



Yucca Breeze

September 2020

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS

PASTOR'S PULPIT:

I want to share with you a good little article that speaks of waiting on God!

5 of the Best Bible Stories to Read When You're Waiting on God for Manifestation

By: Alena Dupré

The Bible says in Isaiah 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength," but if you're honest, you don't always feel strong while you're looking for God to manifest His promises, provision and power. If you are feeling weak in the wait and are growing weary of your internal struggle with doubt, here are 5 empowering Bible stories that will help you stay in expectation of a move of God.

Abraham and Sarah's Promised Child

In Genesis 18:1-15, God promised to give Abraham and Sarah a child, but Sarah couldn't believe it. In her mind, both she and her husband were too old and her time of child-bearing had passed. The thought of her bringing life into the world seemed ridiculous. But Sarah was wrong, because nothing is too hard for God. Though she initially laughed in disbelief, we see in Genesis 21:1-7 that God did the impossible. The couple welcomed a son named Isaac. This story reminds you that it's never too late for God, and His promises don't expire.

Daniel's Delayed Answer

In Daniel 9:1-19, we see God's faithful servant, Daniel, praying fervently for help, clarity and understanding. At first, nothing seemed to be happening. But after 21 days passed, Daniel received his answer. Remarkably, Daniel 10:1-12 reveals that the Lord heard Daniel's prayer and sent an answer the same day, but the forces of darkness fought against God's angelic messengers. Satan delayed the answer, but he couldn't deny it. This story reminds you that, while you wait, Satan is fighting your breakthrough at every turn. Though he may hold it up for a little while, he can't stop you from receiving your God-ordained answer.

The Woman with the Issue of Blood

In Mark 5:21-34, we read about a woman who had been bleeding for 12 long years. Can you imagine? She exhausted all her financial resources trying to find a cure. But after all the disappointment, she didn't give up hope! This tenacious woman exercised her faith and pressed her way through the crowd to get to Jesus. When she touched the hem of the Savior's garment, instantaneously, she was healed. This Bible story reminds you to be tenacious like her. Don't lose your faith in the struggle. If you wait, believe and keep on pressing, God will reveal His power.

Lazarus Raised from the Dead

John 11:1-44 tells the story of Lazarus, Jesus' beloved friend, who died of an illness. By the time Jesus showed up on the scene, he had already been dead four days and Lazarus' family was convinced that there was no hope. But Jesus, who said "I am the Resurrection and the Life," commanded Lazarus to come forth out of the grave. And just like that, the dead man rose, still wrapped in his grave clothes. . This Bible story assures you that, when it looks like the moment for change and breakthrough has passed you by, God still will produce a miracle for you—all for the sake of His glory.

(Continued on Next Page)

The Man Stuck at the Pool

In John 5:1-15, we see Jesus speaking with an invalid man who had been languishing at the pool of Bethesda for 38 years. So much time had passed, there appeared to be no hope of change. But Jesus had mercy on him, and commanded the impotent man to get up and walk. At Jesus' command, he sprang up and was miraculously healed. This Bible story reminds you that, this long wait will come to an end. Be prepared. God will extend His mercy to you and change things for the better also.

And there you have it! Although waiting is surely tough, if you remember that God is faithful, you'll do much better during your waiting season. Keep meditating on the awesome miracles you see in these Bible stories and add a few of your own to the list. All the while, believe God to stretch out His hand of mercy and work things out favorably for you, too.

The End.

Maybe that's some good advice as we enter early Fall and we find ourselves still in the grip of this pandemic. In our waiting for that miracle cure or scientific breakthrough, let us continue to see this as a time of really waiting, not so much on science, as a time of waiting on God. He's up to something! After all, haven't the above stories taught us that God usually shows up in the midst of "waiting" people's lives? God knows what He's doing—we just have to wait. God will deliver us from this current malady—we just have to wait. God will even bring about something good, and maybe unexpected in us and for us---you guessed it—we just have to wait. However, as we wait, let us continue to be the church, His body; caring for one another, looking after one another, encouraging one another, and mostly loving one another.

Blessings, Pastor David

Centennial Celebration!

*The United Churches
100th Anniversary
1920 — 2020*

*Baptist
Methodist
Presbyterian*

*"That they all may be one."
John 17:21*

NOTE: You may still make a reservation for the dinner by calling the church office (745-5640) or emailing (ucasisst@gwtc.net) **no later than NOON on Tuesday, September 1st.**

10:00 - 11:30 AM
Church Worship Service
In the Church Sanctuary
(With presentations regarding our church history)

**Proper social distancing will be observed with overflow seating (and also the service on screens) provided in the Bethany Room, Fireside Room and Fellowship Hall.*

12:00 - 3:00 PM
Outdoor Brisket Picnic Lunch
(Featuring music, puppets, speakers and display of church memorabilia)

SEPTEMBER Birthdays:

- 3 Virginia Anderson
 Sandy Swenson
 10 Mary Puffer
 24 Jerry Collogan
 29 Jean Brooks
 Garry Strauser



SEPTEMBER Anniversaries:

- 1 Garry & Pat Strauser
 16 John & Carla Johnson



If your name is not included on the Birthdays and Anniversaries list and you would like it to be added, please contact the church office by email: uc@gwtc.net or call 745-5640.



and healing in the next 2-3 months.

To My Caring Church Family:

Thank you for the many cards, calls, well wishes, and prayers during my recent back operation and early period of recovery. I'm really doing quite well and look forward to gaining full strength

God bless you, *Garry Strauser*

THIS AND THAT:

A Message for the Baptist Denomination: The local Baptist congregation will be electing a new Trustee to fill out the remaining 2020 term of Sue Trobee (who is moving to the state of Washington). Nominations and voting will be conducted by email and telephone, with final voting done between the August 30th Sunday morning Worship Service and the 6:00 PM deadline on Thursday, September 3rd. Baptist members will be contacted and given the opportunity to take part in this process. Thank you for your participation.

Presbyterian Denomination News: As a result of Lynn and Frank Mason's relocation to Canton, South Dakota, our Presbyterian Session is currently in need of two additional members to serve as Elders. Would you please prayerfully consider becoming a Session Member. If you feel led to serve, or you would like further information, contact Stefanie Nelson at 605-890-3113 or the church office at 605-745-5640.

Monthly Mission Emphasis: Our Mission emphasis and Loose Change Offering for the month of September will be our own Basis Needs Boutique. Giving envelopes will be included in the Sunday Bulletins during September with this mission designation.

Centennial Historical Note: In the original 1920 Constitution of the United Churches, Article 3, states: "The governing body of this organization shall be an Executive committee nominated and elected by the United Congregation and shall consist of the five members from each participating denominations." (The first United Churches had 4 denominations; the Christian Church was included; thus making the executive committee 20 members.)



God is Good!

Praises to God and a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who helped us reach our GOAL of fully funding the wonderful *Stained Glass Restoration Project* being completed this week by the Bovard Studios craftsmen. The windows look beautiful!!

HYMN HISTORY THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

Christ is the head of the church, His body of which He is the Savior. (Ephesians 5:23)

During an especially heated period of theological controversy in England in 1866 when liberalism threatened to destroy the great cardinal doctrine of the Anglican church, this hymn was written by Pastor Samuel Stone. He was a strong supporter of the conservative faith and refused to compromise in any way the critical attacks on doctrinal orthodoxy.

It was Stone's desire to write a hymn that would reaffirm the Lordship of Christ as the foundation of the church. To combat the skeptical liberal scholarship, Samuel Stone wrote twelve hymn texts based on the Apostles' Creed. This particular text refers to the ninth article: "The Holy Catholic (Universal) Church, the communion of saints; He is the Head of this body."

Describe as the poor man's pastor, Samuel Stone demonstrated his firm belief in the church as the instrument of Christ for meeting the needs of people. He spent much time ministering to the poor and underprivileged people in London's East End. It was said that "he created a beautiful place of worship for the humble folk and made it a center of light in dark places.

This is what the local church was meant to be – a spiritual hospital for hurting humanity, never an exclusive private club for self-righteous Christians. Called out from the world by God for Himself, the church consists of people who meet regularly for worship, inspiration, instruction, and fellowship. After that, Christ our Head sends His own back into the world to represent Him and to model His love for all mankind.

*The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is His new creation by water and the Word;
from heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.*

*Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth; one
holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one
hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.*

*Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy one and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like
them, be meek and lowly on high may dwell with Thee.*

Bible References: Matthew 16:15-18; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Colossians 1:18

*Give thanks to God for your local church as well as for
fellow-believers of the church universal everywhere.
Affirm your conviction in Christ as the head of the church
as you carry this musical truth.*

Creeds and Confession Corner United Methodist Foundational Documents

Just as creeds such as the Apostles' Creed summarize the belief of all Christians, the Articles of Religion of The Methodist Church and the Confessions of Faith of The Evangelical United Brethren Church form a foundation of doctrine for United Methodists. They, along with Wesley's Sermons on Several Occasions and Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament, are "standards" of doctrine for United Methodists.



When the Methodist movement in America became a church in 1784, John Wesley provided the American Methodists with a liturgy and a doctrinal statement, which contained twenty-four "Articles of Religion" or basic statements of belief. These Articles of Religion were taken from the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England—the church out of which the Methodism movement began—and had been the standards for preaching within the Methodist movement.

When these articles were voted on by the American conference, an additional article was added regarding the American context, bringing the total number of articles to 25.

These articles became the basic standards for Christian belief in the Methodist church in North America. First published in the church's Book of Discipline in 1790, the Articles of Religion have continued to be part of the church's official statement of belief.

The Confession of Faith is the statement of belief from The Evangelical United Brethren Church. Consisting of 16 articles, the current form of this statement of faith was presented and adopted by the 1962 General Conference.

When The United Methodist Church was formed in 1968 from the union of several branches of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, both The Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith were adopted as basic statements of the Christian faith.

A Note from the Spicers:

Our scheduled departure date has come and gone and we are still in the US. This is such a crazy time we live in, but God is still in control and working His will. It is not always easy, but God is always good! In July, things were starting to open up in the Philippines, but at the beginning of August, they went back to Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine which closes everything down but businesses dealing with food, medical, and banks. We have rebooked our flight for early September and are praying that the borders to the Philippines will be open by that time.

Faith Academy will still start online classes on August 24. August 10 starts our Virtual All Staff Meetings (since we can't have our retreat as usual). We will be scattered with some staff in their home countries, including our new staff, and some still in the Philippines. We will spend the time getting refreshed in God's Word and getting ready to serve Him during this next school year. Much time will be spent preparing staff to do their jobs online, especially the teachers. Plans are being made to improve our online education, training our staff better, and giving an orientation to parents and students. Please pray with us that we will be able to have face-to-face classes as soon as possible. Also, continue to pray that the borders will open up soon and all the staff and students will be able to get back to the Philippines.

We are presently living with family in the Wichita area and enjoy visiting our family and friends here. We are looking forward to seeing Ben, Jessica, and kids soon. They will need to quarantine, but we will have a chance to see them before our scheduled flight back to the Philippines. We appreciate your prayers for us during this time, especially with us working in a different time zone than we are living in. Walter continues to meet with the staff that he oversees. Much can be done by email, but sometimes he needs to talk with them. Continue to pray for wisdom for our administrators as they make decisions. Also, continue to pray that God will continue to build His Church in the Philippines and many will turn to Him for salvation during this time.

Thank you for your faithful
prayers and support for us
as we minister at Faith
Academy,

Walter and Cheryl Spicer

*We got to visit Devin and
Juliana and enjoyed the
beautiful scenery in
Washington*



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