

GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



Pecans. Pecan trees. There are at least 6 on the property here. Two in the front yard that produce nice pecans. One on the side of the driveway that produces really nice pecans. One beside the driveway toward the cemetery. It produces large paper shell pecans that are very easy to crack. Finally, one beside the well house. This one is a pure native pecan tree that produces very small pecans. The others are ones that we have planted through the years simply to have more pecan trees, but they are not old enough to produce any pecans as of yet.

Last year all of those older pecan trees yielded a “bumper crop” of pecans. You might even remember that we had plenty for you to take in the fellowship hall. Lots of pecans. We ended up selling about 250 pounds of pecans and having another 100 pounds cracked for use in pies, candy or simply eating. We were told that pecan trees only produce nuts like that every two or three years. We were not expecting a great crop this year.

We noticed that the two trees in the front yard were loaded with green pecans. We thought that because of the plentiful rains that we had, maybe we would have another huge crop. Over a month ago, one of those trees began dropping it’s nuts. You may have noticed them on the parking lot for the church near the exit. They were everywhere. And none of them were any good. We did not get one good pecan from that tree. They dropped early, and none were good to eat. However, the other tree in the front yard was also loaded and began dropping it’s nuts about a week ago. We began harvesting some and found them to be mostly good eating. From this tree is where all of the pecans in the Fellowship Hall this year come from.

The tree across the driveway near the old tennis court is producing edible pecans as well, but not as many as the bigger tree. The tree on the side of the driveway to the cemetery has no pecans on it at all. So there are none to pick from there. I have not gone to the large tree beside the well house. Those are generally too small to bother with, but I will make my way over there to see what it is producing later this week. The other trees, as we expected are too young to produce any nuts.

Interesting to me. Five trees that produced a bumper crop last year, and only one of them this year has so many pecans. What do you suppose is going on here? Some of the pecan agribusiness folks around here are saying that the harsh winter freeze had a definite effect on the trees. Some

reported that the heavy Spring rains had its effect on the trees. Some even said that the combination of the two weather effects and then the lack of rain at the last of the Summer has stopped the production. At any rate, this year we have one tree that is producing hundreds of pecans, one that is producing noticeably fewer and no pecans on the other trees.

Paul had a spiritual principle in the growth of the church that may apply here. In 1 Corinthians 3, he addressed the believers in Corinth about a possible division that was arising from among them and corrected it before it caused division among them.

He writes in verses 4 through 6: “When one says, “I follow Paul, and another I follow Apollos, are you not mere human beings? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.” The spiritual truth is based upon the physical truth of a garden, or a tree. One may plant. Another may water and fertilize, but it is God who makes trees grow. God alone has assigned growth and productivity of plants as well as trees.

When we drive up to College Station on Highway 60, we see the vast fields of Sorgum, Corn and Cotton. They have been tended by some of the great agronomists that Texas A & M have to offer. I’m sure that they do everything humanly possible to get the very best growth and crop from those fields. They do amazing work.

When I was in the 5th grade, I remember the teacher telling us that America produces enough food to feed the entire world. We have, even back then, able to mass produce food in our rich soils to feed everyone on earth. Wow. What a concept.

I googled food exports around the world, and the United States exports more than the next three food exporters in the world. Germany, United Kingdom and China combined. We are the world leader in food exports: The most popular exports from the United States are maize, soybeans, and milk. Other common exports include wheat, sugar beet, sugar cane, potatoes, and chicken. We are also the worlds largest producer of corn.

I say all of this because as we study the book of Revelation and see great famine come upon the earth predicted; if we had a water problem or a catastrophic weather event that halted our production of food supplies to the world, it would cause world wide famine. We literally feed the world.

However, with all that being said, we understand that the spiritual truth that Paul uses in 1 Corinthians 3 is a reflection of the physical truth that is the basis for our ability to grow food.

“Someone plants, someone waters, someone fertilizes someone reaps the harvest, but God gives the increase.” We have stated many times that our God, the Sovereign of the Bible is in control of everything around us...even the harvest of crops. God can easily cause a world wide shortage of food by simply disrupting the business of agriculture here in America.

I, for one, am so thankful to live here where food is plentiful. Where the growing seasons are doing so well. Harvest time has been so plenteous. We even are able to share food with those in our community who are less fortunate than we are. On Fridays the Burton Bridge Ministry feeds over 60 seniors who need help in procuring a meal.

Many of you have been so kind to provide meals for Karen and me while she has been recovering from her broken arm. We can further God’s kingdom by sharing with others. Hebrews 13 talks about sacrifices that we can be a part of that God loves to see. “Don’t forget to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

I have a cousin, Peter, who owns 100 acres of prime corn field outside of Chicago who produces a tremendous amount of corn every year. He usually has the best yield of all the farms around the area. He sells all of his corn to a major exporter who sends the corn around the world.

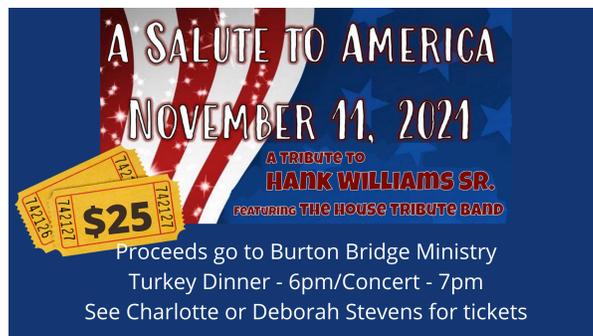
Food is plentiful. There seems to be much more to come. Even though a lack of some goods is being predicted because of the effects of COVID on our world, there seems to be plenty of food.

Let’s continue to take this physical understanding of production of food and apply it as Paul did to our understanding of helping others spiritually. “Some planted, some watered, but God gives the increase.”

Continue to pray for our folks who are sick and infirmed. Thank you so much for praying for Karen as she heals. We go to the doctor on Tuesday to have stitches removed and look at what healing is taking place and what our next step is to get her back on track. We need the prayers, you need the practice. Thanks again. Jack & Karen.

Announcements

- Wednesday Night Bible Study -Wednesday nights @ 6pm
- Serve Burton Bridge meal and provide desserts - Friday October 22
- Greater Things Gala - Friday October 22, 2021 benefiting Adult and Teen Challenge
- Greenvine's Girls of Grace Workday - Preparing art project for retreat - Saturday Oct 23, @ 9:30am
- Chain of Love - Morning Worship - October 24
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday October 27, @ 7am



Prayer Requests

Jack and Karen's Nephew - Pray that he will listen to the Doctors and to his mother

Karen - Continued healing on her wrist

Brayden Lopez - Mental and Spiritual health

Debbie Reed - Recovery on her wrist

Cliff reed -Recovering from Back Surgery - Please pray his pain subsides

Please keep the Tepera family in your prayers in the loss of Kevin

Brittany's mother Tracy is in ICU - Please pray that her oxygen levels will stabilize and she will continue to improve

Neal Lampe has come home. Please pray for continued healing

Please remember Linda Fogle and her family in the loss of Rick

Carolyn Cox -Home recovering from fall and pneumonia

Geri Smart's daughter as she continues to battle cancer

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Oran Lambright, Jack and Karen's friend has come home and is recovering

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:
Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson