

Macedonian Call

August 2018



Our good friend, Abraham Thomas of Agape Royal Ministries in India, sent the following message via email update: "After August 17, the government of Nepal will enforce an anti-conversion law. It will be a crime to convert anyone from one religion to the other. Christians are so concerned. We have church plants in Nepal and intend to conduct two pastors' conferences in December 2018. Please pray." In a recent National Public Radio article Nepal, which is primarily Hindu (more than 80%), was identified as having one of the world's fastest growing Christian populations. Census records dating back to 1951 indicated that there were ZERO Christians in Nepal and just 458 in 1961. By 2001, there were nearly 102,000. In 2011 that number had more than tripled to more than 375,000. I discovered that while the nation's "constitution establishes Nepal as a 'secular state' but defines secularism as 'protection of the age-old religion and culture and religious and cultural freedom.' It provides for the right to profess and practice one's own religion. The constitution prohibits converting persons from one religion to another, and bans religious behavior disturbing public order or contrary to public health, decency, and morality." The law referenced by Abraham is the conclusion to a criminal code signed into law in October 2017 and

criminalizes the harming of the "religious sentiment" of any caste, ethnic community, or class, either in speech or writing. I often ask you to pray for the threats facing religious liberty in our state and nation. While I've shared with you many examples of such threats over recent years, what we face is miniscule when compared to what our brothers and sisters in Christ deal with in other nations. Hearing news like this should stir within us an appreciation for the freedoms that we do have and stimulate us to pray for Agape Royal Ministries and Nepalese believers. Thanks ~ Pastor Randy

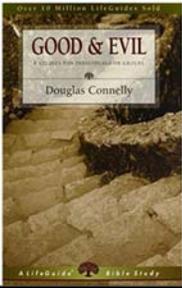
"Why Nepal has One of the Fastest Growing Christian Populations in the World," Danielle Preiss, 02/03/16, npr.org, accessed 07/24/18.

"Nepal 2017 International Religious Freedom Report," US Dept. of State, p. 1, state.gov, accessed 07/24/18.



ACO Backpacks 2018

We will be delivering backpacks to 3rd grade students at Glade Elementary School in Cowen, WV again this year. Sign up at the Welcome Center to complete a back pack for one of these boys or girls. Pick up a list of suggested items when you sign up. There are children's Bibles and other supplies in the ACO Collection room for your use.



**Summer Small
Group Study
Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm**



Every second Wednesday of each month is C.A.R.E. Night. C.A.R.E. is an acronym for

“Christians Actively Reaching Everyone.”

During the summer months we will not have a meal but will meet at 6:30 pm for various ministry opportunities. This month C.A.R.E. Night is August 8th. Everyone is invited to join us for this night of fellowship and ministry.



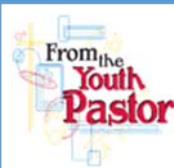
**Journey Through the Story-line of
Scripture in Sunday School—9:45 am**
We have classes for everyone nursery through senior adults

**Be in prayer for our team from MBC
on mission in Vermont the week of
August 10th—18th**

NCBM Region 8 Missions Rally
Monday, August 13th
@ Westport Baptist in Denver
Dinner @ 5:45pm & program 6:50—8:30 pm
Register at 800-395-5102 X 5596 or online at baptistonmission.org/events/region-rallies by August 6th



Join us for Family Night
Sunday, Aug. 19th
@ 5:00 pm
MBC Playground
For
Food, Fun & Fellowship!!



I hope everyone is doing well and having a great summer. As we head into the last month of summer, I just can't believe how fast it has gone by. I read

something the other day that said we only get 18 summers with our kids. What a thought, only 18 summers until they are grown. I think we often miss the importance of time with the ones we love because we are so busy and stressed. It's not like we don't want quality time, it's just that sometimes there is no time for it. But we must make time for it, because life is brief, and we aren't promised tomorrow. God has given us so many blessings but the most important are with us every day, driving us crazy. Never be too busy to make a visit, throw a baseball, or do something fun with the ones you love.

"You do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14).

Life Is Short. Eternity Is Long. Live Like It.
– John Piper
~ Pastor Jeremy

Children's Church is worship designed especially for children 3 years - 6th grade. They will meet this month on August 5th, 12th & 26th during our morning worship service.



Children Pre-K - 6th grade
Join us for fun summer Sunday nights!!
Bible study time
Water fun nights
Playground fun
Much more!
6:30 pm each week



**Sunday Evenings
@ 6:30 pm**

This is a service for our students to worship in song and hear preaching that directly addresses issues they face daily. It is a great time of fellowship and an opportunity for real spiritual growth. We hope to see all of our youth there!

**Weekly Youth Bible
Study Wednesday @
6:30 pm**

**Wednesday night study is geared to
teach our youth how God's Word applies
to our everyday lives.**



**Youth Mission Day
August 20th
8:30 am—5:30 pm
Serving @ East Lincoln
Christian Ministries & a fun
afternoon activity!**



**Children & Youth
Sunday, August 26th
6:30 PM**



**Pre-K - 6th grade
Wednesdays
@ 6:30 pm**



Romans 8:18 - Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later.

*I walked a mile with pleasure, she chatted all the way
But left me none the wiser with all she had to say
I walked a mile with sorrow and not a word said she
But oh the things I learned from her,
When sorrow walked with me.*

Are you wrestling with a trial right now that has you almost at the end of your rope? Something you can't shake, understand or deal with? Advice such as, "get a grip," "This too will pass," "It could be worse," "Just grin and bear it," etc, etc, just doesn't give you any hope! Been there, heard that and you are right, it doesn't help. So what is your advice you ask? Two things; One, think of the song *Trust and obey*. Verse 3 says:

*Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share
But our toil He doth richly repay
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross
But is blest if we trust and obey
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey
He knows what He is doing!*

And two; understand that trials are often there to make us stronger. You, if you are trusting and obeying, are getting stronger. God will use your trial to build you up and you will genuinely be able to encourage others, not just give the same old advice that you have heard in the past. Trust and obey Him. ~ Pastor Joe

**JOY Ministry Weekly Bible Study
Thursdays at 11:00 am**



**Monthly Covered Dish Lunch
Thursday, August 2nd @ Noon in the
Fellowship Hall**