

Standing Strong in Life's Storms

By Cindy Shaw

When I was in my twenties, I went camping with some friends from our church's College and Career group. On Friday night, some of the guys in the group drove to the site that we reserved near Milford, Connecticut. They set up the tents—one for the guys and one for the girls. This was long before weather apps and The Weather Channel. During the night, winds blew down the empty girls' tent. On Saturday morning, it was raining in New Jersey. We called the guys and learned it was raining in Connecticut, too, so we talked about canceling the trip. One (wise) friend backed out but the rest of us decided to go, hoping for improving weather.

We reached the site in the midst of torrential rain. Instead of hiking, we drove into Milford and visited the shops. I heard a man say that they hadn't been hit by a nor'easter like that one in many years. The rain dampened our plans to cook out, so we ate our meals at McDonald's because we didn't have much money. That night, the roof of the girls' tent started leaking, and then it collapsed on us. We spent the rest of the night trying to sleep in the car, but I was too wet and cold to sleep. After a long, cold night, we packed up and headed home.

Although the storm altered our plans, we had fun and laughed about camping during a nor'easter for years after. But when the storms of life close in, they are no laughing matter. Today hurricanes are classified by number, with five being the worst and one being the least damaging. In our lives, events like the death of a family member, close friend, or coworker; losing a home in a storm, fire, or even due to

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Annual Fall Festival



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financial calamity; or a devastating medical diagnosis would probably be classified as a category five. For some people, losing a job could be a three or four, while it might be a two for someone who finds a job within a few weeks. But none of us can judge the impact of a setback, accident, illness, or a broken relationship on another’s life.

When forecasters predict hurricanes, blizzards, nor’easters, or any type of severe weather, there is usually time to prepare, and many people keep emergency kits and supplies on hand for sudden storms. But life’s storms often hit with no warning at all, so how do we prepare and how do we stay faithful?

The Gospels tell the familiar story of Jesus calming the storm while He and the disciples crossed a lake. As they sailed, Jesus fell asleep during a ferocious storm. Luke writes, *“The boat was being swamped and they were in great danger. The disciples went and woke Him, saying, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’” Although Jesus was in their midst, they feared for their lives. When they woke Him up, He rebuked the wind and the waves, and immediately they were calm. He then turned to the disciples and asked them, “Where is your faith?”*

Knowing how I have reacted to storms in my life—even though the Holy Spirit lives within me—I cannot blame the disciples for their reaction. They felt the boat heaving as it was tossed about by the wild waves and heard the howling wind. I imagine that all seemed dark and threatening—and yet there was Jesus, sleeping peacefully. During life’s storms, I, too, am consumed by darkness and feel overwhelmed by the threatening circumstances, until I remember that Jesus is there, offering peace. When I turn to His Word and pray—and ask others to pray as well—my perspective changes. Faith replaces fear and panic gives way to peace. I won’t say that there

still aren’t moments when I lose focus and anxiety, discouragement, and fear return, but God is faithful. At those times, He often sends friends to encourage me through prayer, phone calls, notes, emails, or texts.

Jesus warned of the storms that would come—and promised us His peace to face them. *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) These words of Isaiah can also prepare and strengthen us through storms: *“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.”* (Isaiah 26: 3-4) Each of us will face different storms at different times, but we are never alone. We can stand strong by reaching out both to Jesus and to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Little House

Have you ever ventured behind the church and wondered about the small building slightly hidden behind some overgrown shrubs? The little house is part of the long history of our church property. Built by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Roszel, who bought the original farm in 1921 from the Hutchinson family, it housed seasonal farm laborers who worked in their small dairy. Much later, after the property was bought by Windsor Chapel, the little house was used as the nursery. It has also been used as a classroom.



Recently Boy Scout Troop 66 took the initiative to renovate the interior of the little house. Assistant Scout Master Bruce Perrine, who is a contractor and father of two scouts, did most of the work gutting the interior. In an amazing transformation, he installed new plywood, insulation, windows, light fixtures and steel shelving to contain the scout troops equipment. Over the years, Troop 66 has done much to help with work around the chapel, and we are pleased to let them use this part of our facility.



Elder's Corner

By Pastor Andy Straubel

Active Participation

When a team like the Philadelphia Eagles or New York Giants loses a Sunday football game, sports radio is a buzz on Monday. Announcers endlessly pick apart the game often criticizing players or the coach for what might have been. Church can sometimes seem that way. Excellence is a top priority in many ministries. Do things with excellence—music, preaching, children's ministry, small groups, etc. But excellence has a dark side. It can make church seem little more than a producer of religious goods and services.

Unwittingly we condition people to become critical consumers of the "best" goods and services. But Jesus didn't call us to be consumers. He invites us to participate in what He is doing here and around the world. If we don't participate, we will not grow as followers of Jesus Christ. Faith is like a spiritual muscle which must be exercised, or we will lose it. We cannot pay someone to go to the gym for us to get us into shape. We cannot outsource spiritual development to church staff.

Ephesians 2:10 says that the Lord has a predetermined work for each one of us to do. Windsor Chapel is a place where that can happen. As leaders our job is to help identify what that work is and help equip believers to participate in that work. In my understanding, participation is the new excellence. As pastor I say this not because anyone is criticizing what we are doing, but because I have experienced the joy and blessings of getting involved. As my dad used to say, "Find a hole and plug it." If you are not plugged into some area of ministry, let me challenge you to find a hole. They are pretty easy to spot.

Share the Bounty of God's Blessings!



Help us partner with the Harris Ministry in Trenton in providing **75 Thanksgiving meals** this year. Here's how...

- Shop for the items listed below
- Bring the items to feed each family in double paper grocery bags (no glass please) by:

**Sunday - November 17th or
Sunday - November 24**

Canned Goods—corn, peas, string beans, yams, pie filling (2), applesauce, cranberry sauce

Boxed Goods—biscuit or cornbread mix, pie crust mix (2), stuffing, rice, extras like tea, coffee or juice, candy.

(Please keep in mind that many families are larger than six people.)

Windsor Chapel is purchasing the turkeys and potatoes for each family. If you are unable to help with the grocery bags, would you consider a donation to Windsor Chapel for these items? If you have any questions, just give Scott Bruno a call at (609) 213-9545.

Financial Update

(Through September 30, 2019)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$207,493	\$213,750
Expense	\$209,140	\$213,750

Windsor Chapel has sent \$29,464 to our missionary partners this year. That's 14% of your giving!



In addition to sleeping bags, winter gloves, socks, and jackets are also in need. If you feel led by the Lord to assist in this ministry in any way, please contact Steven Bassett at 609-346-1127 or email hensoma.onebody@gmail.com

Men's Worship and Prayer

All men are welcome to join us on alternating Wednesdays at 7:00 am in the chapel sanctuary for a time of worship and prayer or at Michael's Diner on Route 1, in Lawrenceville, for food, fellowship and to study 1 Peter.

Peter wrote to Christians who were being persecuted for their faith to comfort them with the hope of eternal life and to challenge them to continue living holy lives. 1 Peter reminds us that Christ is both our hope in the midst of suffering and our example of how to endure suffering faithfully. Contact Tom Taylor (609-631-8495) for complete schedule and details.

Answered Prayer

By Marquita Halili Kimmel

Jehovah-Jireh

For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. Psalm 139:13-16

Psalm 139 is my favorite. More than seven decades ago I was conceived by my mother, who back then, had a naivety, or as Merriam-Webster Dictionary states, had "a deficit in worldly wisdom or a deficiency in informed judgment." She had been swept off her feet by a smooth-talking, handsome sailor, who, unknown to her, happened to be a married man.

BUT GOD.... three months later, provided her with an upright man who knew that sailor because he was one himself, and a friend of that man. He made "an honest woman" out of her and gave her the protection of his last name. Six months later, he provided me with the gift of his last name, too.

All through the years and present day, the LORD has been and is my Jehovah-Jireh: the LORD Who provides; the LORD Who will see to it. The good LORD knows all that is done in secret and in darkness and shines His wonderful light upon it. I can trust Him to provide for that which He has "formed." I pray that the days He has "ordained for me" will have me on the right path on this earthly journey toward home.

"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!" Psalm 139:17

If you have experienced answered prayer or been aware of God's encouraging presence during a challenging time in your life, we invite you to share your story in this new CC column. Let your personal 350-word story inspire and be a blessing to others.

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Food to Eat, Clothes to Wear....

For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? (Matthew 6:25)

These well-known words of Jesus are often used as an antidote for anxiety, and this passage is an excellent resource for this purpose. Pastor Andy preached on this passage not long ago, reminding us to take care to not let worries over our needs distract us from pursuit of the Lord and His kingdom. The women of Perisseia looked at this passage as part of a series on anxiety. But as we head into the holiday season, it seems to me that this passage can be a most helpful caution about the busy-ness that could distract us from the spiritual business at hand.

The Apostle Paul reminds us to give thanks always. As important as this message is, we take time in November to pay particular attention to cultivating a thankful heart and identifying our abundant blessings as we give praise to the Giver of all good gifts. And then Christmas follows Thanksgiving and we are called to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, the Messiah, our Savior and eternal Lord.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are significant holidays worth celebrating. They give us a wonderful opportunity to build and reinforce relationships and bless those who are less

fortunate. But as we plan our celebrations, questions as to what we will eat and what we will wear are unavoidable. I plan our holiday meals with a good bit of care, and as we approach Christmas, each of my children and grandchildren (as they become old enough) are asked to choose their favorite sweet treat for me to make.

The challenge is, of course, to plan and prepare appropriately within the context of Jesus' words. I can plan and prepare for holiday celebrations without becoming anxious and without becoming distracted from the real God show. May God Incarnate enable us by His Holy Spirit to take His words to heart and consider that food, drink, and clothing are only the accessories of this season of gratitude and celebration.

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or clbills@verizon.net) to continue the dialogue....

Good Plans and Purposes

By Janet Berrill

I believe God has a good plan and a purpose for all that He allows to happen to us. This belief is based on several truths: God is love (1 John 4:8); He loves us so much He sent His Son to die on our behalf (Romans 5:8); He is good (Luke 18:19); He will work all things for good (Romans 8:28), and He wants to give us good things (Matthew 7:11). When facing challenging situations, it is vital to keep the fact that God has a good plan and a purpose in mind for whatever He lets us go through. I would like to give you a wonderful example of this which Pastor Nobu shared with me.

Pastor Nobu is the pastor of the Japanese Church that meets each week at Windsor Chapel. I got to

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“Good Plans...” continued...

know him when I got involved with the Japanese ESL class which also meets at Windsor Chapel. The church that Pastor Nobu leads is not a large church. About two years ago, Nobu began having financial difficulties. This was hard for him not only because of the lack of money, but also because of the shame he felt at being a pastor and not having a church that could adequately support him.

In April 2018, after much prayer and pushing aside the shame and guilt he felt at having to get a job outside his ministry, he got a job at a company that cleans people's houses. This was the first job he found when he began to look for work on the internet. His interview lasted three hours. Not because the qualifications to be a house cleaner are so high that his boss, Lorne, wanted to make sure he could do the job, but because he mentioned he was a pastor and Lorne had a lot of questions for him about God. Over time, because of further conversations with Nobu, Lorne read all four Gospels in a month and told Nobu he found Jesus to be genuine, although Lorne has yet to take the step of accepting Jesus as his Savior.

After the interview Nobu was hired and began working right away. It was very humbling for him because he had no experience cleaning houses, so he continually had to ask for help from his co-workers who are much younger than he is. It was also humbling for him to be working outside of his ministry, and he felt that cleaning other people's houses itself was a humbling job. For a time he did not let it be known that he had a job cleaning, because he was afraid of what other people would think.

When Lorne introduced Nobu to his co-workers, he told them that Nobu was a pastor and that if they had any questions they could talk to him. As Nobu worked alongside these people who were the ages of his children, he found a lot of hurt and brokenness. Many shared with him their past which included abuse, neglect, parents who were on drugs, parents who were divorced, depression, situations where as children themselves they had to take care of their younger siblings, and so on. These were difficult circumstances to go through and as they shared Nobu listened and answered their questions to the best of his ability. Having

someone to talk to who cared was life-changing for these people. One young man told Nobu that he saw Jesus was alive in Nobu's life and that Jesus was becoming more alive to him. One young lady said that Nobu was her spiritual father.

Did God have a plan and a purpose for the financial difficulties Nobu faced? Absolutely He did! It was a struggle for Nobu at first, but now looking back he sees the plan God had for him to expand his ministry to hurting people who need to not only hear about God's love but to work alongside someone who was living it out. And God brought another unexpected blessing to Nobu through his new job. To his surprise, Nobu finds that cleaning houses is refreshing and rejuvenating for him, something that really helps him when he feels mentally and spiritually drained.

God is good and He has good plans for us. So when I face a challenging situation, I thank God for allowing it to happen, and I ask Him to accomplish His plan and purpose through it, for I know He wants to bring great good out of it.

In the October issue, the “Answered Prayer” column, “Praying with Others,” was written by Evelyn Vargas Ambrose. We apologize for accidentally leaving off her last name. We are so sorry Evelyn!



Turn Back Your Clock!

Remember that Daylight Savings Time ends **this Sunday, November 3, at 2:00 am**. When you're resetting your watches and clocks (don't forget the one in your car) on Saturday night, use this annual event as a reminder to replace batteries in all smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms.

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

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