



The Beacon



... let us walk in the Lord's light. Isaiah 2:5

May 2020



Happy Mother's Day



May 10, 2020

A woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Prov 31:30

The Original Mother's Heart

Susan M. Watkins

For as long as I can remember I wanted to be an archaeologist. The whole idea of finding something buried and unseen by others appealed to me. When younger, I could be found digging in some corner of the yard. Best thing I ever found was an old spark plug calibrator. And then, I encountered Christ. My whole life changed, but my love for a good dig didn't. It was simply redirected.

God placed a treasure trove of priceless jewels within reach when I was handed a Bible. Miner's hat? Check. Pickaxe and shovel? Check. Burning passion to discover God? Check, check.

In my search for God's nature, I stumbled across something stunning: His handiwork in fashioning mothers' hearts. It's easy to miss God weaving Himself into mothers and their hearts. A deep well, failing definition. Greeting cards offer armies of categories addressing it. Hollywood's spent millions depicting it onscreen. Yet the wellspring of a mother's heart remains mysterious.

Our Creator takes care to knit Himself into who we are and will become. In examining His love for us, His mothering nature is quickly apparent:

"...How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings..." Matthew 23:37

How could God reference Himself as a protective mother, lest He'd poured His compassionate nature into the mother's heart? His maternal temperament continues:

"...He will exult over you with joy; He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy." Zephaniah 3:17

"Quiet in His love," duplicates the tenderest moments between mother and child, referencing the child being fully contented and simply enjoying the closeness of its mother. The child wants nothing more than its mother's presence.

It's a time of quiet love. Drawing powerful strength from her proximity alone. Again we see His mothering side:

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb?" Isaiah 49:15

Who better than the Designer of mothers could explain this nurturing side of Himself? The nourishing definition of Jehovah Jireh. Our Provider. His provision in limitless care was famously spoken to Moses. Asking a yet unnamed God His name, He replied, "I Am." A statement begging to fill in the blank. "I AM everything. I AM infinite. I AM all powerful."

Until my mother's passing, I took full advantage of my family membership and went straight to her for comfort. Dad understood my running past him to reach her arms. With advancing years, hurts changed, but the source of my consolation didn't. I still went to Mom for comfort. For through her kindness, forgiveness, and never-ending compassion, I came to wholly trust God. He was easily recognizable in her and I deeply valued God's mothering heart woven tightly into hers.

The birthing process is God's idea. He's maternally given birth to the universe, birth to our planet, and birth to us. Most importantly He's given us re-birth, calling us into reconciliatory relationships with Him. Nicodemus needed clarification. He knew it impossible to reenter a mother's womb a second time. God's way was easier with no gestational period. Being born-again in the Spirit granted restoration with the Father; enjoying unbroken intimacy.

Our Father in heaven is solidly our Father. His maternal nature guarantees attendance at every bird's funeral. Keeps track of 7.2 billion heads of hair. Tallies innumerable thoughts about us exceeding grains of sand. Stills our storms, heals our diseases, binds our broken hearts. The most potent attribute of His mother's heart is His lavish forgiveness of our sins. Black sins, washed in red blood, producing robes of white righteousness. Like the mother that deliberately forgets her child's shortcomings, He casts our

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**Pastor Dave's
Message
for the
Month**

As I sit and write this article, it is April 21st. We have not been able to gather physically together for over five weeks. I MISS ALL OF YOU! As tough as this has been, I have a greater appreciation for the ability to gather with the Body of Christ. I know this season we are in will come to an end, restrictions will be lifted, and we will be able to come together once again. I don't know when that will be or how that will look, but I know that day is coming. I am looking forward to the day when we can physically practice Hebrews 10:24-25 once again—"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." I know you are looking forward to this day as well. I believe this will be a great time of celebrating and worshipping Jesus.

Through this season, I have also gained a greater appreciation for the day we will be in heaven with all Christians. What a great time of celebration that will be as we gather around God's throne and worship Him. In this season as I have longed to be with all of you, I also have a greater longing for heaven. I long to be with Jesus, but I also long to tell as many people as possible about Jesus so they can have a relationship with Him. As we go through this season, let's not lose our focus on Jesus and the calling He has placed on our lives to share Him with others. People are looking for hope and Jesus is the only lasting hope there is.

For His glory,

Pastor Dave



'We Over Me'
by Whitney Capps

Tuesday, June 2nd ~ 6:45p
1st Tuesday of each month



Monday, June 15th ~ 7:00p
(3rd Monday of each month)

'No More Excuses'
by Tony Evans



*We extend our sympathy
and prayers to:*

- ◆ Diane Poole and her family, in the death of her brother-in-law, Wayne Poole
- ◆ Faye Taylor and her family, in the death of her brother, Robert Wynne

Graduate Recognition Sunday

is June 14th. If you or your child is graduating from high school or college, please let Pastor Dave know so we can recognize them.



Original Mother's Heart - Cont'd from cover page

sins directionally as far as the east is from the west, until sinking to the floor of the Sea of Forgetfulness.

Simply stated, He is Father God with a mother's heart. Waiting to wipe every tear; sitting up with us through the night; and listening to our troubles—solving them while we are yet speaking.



The mother's heart is best defined by her unselfish generosity in ongoing, unconditional giving. Thank you, Mom, for letting me feel God's love radiate through you. www1.cbn.com

Remembering Those Who Have Fought for Our Freedom

By Debbie McDaniel

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

Freedom is a gift, it's a treasure. And though we all may agree on that truth, it's often easy to take for granted the greatest gifts that God has given us in our lives. But those most precious gifts are never free. They came with a price. With sacrifice. They were worth fighting for. And are still worth fighting for today. Many brave men and women were willing to face hard battles in order for us to enjoy that gift of freedom today.



For all those who have protected our nation, for the men and women in uniform, together, we say "Thank You."

We take time to remember today, and say a prayer of gratefulness for the many who have been willing to pay a great price for our freedom. May God help us to live so courageously, may we follow the brave examples of those who have gone before us...

Thank you for reminding us that there's incredible love and sacrifice displayed when one is willing to stand strong and fight for freedom.

This service of love and sacrifice on behalf of all people, points us directly to the greatest love of all, the very gift and sacrifice of Christ.

Our Savior was willing to pay the ultimate price, so that we can live free. Forever. May God bless America, and all of those who have sacrificed so greatly for our freedom, and faithfully served our nation! crosswalk.com



Building Fund Update

Our Goal	\$ 1,002,000
Collected <small>as of April 18, 2020</small>	\$ 575,958
Balance	\$ 426,042

MAY 2020

BIRTHDAYS & HOLIDAYS

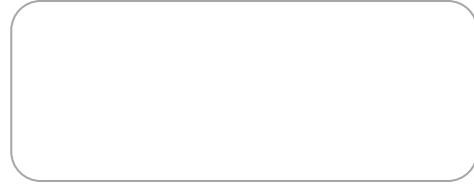
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Memory Verse “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.” Hebrews 10:24					1	2 <i>Luke Gillie</i> <i>Mollie Huff</i>
3 Deacons Meeting 4p	4	5  <i>Kaysi McDaniel</i>	6 <i>Alyssa O'Briant</i> <i>Seth Pryor</i>	7	8	9 <i>Jean Tilley</i>
10 	11 <i>Gage Capel</i> <i>Teresa Ellis</i>	12 Nurses Day  <i>Kaye Dills</i> <i>Jamie Gillie</i>	13 <i>Whitney O'Briant</i>	14 <i>Ashley Chandler</i>	15 <i>Ashley Hogan</i> <i>Laura Pryor</i>	16 <i>Shane Oakley</i>
17	18 <i>Jason</i> <i>Humphries</i>	19	20 <i>Kayleigh</i> <i>McKenzie</i>	21 <i>Gail Bowen</i> <i>Robbie Coates</i>	22 <i>Jedediah Hilton</i> <i>Otha Taylor</i>	23 <i>Kathy Grinstead</i> <i>Tara Oakley</i>
24 Trustees Mtg 5p <i>Garry Compton</i>	25  Memorial Day	26 <i>Karsyn Ellis</i> <i>Matthew Fuller</i> <i>Doris Gresham</i> <i>Ray Moore</i>	27	28	29	30
31	June 1	2	3	4	5	6



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Rev. Dave Pryor - Pastor
Rev. Cameron Lewis - Youth Pastor
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Being Trustworthy

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them” (Heb. 11:13a).

We have been studying various aspects of what it means to trust God. As we wrap up this study, it is appropriate to consider one moral implication, and it is this: Because God is trustworthy and because we are to emulate God’s character to the fullest possible extent, it is vital that believers also be trustworthy.

We all have felt the pain of being let down by another human being. People constantly disappoint us. A friend offers to help you move some furniture on a Saturday morning, but he never shows up. Your daughter tells you she will be home at 10, but it’s 11:45 before she returns; “I lost track, of the time,” she says. Your manager at work promises to let the boss know about your key role in that big project, but he takes all the credit for himself. A neighbor constantly lets his dog dig in your shrubs—even after you ask him not to. There are myriad examples of one human being failing another.



It is not so with God. As we have seen, He bound Himself to keep His promise to Abraham by swearing by Himself. He pledged that He would cease to be God before He would let His promise go unfulfilled. It is true that God reserves the right to fulfill His promises in His own time. But that does

not impugn His trustworthiness. The Word of God over and over again declares that God does what He says He will do. Numbers 23:19 says, “ ‘God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?’ ” 1 Samuel 15:29 tells us, “ ‘The Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.’ ” Psalm 110:4 declares, “The Lord has sworn and will not relent.” And James 1:17 says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” God is faithful and true, utterly trustworthy. And such should be the character of those who name the name of Christ.

Obviously, none of us will ever be perfect in this area. We will fail people just as they fail us. But we should be known as people who are trustworthy and dependable in an ever-increasing measure. These character traits serve as a powerful testimony in today’s world and bring glory to the God we emulate.

Do you have a reputation for dependability? Or do others think of you as less than trustworthy? If the latter, how can you address this problem? Simply put: promise cautiously, deliver studiously. Do not say you “forgot” or make other excuses. Repent of this sin. Pray today that God would make you into a person on whom others can rely. ligonier.org

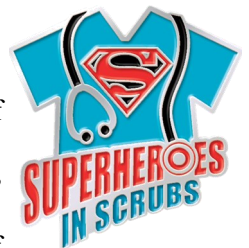
A Thank-You Letter to Nurses: Our Front-Line Heroes (In honor of Nurses Day, May 12)

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has unfolded over the last few weeks, time often feels like it’s slowed to a standstill. The onslaught of news headlines has made it difficult for the general public to discern how worried they should really be, and so the attempts to “flatten the curve” have been uncoordinated thus far. People have rushed to stockpile food, paper goods, and masks, swept up in the flurry of making sure they have “enough”. In the urgency of it all, we’ve forgotten to thank the people at the center of it all: our courageous nurses.

Most days, this profession feels like a calling – it is the most essential, impactful, rewarding type of work. But there’s a reason why healthcare delivery is often referred to in terms of war metaphors. Nurses are “in the trenches” and “on the front lines of care.” They “go into battle” and if they’re lucky, they “emerge unscathed” – but more often not, nurses carry emotional and physical “battle scars”.

I’d like to thank the nurses who run towards the line of danger as the rest of us retreat into the safety of our homes. This was not a battle you signed up for, but it is one for which you’re taking up arms and fighting regardless. You’ve done the mental calculus and against human nature, chosen selflessness over self-preservation – not just today in the war against the invisible enemy that is COVID-19, but every time you step into your scrubs. Thank you for choosing to serve and care for those that might be afflicted with the virus, even though the mere act of caring for them may put yourself and your loved ones at risk.

In awe and gratitude,
A fellow nurse



Read the full letter here: <https://cipherhealth.com/a-thank-you->