

GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



We will continue the various ways that we can praise the Lord in the next newsletter. I would like to insert a different subject in this one, if I may.

Newsletter 50. Wow! 50 seems like a big number to me. It is also an important number in the scheme of the Bible, especially in the Old

Testament, but also in the New Testament. Some Biblical scholars believe that the numbers mentioned in the Scriptures are very significant and have a precise meaning.

According to the Law of Moses, every 50 years from the time the children of Israel got into the land and divided it up, was to be a Year of Jubilee. According to Leviticus chapters 25 and 27 there were directions for what was to be done on that year. For instance, If you had sold some property, including land and homes and could not redeem them back, the Year of Jubilee would free you from that debt. If you became poor and hired yourself out to work for another, the Year of Jubilee would set you free. No one could plant crops, or yield harvests that year or do any work. A complete year of sabbatical. A rest for everyone and everything. According to Leviticus, the year prior to the Year of Jubilee the Lord would provide a bumper crop and it would be enough to last for 3 years. That way you could make up for the resting year. 50 years. What a gracious gift to God's people and the earth itself.

Fifty years also signifies important anniversaries in our families. It is almost unheard of to see a marriage last for 50 years. We have several couples here in our meeting that have been together for more than 50 years. That is quite a milestone considering that so many couples do not stay together for very long. It is a blessing from the Lord.

At my Mom and Dad's fiftieth anniversary party, someone yelled out, "John, fifty years is a long time." Dad came back with, "It's really long with just one woman." My Mother immediately proclaimed, "It's even longer with just one man." We all laughed together but we realized that 50 years is a long time. A wedding anniversary of 50 years is a great commendation for anyone to claim.

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Congratulations to you who have reached that mark. We would urge every couple to strive for that goal. We all know that it takes love and devotion, and it takes hard work. Thank you for staying with your spouses and your family.

Fifty also has an important meaning to me on this particular day. Fifty years ago on March 1st, I came home from Vietnam. I was confused, hurting, tired, scared, mentally unstable, physically exhausted, emotionally spent and did not understand what had just happened the previous 12 months.. As I look back to that time, I often say it was “a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away.” The separation of time has really helped in my attitudes and understandings. When I finally made it to Mom and Dads home, I was so lost. Not just mentally, emotionally, physically and psychologically, but I was lost spiritually. I could not understand how a loving God that I had heard of since birth, could possibly have me go through that year. March 1970 to March 1971. A year that I remember and sometimes want to forget. However, it is seared into my mind. I remember thinking when I got back that I will never talk about that year and will try to erase it from my mind. I couldn't. No matter what I did, tried or experienced, it was always there. It was if it haunted me.

I asked my Dad to spiritually explain to me why God would allow me to go through this ordeal....for a year. He told me that he didn't know, but God could be my comfort and help in this trying time of my life.

I kind of went crazy. Got involved in some horrible things. Spent two years trying to forget what was so powerfully engrained in my mind. After much soul searching, I gave up. I asked my Dad to show me the way. He very graciously and tenderly went over the Gospel and asked if I believed those basic truths from God. I told him that I had never fully realized what God had done for me. On that day, January 1, 1973, I realized that the loving God of the universe had a deep love for me and was there all the time and desired to walk me through this ordeal.

It has been a long walk, a hard walk at times, but a meaningful and gracious walk. God has taken Karen and I through some deep waters, yet rescued us over and over.

I am going to Faith Academy in Bellville on Thursday and Friday to substitute teach in their High School American History class. The teacher there is a dear friend of ours from our time at Sandy

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Creek Bible Camp. They are beginning a study of the Vietnam War. Travis wants me to do a two day presentation of what my take at the time as well as now of the war. I have spent much time and money on books and articles concerning that war. I also have spent a great deal of effort trying to get a spiritual handle on that time. I would ask you to pray for my time there. Pray that I might help educate young people in History and help them Spiritually.

Love y'all. Karen and I continually pray for each of you. Blessings upon you.

Jack & Karen

Announcements

- Woman's Bible Study - Will start a new study, Jesus and Woman in the First Century and Now. It will begin on Saturday March 6 @ 10:00am
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday March 31, @ 7am
- Wednesday Night Bible Study will begin Wednesday March 17, 2021 at 6pm in the fellowship hall. We will be studying 1st and 2nd Timothy
- Celebration of Life Banquet - Thursday March 4, 2021 - The church will provide a table
- Daylight Savings Time - March 14 - Remember to Set your clocks ahead 1 hour
- Are you staying home because of Covid and would like Jack to bring communion to you? Please call the church office to schedule a time.

Prayer Requests

Please remember too pray for those in our congregation that live alone.

Bob Rippenhagen
Alice Ahlhardt
Gerri Smart

Helen Schulte
Bobbie Schulte
Becky Demuth

Vicky Hoffman
Linda Brumwell

Carolyn and her family in the loss of Felton

Vicky Lee and her family in the loss of Gary

Zella and her family in the loss of Sylvester

Linda and her family in the loss of Tommy

Please pray for direction and wisdom for Jack and Karen as they make decisions about his health.

Ben & Kay Seeker (Ben has been supplying our tomatoes) - Lost all tomato plants in freeze. Kay fell and broke both bones in her leg just above her ankle. She is now recovering from surgery

Joe Durrett - Stomach cancer and heart attack - Coming home on hospice care

Ed and Lee Ehring need to move and are looking for a house to rent

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Cliff's dad has dementia and is not doing well.

Bobbie Schulte - Feeling better

Mandy Forester - Upcoming Brain surgery

John Forester -Eye surgery scheduled for March 11th

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

Please remember to pray for those in our congregation that are not getting out during the pandemic

On going Covid-19 pandemic