



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# Saint Michael and all Angels

superseding

## Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity



Sunday Report

Today was the feast of Saint Michael and all Angels which supersedes the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was picture perfect; clear blue skies, calm winds and 48°F at sunrise, rising to 87°F by the end of church under skies. Once again, the gathering song gathered not one and we ended up with 3 people present for the service.

### *Gathering Song*

Jack Arnold played *Just a closer walk with Thee* for the gathering song.

#### ***Just a closer walk with Thee***

I am weak, but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Take my hand, Lord Jesus, take my hand;  
Take my hand, Lord Jesus, take my hand;  
There's a race to be run, There's a victory to be won;  
Every hour, give me power to go through.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment.



### *On Point*

Someone asked, where do the quotes come from? The answer is from the people who uttered them. But, how did you find them? Oh, that. Some from Bishop Jerry, many from Rev Bryan Dabney, a few from other places, some from Rev Geordie Menzies-Grierson, but overall mostly from Bryan. He always has a few great ones to share. On to the On Point quotes –

As a democracy is perfected, the office of the President represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day, the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be occupied by a downright fool and a perfectly narcissistic moron.

*HL Mencken*

The Baltimore Evening Sun, July 26, 1920

H.L. Mencken (1880 - 1956) was a journalist, satirist, critic and a Democrat. He wrote this editorial while working for the Baltimore Evening Sun. It appeared in the 26 July 1920 edition.

If we are true Christians, we must not expect everything smooth in our journey to heaven. We must count it no strange thing, if we have to endure sicknesses, losses, bereavements, and disappointments, just like other people. Free pardon and full forgiveness, grace by the way and glory to the end – all this our Savior has promised to give. But He has never promised that we shall have no afflictions. He loves us too well to promise that.

*JC Ryle*

Bishop of Liverpool

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

*1 St. John 3:18*

Strive to live a courageous life. Confess Christ before men. Whatever station you occupy, in that station confess Christ ... Strive to live a joyful life. Live like men who look for that blessed hope — the second coming of Jesus Christ. This is the prospect to which we should all look forward.

*JC Ryle*

19<sup>th</sup> century Anglican bishop and author  
(Holiness, p. 285)

Christians who dialogue with those of other faiths are using their faith as a branch upon which to perch lightly while they survey and appreciate all the other options ... governed by this approach, Christianity is a prospective; it is not truth.

*Douglas Wilson*

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> American theologian, author and Classical Christian educator

There is no more blessed way of living than a life of dependence upon a covenant-keeping God. We have no care, for he careth for us; we have no troubles, because we cast our burdens upon the Lord.

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

19<sup>th</sup> century English pastor and author  
(Morning and Evening, p. 491)

You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it.

*Dr. Adrian Rogers*  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Southern Baptist pastor and author

Looking at the person of the Lord Jesus Christ in the new [bible] versions is much like looking through the wrong end of a telescope at a vanishing Jesus.

*Gail Riplinger*  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American Bible scholar and author

In light of our disregard for General Washington's timeless warnings, it is little wonder that we find ourselves trillions of dollars in debt due in part to the constant demand for funding multiple military operations. As the United States marches into one after another unconstitutional and unwise foreign military entanglement, the Constitution, the rule of law, and virtue are counted among the collateral damage.

Joe Wolverton, II, JD  
21<sup>st</sup> century American legal commentator  
(Washington's Farewell Address: Beware of "Tools and Dupes", 9-20-13)

Government is not reason; it is not eloquence. It is force. And force, like fire, is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.

*George Washington*  
American patriot, general officer and president

### *Propers*

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. If you have a hard time remembering, "Do I read the Collect from last Sunday or next Sunday during the week?" Remember Sunday is the first day of the week. There are also two Bible readings, the Epistle and the Gospel. While they are "lessons", they are not the First Lesson and the Second Lesson, they are the Epistle and the Gospel. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the priest as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we normally do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister.

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead,

except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feast, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers for today are found on Page 251-253, with the Collect first:

**Saint Michael and all Angels.**  
**[September 29.]**

*The Collect.*

**O** EVERLASTING God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order; Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

We also use the Collect for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity found on Page 214:

**The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.**

*The Collect.*

**L** ORD, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from the Twelfth Chapter of the Revelation of Saint John the Divine, beginning at the Seventh Verse. The reading from Saint John's Revelation is more than just a brief history of the Devil's downfall, literally, it tells us why the Devil has so much power in this world. As he passed from Heaven to Hell, he got his talons in the earth, our earth. He cut wide swaths through the firmament in which infection grows unto this day. The only cure for that infection is the Christ of God; our Lord and Savior. As long as we are His, the Devil has no power over us. As soon as we leave Christ's protection, we are subject to the infection that is the Prince of this World.

**T**HERE was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in



heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Hap Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which came from the Eighteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, beginning at the First Verse:

**A**T the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that



he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell-fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

### *Sermon – Reverend Deacon Jack Arnold - Time and Action*

Today's sermon tied the Collect, Epistle and Gospel together and is partly contained in the forewords above.



Consider the words of the Collect for Saint Michaels, "...as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succour and defend us on earth..."

Angels do God's Work in Heaven and He Sends them here to do His Work here from time to time. Do not be quick to discount their influence and their effect here. Their presence is often made known to those who need God's help and are not open to other ways. As his wife was leaving this earth, my Uncle Jack was visited by angels. They did not say, I am an angel, but their origin and mission was clear.

That brings us to the words of the Collect for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity, "...grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God ..."

When you hear the word GRACE, what do you think of?

- Help;
- Heavenly dispensation;
- A gift freely granted;
- The free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.

The word can be any of these, it comes from Middle English: via Old French from Latin gratia, from gratus 'pleasing, thankful' and is related to grateful.

In this case we are asking God's help, for which He charges nothing, except our faith and loyalty to Him, to withstand the temptations of this world. We ask for help to withstand what? Actually, what we are looking for is help to not follow our own devices and desires. We are asking for help to make His Will our will. To help us to do what will make us happy. For we know that we ourselves will not do what His Will is on our own volition, but rather we must ask that God plant the seed of His Will on our hearts so that we will do it.

Paradoxically, we are asking for help to do not what we want, but what is best for us. We are asking God's Help to make us want to do what He wants us to do, so that not only will we have "fun", but be happy! For, being happy is far more important and helps our spiritual lives more than the temporary state of fun. Fun will only last a few moments, happiness will last forever. On the surface, it does not really seem all that reasonable, but here we are imperfect creatures with free will! The free will sometimes or rather most of the time seems more like a curse than a blessing, at least to me. For I

feel that with it, I am more tempted to go the wrong way than the right way, but when I go the right way, it then comes to me that it is a blessing.

The reading from Saint John's Revelation is more than just a brief history of the Devil's downfall, literally, it tells us why the Devil has so much power in this world. As he passed from Heaven to Hell, he got his talons in the earth, our earth. He cut wide swaths through the firmament in which infection grows unto this day. The only cure for that infection is the Christ of God; our Lord and Savior. As long as we are His, the Devil has no power over us. As soon as we leave Christ's protection, we are subject to the infection that is the Prince of this World.

Lest we be too quick to look to Saint Michael or any of the other saints, angels or the like, Saint Matthew recounts Jesus's admonition that we need to believe. Believe as a little child, that is to accept Jesus' teachings like a child accepts his parents' directions, "Because I said so, that is why!" We must accept God, Jesus and the Holy Ghost in faith because He Said So. We cannot base our belief on intricate laws and teachings, but our faith must be because He Said So. No more, no less. There are many facts, many reasonings, many of this and many of that, but it boils down to: He Said So. While a very simple song, there is much truth in:

Jesus Love me.  
This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong.

--Anna B. Warner, 1820 -1915

Through out the Bible, Jesus constantly tells us to believe like little children, think about that before you get wrapped up in - How many angels can dance on the head of a pin? The answer by the way is simple - However many are required.

Think also of this particular gospel when you here the word CHOICE bandied about by those who would sacrifice their children for a fiscal improvement (a nice way to say a buck or two): **But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.** Not much of a guess to figure Jesus' position on abortion, is it? Or His position on the child abuse scandals in the Episcopal/Roman and other churches. It does not sound promising for those involved does it? This gospel also shows why you should treat your children nicely, if you don't treat them nicely, then how can you expect God to treat you nicely?

Jesus tells us not to worry about earthly comfort, but eternal life. That children are the key to that life and their faith is the key to that life. We have to believe as the children do, not questioning every little detail, but to simply believe. That is what He wants for us.

Can you feel the tie between the two Collects and the reading from Revelation and Matthew's Gospel? We need help. Our first problem is to recognize it, the second it to accept it. The Devil holds a lot of sway over this world, but if we are in Jesus' hands we are out of reach of the Devil's grasp. As soon as we get out of Jesus' hands, we are prey for the Devil. Remember Peter's admomition, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your

adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" It is critical that our faith be complete, one side to another with no breach the Devil may exploit. The most sure way is to keep our faith simple. Following the KISS approach, as it were. The more complex we make it, the more the chance is that we are going to stray. Like that of a child. And, children are the key to the future, take care of them. If we do not do either of these, our future will be rather grim.

All this is nice talk, but it is hard to do. Having said that, remember, Heaven is at the end of an uphill trail. The easy downhill trail does not lead to the summit.

The time is now, not tomorrow. The time has come, indeed. How will you ACT?

It is by our actions we are known.

### **Be of God - Live of God - Act of God**

*A Sermon By Bishop James P. Dees, Founder of The Anglican Orthodox Church*

#### **The Healing of the Man With the Palsy**

There is no truer statement anywhere, I guess, than the statement which I suspect many of you have heard: "We become like what we look at." We are inclined to adopt the habit patterns and thought patterns of the people that we associate with. It is of paramount importance therefore that we be selective in the things that we give our attention to. That we be selective in the books that we read, the movies we see, TV programs we look at, etc., be selective of our whole environment, for the things that we give attention to react on us, affecting the disposition of our characters, the conditions of our hearts, our morals, the welfare of our souls.



These things being true, we in the Christian faith are reminded that we are to look to, and to follow and to let our characters and souls be molded by the One who is of supreme importance to all mankind, to every human being, and that One, of course, is Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. He is the very image of god, who came to earth to dwell among us, to show us God, to show us God's truth, to give us hope of immortality in God, and to remake us fallen creatures into the image of Himself, by His Grace, through the power of the Spirit of God and of His Spirit, working in us and through us, through our Faith. THEREFORE, it behooves us and should be of infinite concern to us to look to Jesus to seek to follow Him, to seek to become like Him, to let God remake us by the power of His Spirit dwelling within us, into the Image of our blessed Saviour, that men seeing us may see something of God himself; and that in so doing we may become the effective instruments, by God's Grace, for His saving of the Lost, and that we, in doing so, may be saved ourselves. Christ is our Saviour; Christ is our Lord and Master and God; He is the image by which we all are judged; by His Blood shed on the Cross for us, we are saved; and by way of Him comes the Spiritual power from God which transforms us slowly, slowly, ever so slowly, into the likeness of God Himself.

Therefore, it behooves us now and always, ever to be looking to Him, seeking His

Will, seeking to walk in His ways, seeking to obey His Commandments, believing in Him, for in so doing we find Eternal Life and are given His infinite Peace that passes all understanding.

Acknowledging this, we ask, where do we find Him? How can we look to Jesus? Where? We can find him in the love of faithful Christian friends; we can find him in the beauty of His created world around us, His work is seen in the sunset, the lily, and the rose. He is experienced as we engage in faithful Christian worship and service, in visiting the sick, in visiting the lonely, in visiting shut-ins, visiting our older members, in helping to provide for the needy, and in serving Him in His Church, cleaning the Church, cutting the grass, serving at the altar, in the women's guild, singing His praise, giving Him thanks.

But, before our Saviour can be deeply experienced in these ways, it has been the witness of 2000 years of Christian experience that He must first be deeply experienced in Faith now as to the God-Man who walked the earth 2000 years ago manifesting God to me, showing them what God was like, healing the sick, raising the dead, forgiving the sinful, and showing to mankind God's love and mercy and pity, as well as his demands for righteousness, and telling of God's judgment on sin. We should look for our Saviour in the Scriptures. We should study our Bibles, and especially we should read our Saviour's life in the Four Gospels of the New Testament, for here we find our Saviour's life revealed. Here the Gospels of St. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we can look at the Son of God, and here we should be looking. Here we should fasten our mind's eyes, our devotion, for here we find the stories about Him who came to save our race. Here we see Him. Here we should be looking, in the Scriptures. And by God's Grace, and through the strengthening power that comes from above, as we look at Him, we come to be made more like Him, we come to put our trust in Him, we are given eternal life, we sense the experiencing of receiving eternal life; and when the time comes to die, we are ready confidently to entrust our souls, and the souls of our loved ones, into His keeping.

In the 9th Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, [which we read as the Gospel for the day,] we find one of the many, many stories from the life of our Lord that gives us an opportunity to look at Him as He dwelt among us. I will read this story [again] for you to refresh our memories, and I would like for us to think about it for a little while together.

And Jesus entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy: Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, this man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee: or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins (then saith he to the sick of the palsy) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men. (St. Matthew 9: 1-8)

So often we hear these stories, or we read these stories, but we so often fail to get out of them what is in them because we fail to give them enough of our attention and our concentrated study. Let us give our attention for a few minutes to this story from our Lord's life and see what we can see in it behind the historical facts that are given us. What do we see here of eternal value and supernatural meaning?

First of all, in this story, we see running through it all, evidence of the Presence of God with His power. This is the most important thing of all. God is present with these people, through His Son. His Spirit is sustaining them in their will to call on the Son of God for help. God is there is the sustaining power of His Almighty being, by whom the heaven and earth were created and are sustained through all time and eternity. God was present then, as He is present here in His Church now. God was, and is, at hand. God is here.

The second thing that we encounter in this story is the existence of human need. Human need for God is universal; all men need God everywhere all the time. We need Him for the strengthening of our souls, for the feeding of our spirits, for the strengthening of our Faith for sustaining our moral character. But particular human need is seen here in this story by this poor sick man, broken by the palsy, stricken to the point that he was unable to walk, stricken to the point where he had to be carried to Jesus by his friends, this man whom the laws of nature had decreed to live a helpless and a broken existence.

In a real and profound sense, the fate of this poor man stricken with the palsy is the fate of all humanity! For we all need the cleansing and strengthening power of the Son of God to cleanse our hearts and souls from all our sins and malice and pride and uncharitableness, jealousy, selfishness, greed, and all that fills our lives that keeps Jesus from filling us. Some of us need God's healing powers for sick and broken bodies; we all need God's healing power for the regeneration of our souls, to make us anew in the likeness of His Son, to recreate us into that state of holiness and righteousness that is becoming to those who call themselves God's own. All men need His Divine Grace and the healing influence of His Presence.

We all need Him who said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

Man's need for God is universal, we all need him. We all need Him more than we know, and here we see this need pointed out as we observe these faithful friends bringing this poor man sick of the palsy to our Blessed Lord for healing and for strength.

A third element in this story of the healing of this man is the element of profound Faith. these men had Faith, Faith in Jesus. The friends of this sick man go to the trouble of going and getting him and carrying him through the press and confusion of the crowd that always surrounded Jesus when He was publicly ministering, seeking help from the Spring of Heaven for healing. They come to Him in Faith, nothing wavering, believing; they come bringing this their friend to Him in whom they have profoundest confidence, and who is able to help. They come to Jesus as all men should come, every one of us. The Bible tells us over and over again, to cry to Him, to pray to Him, who is able to help us.

The Scriptures tell us,

The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous,  
and his ears are open unto their cry.

God tells us in the Bible to look for Him faithfully,

If with all y our hearts ye truly seek me,  
ye shall surely find me."

Our Lord tells us:

"Ask and ye shall have, seek and ye shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened unto you."

He gives us blessed assurance in His Holy Word:  
"Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer;  
thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am."

And those who cry to God come to know finally what the hymn writer knew when he wrote:

"I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew  
He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me;  
It was not I that found, O Saviour true;  
No, I was found of thee."

We should cry in faith believing utterly, or we might as well not cry at all. It is necessary that we have faith when we look to God for help. We must believe truly. "O trust in the Lord; wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart!! Believe! Trust! We need not expect help from God if we pray with little faith, half believing, filled with doubts and uncertainties. We recall that in His own home town of Nazareth, Jesus Himself was not able to do any great works "because of their unbelief."

These men who brought the man with the palsy had faith, we may be sure; and when we pray to God, we must have faith, or our prayers are idle words, and we can expect no answer.

We come now to the most important element in this story, of the healing of the man with the palsy, and that is, as we know, the person of Jesus Himself. He is the focal point of this story, as he is the focal point of all history. These men cry to God for healing and it is through the only true Mediator that they call, through Jesus. They call for help from God through Christ. And here again they set the example for us all. It is through Christ that God hears us and answers our prayers. We have an abundance of exhortation to us in the New Testament to do this. In the Gospel of St. John, Jesus tells His disciples:

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name  
that will I do, that the father may be  
glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I  
will do it."

And in St. Paul's letter to St. Timothy, we read: "...there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Not the Virgin Mary, Not the saints, but Jesus. Not Mohammed, not Buddha, but Jesus. We make our prayers to God through Christ, as did these men, and God hears and answers faithful prayers made in the Name of -- and in the Spirit of His dear Son.

These men brought this man to Jesus to be healed of his physical infirmity, to be healed of the palsy and what was the first thing that Jesus did? We remember the story. When Jesus saw him, He sensed immediately that more was wrong with this person than was apparent on the surface, that is, the palsy. Something was wrong with him

spiritually; he was carrying his sins and a burden of guilt; and so our Lord, putting first things first, sought to life his spirit and to help him spiritually, and so he did what he considered to be the most important thing first. He freed him from the burden of guilt that weighed on his conscience when he came into the presence of His Holiness. We hear those blessed words:

"Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

What happens here is what always happens when someone sincerely seeks to come into the presence of our Saviour. When we come, He always gives us more than we expect. More even than we "can desire or pray for;" for of the inestimable riches of His Grace, of the Kingdom of God, God gives good gifts to us of those things -- spiritual blessings -- of which we know not (don't even know about) and therefore cannot ask. He gives us His spiritual blessings of forgiveness, of spiritual peace, of spiritual strength, of new life, of perfect trust, of happiness in God. He is always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and Jesus gave on this occasion to this man, because he had come to Him in faith, that for which he did not even know to ask, the forgiveness of his sins. This is what we all should seek and ask for first when we enter into His Presence. His Holiness compels it.

Some of our Lord's critics were standing by on that day. We always have our critics standing by, whether we are doing good or doing evil. Having critics is nothing new. Any faithful minister of the Gospel knows this, and all of you do, I suspect. And Jesus had his critics. And they challenged Jesus when He pronounced the absolution over this man, proclaiming that his sins were forgiven.

"This man blasphemeth," they said. "Who are you to forgive sins. Only God can forgive sins."

"And Jesus knowing their thoughts, said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" For whether is easier to say, thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, arise walk?

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house."

And he got up, and took up his bed and went.

Jesus, in showing the Pharisees, his critics, that he could heal this man of the palsy, demonstrated to them that He walked in the Power of God that empowered Him also to forgive the sins of men. Jesus revealed thus to them the Divine power with which, and in which, He had come among them.

This man, this God-Man, Jesus the Christ, who walked the earth 2000 years ago, is not dead. He lives, and He is with His children still; He is with us still; and His faithful children know He is. We know He is. He is with us, in us. St. John in his first Epistle assures us,

"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him and he in God."

and again,

"Ye are of God, little children, and greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

Jesus still works miracles today for those who pray to Him in Spirit and in Truth and in accordance with His will. His promise, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," is no empty promise. He is with His children, and they know it, and He will continue to be, as He promised. And He will be with any man who will let Him -- Who will open his heart to Him. -- Who will be faithful to Him.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock;" he says.  
"If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

and He says --

"to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear...."

Jesus is with his children still, and He still works miracles in our times. I have seen them. And I suspect that some of you have too.

We thank God for these Bible stories of our saviour. We thank God infinitely for the gift of His son, Jesus, and that we can look at Him, can look to Him, and be drawn to Him, can be drawn by Him, that by His Grace, as we look to Him, we can be remade by Him to become more like Him, that by His Grace, we may be made fit to enter into the Kingdom of God in its fullness, clothed with his righteousness, clothed with his holiness, when we meet God face to face on the Judgment Day, which awaits us all, which will be a great day and a happy day, a glorious day, a day of victory, of triumph, for God's children.

### *Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon*

Bishop Dennis is a brilliant speaker. He is able to take biblical precepts and make them perfectly understandable, even to me. Oft he provides the text of his sermons and I take the utmost pleasure in passing them on:



#### **Christians and Angels**

Psalms 8, Job 38:1-7, Hebrews 1:13-2:10

St. Michael and All Angels

September 29, 2013

Today is a double duty day on our calendar of prayer and worship. First, it is the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity. Trinity season begins on Trinity Sunday, eight weeks after Easter Sunday. From Easter to Trinity we remember the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and on Trinity Sunday, the full revelation of the Holy Trinity, which means we have the full revelation of God; we know Him as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. So Trinity Sunday is the natural culmination of the first half of our calendar, which concentrates on the foundational doctrines of the Bible, or, in more Biblical language, the faith once delivered to the saints. There are twenty-six weeks in Trinity season this year. That means there are only eight weeks left until the first Sunday in Advent, when we turn our emphasis from what Christians do, back to what Christians believe, and we rejoice again in our celebrations of the birth of Christ, His

teaching about the Kingdom of God, and His glorious death and resurrection for us, all done to restore us to full fellowship with God and to purchase a place for us in His Kingdom of Righteousness.

Second, today is the day noted as the feast of Saint Michael and all Angels. You might wonder why we talk about angels. After all, they are created beings, and we don't want to make the mistake of worshipping them or praying to them, for that would be idolatry. But I can give a very good reason to talk about angels; the Bible talks about them. Jesus talked about them. In last night's reading from Matthew's Gospel Jesus said, "So shall it be at the end of the world; the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." But today, I don't want to talk so much about the angels themselves, but about the glory of God, who created and rules the realm of angels. The existence of angels reminds us that there is a mysterious realm out there some where that we can't see or contact with our senses. And this realm is populated by magnificent creatures of such power and goodness that they are beyond our comprehension. If you could combine the military and economic power of all the nations on earth, you would have a tremendous power for building up and tearing down. Yet, I suppose all that would be nothing compared to the power of a single angel. I realize the highly symbolic nature of the language of the book of Revelation, yet I am wonderfully impressed at the power ascribed to angels in the eighth and ninth chapters of that book. At the actions of angels a third of all life on earth dies, stars fall into the sea, and the sun and moon are darkened. I have no doubt that one angel could burn the earth to ashes in a moment if he wanted to. I have no doubt Satan, the fallen angel, would do it, if the immeasurable power of God did not hold him in check.

I said angels show us that a realm exists beyond our ability to know or enter. It is in this spiritual realm that angels live. The physical universe is vast. To us it is virtually endless. Yet, it is not infinite. Only its Creator is infinite. That means, the physical universe is no more than a tiny speck to God. And beyond the universe is another realm. Or maybe it's not beyond our universe. Maybe it is in the same place. Maybe the spiritual realm of angels and the physical realm of man occupy the same "space" but are of different substances, ours being material, theirs being spirit.

But all of that is speculation, and about as profitable as the Mediaeval discussions of how many angels can fit on the head of a pin. Yet there are two points about this that matter. First is that the spiritual realm exists. There is more to creation than meets the eye. There is a realm that is far different from ours in substance and in moral essence. There is a realm where powerful creatures see God face to face, recognize His greater power and pure perfection, and worship and serve Him without end.

Second, God is greater than all angels and all realms. We look at the world and we see mountains and seas, and we marvel at the power of God to create such beautiful and terrible things. They are beautiful in their wildness, and it is that wildness that makes them terrible. Mountains can radiate peace and stability, or they can quake and crush everything in their path. The sea can reflect the beauty of a sunrise, or it can bring hurricanes that wash away people and cities. We look at mountains and seas, and we marvel at the greatness of God their Creator. We should. But the other realm is greater than our realm. Angels outshine the sun. The glory of angels is greater than man's. The power of angels is greater than any storm or earthquake. And yet, they are nothing compared to their Creator and ruler.

We read in the Scriptures about angels singing at the birth of Christ. We read of them visiting Mary, Joseph and Elizabeth. We read about them at the empty tomb of Christ. We even read about them ministering to Christ before His crucifixion. But the most significant passage about angels, in my opinion is Revelation 5:11 and 12.

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

Here is a picture of an uncountable number of angels gathered around the throne of God, and what are they doing? What work is so critical that such wonderful creatures should be devoted to it? They are worshipping God. If such wonderful creatures worship God, we should, too.

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### *Rev Rick Reid of Saint Peter's Sunday Sermon*

We are happy to have a sermon from Reverend Rick Reid, minister of Saint Peter's, whose congregation is right at the Worldwide Headquarters of the Anglican Orthodox Church. Rev Rick has all the resources and challenges right at hand. I think you will enjoy his sermon.



### **St. Michael and All Angels**

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels which has been celebrated by the Christian church since at least the fifth century. Michael means "who is like God" We honor them because as the author of Hebrews writes:<sup>14</sup> *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

Now, Michael is just one of the Archangels. He is referred to as 'the angel of the Lord', because he was sent to Moses, Jacob, and Abraham and to other people throughout the history of the

world.

Michael's name shows up in the Bible in three places. The book of Daniel in the Old Testament is the first. A messenger came to Daniel while Daniel was in captivity in Babylon. The messenger reported that he was delayed in coming to comfort Daniel because he was being held by the kings of Persia. : (Dan.10:13).<sup>13</sup> *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.*

The next time Michael's name appears is in the New Testament in the Book of Jude. In The First Chapter, Ninth Verse we read of Michael challenging the Devil over false

teaching about the body of Moses. <sup>9</sup> *Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. (Jude 1.9)*

In our first lesson from the book of Revelation, the apostle John writes what he sees, and he sees war in heaven. It was "Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon or Satan." So, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels remind us there is another realm of God's creation in addition to the material realm we material beings live in. A realm so foreign to our physical senses the only way we even know it exists is because God tells us about it in the Bible.

In the Nicene Creed, we confess according to the Word of God, we believe in "God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible." What we are saying is we believe that there are at least two planes or realms of God's creation, the 'visible' and the 'invisible' which can interact.

Angels belong to the 'invisible' realm of creation. On rare occasions, they may actually be 'seen' by someone in the 'visible' realm.

But they're a part of the 'invisible' realm of creation. In other words, angels can be seen in the visible realm when they need to be.

The Bible tells us angels are 'spirit beings.' They may become visible when absolutely necessary, but they never take on human flesh and blood like ours as Jesus took on when He became man. Angels are an important part of God's creation the Bible tells us angels are all over.

In heaven, the angels are visible. The prophet Isaiah sees and hears angels gathered around the throne of God in heaven. He describes them in great detail and he tells us that they're singing ... "Holy, Holy, and Holy." In his Revelation of heaven, John sees angels and he speaks with them and they speak to him. From his heavenly perspective, John tells us that angels are being sent from heaven to earth on special missions as God's agents, doing His bidding.

What we may be surprised to find however is the amount of angelic activity here on earth. In the Old Testament, they're in the Garden of Eden with flaming swords. They're visiting Abraham and Sarah to tell them that Sarah is going to have a baby. An angel tells Abraham to stand down just as he's ready to plunge the knife into his son Isaac. There are angels all over while Israel is in Egypt, and while they make their trek through the dessert. Angels appear to kings and prophets and even to donkeys.

It's the same in the New Testament. An angel appears to Zechariah to tell him that Elizabeth is going to have a son whom he's to name John. And of course, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and Joseph to tell them that Mary is going to be with child and they are to name Him Jesus, "for He will save His people from their sins."

Angels announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds tending their flock outside Bethlehem.

Angels attend the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. Angels attend to Jesus after His temptation in the desert. Angels are doing the explaining at His resurrection, and are the ones who explain to the disciples the meaning of Jesus' ascension. It's no surprise that when Jesus comes again in glory, He will be flanked by angels.

After the Ascension an angel leads Phillip to the Ethiopian eunuch. An angel broke Peter's chains and led him out of prison. An angel struck down King Herod because of his wickedness. In all, angels are mentioned 125 times, just in Acts through Revelation.

All of this and much more is going on all around us, all the time, in the invisible realm of God's creation. In his Revelation, John sees what we will all see. <sup>11</sup> *And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;* (Rev.5:11) In our Gospel reading this morning, we see that angels are God's messengers, and they're at work watching over God's 'little children.' <sup>10</sup> *Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven* (Mat.18:10).

We are never to pray to angels or put our hope in them, or even think that the Church has set aside this day to worship them. The angels, even Michael the archangel, are a part of God's creation. They are created beings. And so we do not fall into worshipping the creation, but only the Creator.

Only the devil and his angels want the worship and praise of man. The angels of God give all praise and worship to God. John made this mistake during his vision as he was greeted by an angel: *And he saith unto me, Write, and Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*<sup>10</sup> *And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.* (Rev.19:9-10).

We are to be reminded God created angels to be His agents, and He created us to be His children. As wonderful as the angels are, they are not God's greatest love. We are. God does not honor angels by becoming an angel, but He honored us by becoming a man.

God did not give Himself up to death on the cross to save the angels; He did so to save us. God does not give His body and blood to the angels to eat and drink, but He gives His flesh and blood for those with flesh and blood. And all this He does for us because we are His beloved. He loves His whole creation. But His greatest love He reserves for us. <sup>13</sup> *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* John 15:13.

There is no hope for Satan and all his fallen angels, for God did not send His Son to die for angels, either the good ones or the bad ones. The good angels never need to repent and the bad angels never will.

God sent His Son to die for you that you would repent and believe and by believing be saved. Jesus says every time one lost sinner on earth repents, all the angels in heaven rejoice.

Because one more human, for whom Christ paid the highest price, is snatched from Satan's kingdom, and brought into the God's kingdom. One more flesh and blood sinner is rescued from death and the grave, and filled with the Spirit of life.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.

### *Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon*

We are fortunate to have Bryan's Sunday Sermon. If you want people to come to The Truth, you have to speak the truth, expound the truth and live the truth. This is really a good piece and I commend it to your careful reading.



#### **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

In Exodus (14:5-14), we learn Pharaoh was inflamed by a spirit of violence to pursue the people of God as they journeyed out of the precincts of the land of Egypt. One might wonder why, after all the devastation which God had wrought in his kingdom, that Pharaoh would seek to do with his army what he could not do with his own gods. The force he faced was supernatural not natural. Pharaoh's mighty strike force was more than a match for any other army of that time, but against the LORD of Hosts, it stood no chance.

As for the Israelites, one might assume that after witnessing the awesome display of God's sovereign might against the land of Egypt, they would have possessed a more abiding faith in him. They, of course, did not. They were murmurers from the beginning: always complaining at every turn and never giving God a chance to take action on their behalf. The bottom line was that they did not trust the LORD their God, and they were quick to turn against both him and his servant, Moses.

Returning to events of our lesson, God had led the Israelites to the shores of the Red Sea. With no boats present to aid their crossing and with the added element of Pharaoh's army bearing down upon them, they howled, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore has thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us ... than that we should die in the wilderness. This should have been a time of trustful prayer to the LORD. Instead we are presented with a despicable display of unfaithfulness. How quickly they had forgotten what they had witnessed over the previous weeks since Moses had returned to lead them out of bondage.

Let's see, there were the ten plagues which devastated the land of Egypt and not one of them affected the Israelites. Were they blind to those things which had resulted in their deliverance: the plagues of frogs, boils, lice, hail mingled with fire (in a country that never saw rain), darkness that could be felt, the river turned to blood, and the death of the first born? Then there was the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. It would seem that on the shores of the Red Sea, all these express acts and signs should have been enough to convince even the most callous skeptic among the people, but alas it was not. They were ungrateful to God for their deliverance from bondage, and they demonstrated their lack of thankfulness via their murmurings and their fearmongering. It was their ingratitude, their stiff-necked attitude and their faithlessness that became the defining characteristics of the children of Israel throughout their history.

But they have not been alone in their lack of faith as noted in the Scriptures. Even the disciples of our Lord prior to his resurrection suffered a season of doubt and denial. St. Thomas would not believe the resurrection accounts of his fellows and has been dubbed through the millennia as "Doubting Thomas." Even noble and stalwart St. Peter waffled on several occasions, even denying for a moment that he knew the Lord.

Now the difference between the disciples and the children of Israel in Moses' time is clearly that the former after witnessing the risen Lord, went forth in faith believing on

him unto death; while the latter — who had experienced a continual stream of events where God acted on their behalf — could not muster enough faith and trust in him for their deliverance from Pharaoh; or the giants in the land of Canaan; or in the commandment of God to secure all the land of Canaan during the time of Joshua. And further, in their desire to be like every other kingdom around them, they rejected God's rule over them as their king in their quest to have an earthly one. They also rejected the very prophets of God who had communicated God's plan and purpose for them, while conveniently forgetting those miracles which he had wrought in their sight such as their deliverance from the Assyrian king Sennacherib, and the works of the prophets beforehand such as Elijah. Finally, they refused to recognize the first coming of the Messiah Prince who had come to deliver them from their sins.

Witness the words of St. Stephen in Acts 7:51-53 wherein he leveled this charge: Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. Needless to say, St. Stephen's comments marked him for death at their hands as well.

And many within the Church today are not immune from the temptation to look at the pressures and problems that the Devil sends our way as being too hard for God, or are as a minimum, of no real interest to him. Let me say this in all candor, THERE IS NOTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD!!!

Write that down and keep it ever in your mind. If you need justification for it then turn to the very first chapter of Genesis and read the very first verse; and afterward, tell me that anything in this created universe is too hard for God. He made it. He designed it. He spoke it into existence. And we, who are made in his image and have a conscious awareness of his presence as regenerated people, ought to recognize the truth of God for he has given such to us in his word written.

Therefore, the birth of Isaac to a woman well passed her child-bearing years; the protection of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who had been cast into the fiery furnace of King Nebuchadnezzar for refusing to worship his golden statue; the empowering of Elijah to raise the widow of Zarephath's son from the dead, the various acts of the apostles wherein they raised the dead, healed the sick and were brought through various trials which in the ordinary course of things would have resulted in their own deaths; are all classed as miracles which defy our understanding because they are supernatural.

St. Paul reminded us in his first epistle to the Corinthians (2:1-16), that he came not preaching human wisdom, but that of God. He came not knowing anything but, Jesus Christ, and him crucified. He was given to write those words so that the faith of the believers in Corinth — as well as ours — should rest on nothing but the power of God. As he noted further, But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. The unregenerated cannot know the things of God by their own will and understanding. It is impossible for them without the coming of the Holy Ghost to empower and enliven them to see the truth in God's word written. The apostle then finished the chapter with these words: But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them,

because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

All those men and women who have been mentioned in scripture as being of the true faith, possessed a God-consciousness, which for us, as regenerated beings, refers to the mind of Christ. The Christ-centered mind seeks to honor the will of God by keeping his word and commandments. We trust him implicitly and we believe that he will fulfil the promises he made to the apostles and saints of old.

So when we read the miraculous accounts as recorded within the pages of Scripture such as the crossing of the Red Sea, we find that Moses' words still ring true for us because they offer us an eternal encouragement to trust in God's power as opposed to what those who possess so-to-speak rational minds will tell us is quite frankly impossible. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD. We should do so as well.

Let us pray,

**F**ATHER, make of us a people who are bold in our faith and who trust in thy word; and help us daily to be obedient to thy will; to possess a heart to live as we proclaim; and to watch for the glorious appearing of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ; for these things we ask in his most precious name. Amen.

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

*Lutheran Sermon on Angels – Charles Hendrickson*  
*An Excellent Sermon for St Michaels and All Angels – Bishop Jerry*  
**"St. Michael and All Angels: Messengers, Worshipers, Warriors"**  
Revelation 12:7-12

Pastor Charles Hendrickson  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
Bonne Terre, Missouri

Today in the Christian church year is the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. It always falls on September 29, and since this year that date falls on a Sunday, that's why we're celebrating this festival today.



Angels, thus, will be topic of this sermon: who they are and what they do and why we thank God for them. And we'll even get into who this mysterious figure St. Michael is a little bit. So with that by way of introduction, we begin our theme today, "St. Michael and All Angels: Messengers, Worshipers, Warriors."

First of all, we should explain just who angels are, their nature, what kind of beings they are, according to Holy Scripture. We can begin by saying that angels are created beings. Sometime during the six days of creation, the Lord God created these beings we call angels. They are unseen spirits, doing the will of God—"ministering spirits," the Bible calls them. "God's secret agents," you could almost call them: "secret," in the sense that we human beings rarely have ever been allowed to see angels, to know exactly what they are doing at any given time; and "agents," in that the

angels act at God's direction and by his authority.

The Bible is clear throughout that there is an unseen spirit world, with lots going on that we mere mortals are not privy to. We may see the results of this unseen spiritual activity in our world—in human history, in the rise and fall of nations, in the protection and safety of the church, or even of individual believers. We may see the results, but we do not see the angelic activity itself. Sometimes at key moments in salvation history God did let humans catch a glimpse of what's going on in the spirit realm, and we have those moments recorded for us in the Scriptures. And that's the only place where we have reliable information about angels, that is, in the Bible. Do not base your theology of angels on what you have seen in TV shows or movies or what some person claims an angel told them in a private revelation. No, only in God's Word do we get the solid truth about angels.

And the truth about angels, as we survey the Sacred Scriptures, we can briefly summarize in three words: messengers, worshipers, and warriors. We'll take these one at a time.

One, angels are messengers. In fact, the word "angel" means "messenger." The Greek word "angelos" can be translated as that, "messenger." That's the word that used to identify these unseen spirit beings, because often when we encounter them in the Bible, that's what they're doing: delivering a message. God sent angels to deliver messages to man, particularly at critical moments in God's dealings with mankind.

For example, the angel Gabriel was sent, first to Zechariah, to announce the coming birth of John, the forerunner of the Lord, and then to the virgin Mary, to announce that she was to give birth to the Christ child himself. And when she did, on that Christmas night, an angel appeared to some shepherds out in a field, to let them know that that night a Savior had been born to them, which is Christ the Lord. Then, fast forward, and we come to the resurrection and ascension of our Lord. Again, angels are sent to deliver the message. The two young men at Jesus' tomb—they tell the women, "He is not here. He is risen, just as he said." And forty days later, at Jesus' ascension, they tell the disciples: "Why do you stand staring up into the heavens? This Jesus will come again in the same way you saw him go up into the heavens." Key moments in the life and work of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you find angels coming to deliver a message, explaining the moment to the persons who witness it. Angels are God's messengers.

Second, angels are worshipers. Go back to Christmas night. After the one angel delivers the message to the shepherds, then a whole host of angels light up the sky and sing the praises of God: "Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." That's worship. And in the throne room scenes of Revelation, angels are leading the praises of God, just like they did back in the temple scene of Isaiah, where they were singing "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of thy glory." Notice, by the way, how the angels, in their worship of God, set the pattern for the worship of the church. In the historic Christian liturgy, the main canticle in each half of the Divine Service is based on one of these songs of the angels: the Gloria in Excelsis in the Service of the Word; and the Sanctus in the Service of the Sacrament. Angels are worshipers, and we in the church follow their lead and join in their worship.

Angels are messengers. Angels are worshipers. Third, angels are warriors. Warriors? Yes, warriors. Now this may disturb our image of angels as being rather soft, even

effeminate, creatures, or else as cute little cherubs with rosy cheeks. No, those are not biblical ways of looking at angels. In the Bible, when angels are described, they can be fiery and frightening. Rather than "Touched by an Angel," more likely would be "Torched by an Angel." When angels appear to human beings, they startle and scare the people, so much so, that the angels invariably have to say, "Fear not," "Do not be afraid." Angels are fearsome warriors. They do battle for God. They are his troops that he sends out to do battle for us, on our behalf, against any evil forces that would harm us, whether seen or unseen. God's angels are our guardians and protectors, guarding the church as a whole, protecting particular churches in various places, and even guarding individual Christians. They guard us against all types of harm, physical and spiritual. We can't say for sure that every individual Christian has his own guardian angel assigned to him, but we can say—and say it with thanksgiving and confidence—that God does send his angels to watch over us from day to day. Luther has it right when he has us pray in the Daily Prayers, "Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."

Now this brings us to St. Michael and the special focus of this day, which is, how God guards and protects us with his angels, and in particular, how St. Michael the Archangel does battle for us so that the old evil foe, the devil, does not have any power over us.

St. Michael is a rather mysterious figure in the Bible, only mentioned a few times. You have most of those mentions in the readings today from Daniel and Revelation. The name Michael—"Mi-cha-el" in the Hebrew—means "Who is like God?" That's a good question. Indeed, who is? No one can match God in his power and majesty. But Michael the Archangel, as God's appointed agent, acting with his authority, is one who is like God in his might. He is the one whom God uses to throw down Satan from his power over humanity.

Now we need to ask: How can Michael do this? On what basis? And here is where the gospel in all of this comes in. The reason Michael can defeat the devil in battle is because Christ has defeated him on the cross.

You see, this is why St. Michael and All Angels is considered a Christ festival. That's why the paraments are white this morning. St. Michael and All Angels have their prominence because they glorify the person and work of Christ and carry out the victory he has won for us. Jesus Christ, the very Son of God, has defeated the devil and all evil, and therefore St. Michael and All Angels can act to throw down Satan and guard and protect the church. This is good, isn't it?

The message from Michael today is this: We win. We Christians win the final victory because Jesus has redeemed us from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil. Remember, this was promised right from the beginning, when God cursed the serpent and told him that the woman's seed would strike him in the head, dealing him the fatal blow. This the woman's seed Jesus did when he was nailed to the cross. For that took away the devil's power over us. Our Champion Jesus took our sins and carried them to the cross and suffered and died for your sins, my friend. This took away the devil's ammunition against you. The devil has nothing left to charge you with before God. Jesus already served the death sentence for you. Take that, Accuser! You are defeated! In your face! Jesus goes and declares his victory over hell. Look, now he rises from the dead on the third day, showing that his mighty life has power over death.

You will share in this eternal life, you who have been baptized into Christ. Jesus' victory is yours. We conquer by the blood of the Lamb.

Now God dispatches Michael and the angel army to do the final clean-up operation. These mighty warriors win the day. Your future is secure, dear Christian. Walk on in, the way is clear. And God will send his angels to see that you get there. "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." No evil shall prevail against you.

Today on this Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, we have heard that angels are unseen, created beings, ministering spirits sent to do God's will. They are messengers, they are worshipers, and they are warriors. They serve and protect. They serve God and protect us. The power they have to throw down Satan and guard the church comes from the victory Christ has won for us by his death and resurrection. And so all of this is something for us to worship and praise God for, namely, the ministry of St. Michael and All Angels.

### *After Church Hospitality*

Sadly, no after church snacks. The same story every week, is it not? The fact is that we are supposed to be on a low carb diet and there really aren't any low carb snacks that appeal to us. So, with no fatted dog nut in sight, we were out of luck! Please someone, between now and next Sunday invent some no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
6 October 2013	<b>On the Road – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>

*People in our Prayers* - <http://faithfulcenturionprayerteam.blogspot.com/>

### **Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.**

It is not that God knows not our needs, for He surely does. Yet, Jesus commanded us to ask God for those same needs. In addition to the obvious of asking God for help, offering thanksgiving and the like, prayer helps us focus our thoughts on how we might do God's work.

The Prayer Team of the Church of the Faithful Centurion was established to help our members and fellow Christians pray for those in need and to give thanks as well for the blessings we have been granted.

### **Who can be on the list? Do I have to be a member of the Church of the Faithful Centurion to be prayed for?**

No! The only qualification to be on the list is that you want our prayer team to pray for you. We are Christians and are happy to pray for you, no matter who you are. If you want help from God, you are our kind of people.

### **What is the commitment from the prayer team?**

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at last once per day.

### **How do I get myself or someone else on the prayer list?**

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - [jack@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:dru@faithfulcenturion.org), or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

### **What should I ask for?**

Depends on what you want. Some people merely want God to be asked to heal their ills and be mentioned by their first name, others want a specific outcome and / or have more of their personal information known to the team. Ask for what you want. It is your desire and need for prayer the team is attempting to meet. For typical examples, see the list below.

### **Updating the Team**

If you are on our prayer list, or if you have submitted a person that you have asked us to pray for, please update one of the team members or Hap in person, by telephone or email. It helps to be able to pray specifically for these individuals including their specific needs; plus if they get better, it is nice to give thanks!

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

*Prayer List Notice – If you have someone on the prayer list and their needs have changed, please let us know. We'd like to update our prayers to reflect the need and most important to give thanks!*

### **Marriage**

*Brian and Mel Smith* were married on 25 August 2013. Please pray that they might be brought together as one in God that their marriage might prosper.

### **Travel**

*Doug and Veronica Lambert* are on travel this week to visit their parents.

*Bishop Jerry and Debbie* are on travel this week.

*Hap, Dru and Jack* are on travel this week.

### **Birthday**

*Doug Lambert* celebrated his 67<sup>th</sup> birthday on 28 September 2013.

*Gayle Charlesworth* celebrated her birthday on 18 September 2013.

*Shamim Gray* celebrated her 46<sup>th</sup> birthday 4 September 2013.

*Hope DeLong* celebrated her birthday 30 August 2013.

### **Anniversary**

*Doug and Veronica Lambert* celebrated their 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 22 September 2013.

### **Loss of Home**

*Sarah* who lost her home and all the contents when her house caught fire and burned to the ground near the end of January 2013. Her beloved dog was taken in the fire.

Please pray for Sarah as she has many decisions at this time and help her to know Jesus will be with her to help to make the "crooked road straight."

### **Move**

*Jason Naylor and his lovely wife Marla* are currently stationed in Southwest Asia, probably through the end of 2013. Pray for their continued safety and a reasonably tolerable stay in that part of the world.

*Ryan Hopkins* has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2014. Please pray for God's guidance in his life as he works and studies.

Help him to see where God would like him to go from here and how he should get there.

*The Thomas Family* has just moved to Okinawa for a second short tour. Please pray for this new assignment to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends. In particular pray that Kristyna and Mitchell will develop good friends and schoolmates there so as to further their development as both Christians and citizens. Things seem to be going well where the sun rises on the United States, so keep praying! Give thanks and ask for continued good developments.

### ***Departed***

*Thorsten Uekerman* lost his father on 22 September 2013. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for his family who remain behind, in particular his son Thorsten.

*Gene* passed on 20 September 2013, after a difficult last few days with lung problems. He had been so infected he has to be told when to breathe. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for his family who remain behind.

*Iva* passed away 19 September 2013, after painful last days. Her family and friends are grateful for your prayers, thankful for her time here on earth and even more that she is at peace with our Lord.

*Bernie Garcia, 56*, passed away on 31 July 2013, as a result of complications of Hepatitis C. He was hoping for a liver transplant but because of circumstances was unable to receive one in time. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for his family who remain behind, in particular his mom and dad, Mary and Gil Garcia.

### ***Nearing the end of their time here on earth***

*Ester Whidett (Wilson)*, Mark Wilson's mother, has congestive heart failure and appears to be near the end of her time here on earth. Please pray for a peaceful transition from this world to home, for trust in the Lord, a vision of things to come, as well as peace of mind for Ester and her family, in particular her son Mark.

*Colonel Drue McMillan* is nearing the end of his time here on earth. Please pray for a peaceful transition from this world to home, for trust in the Lord, a vision of things to come, as well as peace of mind for Drue and his family, in particular his son David.

*Saundra* is in ICU with congestive heart failure after a heart operation. She is aged and frail. Saundra is near the end of her time here on earth. Please pray for comfort, understanding, strength and guidance for Saundra and her family who will of necessity remain behind. Pray for the love of God to stay foremost in their hearts.

*Polly* is in hospice care with dementia and spinal stenosis. Please pray for her as she prepares to go home to be with her family who have gone before her. Pray for the faith of her family to build and the transition to be good.

### ***Homebound or Infirm***

*Joan* has had serious medical problems that have kept her confined. On 26 September 2013, she took a fall and fall and after test and time in the hospital she does not have any broken bones. Please pray that in the weeks ahead her health will remain stable

*Lou* has aspiration pneumonia. Please pray for the infection to be knocked down and for her continued recovery.

*Frank* has been coping with various ailments from older age. He is in his 90s and it has been a difficult year. Pray he will find comfort in God, that those who provide care to him will pay attention to him, do their best and give him the love we all desire. Pray that the coming year will provide relief to him.

*Norma, Sara's mother* is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally, with both dementia and Alzheimer's. She is slowly drifting away, though she still recognizes Sara and prayer gives her a sense of peace. Please pray for both Sara and her mother to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders so they can deal with the many problems involved.

### ***In need of a miracle or understanding of God's Plan***

*Ray Daley* is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and served his country during the Korean War era. Ray is taking chemotherapy treatments for cancer. Meanwhile his son Trevor is in the hospital in a coma and seems to have lost the will to live. As volunteer chaplain, I have been asked to visit this family and offer prayers and encouragement. Thanks for your prayers in advance.

*Pat* has been under treatment for colon cancer for sometime. He has had major complications the last few days and your prayers will be appreciated by family and friends.

*Sasha* a young lady with a husband and two children had diagnosed with breast cancer whose cells have spread. They are going to attempt a bilateral mastectomy. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that her remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Sasha and her family, particularly her husband, put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry. Right now she is "comfortable on borrowed time." Sasha is grateful for all who pray for her and asks you continue to pray for her remaining time here on earth.

*Dorothy* had pneumonia, on checking her lungs they found tumors which permeated the lung area. Further investigation found a primary site in the colon, with the lung being secondary. It would appear there is no viable treatment at this time. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that her remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Dorothy and her family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry.

*Scott*, one of our Lord's ministers who collapsed a week ago and is in the ICU of a Medical Center since he had a pulmonary embolism, with a concurrent infection of several bacterial agents. He has stopped breathing on several occasions, and may have undergone brain damage. He currently is on DNR. Please pray for recovery so that he will continue to do his Lord's calling.

*Becky* has fourth stage metastasized lung cancer and is not doing well with chemotherapy treatments. Please pray for Becky and her husband as they are together during this difficult time in their lives.

*Larry Howes* suffered a fairly severe stroke. 4 December 2012, doctors replaced a valve in a shunt that had been put in about two weeks before, and Larry responded very well. He was able to go home.

Pray also for confidence in our Lord for Larry and his family. Larry needs a miracle, pray for one. Please.

*Colleen* has been battling pancreatic cancer over the last year and it has now spread to one of her lungs. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

*Christine* has cancer of the colon, which spread to her liver; she is receiving chemotherapy and is having difficulty eating. Please pray for the medical team treating her to pay attention and do their very best; pray also for confidence in our Lord for Christine and her family.

*Todd* and *Kenny* have both been fighting osteocarcinoma for over five years and have been told their time here on earth is nearing its end, absent a miracle from God. Both are ready to go home and leave the pain, but would like to stay. Please pray for them and their families.

### ***Surgery***

*Pricilla* is about to undergo surgery for an infection in her uterus. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Pricilla and her family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*Dustin* who was injured in a work accident when stainless steel sheet metal fell on his right hand. His thumb was severely injured as some of the bones were crushed. Dustin will have surgery on Thursday 22 August 2013, to reconstruct and reset his thumb. They do not expect him to lose his thumb. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Dustin and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*Jamil* was injured in a car accident. His nose was fractured and he will be operated on Thursday 22 August 2013.

*John* will have a Vitrectomy; to address what seems a macular pucker, suck out some "gel" and thereby to marginally improve his vision in his left eye. This will be done on Friday 21 June 2013. He and his family will appreciate your prayers.

*John* will undergo surgery on Friday 31 May 2013. It is anticipated he will spend an additional 10-12 days at the hospital and then 6 weeks in recovery at home. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that John and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*Dave Pressey*, a bishop with the Anglican Episcopal Church, one of our close fellow jurisdictions, had cataract surgery; his retina tore and he had emergency surgery on Memorial Day. He still has only very blurred in his eye and has headaches. Please pray for healing for his retina and for peace of mind for Dave and his family.

*Eddie* has upcoming bladder surgery. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Eddie and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

### ***Testing and Treatment***

*Mackenzie* is a young girl with leukemia. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mackenzie, as well as for her family, and for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Anita* was operated on for an Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma tumors and has been in remission for sometime. After a biopsy of her left lung, three nodules were

located in one lung and two in the other. She and her husband are traveling a long distance on 25 September 2013, with hopes of being admitted to a research study at a major hospital for Genome Mapping of Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma. Furthermore, Anita is scheduled for surgery on 30 September 2013. Please keep Anita and her family in prayer as they travel tomorrow and the week ahead.

*Mack* has had diabetes most of his adult life. Circulation in his legs is very bad and doctors are considering amputation. Please pray his medication will help and he will not face amputation. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mack and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Michael* has been diagnosed with lung cancer recently after making it through gastro intestinal cancer last year. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Michael and his wife Gayle; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Ken Strauch* has been tired and is anemic, he had a colonoscopy which found a pair of polyps which were removed and are being tested. Just for good measure they found he has a hiatal hernia with ulcers, basically part of his stomach is pushed up into his esophagus and is bleeding from there. Sounds there may be surgery involved. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Ken and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Jo Ann* has been hospitalized for overstress, she was in the hospital with severe pancreatic pain. They found a blockage and medication has helped. Jo Ann has had some recent medical issues; appendicitis, a blood disease and more. It really seems like she has had about all she can deal with on her own now. Please pray that she might find a way to let God carry her worry and open her heart to Him and to her family; give her family the strength to help her in a manner which will be effective. Pray also for a complete and rapid recovery from her pancreas problem.

*Adriano* is in the hospital due to high sugar and high blood pressure. He is very weak and will appreciate your prayers.

*Heather* recently found out she has cancer. Please pray for peace of mind for her and for the medical team treating her will be guided to the right solution.

*Jim* has had an aneurism and blood clots. Pray that healing will come.

*Bob* has experienced several Transient Ischemic Attacks<sup>1</sup> (TIA) recently. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Bob and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment.

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<sup>1</sup> A transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a transient episode of neurologic dysfunction caused by ischemia (loss of blood flow) – either focal brain, spinal cord or retinal – without acute infarction (tissue death).

TIA's have the same underlying cause as strokes: a disruption of cerebral blood flow (CBF), and are frequently referred to as mini-strokes. TIA's and strokes cause the same symptoms, such as contralateral paralysis (opposite side of body from affected brain hemisphere) or sudden weakness or numbness. A TIA may cause sudden dimming or loss of vision (amaurosis fugax), aphasia, slurred speech (dysarthria) and mental confusion. But unlike a stroke, the symptoms of a TIA can resolve within a few minutes or 24 hours. Brain injury may still occur in a TIA lasting only a few minutes. Having a TIA is a risk factor for eventually having a stroke or a silent stroke.

*Laurie* has been ill for two years and was admitted to the Emergency Room the night of 23 July 2013, for dehydration. She received a CAT scan, which turned up a spot on her lung. Laurie is an oncology nurse and fears the worst. Please pray for peace of mind for Laurie and for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment

*Mark Wilson* was hospitalized with stomach problems. They turned out to be a set of very bad ulcers, for which he is grateful as they are eminently treatable. He is out of the hospital and recovering. Please give thanks for the good result and pray he will be able to follow the medical advice.

*Georgia* has liver and pancreatic cancer. The doctors are evaluating whether to do surgery and how to tackle the disease. Georgia is a faithful Christian and she will appreciate your prayers. Pray for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment. Pray also for peace of mind and trust in God for Georgia and her family.

*Lana's* doctor found something on her lymph nodes and ovaries. Pray for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment. Pray also for peace of mind and trust in God for Lana and her family.

*Sarah* wife of Rev Geordie (AOC – UK) has been treating for ovarian cancer. The chemotherapy drugs she has been taking do not seem to be reducing the cancer cells the way it was hoped. She is going to stop taking them until January 2014; when they will start with new drugs. It is hoped that will shock the cancer into remission. In the meantime, she will be taking Avocet should keep the cells from increasing or multiplying. She will continue building fluid in her abdominal area which will have to be drained. This is turning into a lifetime of treatment kind of thing, rather than a one shot deal. This has been a difficult surprise for Sarah, but she is adjusting very well with God's help. There are a number of drug combinations to try, but she has hard road ahead. Please pray this new plan for chemotherapy will work and Sarah can tolerate the treatment. Sarah and Geordie both trust all will work out in the end and ask God's help for the interim. They ask He guide them and the medical team treating Sarah and that the team pay attention and do their very best. They both ask you pray they will be able to let God carry all their worry.

### *Healing*

*Brian* finished the chemotherapy and final radiation treatment for his upper lung and bronchial area cancer. A biopsy and CAT Scan the week of 9 September 2013, turned out to be a re-occurrence of the cancer in a slightly different location. He cannot have any more radiation, but is on a course of a different chemotherapy, one week on, three weeks off and repeat. He made it through the first week; Brian asks we pray for strength to undergo the new treatment. He is weak and tired; his spirit remains high. Please also pray Brian will rest and not over extend himself. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Brian and his new wife Mel, so he can rest and gain strength; pray for the medical team treating him to continue to pay close attention and do their very best; pray also he can quit smoking NOW.

*Sylvia Lee*, Sandra Lee's mother, had been suffering from undiagnosed kidney failure;

doctors finally figured out what the problem was and offered her "hospice care", a second opinion suggested dialysis. She is now starting dialysis. Please pray for strength and vitality to return to her and for peace of mind for Sylvia and her family, as well as their continued faith and in God as the Great Physician. They pray for help to listen to God's voice and guidance through this journey together.

*Jeong* was in an auto accident and sustained a serious back injury. Please pray for a full and rapid recovery.

*Dale* was hospitalized Sunday 25 August 2013, after a heart attack. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating him and for peace of mind for Dale and his family.

*Gil Garcia* developed a bed sore which precludes sitting and is now confined to his bed. Gil has very smooth and delicate skin, please pray for a rapid healing of the sore so he can get out of bed and move around in his chair. Gil spent almost a year in the hospital the last time this happened. His faith and his attitude are almost beyond belief, he is an example to us all. But, we pray this time he will heal quickly. Pray also for his lovely wife Mary who takes care of him. Pray for both of them also for strength to deal with the loss of their son Bernie.

*Bill* had malignant growth removed from a lip last month and seems to be experiencing a re-growth of the cancer. He asks your prayer for the medical team treating him and for peace of mind for himself.

*Sarah* has been released after several days in the hospital because of her low sodium. Pray she will continue to heal.

*Hank* has osteoporosis, which has caused him a great deal of pain and inconvenience in the past few years. Pray for his healing and that his medical bills will be met.

*Evelyn* is an elderly woman who has had problems with her eyes and is now blind. It appears some sight will return shortly, pray for that to happen!

*Emma Langstaff* has now taken over the Chicken Pox her son Jack, who got them from his sister Eve who acquired them at Disneyworld. She asks that you pray for a mild case and a full and rapid recovery.

*Joanne* has begun kidney dialysis as a result of kidney failure due to extensive chemotherapy. Additionally she cares for an adopted drug addicted baby who is now nine years old. Please pray for her to keep her faith, to let the Lord carry her worry and concern and to give her strength. Pray also for those treating her that they might pay attention and do their best.

*Mr. N. Anand* is in the hospital and is seriously ill. He is being encouraged to pray for repentance of his sins and to depend upon our dependable God for a cure and recovery of his health. Pray that he will be a strong witness for Christ.

*Jacob* has been going through some dental procedures and has some pain and aggravation with the numbness. Please pray for comfort and strength for him, as well as for guidance for the medical team treating him that they might pay attention and do their best.

*Jean* fell and broke her ankle in three places. She will be in the hospital for rehabilitation for the next 6 weeks. Please pray for comfort and strength for her, as well as for

guidance for the medical team treating her that they might pay attention and do their best.

*Bud and his wife* for their continued welfare and enthusiasm. Bud has been advised of an aneurism in his heart of a size not mandating immediate surgery. This comes at a time when he has sole care of his wife who recently broke two vertebrae and thereafter sustained pneumonia.

*Virginia* has Sinus and Allergy problems giving her severe problems. Pray that the Doctor will discover why it continues and find a cure.

*Steve Thornell* had a brain aneurysm which was found before it burst. He is home from the hospital and working hard on recovery. He lacks energy from seven days in the hospital. His doctor told him he has to make serious life changes. One of the two main arteries in the back of the head is now completely closed. He must take blood thinners, he has thick blood and recent chemotherapy made it worse. Steve has always operated at 110 percent, he needs help to slow down. Please pray for trust in the Lord and a full and rapid recovery. Pray for peace of mind for Steve and his family.

*Arlen* is receiving treatment for lung cancer and recently experienced a ruptured colon during treatment. She is alone in Oregon but does have a friend who has traveled a great distance to be at her side. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Arlen.

*Oscar* discovered some time ago he had blood clots in his leg and lung. He has been treated for them and has not been cured. He now will be facing surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.

*Angela* had an ischemic stroke (clot). Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Angela. Please pray also that she and her family might put their worries on our Lord's back so she can work hard towards recovery.

*Nora* had a stroke mid February 2013. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Nora. Please pray also that she and her family might put their worries on our Lord's back so she can work hard towards recovery.

*Linda* has been hospitalized for several days with a gastrointestinal problem. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Linda.

*Dester* is suffering from unknown skin and diseases. Please guide the medical team treating him to find out what the problem is and cure it. Pray also for Dester to trust in the Lord.

*Lee* has Arterial Fibrillation; the medical people are not sure how to help her. Please pray for guidance for the team treating her and for Lee and her family to make the right decisions regarding treatment.

*Nell* recently adopted two children and has just been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

*Sarah* is recovering from a stroke, but fell and broke bones. Please pray for her peace of mind and rapid and full recovery. Pray for trust in God for her and her family.

*Mary Lou* has been suffering with seizures. She was in the hospital with a 24 hour

monitor and is being sent home from the hospital with two medications and orders to return in 2 months for another MRI to review whatever is going on in her brain. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating her, as well as peace of mind and trust in God for her and her family.

*Kathleen* has spent the last two weeks in the hospital. She has been diagnosed with colitis, shingles and possibly colon cancer. Pray she will be comfortable and begin to heal.

*Rachel* has Mitochondrial Myopathy. This is a hereditary disease of the muscles and they do not have a cure for it. Part of her pain is her family does not believe she is indeed ill, as she appears to be just fine. Please pray her family will learn the truth and be supportive of her; pray also the medical people treating her will find the right measures to minimize the disease. Most particularly pray for Rachel's trust in God.

*Nicolas* is in the hospital with serious symptoms of a heart disorder. Please pray for peace of mind for him and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

*Mrs. Baek* an elderly women fell and injured her spine. Doctors cannot repair the spinal injury due to her age. She fell again the morning of 12 December 2012, breaking her collar bone which is also untreatable. Mrs. Baek is in severe pain and will appreciate your prayers.

*Juanita* is a young girl who was in a coma because of a blood disease. She has not come out and is gaining strength. They are awaiting results from blood samples. Her family thanks you for your prayers and asks that you continue.

*Barbara* had a accident while cooking and the pressure cooker blew up in her face, causing second and third degree burns over her face and upper body. Because of this she has incurred kidney problems and may need a transplant.

*George* had foot surgery. Please give thanks for the surgery and pray for a full and rapid recovery.

*Nellie* is in the emergency room of a hospital in a great deal of pain. Please pray for peace of mind for her and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

*Lauralee Meade* underwent a lumpectomy on Friday after Thanksgiving. A further anomaly has been discovered and she had additional preventative radiation treatment. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Lauralee will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

*Kevin Gerhart* discovered cancer on his neck. He underwent radiation and chemotherapy. Please pray for the medical team treating Kevin that they might pay attention, do their very best and find the source; that the treatment might be successful and he might live a long and healthy life to His honor and glory. Pray also for trust in God and peace of mind for Kevin, his wife and family.

*Bill, Sara's husband*, had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011, to remove a tumor. Bill is doing better keeping the doctor's instructions, for which we are all grateful, including taking chemotherapy once a day for two more years. He has radically decreased the consumption of alcohol and eating at least mostly properly. Please pray for help for him to continue do all this. Please pray also

that Bill might turn his heart outward to help those around him, as well as live a long and healthy life to the honor and glory of God. Pray also for peace of mind for Bill and his wife Sara.

*Kay Denton* (Mrs. Kay) has had a chest infection, perhaps viral, but seems to be getting better. She actually sent an iMessage last week, but did not hang around for a response a minute later! Please pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude.

*Matt Alcantara*, age 15, has Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), a very rare and often lethal form of cancer with limited treatment options. This is a disease that is about 90 percent fatal in a couple of years. He has no hip joint on one side, but he walks and swims! Courage? Guts? You bet! Please also give thanks for the great faith of Matt and his entire family. Their faith and trust is a wonderful example for each and every one of us. But, now is not the time to stop praying. Actually, it never is the time to stop praying!

*Judith Clingwall*, is afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is currently in Laurel Place, an extended care facility in Surrey, British Columbia. Judith's condition has worsened recently. Please pray for her to take an active part in her own life, for her strength, peace of mind, trust in God and remission of the disease so she might return home to her family. Pray also for strength for her husband Martin as he deals with all the problems and stress of Judith's situation.

*Vince* (age 15), reoccurrence of Osteosarcoma, recent testing found a nickel sized tumor in his lungs. The doctors are consulting with a specialist in Houston. Please pray for guidance for the medical team and for peace of mind for Vince and his family.

### ***Thanksgiving and Continued Healing***

Please join together in thanking the Lord for strengthening *Christopher*, a young man with psychological problems who departed meds to a bad effect, for his maintaining healthy discipline the last six months, and join together in praying that he continue to be infused with strength and rationality.

*Pat* underwent successful major heart surgery on 25 September 2013. Please give thanks for the successful outcome and pray for continued healing and a complete recovery for Pat.

*Jane*, US Army Korea, had a tumor. She returned to the CONUS, underwent five hours of surgery which went exceedingly well. The tumor came out completely, on the surface it appears non-malignant, testing will be done to confirm. Please give thanks for the surgical team doing a great job and the great result. Pray for a complete recovery for Jane.

*Kathy Cardin* had successful surgery on 2 August 2013, to remove a cyst on her liver. The surgery went very well and she seems to be recovering ahead of schedule, on the other hand she also feels like she got hit by a truck. Please give thanks for the great result and pray for continued healing.

*Dennis* has heart problems; now the medical people treating him discovered a large mass on his liver which turned out to be a cyst, just like Kathy above! Please give thanks for this great development and pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Dennis and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that the contemplated surgery might go well.

*Dwight* had major oral surgery, for which he gives thanks. He is recovering slowly and asks your prayers to speed the process.

*Joyce* broke her left leg and sprained her right foot in a fall and had surgery the morning of 24 July 2013. She asks you to give thanks for the surgery having gone well and asks you also pray for her continued healing, she will be spending several weeks her right leg in a walking boot and several months with her left leg in a cast.

*Mike* was very ill in hospital. He is doing much better now and his family asks you to give thanks for the miraculous recovery. Mike is a veteran who has served his country when she called. Please pray he will open his heart to God so He can make Mike's crooked road straight and pull him towards the summit rather than to the pit.

*James* had surgery the morning of 4 April 2013 at Cancer Treatment Centers of America which appears to have gone well. The pathology report found the high grade carcinoma cancer was confined to the bladder. There was no sign of cancer in surrounding areas, tissues, organs, etc. The Sovereign King of heaven and earth has blessed Jim immensely; he will not have to endure chemo or radiation, he will continue with various tests and see the physicians. Please give thanks for the good result and the work of the surgical team paying attention and doing their very best. Pray for James' continued recovery and for him and his wife Dawn to be able to put their worry and concern on His Back.

*Jeff* had successful surgery on Monday 4 March 2013, at Vanderbilt Medical Center to remove his esophagus as the doctors felt this is the only remedy for pre-cancerous and cancerous cells in his esophagus and stomach. Please give thanks for the successful surgery and pray that his pain level will go down and he will recover quickly. Pray for Jeff and his family to keep their faith in God and let him carry their worries.

*Rick* is recovering from hip replacement surgery in the middle of February 2013.

*Buzz Baron* had C5-6 surgery the morning of 3 March 2013, which went well. Please give thanks for the surgical team paying attention and doing their best and for a good result; pray also for a full and rapid recovery.

*Karen* had surgery the afternoon of 1 March 2013 to remove a spot on her lung; the surgery went well and the spot was benign. Please give thanks for the great result. Pray also for continued trust in God and peace of mind for Karen, as well as a rapid recovery.

*Dick's* left arm was amputated after treating for Merkel Cell carcinoma over a year. He is now believed to be cancer free and is waiting to be fitted with an artificial arm. Please join Dick and his family in giving thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his recovery as well as for their trust in God.

*Traci* had surgery colon cancer on 27 December 2012. The surgery went very well and she appears to be cancer free. But, she had a pulmonary embolism and another clot in the artery to the spleen which will keep her in the hospital for at least several days. Traci is beginning to be weary of her medical situation. Please pray that she will not become despondent. Pray that she will open her heart to God's Grace that He might enter in to her heart and strengthen her.

*Bob Smouse* had shoulder surgery on 28 November 2012. He would appreciate your thanksgiving prayers. While the surgery apparently went well, he is still in pain

and would also appreciate prayers for continued healing and the pain to subside. He promises to work very hard on recovery therapy.

*Carol Stone*, the sweet wife of Mike Stone, recovered far better than expected from a severe brain bleed, but fell recently and broke her hip.

Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Mike, guidance for the medical team treating Carol and strength for Carol as well as faith and trust. No one can ever understand the why of these things here on earth. Sara who passed this request on asks that you pray in both faith and hope.

### **Business**

*Mark's* business is in difficulty. He works in a shrinking field, of which he is one of the country's true masters, but there is little work available. He asks that you pray that he can find a way to survive in his industry, which he loves and needs his talents. Pray he can find new sources of business and new ways of doing things, perhaps someone to partner with to better use his talents. Pray also for those who work for and with him that they might do their best to help.

### **Employment**

*Chris* and several others at his firm were let go after many years of faithful service. Please pray that they might find a company that can use their considerable skills and dedication to their mutual benefit. Pray also for those who remain behind that they might find peace in the confusion caused by the departures.

*Doug* recently became unemployed from his job of 18 years. He has been applying for jobs, but unable to get one at this time. His wife is working; this is not enough for the family. Please pray he will find employment with a firm that will be able to use his considerable skill and hard work to benefit both the firm and the family.

*Catherine and Lewis* are at a low ebb due to a struggle for employment. Your fervent prayers will be appreciated.

*Lori* is considering a potential change in her employment. Please pray for God's guidance in considering all aspect of her potential work.

*Rodriguez Family* are looking for work. It seems many obstacles have been put in their way of finding employment. Please pray they will find employment with a firm that will be able to use their considerable skill and hard work to benefit both the firm and the family.

*Sarah* is concerned about the future with her company. She would appreciate prayers for her continued employment and that her firm might find more and better ways to use her considerable skills.

### **Financial Guidance and Healing**

*David and Lorna* are having financial problems. They are trying to find a smaller home which may be more affordable. *Lorna* has had an ongoing battle with brain cancer, her trips back and forth to the hospital have drained their finances to the point they sometimes struggle to have enough food in the house. Please pray for *Lorna's* healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

### **Guidance**

*Sam* and her *two children* that have been living in a shelter and are to lose their place there. Please pray a place will be found they can stay in and recover.

Please pray *Darlene* will surrender her life to Christ.

*Norrie* is facing daily exams in the weeks ahead. Pray for calmness and concentration and to do the best possible.

*Jonathan* is addicted to drugs. He is now in jail awaiting trial. His parents and friends will appreciate it if you will keep him in your prayers for him to find the root of his trouble and accept God's help to heal addiction.

*Beth* is suffering from ungodly treatment in her marriage. Please pray God will guide her in her behavior, actions and thoughts that she might be able to lead her husband to God so her marriage might prosper to the benefit of them.

*Brandon* a young man from a Christian family who married a year ago and almost immediately became estranged from his family. As a result he has had a serious problem with keeping the civil law. Please pray for Brandon that he will return to the Lord and the many problems will be eventually settled. Pray the hurt he has caused so many will be helped with our Lord's care and love.

*Dennis* has some decisions to make and will appreciate our Lord's guidance.

*Earl* to read and understand Scriptures he has been given.

*Steve Sundberg* had a heart attack after Easter 2011, then a five-way heart by-pass. In addition to the bypass surgery, he has been through a horrible divorce and lost his job after some 30 years service. Steve is very thrifty and a good investor so he is reasonably ok financially. The best thing is that he has trust in the Lord.

*Jeanette* has had many members of her family die from diabetes and several are near death now. Jeanette does not know the Lord and is despondent and perplexed about her family and herself. Please pray she can open her heart to allow the Holy Ghost in to bring her knowledge and understanding.

*Christy* just lost her sister in an automobile accident; this follows closely the loss of two family. Please pray she can let our Lord Jesus Christ carry all her sorrow, worry and care at this extremely difficult and stressful time.

*Dr. Elizabeth Raj* is teaching a biblical approach to the psychological problems facing many in our society today. She is battling against the growing influence of worldly psychology adopted by the churches themselves. Elizabeth constantly stresses answers are found between the covers of that precious Book, the Holy Bible. Please pray for encouragement, strength, fortitude and courage for her.

*Daniel and Danielle* are experiencing family strife as a result of custodial issues with a daughter. Please pray they and those they strive with might look to the child's best interests in their time of difficulty and disagreement; to work for her best interests and not use her as a weapon amongst themselves.

*Abigail* is a teenager who has behavior problems. She feels she is in an area of mental darkness. Please pray that she might look to God for help and not within herself.

*Sara* asks that you pray for guidance for her as she deals with the stresses of her family and life. Pray that she can separate those things which she can affect from those things which she cannot and give her grace to accept that she cannot do everything and can only change those things within her control. She asks for God's help to grow her business while keeping up with the needs of her mother

and husband and healing her own problems.

*Jacquie* to open her heart to God and accept His Love and Grace.

*Hap* asks you to pray he might be able to trust God will help him make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things he can change, accept those things he cannot change, sleep well to be able to do the correct things with a clear head and that he will open his heart to the Holy Ghost.

### **Thanksgiving**

*Mark Wilson* gives thanks for safe travel this past week.

### **AOC Congregations**

*Nathan* in Wake Forest, North Carolina needs God's Help to find others who are interested in having a Bible believing Church in the Anglican tradition. He would like to develop a congregation to associate with the Anglican Orthodox Church.

*Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church* is under a lot of stress. We all are, but they need even more prayer. Rev Roger Jessup, their wonderful minister, is pressed by the duties of a primary care giver, in addition to all the worries of this world. They have one of their family's primary breadwinners who will be soon unemployed, absent His intervention. Roger's niece will lose her job at the end of the year when her tech center shuts down. As Rev Roger said so eloquently, "We must pray for those who mean us harm and deprive us of our property are our enemies: Our LORD has so commanded us." We must pray they will see light and cleave to it while turning their backs on the Prince of this World. Equally important, we must pray that the Lord will raise up a political leader from among us as He has done in the past. Pray also for trust in God for each member of the parish and for them to find economic relief.

*Rev Rick Reid* is the minister of the new AOC congregation in Newton, North Carolina, Saint Andrews Anglican Church. Their first Sunday was 5 May 2013. Please pray Rick will be able to bring God's Word to the people in and near Newton.

### **Armed Forces & Contractors**

Airman Donny Patton (Kadena AB, Okinawa), Jordan (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator – New Jersey), Trevor (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Camp Foster, Okinawa)

### **Persecuted**

Around the world, Christians are under attack, not only in the Muslim world, but from Hindus and others in India. Also, they are under continual attack in the name of "Separation of Church and State" in the western world, as it becomes actively atheist or pro-devil buddy. Please pray for God's guidance and protection for all persecuted Christians and those around them.

### **Various Special Requests**

*Lisa* discovered her 9 year old daughter *Mariah* had been raped. This is in the court system now and we know that prayers are needed for this family. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" James 5:16 Lisa says she feels the power of your prayer in God's hand on her heart.

Please pray for *all the people of Egypt*; Bishop Mouneer Anis of Egypt is asking your prayer as the supporters of the deposed Mursi government, with the support of

the United States government, have been attacking Christian churches--Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox. They destroyed the car of Anglican priest Rev. Ehab Ayoub. The people of Egypt, the people of the United States need our prayers, even more so the people of the Muslim Brotherhood that they might repent of their evil and know God so the rest of the people may live in peace.

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don't know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first, so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

### *Question that only you can ask*

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? Hap is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don't know the answer to your question doesn't mean you are the only one who doesn't know. But, if you don't ask, no one will know.

### *I'd like to get a different point across or announce something*

If you have a different point of view, I would be happy to give you room to get your point across. While this publication is my perspective on events, I recognize not everyone may agree and that some people would like to express their own opinion. If you want to write something, please forward your item to Hap (with a note as to whether or not you would like editing help) to: [hap@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:hap@faithfulcenturion.org).

### *More on the Suicide Attack at Christian Church in Pakistan which Kills Dozens* Evil is on the rise!



From Bishop Jerry - I am sure everyone is aware of the tragic bombing of All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan in which scores of innocent people were martyred. I now

have news from Bishop Ernest Jacob. Though none of our own members were killed, many relatives and friends were. Please pray God will provide protection from this nonsensical Islamist terrorism afoot in Pakistan and around the world - according to His good Will and Providence.

Bishop Ernest's note:

Dear Bishop Ogles,

I was in Quetta when this incident happened. All Saints Church belongs to Church of Pakistan Peshawar Diocese. No one from our church was involved in this incident but my younger brother Augustin Jacob's wife relatives died in this incident and several injured. Augustin's father in law died while his wife's cousin's two children also died. One of his brother in law is in critical condition. Atleast 90 parishioners died in this suicide blast while more than 100 parishioners injured and are in hospital. Today we had a memorial service for them. There were 2000 Christians who attended the memorial service. People from all over the country came to participate. Anglican Orthodox Church also participated in this memorial service I myself was sitting on the altar and read a lesson from New Testament. Our priests and more than 100 members of our church also came. Please do pray for the grieved families and the injured.

Faithfully yours  
*Bishop Ernest Jacob*

*Why Pastors Won't Take A Stand by Chuck Baldwin, 26 September 2013*

This column is archived [here](#).

I am constantly asked, "Chuck, why don't pastors take a stand and speak out?" I've been a pastor most of my adult life. I believe I am qualified to answer that question. Here is the stark reality: the vast majority of pastors today are "success" oriented. Beginning in Bible College or seminary, and continuing throughout a pastor's ministerial life, the emphasis is success. And that means church growth, larger congregations, bigger buildings, bigger offerings, burgeoning statistics, greater notoriety, denominational praise, invitations to speak at conferences, applause from fellow ministers, not to mention the financial perks and benefits that come with pastoring a "successful" church. And the way to learn how to build a successful church is to learn from those who have done it. Pastors regularly attend church growth conferences to learn from the "big" church pastors on how it's done. They purchase books, magazines, newsletters, etc., that are all geared towards telling pastors how to build a successful church. They are constantly being schooled in the latest and greatest "how to" strategies of church growth and success. This usually entails more and more sophisticated programs, music, sound, lighting, atmosphere, classes, seminars, organization, etc. Everything, and I mean everything, is geared toward success as described in the aforementioned paragraph.

Most pastors today are in reality not spiritual shepherds as much as they are corporate CEOs. The same mentality, philosophy, and strategy that drive corporate boardrooms also drive the boardrooms of modern churches--to a tee. Pastors act like CEOs, dress like CEOs, talk like CEOs, manage like CEOs, and think like CEOs.

Dare I say that even the way pastors and churches cater, and "reach out," and "minister," etc., has mostly to do with "good business." Church members are babied and

pacified and stroked and petted and fawned-over because it is "good business." Today's Christians are so spoiled and petted that any dereliction or lack of attention by a pastor, church, or staff usually results in them "moving their letter" down the street to a place that will more readily cater to their temperamental demands.

Have you not noticed how most pastors spiritualize away the great examples of Bible heroism and defiance against tyranny and despotism? Ask them point blank about Daniel and the lion's den or the three Hebrew children in the burning fiery furnace or Queen Esther or scores and scores of other acts of defiance lauded in Holy Writ and they will say, "That was another time." Or, they might say, "This shows God's great deliverance and protection." But the overriding principle that drove the great heroes of the faith to challenge and defy evil government is never even acknowledged, much less addressed.

The great lesson of the above-mentioned heroes and heroines is not that God delivered them, because many of them were NOT delivered. As Paul notes in Hebrews 11: "Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance...And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented...they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in caves of the earth." (Hebrews 11:35-38 KJV). The great lesson of the above-mentioned heroes and heroines is their willingness to defy evil authority--regardless of outcome. Listen to the three Hebrew children:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden calf which thou hast set up. (Daniel 3:16-18 KJV)

These men knew that God COULD deliver them, but they did not know if He WOULD deliver them. And to them, it didn't matter: they were willing to defy the tyranny of King Nebuchadnezzar regardless. They were not going to bow to the unlawful, illegitimate authority of the state (in whatever form it appeared). That is the glaring lesson of every single one of these great stories of defiance.

Furthermore, most pastors and teachers absolutely refuse to tell the truth of Hebrews 11:34: "[They] waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." This Biblical passage lauds the courage of past believers who took up the sword against tyrants and despots. In the same breath that Paul extolled the sacrifice of believers who were willing to die for their faith, he also extolled the bravery of believers who were willing to fight for their faith. But you NEVER hear that from the vast majority of pastors today.

If you hear any mention of, say, America's Founding Fathers from today's pastors, it is that the founders were wrong, that they violated Romans 13, that God did not lead them to declare independence and revolt against the British Crown. Such is the ignorance and cowardice of today's ministers.

And while we are on the subject, the misinterpretation of Romans 13 is one of the chief reasons why most pastors and churches are so utterly indifferent or nonplussed about resisting evil government. This is why my son and I coauthored the book, "Romans 13: The True Meaning of Submission." I encourage readers to get this book and share it with as many of your Christian friends as possible. In the book, Tim and I prove from the entire Bible--including Romans 13--that nowhere does God expect (much less demand) believers to submit to evil, wicked authority.

Order the Romans 13 book here:

### [Romans 13 Truth](#)

Tim (a constitutional attorney) and I coauthored a second book that is also relevant to this discussion. It is called, "To Keep or Not To Keep: Why Christians Should Not Give Up Their Guns." This book searches the entire Bible and conclusively proves that self-defense is not only a God-ordained right; it is a God-ordained DUTY--and that Christians are totally justified in NOT surrendering their means of self-defense to any civil authority.

Order "To Keep or Not To Keep: Why Christians Should Not Give Up Their Guns" here:

### [Keep Your Arms](#)

The fact is that all of these great Bible stories of lawful, God-ordained defiance of unjust authority are totally ignored by the vast majority of today's pastors and churches. None of these great Bible truths are made relevant to attempted acts of tyranny in today's America. None of them.

Again, it is all about success. To the average pastor, nothing is as anathema as controversy. And nothing is more controversial than politics. Therefore, pastors are taught to avoid politics like the plague. Of course, they won't tell you that the controversial nature of politics is the reason they avoid it; they will tell you that "God has not called me to get involved in politics," or, "I'm trying to build a church," or, "That's not our mission," or any number of other pious-sounding clichés. But the reality is they are trying to be successful, and they believe controversy hinders success.

That's also why you seldom, if ever, hear "hard" sermons from the modern pulpit--even though that is exactly the kind of sermons that Jesus Himself preached. (See John 6:60) To the success-driven, religious CEO, people must always feel good; they must be permanently ensconced in their comfort zone; and they must never be rebuked or informed of misconduct or irresponsibility. And as far as freedom goes, the shallowness of the average pulpit refuses to acknowledge the responsibility of the church to do anything to preserve it. All they talk about is praying for your political leaders and being good little subjects of the state.

Plus, don't forget most churches are up to their eyeballs in debt. Therefore, pastors are afraid if they offend people offerings will go down and they might not be able to pay for all of those fancy buildings and exorbitant staff--not to mention their own personal financial perks might be endangered.

And, yes, I must also add the 501(c) 3 non-profit tax-exempt status most churches operate under poses a serious intimidation against the pastor and church, which keeps them from taking a stand or speaking out on issues that might be construed as political.

But here is the bottom line: as long as Christians in the pews continue to attend and financially support these stand-for-nothing churches, the churches will continue to languish in their indifference. After all, by the attendance and offerings of all of these people in the pews, pastors are being continually convinced that everything they have been taught is working: their churches are successful.

The ONLY WAY Christians can start making a difference in their country is to GET OUT of these clueless, cowardly churches and find a pastor who is not afraid to be politically-incorrect, who is not afraid to preach and teach the Biblical principles of liberty, and who is not afraid to preach and teach the principles of righteous defiance against any act of tyranny. Find a pastor who is not trying to be successful. You don't need a successful pastor; you need a truthful pastor.

But this means that people in the pews must truly WANT to be in a church that takes a stand, doesn't it? We have the kind of pastors and churches that we are willing to support. If that's the case, Christians should stop complaining about the indifference of their pastors and simply accept the imminent slavery to which they are being led.

© Chuck Baldwin

### *Epistleers*

We post the list of Epistle Readers in the Sunday Report each week so you can either plan your attendance or your pre-reading as the spirit so moves you.

Date	Reader
6 October 2013	On the Road – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
13 October 2013	Dru Arnold – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
20 October 2013	Dru Arnold – Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
27 October 2013	Dru Arnold – Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

### *The near future, as well as Next Sunday*

4 October 2013 – Ordination of Jackson Eugene Arnold to the office of Priest – Holy Communion - Service start time 1700 (5:00 pm); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 1645 (4:45 pm); **Time 1700 (5:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

6 October 2013 – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday – Holy Communion - Service start time 1030 (10:30 am); **Time 1030 (10:30 am); Location – St. George's Anglican Episcopal Church, 6300 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA Tel (805) 642-9697**

13 October 2013 – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945; **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

20 October 2013 – Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945; **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

27 October 2013 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945; **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**