

יהוה  
God said to Moses, "I AM who I AM."  
Exodus 3:14a

Ἰαω / Κύριος  
Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."  
John 8:58



# TRAILNOTES



"From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised."  
Psalm 113:3

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: True Worship and Reverence ...What it takes to really praise the Lord!

JERRY MATHIAS

### The Object of Worship

Let's begin with the broad question, "What is worship?" "Praise ye the Lord" (Psalm 150:1). The emphasis is on "the Lord." He is to be the object of worship. If God is the object of worship, we would do well to define worship at this point.

Webster defined worship as "courtesy or reverence that is paid to worth." That is what worship is—a courtesy or reverence paid to something or someone of worth. The psalmist does this very thing in the great singing psalm that shall be sung in the eternal ages which lie before us:

*"For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples. Give to the Lord glory and strength, Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts." (Psalm 96:4-8)*

David composed this great psalm when the ark was brought into the sanctuary in Zion. It is one of those great psalms of praise and adoration of God. The Psalms put the emphasis upon two things: the fact that God is the "Creator" and the fact that He is the "Redeemer." God made this earth on which we live as well as the entire universe. He claims from all of His creatures their worship, adoration, and praise. He alone is worthy of worship, and He says there is coming a day when, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6) He has created everything so that it might praise Him.

### Who Is to Worship?

Now let's turn our focus to the second word of our verse: "Praise ye the Lord." God apparently created man for one purpose: to have fellowship with and to praise Him. There is no other reason for man's existence. What is the chief end of man? "Man's chief end



*is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever*"—Westminster Shorter Catechism. God created the universe that we might glorify Him. It was not brought into existence for you and me. *Job 38:7* says that when the morning stars sang together, they were praising God, and the psalmist says in *Psalm 96:5*, "but the Lord made the heavens." Why? He made the heavens that they might be a musical instrument to sing forth His praises throughout the eternal ages of the future. (*Psalm 96:8-9*). "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. Tremble before Him, all the earth." So we know mankind was created for that high purpose.

My friend, it is the redeemed today who are to lift their voices in praise. They are the only ones who can.

(continued on page 2)

## True Worship and Reverence *(cont. from p.1)*

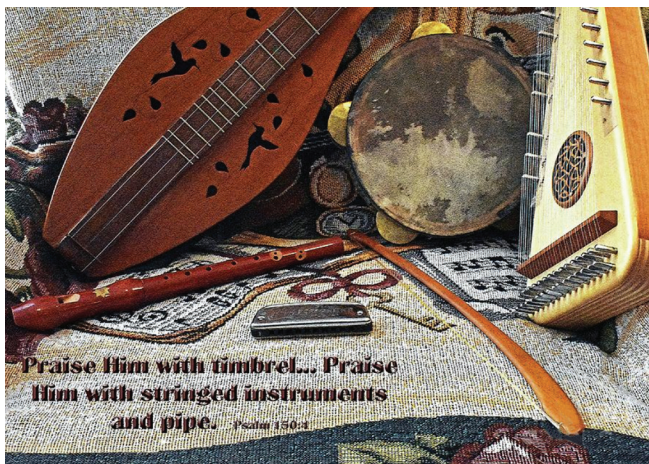
The psalmist says again, “*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.*” (Psalm 106:1) “*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.*” (Psalm 107:2) If they don’t say so, no one will!

Oh, to be in tune with heaven! Today sin has intruded into this world and taken mankind out of God’s choir. But anyone can come back in—and many have—through Jesus Christ, the Son of David, our Creator and Redeemer. The Lord Jesus brought us back into a redemptive and right relationship with God so that we might lift our voices in praise to Him.

### Why Worship?

John, on the Isle of Patmos, saw the glorified Christ and said, “*I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid.’*” (Revelation 1:17) The creature now can come to the Creator.

Only Jesus Christ and the worship of Him has lifted man up. Man is yet to be restored to his rightful place and brought back into harmony with heaven, but that day is coming. The great 150th Psalm starts out with His pulling out the diapason stop and reads, “*Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!*” Then the flute stop is pulled out. “*Praise Him with the sound of the timbrel and dance; praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the lute and harp.*” Then the string stop is pulled out: “*Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*” God breathed into man a life—soul and spirit, and man departed from God. There is coming a day when everything that has life, everything that has breath, will praise the Lord. But in this day in which you and I live, we can lift our hearts and lives to Him in adoration and praise.



As we look about this world today, there is nothing but bedlam. Every man is playing his own little tune. One of these days, out from the wings will step the Conductor, the Lord Jesus Christ. When He lifts His baton, from the ends of God’s universe those galactic systems will join in and every bird, every angel, and then mankind will join the heavenly chorus. In the meantime, you can bow before Him and bring your own little soul and heart into the harmony of heaven.



**Rummage Sale** Make your best offer!

Was held at Grace Fellowship Church  
May 4-6, 2023  
A great success!

1. Over \$2,000 raised to help kids attend GFC's summer camps.
2. Truckload left over for charity.

If you didn’t make it to the sale...here are a couple of “before” photos to give you an idea of the bargains that you missed out on.



## How the Coleman Children Celebrated the Resurrection

Rachelle Coleman wanted to do an outreach this year that would teach her children that Easter was “not about bunnies and Easter baskets.” She came up with a project where they colored pictures, painted rocks, and made items to add to the eggs they took to GFC shut-ins and relatives. The children, along with a parent or grandparent, delivered foot-wide plastic eggs to 22 people the day before Easter. Scripture verses, messages, gifts, and several pieces of candy were included. The white stone represented the stone removed from Jesus’ tomb when He arose!

On Resurrection Day, grandparents Dan and Karen Gates hosted their extended family for dinner and included foot-washing and communion.



*Footwashing*



*The Easter project is underway...*



*Dale Black and his egg*





*“The stone is rolled away.”*

Here is a thank-you note Colemans received: *“I just want to thank you for the egg filled with all kinds of goodies and scriptures. That was such a surprise and so nice of you all. I loved the white stone representing the stone that was rolled away at the grave. My husband asked me what that was, and I was able to tell him. Praise the Lord! I have been praying for him to come to know the Lord as I know you all have. This truly touched him.”*

Others had tears. All whom they talked to shared how much it meant to them and the beauty behind it. Christ’s Love!

## JUNE 2023

- 3** Church Workday (for overflow not completed).
- 4** Elder Matt Godsil preaching: 2 Tim. 1:8-14. We will honor graduates during worship.
- 11** Pastor Eric Byrom preaching 2 Tim. 1:15-18. 
- 12-16** Summer Game Club Camp 10:00 am-3 pm daily.
- 17** Women of Grace: Mad Hatter picnic brunch. 10:30 am.
- 18** Jason Voelp, guest speaker: "EVANGELISM."
- 24** Kingdom Men's prayer breakfast 9:00 am.
- 25** Greg Frankenfield preaching: 2 Tim. 2:1-13. 
- 25-30** Youth for Christ camp at GFC.



### Rick Jacox (11/2/1956-4/28/2023) is with the Lord

Former Grace Fellowship Church Elder, Richard "Rick" D. Jacox, died at Ohio State University Hospital on April 28. He was 66 years old. His life was defined by his close relationships and deep faith in Jesus Christ.

Raised in a military family, Rick lived in Mississippi, Okinawa, Illinois, Texas, Colorado, California, and Germany. He seldom spoke until he was three years old, and then began speaking in full sentences, using a combination of English and Japanese. His 4th grade teacher called a meeting to inform Rick's parents that their son was mentally handicapped as he preferred reading the encyclopedias in the back of the room to listening to her lessons!

After coming to faith during the Jesus Movement, he promptly told his father that he planned to be a dishwasher until Jesus returned. In response, Rick found himself beginning his military career at his father's urgent insistence. He spent six years in the Air Force, first as a corpsman and then as a cardio-pulmonary lab specialist.

After being honorably discharged in 1983, he worked in Colorado where he met Susan Norris, who became his wife. Their son, Zach, was born a year later. Rick is survived by his wife Sue, son Zach and Carra Jacox, and their beloved granddaughter, Clover.

Rick became a teacher and retired in May 2022 from Ontario High School where he taught chemistry and physics classes.

His faith in Christ never wavered, even during the most difficult seasons. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 3:00 pm on June 11 in the Ontario High School cafeteria (467 Shelby-Ontario Road, Ontario).

### A Call from Pat Weaver

DONNA KURTZ

Pat Weaver was excited that the May issue of *TrailNotes* contained the "Barnabas in Cuba" article because 1996 was the year that her late husband, Brad Weaver, was a member of the group.

She is doing well. She is not in a nursing home now, but in a senior residence in the Van Wert area. She sends "hello" to you all!

(Photo of Pat at GFC in 2021)



#### Grace Fellowship Church

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Eric Byrom Presiding Elder/ Pastor

(A complete list of church functionaries will return next month)