

Summer Artery 2020



"Then Israel sang this song, Spring up, O well; sing ye unto it."

Numbers 21:17

"The Lord would have us active in obtaining grace. Our staves are ill adapted for digging in the sand, but we must use them to the utmost of our ability. Prayer must not be neglected; the assembling of ourselves together must not be forsaken; ordinances must not be slighted. The Lord will give us his peace most plenteously, but not in a way of idleness. Let us, then, bestir ourselves to seek him in whom are all our fresh springs."

- Charles Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*



In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!
In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!
Be to me a rock of refuge,
to which I may continually come;
you have given the command to save me,
For you are my rock and my fortress.
Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.
For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.

...

So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another
generation,
your power to all those to come.
Your righteousness, O God,
reaches the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?
You who have made me see many troubles
and calamities
will revive me again;
From the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again. ...

Psalms 71:1-6, 18-20 (ESV)



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Breadbox Offering for July: Rescue Mission

RESCUE MISSION is the recipient for our breadbox money. There is a local chapter on the east side of Binghamton, one in Auburn, Syracuse, Ithaca and other areas, all equipped to help people beat addiction to drugs and alcohol, and provide a caring and safe place where they can heal. In the process of gaining footing in the community, people there can take classes to learn a marketable skill they can turn into self-sufficiency and self-esteem. Those who are escaping domestic abuse, provision can be made for a furnished apartment in a safe neighborhood. Homelessness and mental health issues are addressed and Christ is proclaimed. Their mission statement is: "We Put Love Into Action."

If you wish to donate, please notate your check for the Rescue Mission and make it out to Main Street Baptist church. Thank you.

Missionary Update: The Lemans

Their most recent newsletter revealed that their move to Ethiopia to help in translation of the Scriptures has been put on hold due to the global situation. They are living with Rachel's family in Michigan. They are all disappointed as it looks as if they won't be able to go there till close to 2021. However, in the meantime, Marcus is continuing with consulting work and assisting with a virtual Hebrew training session to help consultants transition from New Testament to Old Testament work. The family will have training in the language of Ethiopia. Please support them in prayer.

Missionary Update: Moses Agapito

Apparently he had made it to his home country of South Sudan and did see his family and accomplished what he'd intended to do in regard to helping with the building of the school. Now he is in Uganda, unable to get home here because there are no flights out and there is rampant need including little food. Please pray for his safety and well-being and soon return to the U.S.



"...I suppose the solution lies in pointing out that the efficacy of prayer is, at any rate no more of a problem than the efficacy of all human acts. i.e. if you say "It is useless to pray because Providence already knows what is best and will certainly do it", then why is it not equally useless (and for the same reason) to try to alter the course of events in any way whatever — to ask for the salt or book your seat in a train?"

- C. S. Lewis, *Collected Letters*, February 21, 1932

Missionary Update: Bill and Ann Clemmer

BILL AND ANN CLEMMER sent an update as to what's happening in Congo. Their furlough has been postponed until the summer of 2021. Ebola and Covid-19 continue and they deal with a myriad of refugees from the armed militias in the surrounding hills. The city of Goma where they live is overshadowed by one of Africa's more active and dangerous volcanoes, and there is considerable poverty and illness. God is causing miracles of faith and healing to happen through the prayers and capable hands of doctors at the Heal Africa clinic where Bill works. Bill and Ann also work in South Sudan which may at this time be closed due to the corrupt leadership. They haven't updated on that front, but they praise God for placing them in this area at this time for His purposes.



Breadbox Offering for August: American Bible Society

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY is an international organization that distributes Bibles to our troops, to people groups who haven't had Scriptures in their own language, and they assist in translation to heart languages. A gift of \$200 provides the paper for 200 Bibles. We will give more specific information during the month of August in your bulletins.

Update: Life Choices Center

The newsletter for Life Choices center just came to our church mailbox from the director. All came to an abrupt halt at the center with the pandemic. It was stressful keeping up with the changing rules and much confusion abounded about how and when to be able to re-open and to proceed in their important work. God has turned “stumbling blocks into stepping stones that has positioned this ministry for victory no matter what the battle. To God be all the glory and honor!!!”

Last year God directed that they transition to an online curriculum which has allowed work to continue with clients remotely. They hold the weekly group parenting classes via zoom, and have connected with several local agencies to offer their classes and emergency diapers and wipes to clients. Pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and diaper supplies are by appointment only, adhering to social distancing guidelines. Pray for this ministry and its impact on our city.



My thoughts on COVID-19

Most of us know someone who's been affected by this virus and know of someone who has died. Even if we don't know people specifically, we mourn the deaths of so many in this country and around the world to this plague of epic proportions. Not only do we mourn the loss of life, but, speaking for myself and for many others, I mourn the increased dependence on others for my shopping and other routine affairs; I mourn not being able to touch people without hesitation; I mourn the loss of special events in the community and spectator sports and all the invigorating distractions that draw us together and renew us; I mourn the prohibition to worshipping with my church family in our church.

This has been an unabashed time of virtual everything, but one thing is for sure. Our God isn't virtual. He indwells and walks with us renewing our spirits, surprising us with joys unspeakable even in this mess. Isaiah 61: 1,3 says it all: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me... to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.” Jesus, our joy and our song – He's our reality!

Diane Runion

July

"...let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightingening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring. ..."

Martin L. King, Jr., "I Have a Dream"

Cow Appreciation Day



July 9th

Independence Day July 4th



Warren and Natalie Hessler celebrate 44 years together

Chris and Jesse Galli celebrate 9 years together

Pastor Tim and Peggy Bennett celebrate 46 years together

Dennis and Marcia Moulton celebrate 42 years together

Jennifer Beattie (2), Olivia Ciacelli (4), Jill Blakeney (4), Jack Svoboda (8), Don Abbey (9), Sandra Stacey (17), Dennis DeWitte (17), Diane Runion (19), Amanda Svoboda (19), and Duane Gevert (24)



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

