni Eareckson Tada

Only after I got out of the hospital and went home was I hit with the cold facts of my paralysis. Doorways were too narrow. Sinks were too high. My knees hit the edge of the dining table. A plate of food was placed before me, but my hands were limp and useless. Someone else—at least for the first few months—had to feed me. Our cozy home felt like a prison, and I panicked. I felt nervous and trapped.

My caged feelings forced me to look at another captive. Never one to anxiously pace in a jail cell, the apostle Paul reassured his friends in Philippi, “I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content” (Phil. 4:11).

Paul was talking about a peace that gladly submits to God in all circumstances. Such quietness of heart has nothing to do with prison bars, wheelchairs, or confining situations. Instead, it bears up under any suffering in a satisfied and agreeable way. When the peace of Christ rules in your heart, you don't plot ways of escape, succumb to peevish thoughts, or fret needlessly. You feel at peace.

Paul learned how to live this way. “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation” (Phil. 4:12 NIV). Those situations included stoning, shipwrecks, floggings, and imprisonment. Christ's enablement was more than sufficient, and so Paul's secret was learning to lean on that fact. Learning meant making tough choices—turning to Christ and not away from him. Deciding this and not that. Going here and not there. Standing up to unruly emotions and seeking God's peace.

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Contact Us

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Children's Worship:

Aug 4	Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon
Aug 11	Jennifer Cooke, Ashley Miller, Camden Cooke
Aug 18	Sharon Hile, Alison Bode
Aug 25	Kim Kret, Katie Lusk, Abby Pankhurst

August Tellers:

Sheri Bresnahan
Cecelia Stauffer

Greeter Schedule:

Aug 4	Marion Simpson, Patrick Hancock
Aug 11	Gary Boston, Billy Moore
Aug 18	Kevin Guiffre, Paul Dillon
Aug 25	Darrell Linville, Ken Doyle

Sunday Morning Security Team:

	8:30 AM	SS & 11 AM
Aug 4	Courtney Harbin, Marion Simpson	Paul Miller, Al Law
Aug 11	TBD, Norma Stump	Jennifer Miller, Jerry Pruitt
Aug 18	Kevin Guiffre, Courtney Harbin	Jim Miller, Melvin King
Aug 25	Marion Simpson, TBD	Robert Hicks, Paul Miller

2024 Upcoming events (tentative)...

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information. Contact Jennifer Miller if interested in an activity

August is Global Hunger Month--bring plastic banks back by Aug. 25th

August 6 National Night Out Indian Head Green 6-8 pm

August 17 'Daniel' Show at Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster PA

August 25 Global Hunger Sunday (bread basket/rice bowl coin collection due)

August 25 "Smoke Off" (chili contest) church fellowship and PM devotion (no PM service) (Tentative)

August 26 PACE school year begins

September Collection for Catherine Foundation

Sept. 2 Fall Upward Sports Practices Begin

Sept. 7 Hughesville Baptist Church has an OCC Project Leader Event 2 pm

Sept. 13-15 Ch. Co. Fair (Potomac Baptist Assoc. Outreach)

Sept. 14 First Fall Upward Game

Sept. 17 Fall Church Council Meeting

Sept. 28 Bible Museum Trip and Prayer Walking

Sept. 29 Catherine Foundation Table Shower

August Fun Facts

- birthstone is peridot
- birth flowers are poppy & gladiola
- named for Augustus Caesar
- Month with the most birthdays



I fight every day to make choices like these. Lack of access to buildings and finding something to do with useless hands are no longer an issue for me. Neither is being fed a hamburger while others steal glances. My current issue is with pain. When pain tempts me to feel disheartened and glumly stare out a window, I stand up to my miserable emotions. I am shrewd to their cunning ways, that they could be the ruin of me. Instead, I quell those dark feelings by singing:

*Peace like a river, so deep and so broad, Wonderful peace, wonderful peace;
Resting my soul on the bosom of God, I have peace, sweet peace.*

Peace is only understood when conflicts are raging all around. Alexander Maclaren observed, "However profound and real that Divine peace is, it is to be enjoyed in the midst of warfare. God's peace is not [inertia]. The man that has it has still to wage continual conflict, and day by day to brace himself anew for the fight. The highest energy of action is the result of the deepest calm[ness] of heart. That peace of God . . . is peace militant."¹

Christ is not a magic wand to be waved over your problems. Peace doesn't come that way. As we make the tough choices to hold fast to his grace, divine peace surges through us. As hard as life is, militant peace arrives at the instant we exercise faith during the battle. It gives us strength to say, "I can *do* this. I can make this tough choice for the honor of Christ. I can, I *will* trust him!"

So try it. Or rather, learn it. Look for peace and contentment through the hard yet simple choices you will make throughout this day. Believe God has enough grace for you, and memorize this hymn if you need a reminder. For it could be that by the time you lay your head on your pillow tonight, you will have found *his wonderful peace*.

Notes: 1. Alexander Maclaren, "The Warrior Peace," Christian Classics Ethereal Library, accessed May 14, 2021, <https://ccel.org/>. Tada, J. (2023, March 18). True Peace Isn't Found in the Absence of Conflict. [crossway.org. https://crossway.org/articles/true-peace-isnt-found-in-the-absence-of-conflict/](https://crossway.org/articles/true-peace-isnt-found-in-the-absence-of-conflict/)

New & On the Shelf

by Bob Mathews



Fiction

Bryson City Seasons by Walt Larimore (F LAR)

Bryson City Tales by Walt Larimore (F LAR)

Non-fiction

The Cross in the Shadow of the Crescent by Erwin Lutzer (NF 261.27)

Marking the Masses by Thomas Hughes (NF 236.8)

The Doctrines that Divide by Erwin Lutzer (NF 291.8)

Children's Non-fiction

Children in the Bible by Christina Marques (CNF 242.1)

DVD

Bob the Builder: Let's Build the Beach (DVD)

Counting (DVD)

ABC Phonetics (DVD)

Audio

Chris Tomlin: Never Lose Sight (Audio Music)

The
Caring Meals Ministry
is looking for
volunteers to help provide
meals to our church
families when the
needs arise.
Contact: Elaine Anderson
240-349-2551



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Operation Christmas Child

Did you know that you can fill a shoebox entirely online? These boxes will be sent to hard to reach places that are closed off to the gospel.

Use this link <https://sampur.se/4awjK6j> or scan this code:



August's theme for box items is : *Ready for School*

Notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, paper clips, binder clips, binder clips, mini staplers, scissors, hole punches, glue sticks (no liquid glue), crayons, colored pencils, markers, stencils, stickers, rulers, solar calculators, math sets (compass and protractor), water color paints (no liquid), coloring books and doodle pads, picture books/easy readers.

OCC Impact Story

Joy reigned one sweltering Saturday morning earlier this year in Saint Andrew's La Fillete community as 60 boys and girls sat beneath the cool shade of three tents in an open-air park. They were all smiles and giggles, having each just opened a shoebox stuffed with goodies.

"This is the best day ever," shouted young Joshua from his front-row seat, as he lifted the lid on his box. Peering inside, he discovered a pair of toy binoculars, a wooden train, some school supplies, and other treasures. He couldn't decide which one he liked best. "My favorite thing is everything in the box!"

Dian Ambrose, an OCC volunteer, said having Operation Christmas Child in Saint Andrew is extremely important for the children. "There's not much of a future for these kids if no one is focusing on them," she said. "I love seeing them having fun and being appreciated. And being taught about the free salvation in Christ is heart building and transformative. Also, the gifts will make a big impact on their minds and help them remember this event for a lifetime. But what I'm most excited about is beginning The Greatest Journey with them tomorrow."

The Greatest Journey is a 12-lesson discipleship course for shoebox recipients. With the help of a trained volunteer teacher, participants read Bible stories to learn more about who Jesus is and how they can have a personal relationship with Him and share Him with family and friends.

John Brathwaite, pastor of Grand Bacolet Bible Holiness Church, where an outreach was recently held, agrees. He believes the gift boxes will open doors for future ministry with the parents.

"Reaching children here is very challenging," he said. "Their parents are often a stumbling block. But now when their child comes home with a box filled with gifts and they see the kindness shown to their child, then it will make an impression. As the Scripture says, 'the goodness of God leads you to repentance'" (Romans 2:4).

Vanessa Rachae, the local team coordinator, encourages those who pack shoeboxes in the United States and other sending countries to see beyond just the gifts and view each box as an opportunity to share Christ's love with a child. This can lead to reaching entire communities with the Gospel.

"Shoeboxes empower the local churches to expand their reach in their communities," she said. "They create an open door right into the homes."

Vacation Bible School

Can we appreciate all of the time and effort spent on decorations and costumes to make VBS 2024 a success?!



And the reason we do it all... the children!



AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Merry Widows 12 PM	3 Brotherhood 9AM
4 Benevolence Offering 6 PM Mission Team Presentation	5 Deacons' Meeting 7PM	6 Ladies of the Light and Men of the Word 10AM	7 Food Giveaway 5PM	8	9	10
11 Glory Way Quartet 11 AM	12	13 Ladies of the Light and Men of the Word 10AM	14 Food Giveaway 5PM	15 Pro-life meeting 6:30 PM	16	17 Daniel Sight & Sound 
18 Catherine Foundation Table Shower 	19 PACE Meeting 6 PM	20 Ladies of the Light and Men of the Word 10AM	21 Food Giveaway 5PM	22	23	24 Gibson party 
25 Global Hunger Sunday "Smoke off" church event 	26 PACE 8:30 am	27 Ladies of the Light and Men of the Word 10AM	28 Food Giveaway 5PM	29	30	31