

For God so loved
the world...

John 3:16a

He is not here,
He is risen!

Matthew 28:6a

"Christ the Lord is risen
today,
Alleluia!"
"Lives again our glorious
King; Alleluia!"

Charles Wesley

APRIL 2022

TRAILNOTES

The Christian life is a journey.

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the "landscape" we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we're learning and doing.

ElderTalk Jesus, My Sabbath Rest JADAÉ FOX

Have you ever been overwhelmed, burdened, or exhausted because of all you needed to do personally and professionally? As a church leader and dad of five, I certainly have. In Heb. 3:7-4:13, the author talks about the *sabbath rest of the Lord*. God promises His rest for His people, those who believe. The topic of rest is seen in both the New and the Old Testaments (Gen. 2:2, Ex. 20:8-11, Matt. 11:28,28). The rest in Heb. 3 and 4 is more than a day of rest. It is a way of life.

For forty years, the Israelites walked in the wilderness and saw God's works and power. They saw His faithfulness, provision, and yet because of their unbelief they could not enter God's *Sabbath rest*. Disobedience and unbelief are inseparable. You cannot have one without the other. Any time we sin, we prove we don't believe or trust God as it relates to our sin. Any time we disobey God, we are saying we think our way is better. We are warned not to make the same mistakes as the Israelites did, not to harden our hearts in unbelief. (Heb. 3:7-19).

So, since disobedience and unbelief keep us from Sabbath rest, obedience and belief in Jesus give us access to this rest! (Heb. 4:3.) This seems like a contradiction, but we are told to *strive* for His rest. (Heb. 4:11). It is hard to stop working in our own strength and to rest in Jesus. I remember times when I have felt this Sabbath rest and peace of Jesus in my life. But it is not just

when things are going well but often when the demands on my time, energy, and strength are at their highest. The question is, will I believe what God says and who He is? Will I rely on His power?

While God wants us to have times of actual physical rest where we put our work on hold, I believe that when we talk about Jesus being our Sabbath rest, we have rest during the work, hardships, trials, or grief. As believers, we are not judged by whether we keep the Sabbath day. (Col. 2:16). Instead, we follow the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus Christ. We find our rest in Him all seven days of the week.

Once in a worship service when I felt the presence of the Spirit especially strong, God showed me that I had a critical spirit and had been praying in unbelief. I was asking for big things without genuinely believing they could happen. I confessed my sin and unbelief in repentance, and I felt such a heavy weight lifted from me. I had not realized just how debilitating that burden was until Jesus took it from me. I felt like Christian from *Pilgrims Progress* when he dropped his pack and realized what he had carried for so long. "Come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28).

It became easier to deal with life's stresses and challenges in the days and weeks that followed. My situation had not changed. There were still the same big problems.

(continued on page 2)

FIELD HOSPITAL NOW IN UKRAINE

FRANKLIN GRAHAM Samaritan's Purse

As the deadly conflict in Ukraine escalates, our emergency Field Hospital is treating patients. Our first patient was a woman named Marina from Malyn, a city west of Kyiv. She had injured her arm while escaping into a bomb shelter and suffered for nine days before arriving at our field hospital. She cried tears of relief when we told her we could help her.

Our nearly 60-bed facility—airlifted via two flights of our DC-8 cargo plane and an additional 747 flight—has an ICU, two operating theaters with capacities for dozens of surgeries each day and an emergency room that can handle 100 patients daily.



Samaritan's Purse Field hospital being set up in a parking garage in Ukraine

The governor of Lviv said, "When I saw the field hospital I felt like I had walked into a movie, but unfortunately this is Ukraine. We thank Samaritan's Purse for coming here to help us. We pray that this 'movie' will soon be over."

God calls us to go into crisis areas to help those who are most vulnerable. As the conflict escalates in Ukraine, our international

(continued on page 2)

APRIL 2022

- 2** Lunch with missionaries to Mexico, Mike and Becky Kuelker. 12-3 pm gathering at church.
- 3** Pastor Eric Byrom preaching. I Cor. 16:1-24. Members meeting in place of Circle Church.
- 10** Palm Sunday. Pastor Eric preaching.  Potluck lunch in honor of the Byroms' 10th anniversary here at GFC.
- 16** Kingdom Men's monthly prayer breakfast at McDonald's on Hanley Rd. at 9:00 am.
- 17** **RESURRECTION DAY!**
Pastor Eric preaching on I Cor. 15:1- 58.
- 22-23** Table Fellowship Annual Conference, Spooner, WI. Registration ASAP, please.
- 24** Elder Jadae Fox preaching. II Cor. 1:1-11. 
- 28** Women of Grace Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm.



Laura Byrom standing with the large number of items donated on short notice for Ukrainian relief between 6-8 March and taken to Journey Fellowship Church in Galena, OH for "air lift" to Poland. Thank you GFC!

Jesus, My Sabbath Rest *(concluded)*

I wasn't yelling or getting angry. I realized that I was able to speak gently with much less effort. What used to frustrate me, now I could overlook it. (Prov. 19:11). I had joy and peace and patience again. In short, I saw more of the Fruit of the Spirit.

This is the rest God wants His people to have, whether you are working hard or having a day of rest from your work. Having this rest means having confidence that Jesus has already completed and perfectly kept the whole law. I don't need to earn God's favor. I know He will meet my needs. I work in His strength and the strength He has given me.

Whether it is the stresses of work, family, church, or world affairs, we can strive to live in His rest. How do you find and stay in Jesus' Sabbath rest? By believing, as well as obedience that comes out of that belief.

FIELD HOSPITAL NOW IN UKRAINE *(cont.)*

disaster response teams with doctors, nurses, and other specialists are equipped and ready to help people in Jesus' Name. We want them to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them.

Samaritan's Purse is also operating a 24-hour medical clinic at a train station in Lviv. We are seeing dozens of patients a day at that location, which serves as a triage center and stabilization point.

In Moldova, we've set up a mobile medical unit at a large stadium housing refugees. In addition, we are providing hygiene kits to refugee families and delivering food to local churches who will distribute it to fleeing Ukrainians.


Ukrainian families are hurting and in desperate need of physical aid and prayer during this difficult time. We want to meet the needs of these families in their darkest moments while pointing them to the light and hope of Jesus Christ.

Samaritan's Purse has a partner network of 3,200 churches inside Ukraine. As conflict erupted, we were in the process of distributing 600,000 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We remain in contact with ministry partners in the country to see how we can assist during this crisis. Please pray for God to grant them strength and protection.

The world is shocked and horrified by the images of death and destruction coming out of Ukraine, a catastrophe we have not witnessed in Europe since the Second World War. The United Nations reports that more than 2.5 million refugees, primarily women and children, have already left Ukraine seeking shelter in nearby countries. An additional 2 million are displaced within Ukraine. Please join me in praying for the people of Ukraine and for this conflict to end quickly.



This Samaritan's Purse Emergency Field Hospital is open in western Ukraine, and their medical team is already treating patients suffering due to the escalating conflict there.



1.
Christ the Lord is risen today,
Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say,
Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs
high, Alleluia!
Sing ye heavens and earth
reply, Alleluia!

2,
Love's redeeming work is done,
Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won,
Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise,
Alleluia!
Christ has opened Paradise,
Alleluia!

3.
Lives again our glorious King,
Alleluia!
Where, O Death, is now thy
sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save,
Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, O grave?
Alleluia!

4.
Soar we now where Christ has
led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted head,
Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise,
Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the
skies, Alleluia!

5.
Hail the Lord of earth and
heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be
given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now,
Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, Thou.
Alleluia!

6.
King of glory, soul of bliss,
Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this,
Alleluia!
Thee to know, Thy power to
prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love,
Alleluia!

*First called "Hymn for Easter Day."
- Charles Wesley, (6500 hymns)*

Love's Redeeming Work Is Done!

-Charles Wesley

As you read...

*"Christ the Lord is Risen Today,"
notice that the song
not only preaches the
Resurrection, but also
the doctrine of original
sin, atonement, union
with Christ, faith, jus-
tification, sanctifica-
tion and glorification.*

*-Jen Wilkin,
The Wondrous Cross*

**"He is risen just
as He said."**

*It is
Death is **not** the End.
even
the
Beginning of the End.*

Death is simply the
End of the **BEGINNING!**

*-Emma Hayward MD
to a dying patient*



Friends of the Byroms among the Refugees

This Christian family of six were friends of Laura and Eric when they lived in Central Asia. In fact, Ethan used to play with the daughter in this photo when both were little! This daughter is still in Ukraine and got married there on Saturday, March 26. Sadly, her family fled due to the war and couldn't be with them on their wedding day. The new groom has not had to fight yet but he has driven supplies to the city of Kharkiv. There are two other children not in the older family photo shown at upper left.



Laura is in contact with an immigration lawyer in Columbus. She wants to see what the process is for sponsoring the family to come and live in Mansfield. The only relative they have in the United States has a green card and cannot invite the family to live with her.

They fled their first country because of religious persecution, lived in Ukraine for eleven years but were not citizens. If you would like to help this family, Laura plans to send money by Western Union to them, now in Western Europe. Make a check out to Laura and she will take it from there.

From an Ukrainian prayer of unknown authorship:

*“Good Lord, protect Ukraine.
Give her strength, courage, faith, hope.
Amen.”*
(Literal translation)

Joan Adams is 96!



H
A
P
P
Y

96TH

B
I
R
T
H
D
A
Y

Joan is the widow of Evan Adams. If you look closely at the picture, you will notice that she ate half of two cupcakes and a bite from each of the others! Happy birthday, Joan!

Grace Fellowship Church

365 Straub Rd East • Mansfield Oh 44903
419-526-4699 • gracefellowship01@gmail.com



Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder/Pastor
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Andy Heining	Elder
Jon Vega	Elder
Cameron Karger	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women
Lori Barker	Missions
Andy Heining	Worship
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox	Office
Kathy Barth, Manfred & Janet Adalem	Communion
Andy Anschutz	Sound/Power Point
John and Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes