THINK ABOUT IT

Intense trials come on all of us. When trials strike, they can come swiftly and often seem out of the blue. Maybe this is happening to you right at this moment. You may have received unexpected news either from your doctor that your test results have come back or an employer who informs you that your services are no longer needed. Maybe the doorbell rings and the police are there to inform you of a tragic accident involving a loved one. Maybe your closest friends either abandon you or turned on us, some may have even betrayed a deep confidence leaving you exposed and embarrassed. Or maybe emotional struggles come, and anxiety and depression become constant companions.

During these times it is not out of the ordinary for even the most mature believer to ask, "Why God?" Yet other questions may come, "Where are you God?" "Do you care?" These are not questions of disrespect nor do they convey lack of faith. They are words that reflect our true humanity. They reflect our frailty, a frailty which our God knows all about. Psalm 103:14 says, "For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust." Yet even this passage doesn't take away the feelings that in the darkest hours, we may feel alone.

I am reminded of an incident in the life of the disciples recorded in Mark 6 where after miraculously feeding 5000 people our Lord instructed his disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the lake. Meanwhile, we are told, Jesus went up into the mountains to pray and be alone with His Father.

As the disciples got about halfway across the lake, a windstorm kicked up so violent that they feared they would lose their lives. No matter how hard they rowed, they made no headway. To them, the main problem was that unlike the storm that occurred in chapter 4 where Jesus was in the boat asleep, this time he was not there. For all they knew, he was oblivious to their plight. But then something amazing happened.

Here is how Mark records it, “And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.”

There are a few words of encouragement in these few sentences. First, even though they were far out on the lake and in their own estimation all alone, we are told, that our Lord saw them. He was not oblivious to their plight; his eye was on them all the time. He was finely tuned in to their situation and he will do something about it. Second, we are told that he came to them in a miraculous way at an unexpected time. He walks on the water in order to rescue them and did so roughly at about 3:00-6:00 in the morning. Just before dawn. As he approaches, his only recorded words in the whole story, “Take heart, it is I.” Instantly the storm ceased.

Yes, there are times the Lord allows violent storms to rage around us. Yes, there are times we may feel abandoned by God, but the eye of our Lord is always upon us. He may allow the trials to continue for a time, sometimes beyond what we think we can bear. But eventually he comes, usually at times unexpected, and with him comes a calm tranquility as he simply says, “Take heart, it is I.”
Steve

FAMILY LIFE EVENTS

Celebration Lunch for Pastor Harry and Denise. Join us this Sunday, May 22 following the worship service for a luncheon to thank Pastor Harry and Denise! Pastor Harry faithfully served as WBC’s interim pastor for over 2 years. Praise God for providing for us!

What the Bible is All About. What The Bible is All About concluded last week. Starting in September, a new Women’s One-to-One Discipling course will begin. This course will cover the basics of the Christian faith - Assurance of Salvation, Attributes of God, The Bible, Prayer, The Spirit-Filled Life, Fellowship, Witnessing, Temptation, and Obedience. It will help lay the foundation upon which believers can build the rest of their lives and includes instruction of how to then share this content with others. We will meet once per week, in the evenings, from September through May. Commitment is required and the class will be limited to 10-12 members. Please pray about whether this is for you! Call or text Jan Kohler at 847-542-1641 if you are interested. Watch for more details in August. Have a great summer!

Annual Meeting. Save the date! WBC’s annual meeting will be on Sunday, June 12, immediately following the worship service! All are welcome – come join us as we celebrate what God has done in the past year and as we look forward to the coming year.

WBC members will be asked to vote on the following church offices:

Elders
Garry Ellis – 1 year term
Kurt Krueger – 1 year term
David Woodyatt – 1 year term

Financial Secretary
Eric Ng – 1 year term

Nominating Committee
Diana Jaggard – 3 years term
Joanie Woodyatt – 3 years term

Ireland. The missions team is excited to share that we will hosting a short term trip to Ireland June 23 - July 4 to work with our Irish missionaries Jim and Kathy. The ministry will be focused on caring for refugees, travelers (gypsies), local evangelism and outreach. Brenda Gaines (brenda.gaines49@gmail.com) and Helen Gallagher (f1nelliegirl@yahoo.com) will be co-leads and contacts of the trip. If you are interested in going, please reach out to one of them! The sign-up deadline is May 20.

Vacation Bible Camp. Save the Dates! VBC will be Monday, July 25-Thursday, July 28 this year at WBC. Interested in helping? Join us Sunday June 5th after service in the lounge for a VBC information meeting. Questions? Email Hillary at hillary@wbc.org
Vacation Bible Camp registration will open in June.
Volunteers needed for the Infant and Toddler Nursery! As more families are returning to church, we need more helpers in the nursery. Please consider serving the youngest people in our midst. If you are able to serve, please contact Hillary Kolssak at hillary@wbc.org

Please carefully read the abbreviated announcements and links below. If you have any questions, please email admin@wbc.org or call 847-446-7523.

Weekly Gatherings
Sundays
9:15am: Adult Discipleship Class in FLC
10:30am: Sunday Worship in the sanctuary (toddler nursery available); livestream at wbc.org
6:00-8:00pm: Youth Group in the loft (grades 6-12)

Mondays
7pm: Women’s intercessory prayer in the Lounge (2nd Monday of the month is in the “Green Room”)

Wednesdays
7-8pm: All church prayer on Zoom; click here to join (Meeting ID: 841 7763 1359, Passcode: 777)

Volunteer Opportunities
Children’s Sunday Ministry: We need 4 volunteers (for both teaching and helping roles) to resume Children’s Sunday Worship on a weekly basis. Training will be provided.
Contact: Hillary Kolssak at hillary@wbc.org

Hospitality Team: Help for our 4th Sunday Fellowship Lunches (bringing food, setting up/tearing down)
Contact: Hillary Kolssak at hillary@wbc.org

Sunday Slideshow: Run the slideshow during Sunday morning service; no experience needed
Contact: Brian Johnson at brian@wbc.org

Toddler Nursery: Help for our toddler nursery during the worship service on Sunday mornings
Contact: Hillary Kolssak at hillary@wbc.org

Ways to plug in
Join a small group: contact Ken Kulig at ken@wbc.org

Kept by His grace,
Pastor Steve