



**Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Anglican Orthodox Church**  
***Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Trinity***



**Sunday Report**



16 November 2013

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (2 Cor 6:16-17)

**And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** (Gospel of St. Matthew 16:18)

From the early days of the Apostles, the spirit of anti-Christ has been afoot attempting to undermine, at every turn, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and biblical truth. The labors of Satan cease not in his enmity against God and His Church. Reaching a crescendo in the pre-Reformation Church, headed by Rome, the Gospel of the day resembled very little the love, grace, and mercy of the Gospel of Christ. Unclean hands had added to, and taken away, from that truth preached by Christ and His Apostles. The Great English and Continental Reformers resolved to restore the Gospel in the Church even at the peril of torture and death. This they did, God helping them. The old superstitions and indulgences of the Roman Pontiff were replaced by the simplicity and centrality of God's Holy Word. The blood of untold numbers of saints was spilled into the soil of faith to restore that "faith once delivered to the saints." Our own Bishops, Cranmer, Ridley and Hooker died painful deaths at the stake to perpetuate the true Church. They came out from among the apostate church and restored the Church pure and faithful.

The victory of the Reformation seemed sweet to the faithful people of God; but, remember, Satan neither sleeps nor takes leave of absence. Immediately after Luther,

Calvin, and Cranmer had separated from the error-ridden church, the pawns of evil immediately began their insidious labors to turn the Church from her first love and back to high ceremony and false religion. The Oxford Movement was the devil's tool to take the Church of England back to Rome. The men of the Oxford Movement have done more damage to the true worship of the Church than all of those enemies openly defiant of Christ. The Church in America was slowly infiltrated by wicked men who cared not for Christ but for prestige and filthy lucre.

Though Satan never rests, God, too, never sleeps. He will always find among His people leaders and spiritual giants to return to that Rock upon which the Church is founded - not Peter (except in an apostolic sense), but the Lord Jesus Christ. "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (1 Cor 10:4) God found His champion in the Most Reverend James Parker Dees. Bishop Dees paid, what seemed to the world, a high price in stepping out of the ECUSA in November of 1963, but the rewards were immeasurable. He gave most of his families vast holdings in real estate to fund the early AOC Church. He was constantly harassed and libeled by minions of the Episcopal Church and their adoring press. They marched around his house with torches and megaphones for three straight nights, but Bishop Dees, once having placed his hand to the plow, never faltered or looked back. He came out from among them according to the commandment of God.

The Anglican Orthodox Church celebrated its fiftieth year anniversary on 16 November 2013 - fifty years from the coming out from among the apostate Episcopal Church and forming a separate Communion of Churches called the Anglican Orthodox Communion Worldwide.

Under the capable leadership of the our godly Founding Bishop, James Parker Dees, the Anglican Orthodox Communion has grown to include churches in twenty-two countries on five continents - all worshipping in the beauty of holiness from the same Bible, the same Prayer Book, and the same Creeds as preserved, restored and established by our courageous Reformers. The Thirty Nine Articles of Religion summarize our doctrine, and the homilies and other formularies of the English Reformation direct our faith.

It has been said the Church is very much like a mighty river - it flows freely to the lowest sinner, and will absorb each one that wishes to be washed clean of his sins by the Blood of the Lamb. When we step into that River, we lose our old identity and assume a new name and character - the same character as God has given His Church. So it is true today that in every place that the Anglican Orthodox Communion has worshippers, these are all of common bloodline with each other in Christ, and the bloodline is sealed by HIS Blood. Loving the same Lord, we are called by His Name. Though many are so-called deceptively, those whose hearts are fixed upon Christ are those to whom He shall greet with the words, "**Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**" (Matt 25:23)

The Anglican Orthodox Communion is a part of that Mighty River called the greater Church.

*Bishop Jerry L. Ogles*  
Presiding Bishop Worldwide

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Today was the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather is pretty back to normal. After rain on Friday, we had a beautiful clear sunrise with a temperature of 33°F, which rose to about 59°F by the end of church under those same bright skies. The exceedingly beautiful weather brought the usual 3 people to worship!

### *Gathering Song*

Jack Arnold played *Amazing Grace* for the gathering song.

### **Amazing Grace**

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

As everyone knows, we love *Amazing Grace!* It is a favorite among sinners.

### *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 –

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

*I St. John 5:12*



But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury the dead.

*St. Matthew 8:22*

And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

*St. Mark 13:27*

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

*Acts 10:34-35*

If we move in mass, be it ever so circuitously, we shall attain our object; but if we break into squads ... we become an easy conquest to those who can now barely hold us in check."

*Thomas Jefferson*  
1811

When we buy IT services generally, it is so bureaucratic and so cumbersome that a whole bunch of it doesn't work or ends up being way over cost. ... Once we get this particular website [Heathcare.gov] fixed, they're going to be some lessons learned we can apply to the federal government in general.

*Barack Hussein Obama*  
2013

The 8-9 million people that you refer to who might have to change their coverage would be folks who ... would find the deal in the exchange better, would be a better deal, so yes they would change coverage because they have more choices. Let's just be clear about that!

*Barack Hussein Obama*  
2013

Wealth is not evil. We wouldn't remember the Good Samaritan if he didn't have money to help someone else. Just keep it in perspective.

*@GodReviveUSA*

Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can. These are evident branches of, rather than deductions from, the duty of self-preservation, commonly called the first law of nature.

*Samuel Adams*  
The Rights of the Colonists (1772)

Prudence means practical common sense, taking the trouble to think out what you are doing and what is likely to come of it. Nowadays most people hardly think of Prudence as one of the 'virtues'. In fact, because Christ said we could only get into His world by being like children, many Christians have the idea that, provided you are 'good', it does not matter being a fool. But that is a misunderstanding. In the first place, most children show plenty of 'prudence' about doing the things they are really interested in, and think them out quite sensibly. In the second place, as St Paul points out, Christ never meant that we were to remain children in intelligence: on the contrary. He told us to be not only 'as harmless as doves', but also 'as wise as serpents'. He wants a child's heart, but

a grown-up's head. He wants us to be simple, single-minded, affectionate, and teachable, as good children are; but He also wants every bit of intelligence we have to be alert at its job, and in first-class fighting trim. The fact that you are giving money to a charity does not mean that you need not try to find out whether that charity is a fraud or not. The fact that what you are thinking about is God Himself (for example, when you are praying) does not mean that you can be content with the same babyish ideas which you had when you were a five-year-old. It is, of course, quite true that God will not love you any the less, or have less use for you, if you happen to have been born with a very second-rate brain. He has room for people with very little sense, but He wants every one to use what sense they have.

*Jack Lewis*  
Mere Christianity

*On the Holy Ghost*

It is as if a sort of communal personality came into existence. Of course, it is not a real person: it is only rather like a person. But that is just one of the differences between God and us. What grows out of the joint life of the Father and Son is a real Person, is in fact the Third of the three Persons who are God.

This third Person is called, in technical language, the Holy Ghost or the "spirit" of God. Do not be worried or surprised if you find it (or Him) rather vaguer or more shadowy in your mind than the other two. I think there is a reason why that must be so. In the Christian life you are not usually looking at Him: He is always acting through you. If you think of the Father as some- thing "out there," in front of you, and of the Son as someone standing at your side, helping you to pray, trying to turn you into another son, then you have to think of the third Person as something inside you, or behind you. Perhaps some people might find it easier to begin with the third Person and work backwards. God is love, and that love works through men—especially through the whole community of Christians. But this spirit of love is, from all eternity, a love going on between the Father and Son.

*Jack Lewis*  
Mere Christianity

The United States government is the ultimate giant unworkable mess. It is a living cargo cult where everyone marches around following routines that are supposed to yield great prosperity, but never do. The processes themselves are broken and make no sense, but the cargo culturers of government cannot and will not hear that. They know that the government will magically make everything work. Because government is progress. Government is modernity. Government is magic... Our... cargo culters invoke FDR and JFK, they talk about the New Deal and the Great Society, they make grand promises and roll out big programs, and then they wait for it all to work. They don't understand themselves how or why it would work. But government is magic and the appearance of a thing is just as good as a real deal. Build a website and it will work. Pass a law and they will come. Get a degree and you're competent. There is no reason to know how to do a thing. You don't need engineers or competent men. All you need to do is remember that great dreams of the past, listen to a few inspirational JFK speeches and then carve a computer out of wood and wait for free health care to arrive. In cargo cult America, the food is free, the cell phones are free, and the money can be printed forever because government is magic.

*Daniel Greenfield*  
21<sup>st</sup> Century American commentator  
Government is Magic, 10-27-13



## 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 minister 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.

### Note the Rubric:

¶ If in any year there be twenty-six Sundays after Trinity, the service for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany shall be used on the Twenty-fifth Sunday. If there be twenty-seven, the service for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany shall be used on the Twenty-sixth, and the service for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany on the Twenty-Fifth. If there be fewer than twenty-five Sundays, the overplus shall be omitted.

The propers used for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity can be found on Page 117-118:

### The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

#### *The Collect.*

**G**OD, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of God, and heirs of eternal life; Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which comes from the First General Epistle of Saint John, the Third Chapter, beginning at the First Verse:

**B**EHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.



Rev Jack Arnold read the Holy Gospel which comes from the Twenty-Fourth Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew beginning at the Twenty-Third Verse:

**T**HEN if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.



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

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

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity  
from  
The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
*The Collect.*



**G**OD, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of God, and heirs of eternal life; Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Collect reminds us Jesus was sent to destroy the works of the devil in us so that we might be accounted as perfect at the final tally point allowing us, with the Holy Ghost's help, make ourselves act more like Him, less like we want.

The Gospel reminds us we have to choose a side and so does the Gospel, in that if we choose the way of sin, we are on the Devil's side. We are either on God's side, or on Satan's side. Both the Gospel and the Epistle say that those who do good works and follow God to the best of their abilities are on God's side, while those who follow themselves and fall into temptation are on Satan's side.

We cannot be on the side of the Devil, if we want eternal life. So what do we do about it? We read the Word of God, and take it as a whole to our life, not just one really nice verse we like, but we must take it as a whole. Else we are bogged down like so many, debating the meaning of one verse and how it applies to their "theology." When the only theology we should be concerned about is reading the Bible and applying it to our own life.

The unifying theme of the Gospel, Collect and Epistle is that there are two sides in this spiritual conflict and that the right side will defeat the dark, evil side in the end. Which side do you want to be on, eternal life, or that of eternal death. The side of good is that of eternal life and the side of evil, Satan is of eternal death. There may not be as many short term gain on Good, but if we perform a cost-benefit analysis, the CBA would suggest that the side of God, of goodness, of light is the best in the long term, which is what the Bible is all about, planning for the long term.

If we focus on the short term, doing what is easy, rather than righteous, we shall find ourselves shorted, in a loss, rather than a profit. Our liabilities will be more than our assets. But if we choose the side of righteousness, then, we shall be able to have more assets than liabilities and be profitable, (not in a financial sense, but rather in the spiritual sense.



So, to sum up the lessons we have learned, we are pitifully weak creatures, with free will. There may be a form of predestination, but the key is, we are free to choose God or Satan. It lies upon us to choose the fork in the road. One will lead to goodness, like cherry pie and the other will lead to coal. Which do we want to choose?

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**

#### *Bishop Ogles' Sermon*

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Today's sermon starts off with the collect, and like always, it will give you a lot to consider in your heart.

Sermon Notes

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Trinity

17 November 2013, Anno Domini

**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity  
from  
The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
The Collect.**

**G**OD, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of God, and heirs of eternal life; Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*



Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians, beginning at the First Verse:

Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe

(because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the Prayer of Collect so well reveals, according to the Scriptures, the Lord has a day of appearance – not as His first Coming as a Babe in the Manger, but as an Almighty King. At that moment, we shall all be changed – both living and dead in Christ – to become like Him whose Name we have called upon and borne.

The Epistle reading further reveals the truth of the Coming of the Lord. For the limp-wristed Christian who cannot bring himself to consider sin a serious offense, the Coming of Christ will bring a serious and shocking revelation. The day of decision will have passed by those who have lingered in their vile and wicked ways – Judgment stands at the door. The Love of Righteousness will bear the Sword of Vengeance – a long neglected truth – upon all who have willfully rejected the Sun of Righteousness.

The Gospel reading calls into account, literally, the manner in which we have invested those talents of gold and silver with which the Lord has blessed us. Those who have been given talents of ministering to the sick, the ignorant, or the downtrodden, shall render the increase of the fruits of those talents. Most of us have been graced with mind, voice, understanding, love, and mobility. Have we studied diligently? Have we spoken out at every opportunity to press the Lord's interests? Have we had hearts of understanding like unto that Great Mind which we most assuredly should have taken upon ourselves? Have we loved God with all our being and not omitted that same love for others? *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* (Matt 22:37-39) Many of the modern church will claim: "See, God has relieved us of obedience to the Ten Commandments. This is a NEW Commandment given by Christ to replace all others!" How untrue! Read the very next verse of the exhortation of Christ: *"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* (Matt 22:40) Jesus was not uttering a new Commandment, but simply reinforcing those given in the Old Testament (see Deut 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18).

The only NEW Commandment given by our Lord was that of LOVE! *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* (John 13:34-35) It is the imperative of Love that seals our obedience and compels us to share that ultimate and sacrificial love that the suffering of Christ represents for us. LOVE compels obedience – even a higher standard of obedience than a code of laws written on stone tablets. *"After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."* (Jer 31:33) This principle truth is repeated in Hebrews 10:19. Love is the most valuable talent you have been given by God – more valuable than any 20 lb. talent of gold! Now to the exposition of the Gospel for today:

*14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his*

*journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 25:14-30)*

This is the manner in which the Kingdom of Heaven operates. It is as a man (the Lord Jesus Christ) travelling to a far country – heaven is quite distant to say the least. This parable of the talents illustrates how we are to conduct our lives in waiting upon the Lord's return. Our lives are a continual investment of time, resources, and, most especially, love. We are not permitted to save up our talents in safe holding until the moment of the Master's return, but these must be invested over time in order to accrue a record of service and faith. It would be impossible for one who loves the Lord to squander his time away in idle disregard of the service he owes to God and man once he has received the Grace of Christ in his heart. In fact, such an investment is a joy and not a sacrifice of labor.

*14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.* The 'goods' of Christ have been delivered to every faithful soul who has been the recipient of His saving Grace. That grace was bought and paid for us at Calvary before He ever departed for a far country and "sitteth on the right hand of God the Father" as the Creed avers. These 'goods' are treasures of faith, grace, wisdom, and love.

*15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.* God will not place a greater responsibility upon us than we are able to bear and meet. Some of us are not constituted in such a way as to be able to handle five talents, so God will give us two, or even only one; but whatever talents we have received, we are responsible to invest those talents at good return. There is at least one talent that every chosen of God receives – that talent is LOVE. It is so very easy to invest this talent. The more we invest, the greater the percentage of return. It is inexhaustible! Can you comprehend that? The oil in that jug will never give out. The more profusely it is poured out, the greater is the reserve in the jug. This is a mystery that God has placed in the nature of love. There are other talents such as evangelism, teaching, music, and administration which many are

not suited to perform, but we all have that talent of LOVE if we belong to Christ. Have we invested that one talent at the amazing return that it will yield? When Christ had paid the last measure of His precious blood, He made those talents to be granted to those of us according to our abilities. It was finished at Calvary!

16 *Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.* This is a very wise servant. He wastes no time in putting the five talents to work at interest. He is aware of the principle given by Christ: *For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.* (Luke 12:48) There is no time to waste in our investment, for the time granted us in living is also a gift whose future course is not certain.

17 *And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.* The yield in both the five talents and the two are the same – that is 100% return. God gives you His 100% in talents. God wants your 100% percent in your investment of talents as well. If either of these first two servants had not immediately taken up their cross and followed Christ daily, they may have fallen short of their investment objective in service. If a socialist order prevailed in the kingdom of heaven, then one or the other may have been called upon to share some of their increase to the third servant who sat down on the talent God gave and did NOTHING to cause the talent to increase. But socialism is foreign to God, and the sharing of talents is not a reality. We go with that for which we have invested and labored.

18 *But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.* Those gifts that we have received from the generous hand of God must not be hoarded, but shared. The only reason we prosper is for the sake of others of God's creatures. This one servant was so greedy that, though he wasted nothing, it shared nothing either. He only had left that which the Lord had given. But that, too, would be taken away from such a selfish and faithless servant.

19 *After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.* It has been now some two thousand years since our Lord went into a far country. Such an expanse of time makes any speculation of the time of His return an impossibility, but one thing is certain: He shall return at the time of His good pleasure and will. When He returns, there shall certainly be a reckoning. We shall each stand alone, face-to-face, with the Savior just as the woman taken in adultery stood alone and face-to-face with the Savior of her soul. At that day, excuses will not suffice. Our souls will be bared and our destinies known. How will we have persevered? If we have labored in earnest, our spiritual muscles will grow with the use. The higher we climb the mountain slopes, the broader becomes the horizon.

20 *And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.* How many talents will you have produced from the riches of your heart for Christ on that last day? You have known and received the benefits of grace in Christ. Will you bring others to stand with you before your Lord? What of your neighbors? Your friends, your family members? 21 *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.* The reward is the ownership of all of the talents both given and produced, but more, too. Entering into



the joy of the Lord is the blessing of greatest comfort of all others: *“You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty, faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you his blessing & protection.”* (General Robert E. Lee, Farewell Address to the Army of Northern Virginia, 9 April 1865) Such a satisfaction so far exceeds in joy that measure of humiliation Peter experienced when, for the third time, he denied Christ before the tribunal. Christ immediately turned and looked at Peter – a look that pierced the heart of Peter. Will you have your heart pierced by the look of Christ at His return?

22 *He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliverest unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.* 23 *His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.* Though the reward given by Christ will be commensurate with our own labors of love, it will always exceed our grandest expectations. It will be enough!

24 *Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:* 25 *And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.* What conniving, sniveling, and devious scheming to actually blame our shortcomings on the Lord Himself! The servant accuses his master of being too harsh and demanding, therefore the servile one was too fearful to accomplish anything. One thing is certain: this servant has great cause for fear since he has abandoned his duties of love and service to the Lord.

26 *His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:* What is the great sin of the servant under discussion here? How do we categorize his sin? He did no overt sin. He simply did NOTHING! What does our prayer of General Confession say? *“.....We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us.....”* This servant did no outrageous sin; he simply failed to do that which love demands. His sin was one of omission and not of commission, but the verdict is the same. 27 *Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.* This is evidence again that our labors of love in Christ are not ours at all, but His!

Christ will now direct His commands to the Holy Angels as regards this unprofitable servant. He is finished speaking, forever, to such a one: 28 *Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.* 29 *For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.* Have you love? If you have, the evidence of that love is the love that you have given away - the love that you have shared with the helpless little child, the widow, the orphan, the imprisoned, and the poor, will be multiplied on the back of that wicked servant who heard not the cry of poor Lazarus.

30 *And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* Judas was an unprofitable servant who went out from the Lord's Supper into an eternally dark night. King Saul made his bed in Hell and left his first

love for the Dark Angel. God sends no man to Hell – if we are sent, we send ourselves just as the Rich Man who failed to drop a crumb to Lazarus from his table ended up pleading for a drop of water from the finger of a beggar. In Hell, all are beggars without names or estates. The only light that is there is the dimly lit light of burning fires EVERYWHERE! Where do you plan to spend YOUR eternity, friend?

### *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 Abide**

Psalm 98, 1 John 3:1-8, Matthew 13:24-31

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity

November 17, 2013

“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations” (Ps. 90:1). “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.” (1 Jn. 4:15). “Little children, abide in him” (1 John 2:28). “Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not” (1 Jn 3:6).

We are still talking about what Christians do, and today’s sermon is, “Christians Abide.” The word, abide isn’t used much any more, yet I think we all know it means to live in, or make your abode somewhere. The word seems to have a sense of place. It means more than just to live in a house; it means to make your house your home. So when I say, “Christians abide” I mean we abide in God. We live in Him. He is our home. I think we all know this, we know Christians abide in God. But I am not sure all Christians know how to abide in God. So today I want to talk about how Christians abide in God.

The first thing I want to say, is that we abide in God by abiding in The Faith. I mean, of course, the faith found in the Bible, the doctrines, teachings, ideas, values, and life-understanding taught in the Bible. We express the essentials of The Faith every Sunday in the liturgies of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. The liturgies express The Faith. The Apostles’ Creed and Nicene Creed certainly express it quite clearly. They express the foundational, essential teachings of Scripture. Christians may disagree on some other points, but to compromise on these points is to desert the Christian faith.

We abide in The Faith because we believe it is given to us by God. It is, as Jude 3 says, the faith once delivered unto the saints. God became flesh and taught the faith to the Apostles. The Apostles preserved it for us in the Bible. Faithful people have proclaimed and preserved it down through the ages. Millions have held to it in time of persecution. Millions have died for it. Millions live for it. People often wonder why the Anglican Orthodox Church was founded, and why we established Holy Trinity Church here in Powhatan. The answer is simple, to keep The Faith. Today is the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Anglican Orthodox Church. What made Bishop Dees feel constrained to leave a denomination that had been his family’s spiritual home for generations? What made him invest his own personal money into this new and tiny Anglican denomination? What made so many others in these United States and around

the world come out of their denominations and unite with the Anglican Orthodox World Communion? It was the Faith. Why did Thomas Cranmer suffer the horrible death of being burned at the stake? To keep The Faith. Why did the early Christians go to the lions and the gladiators and the cross? To keep the faith. This Faith is valuable. It is the way of life, the way to God. We only abide in God when we abide in The Faith.

We abide in God when we abide in righteousness. According to our reading from 1 John this morning, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." Who is the "him" in that verse? It is Jesus Christ, of course. It is the One 1 John 3:5 says "was manifested" that is, He appeared, He was revealed, He came to us, "to take away our sins." Christians abide, live, and dwell in Him, and "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not."

It is important for us to note that the Bible is not saying Christians do not sin. If Christians do not sin, then there has never been a real Christian, because even the most Godly among us sins. Would you compare yourself to the Apostle Paul? Would you claim that your behaviour is as pure and good as his? Would you assert that you have lived up to the teachings of Scripture as he did? Served God as fully and willingly as he did? Suffered and sacrificed in God's service as he did? I doubt if any of us would make that claim. Yet listen to St. Paul's words in Romans 7:19: "the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Paul is saying even he has left undone the things he ought to have done, and has done those things which he ought not to have done. Even Paul sinned.

Well if Paul sinned, what hope is there for us? Fortunately the Bible is not talking about sinless perfection. It is talking about a life-style, let's call it a life orientation of righteousness. The Christian's life is oriented toward God, not sin. In the days before GPS, people used maps and compasses to find their way. If they got lost on a mountain road at night, they could find the direction they were going by the compass, and see what lay around them on the map. If you have ever used a compass you know the needle tries to stay on magnetic north, but it has a hard time doing so. The bumps and turns in the road, and interference from metal and electronics cause the needle to waver. We sometimes waver too. The bumps in the road, interference of the world, and our own weakness causes us to go off course sometimes. But our orientation and general direction of life is still toward God. We abide in Christ Jesus. That is what the Apostle John meant when he wrote these words.

A life-orientation toward Christ, necessarily leads us to purify ourselves. 1 John 3:3 says we purify ourselves, even as Christ is pure. To purify is to cleanse. It is to get rid of the things that don't belong, and increase the things that do belong. What doesn't belong in a Christian's life? Anything that is not 100% compatible with God's absolute goodness. So, "in this life orientation, in this life of dwelling and abiding in Christ, we make an honest attempt to purify our lives. We make an honest attempt to run our thoughts, values, desires, and actions through the filter of God's Holy Bible, and remove the bad and increase the good. This is part of the way we abide in righteousness, and abiding in righteousness is one of the ways we abide in God.

I want to conclude by referring back to our old friends, the means of grace. We abide in God through the means of grace. They are given to us by God specifically to enable us to abide in Him. The Bible is a means of grace, when it is read and believed in faith. The Church is a means of grace, when its people abide in The Faith and in love. Worship is a means of grace. Baptism is a means of grace. Communion is a means of grace, when

taken in faith and understanding. Of course these things are only means of grace to you when you make use of them. A Bible on the nightstand is a beautiful thing, but the Bible being read is more beautiful by far. And how can a person say he abides in God and God abides in him if he ignore the means by which abiding is accomplished? And please tell me, can we have too much grace? If not then why would we deprive ourselves of any of the means of grace? They are all part of abiding in God, and, Christians abide.

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+Dennis Campbell

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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 it.



### **Partakers of the Inheritance of the Saints in Light**

*Colossians. 1:12*

*12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:* These words come from our Epistle reading this morning from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians. But, what did Paul mean when he speaks of being made to be, "partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light"?

Webster's dictionary says a partaker is someone who has, or gives, or receives a part or a share. "

The kingdom of God is called "light," and that of Satan is called "darkness."

Light, in the Scriptures, is the symbol of holiness, knowledge, happiness; and all these are found in the kingdom over which God presides, and of which Christians are the heirs. The word "light" is often used to describe this kingdom. Thus, it is said of God, who presides over it, that He "is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

So we all are to be: "Partakers" with all the saints of God; "partakers" with the whole family of the elect; "partakers" with all the children of adoption. "Partakers" with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; with Jonah and Job, and with all who have gone before us, with all who have entered into the kingdom of heaven.

"Partakers" with all the "ransomed of the Lord...as we read in Isaiah 35:10: *10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their*



*heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. We shall all one day be partakers of this glorious inheritance, the life which is to come.*

The word 'partakers' is also used in 2 Peter 1:4, *4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

We all have this in common. We who are born of the Spirit are made thereby partakers of the divine nature. This is possible through faith in God, and by virtue of our being in Christ.

Through our rebirth, we actually have the life and the nature of God.

In St. John's Gospel Chapter 1:12 and 13 we read: , *"<sup>12</sup>But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:<sup>13</sup> Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

We who have received Jesus Christ have been born of God, and we have the right to become the children of God. At this very moment we are the children of God. (1 John 3:2).

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

St. Peter reminds us of the wonderful blessings that are ours if we do share the divine nature. Most of all God's Grace and Peace.

Partaking of the divine nature has a tremendous effect in our lives, and we can get a glimpse of these effects in the various miracles of Christ's earthly ministry.

Two examples can be seen in today's Gospel reading, from St Matthew. (9:18-26): first, the healing of the woman with an issue of blood, and second, the raising of the ruler's daughter from the dead.

The King James Version uses the expression 'made whole', which is a beautiful and rich expression in its own right. Being made whole means not just healed, but signifies a healing of the soul that is more than skin deep. "She was made whole".

In the raising of the ruler's daughter, we see perhaps the most dramatic effect of partaking of the divine nature that is the inheritance of the Saints in light; deliverance from death.

St Paul writes in I Corinthians 15:26, *'The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.'*

And later in the chapter, inspired by the power of Christ's Resurrection, Saint Paul actually taunts death when he writes, *'O Death, where is thy sting?'* (I Cor 15:55)

This destruction of death has been effectively accomplished in Christ, and this is the inheritance of the Saints, of which St Paul says we partake.

In verse 13 of Colossians, St Paul contrasts verse 12 with what he calls 'the power of darkness':

*13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

Because of, His shed blood, and death on the cross, and His mighty resurrection, He has rescued us from the powers of darkness, and made us: “partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light”.

Therefore, we should constantly be giving thanks to our Heavenly Father, who has given us a part in the inheritance of the saints, because of our faith in Christ Jesus.

*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.



**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

In the Gospel (St. Matthew 24:23-31), our Lord warned us concerning the rise of false Christs. As born-again believers, we understand that we are living in a world dominated by the forces of darkness. You should also know that these forces are well-led and have great power to carry out all sorts of malevolent designs. You are likely aware that these wicked powers will have sway here until our Lord returns to break their dominance and crush their rebellion against the Godhead. And the reason that we know these things is that they are found within the pages of Holy Scripture.

The Scriptures tell us that until his coming to gather us to himself, we will face trials and tribulations of such degrees as God has seen fit for us to pass through as part of our earthly pilgrimage. This will likely include our exposure to false Christs and false prophets who will come in their pretentiousness hoping to deceive the very elect of God (St. Matthew 24:24).

As Christians, we derive much comfort from the words of God as found in the Holy Bible. And in particular, we find that blessed assurance in our Lord's remarks concerning his church that not even the gates of hell shall prevail against it. That said, we should not infer from them that Satan and his minions (both natural and supernatural) are powerless to tempt us to violate God's word by thought, word and deed; neither are they lax in their efforts to overthrow our faith through our acceptance of some man-made construct or idea that conflicts with God's word written. The minions of evil will also attempt to render ineffective our witness through any questionable feelings we harbor, any grudges we bear, and any personal faults which we have not confessed to God and released to him; and they will play upon our lack of scriptural knowledge rendering our Christian walk and witness of little or no effect.

If the devil were ever to overthrow our faith (as is true for the unregenerate), the next step for him will be to provide us with some alternative idea or personage in which to place our faith. Satan desires our worship. He does not want us becoming atheists. He desires a simple faith which rejects the one, true and living God in favor of himself. He might start out with an seemingly harmless concept such as “God is in all things,” or “You can decide your own destiny.” Once you have accepted those tenets, then he can offer you something a bit stronger such as: “God is working through this or that good person. It does not matter that he or she is not following the doctrinal tenets of Holy Scripture because he or she is all about searching for the truth of God in everything,” or

“There are many ways to God.” And last but not least, he will offer us a slightly amended form of that old snare he used on Eve in the Garden of Eden: “We all can be Christs.”

In response our Lord answers forthrightly, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many (St. Matthew 24: 4-5). We have been forewarned against the evil deception which has come upon the whole world because we too can be influenced if our hearts are not right with God. As regenerate people in Christ, we have a distinct advantage over the unregenerate in that we are indwelt by the Holy Ghost. Yet even we have the unfortunate ability to quench the Spirit of God. The devil and his minions are well aware of this and will encourage us to engage in behaviors which will result in our falling out of fellowship with the Godhead. And afterward, he will inject us with pride so that we do not confess our ills before God’s throne of grace and be healed. God will then send us troubles to discipline us and bring us back into line. For if we are truly his, he will not let us slip out of his hands; but O what troubles may come to turn our hearts back to him if we remain stubborn and stiff-necked.

We know that only through true and heart-felt confession to God, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, will our sins and trespasses be forgiven and forgotten. It is therefore our duty to maintain our fellowship with the Godhead through daily self-judgment, prayer and Bible reading. We cannot hope to win the victory as good and faithful servants otherwise. The Bible says My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4: 6a). It would seem that God prefers biblical literates to the inverse. The old saying of knowledge is power certainly holds true for us as regenerate beings in Christ.

The false Christs and the false prophets will take advantage of ambivalent Christians as they have no firm foundation on which to rest their faith. They are tossed about by every wind of doctrine and sleight of hand which the evil one can conjure up to capsize them. St. Paul knew what it was like to be shipwrecked and a castaway. He weathered such only by trusting in the power of him who had sent him to be a witness on behalf of the gospel of life. St. Paul knew the truth and had received it from our Lord Jesus Christ himself. If you have such faith confirmed in your heart, even though the devil will attempt to shake your faith, you will not be moved because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world (I St. John 4:4).

The snares which the devil and minions have set for us are often masterfully hidden from our eyes. They might pose as good and useful purposes and ideals. They might be hidden by many smooth and sugary words of his earthly minions. Or, they might be hidden amongst our cares and concerns which are not in line with the truth of God. They might also be hidden within our hearts in the form of hatred, malice and greedy designs which we coax ourselves to daub over with the untempered mortar of our own rationalizations as to their justification and worth. So, in light of all those aforementioned points, we ought to be ever vigilant.

We are soldiers of the cross and that requires us to remain clad with the whole armour of God every moment of our earthly lives. God will one day give us permission to remove it in his heavenly kingdom where it will be superfluous to our new natures and our new bodies. But until that day when we receive our crowns of awards from the Master himself, we had better keep our armour on and ever maintain its effectiveness.

The false deceivers of this world will be temporarily successful. They will grow as the true Christian faith declines. Nevertheless, we should remember that God has forewarned us of their plans so we might avoid their snares via the work and power of the Holy Spirit. God does not intend for one of his own to fall into enemy hands. Make that your prayer as well, and live the victory which we have achieved through his atoning sacrifice.

Let us pray,

**O** MOST gracious Father, help us in this time of our earthly pilgrimage to be faithful soldiers of the cross; and give us grace sufficient for our tasks, that we might be effective witnesses for thee; and these things we beg in the name of thine only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

### *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:

Date	Name
24 November 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Sunday Next before Advent</b>
1 December 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – First Sunday in Advent</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**

*David and Tessie Geraldson* are on travel to the Philippines as he went to help his wife and family after the typhoon.

### **Birthday**

*Jack Arnold* celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 26 October 2013.

*Betty Hoffman* celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 18 October 2013.

*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.

### **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**

*Ryan Hopkins* has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2015. 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* is now in 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. Give thanks the safe move and ask for continued good developments.

### *Departed*

*Esther Catherine Glah Wilson Whiddett*, the only daughter and last surviving child of Esther and Harry Glah passed away 5 November 2013, at 21:27 while resting peacefully. Please give thanks 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 Esther and her family, in particular her son Mark and siblings Jolene, Ruthie, Connie and Joe. Please pray for his family and friends who remain behind.

*Ken "Grasshopper" Jennings* passed away in his sleep the morning of 2 November 2013. He leaves behind his wonderful wife Terri, son Trevor and daughters Tessa and Tawnya. Ken was Hap's primary WSO for the ten years they flew F-4s together at the 196<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron at March Field, California. Ken was a wonderful husband and father. Please pray for his family and friends who remain behind.



*Ronnie* had a massive heart attack on 17 October 2013 and is now at home with his Lord. Please pray for his wife Suzanne and all his family as they adjust to the temporary separation.

*Colonel Drue McMillan* passed away 27 September 2013. Please pray for peace of mind for Drue's family, in particular his son David.

*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. 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.

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

*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***

*Marian* has moved to a nursing home in Fresno where her niece Cathy can keep an eye on her and visit more often. She is weak and tires easily. Marian seems to not be interested in this world. Cathy would like her to stay with us and enjoy here time here on earth. Pray that the Holy Ghost might be able to enter into Marian's heart and bring light to her; pray also she might gain strength. Pray that Cathy might be given inspiration on how to help and the strength to do so.

*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. Sasha has completed radiation and it was very difficult on her. She has surgery set for November and has they have discovered new tumors and the possibility of chemo again. She seems to be taking backward steps with her health. Her spirit is still strong and asks you continue to keep her in your prayers. 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. 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*

*Mario* has early-diagnosed prostate cancer and will have surgery this week. Let us offering thanks for this early diagnosis. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Mario and his family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*Priscilla* was released from the hospital and is now walking and without pain. She is waiting for doctors to come from the USA and will then have an operation. Priscilla and her family thank you for your prayers. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Priscilla 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***

*Mark* had swelling and fluid buildup in his lungs. It appears things may be getting under control. He needs to use a Bi-Pap mask to breathe until his lungs clear and he hates it. Pray that he will be able to adapt so his lungs can clear. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mark, as well as for his family, and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Brenda* is in the hospital because of bleeding on her brain. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Brenda, 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.

*Traci* underwent here one year endoscopy on Friday 15 November 2013, for her 1 year endoscopy. The polyps look the same as a year ago but several were removed for biopsy. There is a need for another biopsy on Monday and she and her family will appreciate it if you continue to keep Traci in your prayers.

*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 over stress, 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.

*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. She has had numerous tests and the Physicians think it would be too risky to operate. Some other problems have been discovered and it is hopeful that new medicine will give her healing. Please continue Laurie in Prayer. 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

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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.

*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 third week of treatment, one on, two off; Brian asks we pray for strength to undergo the new process. 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.

*Luis Martinez* had a heart attack on 1 November 2013. It appears there may be valve or blockage issues, so they ask that you pray for guidance for the medical team treating him. Please pray for proper treatment, full recovery and peace of mind for Luis, as well as for trust in the Lord for him and his wife Selma, and the rest of the family.

*Alwin Jack* has had a stroke and recently has had a relapse. Please pray for those who

treat Alwin that they might chose the best possible treatment and pray for peace of mind for Alwin during the recovery phase.

*Jere Wolf*, Melanie Zimmer's dad had bacterial pneumonia, which him to go into congestive heart failure. An echocardiogram indicates his aortic valve is narrowed and needs replaced as they say a 1mm narrowing is cause for replacement and he is at 8mm and if it does not get replaced (in California) the vicious cycle of congestive heart failure (CHF) will repeat itself. The doctor also said that the CHF could have made it look as though he had a heart attack, but they think he just went into CHF. His heart function is at 30% down 10% from a few months back. An ultrasound of his remaining kidney shows a cyst. The greatest news is that all the doctors agree that he can fly home, as at first they were saying we would need to drive back and with the stops needed to prevent blood clots it would have taken at least 6 days so the news is good. Thanks again for sharing your prayers with us.

*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.

*Carolyn* has Multiple Sclerosis with complications. Pray Carolyn and her children will be close to our Lord Jesus Christ as they and family members help to ease the problems.

*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!

*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***

*Mary Thornell* came down with a stomach problem the weekend of 26-27 October 2013, that turned out to be a large mass on her colon. She had emergency surgery on 30 October 2013, at the Riverside Community Hospital. The surgeon was able to remove the huge mass along with about ½ her colon and part of her lower bowel. She did very well and asks you give thanks for the excellent work by Surgeon Nurick and the surgical team and those taking care of her. The masses appear to have been malignant, so that will have to be taken into account. There is a lot of treatment and recovery ahead. She is home now where she can rest and gain

strength, so that is wonderful. Pray for strength and guidance for Mary as she works hard at recovery. Pray for peace of mind for Mary and her husband Jim, as well as daughter Janice and son Jimmy, she begins her recovery. Please pray also for a full and rapid recovery.

*Otto* had massive blood clots in both lungs and a smaller one in one of his legs, treatment worked and he is recovering at home, he tires and is still on medication, but able to sleep and be free from hospital routines. His family and friends thank you for your prayers. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for *Otto*, as well as for his family, and for continued recovery.

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; now she has chest fluid pooling. Please give thanks for the great result and pray for the chest issue to clear up and 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***

*William* is an elderly man living with his Son and Daughter in-law. William is causing trouble in the family because of his demanding ways and continually using bad language. The family is at wit's end to know how to handle him and will appreciate your guidance and prayers.

*Caitlin* is in the grip of the Prince of Darkness; she thinks there is escape from reality in drugs. The saddest part is that reality is not as she sees it. Her family is despairing as they can do nothing to help her and ask that you pray for the Holy Ghost to enter into heart and show her the need for change before it is too late.

*Nathaniel* is in spiritual turmoil. His family 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 his heart.

*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.

*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 sorry, 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*

*Hap* gives thanks for safe travel this past week.

*Hap and Dru Arnold* give thanks for Rev Jack Arnold's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and the wonderful son with whom God has entrusted them.

### ***New Ministers***

On 20 October 2013, *Anthony Pangsiw*, Bishop of the Anglican Orthodox Church in the Philippines was at All Saints' Anglican Orthodox Church in Tulodan Atok, Benquet Philippines, to ordain the following to the ministry in the AOC:

*Reverend Deacon Sherwin Talasyong Banao to be Priest*

*Mr. Fabian M. Matda to be Deacon*

*Mr. Emanuel T. Banao to be Deacon*

Please give thanksgiving for these men stepping forward to serve the Lord and pray for them to be able to fulfill the responsibility they have accepted:

*Reverend Sherwin Talasyong Banao*

*Reverend Deacon Fabian M. Matda*

*Reverend Deacon Emanuel T. Banao*

*Ken Howes* was ordained Tuesday 13 October 2013. Rev. Howes, a good friend of The Anglican Orthodox Church, was ordained into the Augsburg Lutheran Church in White South Dakota. He will be preaching and ministering in German and English in North Carolina and Manitoba. Pray for God's guidance in his ministry.

*Jackson Eugene Arnold* was ordained on 4 October 2013, by Bishop Jerry Ogles in Descanso, California as a priest in the Anglican Orthodox Church.

### ***Ministry***

Elizabeth has taken on Missionary responsibilities in teaching unbelievers, women, children and in music. Pray that God will guide her to complete the responsibilities she has taken on.

### ***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***

Please pray the Typhoon that hit the Philippines will ease off and the people will recover from the devastation.

This is a horrible time for the *people of India, Christians in particular*; they are having problems with Hunger, Bank Closings, Transportation and Schools not functioning. Pray for the Leaders and Members of our Church in Eluru Andhra Pradesh. Pray their basic needs will be met and God will be close to them in this time of need.

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 Mouner 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.

### ***Typhoon Report***

David Geraldson is one of our members. His wife Tessie was from the Philippines and was visiting when the typhoon struck. As he reports, he made his way with to help her

and her family:

First of all thanks a million and a million more to all of you and so many more for your prayers not only for Tessie and myself the past week, but also for those families that lost so much in this ferocious typhoon that devastated Tacloban, Leyte and the southern coastline of Eastern Samar. It has been a busy seven days since I left Fallbrook exactly seven days ago right now for the Philippines.

Tessie had traveled to Tacloban Philippines two weeks earlier to spend four weeks with her grandkids. We had been in regular contact during the days leading up to the storm up until around 415AM Friday, Philippine time when she sent her last text that the power was out and the wind was howling. In the first 36 hours following the storm, I could tell the eye of this powerful storm...likely the strongest to landfall in recorded history was going to wreak catastrophic damage.

With absolutely no contact with Tessie or any of her relatives in Tacloban Leyte or E. Samar by any relatives in the US or Philippines, I knew I had to go and find her, bring food and get her out of there and to help in any way i was able.

I arrived Manila with my 90 lbs of packaged foodstuffs on Monday night Philippine time and could already sense that God was surely with me. I flew from LAX to San Fran then onto Manila. In San Francisco, a close Filipino friend of 39 years was boarding the same flight after a four week visit to the US along with his wife. They live near the Manila airport and I stayed overnight with them.

After having some other close Filipino friends investigate the potential of commercial air, sea or ground transport to Tacloban (some 550 miles south of Manila) it was obvious that my only way there would be by military C-130 flying out of the Phil AF side of Manila airport. The US Marines were the first significant foreign assistance to swing into gear here with the arrival of some Osprey Helicopters and some C-130s. My Phil AF friend got me into the base, we found the American air operation. Our uniformed Marines would make each of us proud the way they were effectively and efficiently coordinating the initial logistic support for the disaster to the South. Already that Tuesday morning they had flown in two plane loads of Philippine Special Forces to help restore law and order in a place where looting was beginning to run rampant.

I made known my desire to get to Tacloban and they promised to do what they could. While waiting I did an interview with NBC that I understand portions of which were aired on the Today Show and Nightly News. Around 1130 a Marine Colonel yelled at me that I had one min to grab by backs and get to a C-130 on the ramp with engines running. I made it aboard and initially sat on the floor with a plane full of heavily armed Philippine Army Special Forces.

As the cargo tail door opened at Tacloban, the first views of a devastated

passenger terminal and aircraft ground equipment made the reality of where I now was begin to sink in. As I left the aircraft wearing my backpack and my two boxes of food in each hand, I was on my own. I found a gate on a temporary fence put up with a mass of dazed people outside. The guard let me squeeze through an opening and I was immediately challenged to find transport from the airport with my boxes and baggage. There was none. Not even a pedicab. I tried to convince a few waiting cars to take me....no luck. I asked a number of uniformed troops for help. Was told would need to walk. Finally a Philippine Army troop told me to throw my stuff on an Army truck loaded with rice and six armed guards which I did. I rode as a part of a convoy to an intersection along the main highway (near where I knew Tessie had been before the storm) where I was dropped off.

There was a drizzling rain as I stood among the people who had lost so much asking for any sort of ride the remaining 3km. By this point I had already had a good cry viewing the scores of rotting human bodies along the side of the road coming from the airport and the absolute destruction everywhere. I saw one food distribution point with a very long line. Most people just had a dazed look on their faces.

After about ten min of standing with the masses I found a "tricycle" (small motorbike with a side car) who said he would take me the remaining 3km to where I last knew my wife was located. After stories of the looting and break down of law and order I was a bit concerned about safety ... especially when the price was negotiated as "up to you" and another guy got on right after we left and the driver started telling me stories of how he and his family had no food. We found the subdivision. Some houses were totally destroyed. Others heavily damaged. We found the house my wife was in with her grand kids. As I was getting out one of the six year old boys spotted me and yelled out "Tito David" and ran inside. A few seconds later Tessie came out in shock and we both tightly embraced and held onto each other and cried together.

Her family there would be considered upper middle class as they have a decent house and a car. They had some food and ample water stockpiled so were not themselves hurting, although so many in the city were. At dusk we drove the 3km into downtown and back as we checked on some friends. Tessie's son and her two grandsons had a fever; but other than that, all were ok. The house received moderate damage but was still livable. Other than the howling wind, some windows breaking upstairs and sliding glass doors popping out, the scariest moment was when a large piece of wood flying through the air harpooned the roof then knocking out a portion of the concrete wall under the room line. It was hard to imagine how much kinetic energy that flying piece of wood had to do that much damage.

The kids did not seem to be overly traumatized and I believe that was due in



large part to Tessie comforting them, praying with them and reassuring them throughout the storm. The eye passed directly overhead with strong wind initially out of the north,,then a 20 min calm, followed by even stronger winds out of the south. All were with her but her eldest grand daughter who was attending her other grandmother. Where she was they were engulfed in neck deep water which rapidly came in with the storm surge and they swam to the stairs and went up to the third floor of the apartment building. Tessie's house is about 3 or 4 km inland from the coast so was not affected by the storm surge of ten or more feet which caused even more death and damage than the powerful 190mph winds.

My wife had not really been out and had not heard news from the outside world so was not aware of the enormity of the destruction in other parts of the city and especially near the coastal areas affected by the storm surge. There was basically no information flow from local authorities or awareness what the outside world was doing to help.

My initial intention of going to Tacloban was first to find my wife and to attend to any immediate survival needs she or her children/grandchildren had and then to help out in any way I could. From my trip to the airport to her house, going around the town and talking with others the enormity of the disaster began to sink in.

There was no electric power as the electric lines are virtually all on the ground (98%). I would estimate that 35 to 40% of all power poles are broken, lying on the ground or listing at angles up to 60 degrees from vertical. Water system not working except a trickle at the lowest levels. Huge lines at food distribution points where people were being given 4 pounds of rice. I only saw one gas station that was selling fuel. Others had either been totally destroyed or looted and at this one station, a one liter can on a string was dropped into the tank and brought up and sales were limited to one liter. The line of people with plastic bottles in their hands to buy the one liter was about 300 yards long. The two hospitals I saw were totally unusable. Schools were heavily damaged or destroyed. Almost continuous piles of debris from the storm and rubble from destroyed structures was accompanied by growing piles of waste as garbage accumulated. No shops or stores open to even buy food, water, supplies, medicine, etc. One temporary cell phone tower at a downtown hotel had begun operating a few hours before and served as the only contact with the outside for those who could charge their batteries at the very rare location with a generator. I saw no stores open. One small 20 room hotel was open, no ATMs, banks all closed, no way to get money, no credit card transactions, no TV or land line phones.

Stop for a minute and think how you would survive if there were no fuel for transport, no electrical, water, sanitation, medical, government services, shopping, access to money or contact with the outside world with stories of looting and the stench of decaying unclaimed bodies. This was a place like

that...with an eerie quietness at night with total darkness except for a candle by the toilet. No fans to move the still humid warm air.

The next day as we talked with others, it seemed many with a way out were leaving. Going to other provinces, Manila, etc. These were ones with cars who had a way out or money to get an occasional van to the west coast of Leyte and then make their way to Cebu and beyond.

Tessie's kids and relatives discussed the deteriorating situation, considered how long it would likely be before even power, water, jobs, money and fuel were available and decided that they too should leave. One family going to Cebu, another heading to Manila.

I desperately wanted to do something to help. I was there....my wife is from there and speaks the local language and knows the area yet we both felt so helpless. It was so overwhelming. How can you help if you do not have transportation from a place to sleep...fuel...resources. There seemed to be no community organization. No centralized control. Poor coordination of the limited relief efforts just starting up. Then there is the matter of local national sensitivities at having foreigners making decisions and taking a leadership role. At the time, delivery of mostly rice to at that time the two distribution centers was done by the Philippine Army. After much discussion Tessie and I reluctantly decided we too should leave. If we stayed...how would we get to service points? How about security in a place with looting and desperation? Where would we sleep and keep our belongings? Find our own food and water? We were torn. Were we being selfish?

Just before her son left, he drove us to the airport. It was the first time Tessie or he had been through the area hardest hit. By the time we got to the airport we were both teary eyed. At the time it was more than five days after the typhoon yet we saw more than 40 bloated decaying bodies along the debris-littered road. Since Tessie's family were leaving, they took a bit of food and water so much of the food I brought was left for us to distribute elsewhere. As we drove to the airport, we gave out food to mothers with babies and children we would see along the road. By the time we got to the airport we had one bottle of water left.

Since we both hold military IDs, we were granted access into the US military area. Anderson Cooper from CNN was broadcasting live from next to where we were standing as we entered. During the next three hours as we waited for a seat on a returning C-130 flight to Manila I believe I was able to make at least a wee bit of difference as I talked with several media folks, and shared observations with the Army and Marine Civil Affairs Officers. They appreciated the info and ideas I passed. A principle concern was the seemingly poor information flow to the populace and the impression that no one was really centrally in charge.

Since then a number of media have voiced the same opinion and Anderson Cooper caused quite an uproar in some Filipino circles when he directly attacked the "no one in control" perception. Today the President of the Philippines flew into Tacloban and is going to personally take charge of directing relief operations which go well beyond just the immediate needs of distributing food and water.

There were the "teeming masses" at the airport as people of all walks of life were trying to leave. Filipino nationals without a family relationship to an American either had to try and get a seat on a commercial prop plane that was shuttling between Tacloban and Cebu or wait in a huge line numbering in the thousands to try and get a ride on the one operating Phil AF C-130. At that time there were no toilet facilities in the area and the mud, debris, smell of urine and the masses in and around the remains of what was once a passenger terminal were surreal.

During our three hour wait, the tempo of activity was impressive. US Marine C-130 flights filled with USAID cargo, a C-130 with relief supplies from Singapore, the PAF C-130, The Philippine President's plane to take out sick and injured, the arrival and departure of the US Ambassador, a UN flight, and the prop driven commercial shuttles to Cebu. We Americans should be very proud and thankful for the role our country is playing in providing assistance to the people affected by this disaster.

The hundreds of Philippine Army Special Forces flown in to help regain law and order in a place where it was seriously deteriorating. The large fork lift being used to unload all the US and other national cargo planes was USAF equipment. The radios and communications equip that helped reopen the airfield were US provided as was the lighting system that allowed 24x7 operations to initiate a few hours after we left. Then thousands of tons of cargo already hauled...the helicopters getting supplies to remote areas, the reopening of an old WW2 Airstrip in Eastern Samar that allows supplies to be delivered to another location, American GIs busting tail to unload aircraft from all countries. And since I left Tacloban, additional C-130s and the aircraft carrier George Washington with multiple helicopters being used and fresh water being produced through desalination.

In later afternoon it was our turn to board a USMC C-130 returning to Manila. Tessie and both felt good because we were able to intercede with the Army and USAF officers handling the pax and logistics to get a young couple on board with the pregnant wife already going into contractions. Once we boarded, Tessie and I had a webseat along the side. Although I have flown many times in a C-130, never like this. Every inch of the floor was filled with people all crammed together sitting on the floor and a few pax sitting in wheel chairs toward the front of the plane. When we landed at the military side of Manila International many of the passengers clapped. As we disembarked we noticed many pallets of USAID goods staged for follow-on flights that evening and the next day.

In the three days since we have returned the situation in Samar and Leyte seems to be improving. The massive international relief operation is starting to make a real difference. Tessie has family in Eastern Samar and they have only recently been contacted. A brother in Manila left 24 hours ago with a van crammed full of relief supplies purchased with donations from relatives in the US. I just heard about an hour ago they were nearing the front of the 7km long line at the southern tip of Luzon waiting to take the car/truck/pax ferry across the 25 mile stretch of water separating Luzon from Samar.

Yesterday, we talked with a group from Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa who were trying to establish a way to distribute aid in Eastern Samar. Tessie gave them some ideas and contacts. The frustration of so many is that the need is great but it is even now still a bit chaotic and unorganized with some real logistical challenges to get some of the private funded aid to the affected area as evidenced by the 7km back up waiting for the limited ferry service between Luzon and Samar.

As of now, Tessie and I will be on a flight home departing Manila on 20 November 2013. In the midst of this tragedy, I can still see God's hand at work. People have been humbled. There seems to be more compassion for the poor among the more affluent both in the Philippines and abroad. There are chances to show Christian charity by groups that might not otherwise have the opportunity to do so. The Philippines and World have learned some important lessons about disaster response that will improve preparation and response to future disasters. Families have drawn closer. Kids have learned some lessons on survival, sharing, resilience, frugal use of resources, etc. And, while some have had their faith shaken, others have had their faith increased. I know of friends of mine who have prayed fervently for those affected...and lives that have grown closer to the Lord through all of this.

Tessie appreciates from the bottom of her heart your prayers for her and her family and I appreciate your prayers for me as I traveled into where the eye of the storm passed and forever changed so many lives in the matter of a couple of hours.

Thanks in advance for your continued prayers as we prepare to return to the US and that God will grant wisdom to those directing and leading disaster relief and reconstruction in the weeks and months ahead.

David and Tessie

*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).

### *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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
24 November 2013	Dru Arnold – Sunday Next before Advent
1 December 2013	Dru Arnold – First Sunday in Advent

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

24 November 2013 – Sunday Next before Advent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

1 December 2013– First Sunday in Advent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**