

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.

OCTOBER 2020

ElderTalk Growing Upwards in Christ

ERIC BYROM

I was watching a show on TV with Travis the other day, and the question was posed, "Which is the bigger tree: the sequoia or the California redwood?" According to the show, the sequoia has more mass but the redwood has more height. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to see either in person yet. Maybe someday!

This got me thinking about the theme we are focusing on this year of "Growing Upwards in Christ." The redwood is the taller because it doesn't just grow outward but it grows upwards. The key verse for this year is Ephesians 4:15, which says, "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ."

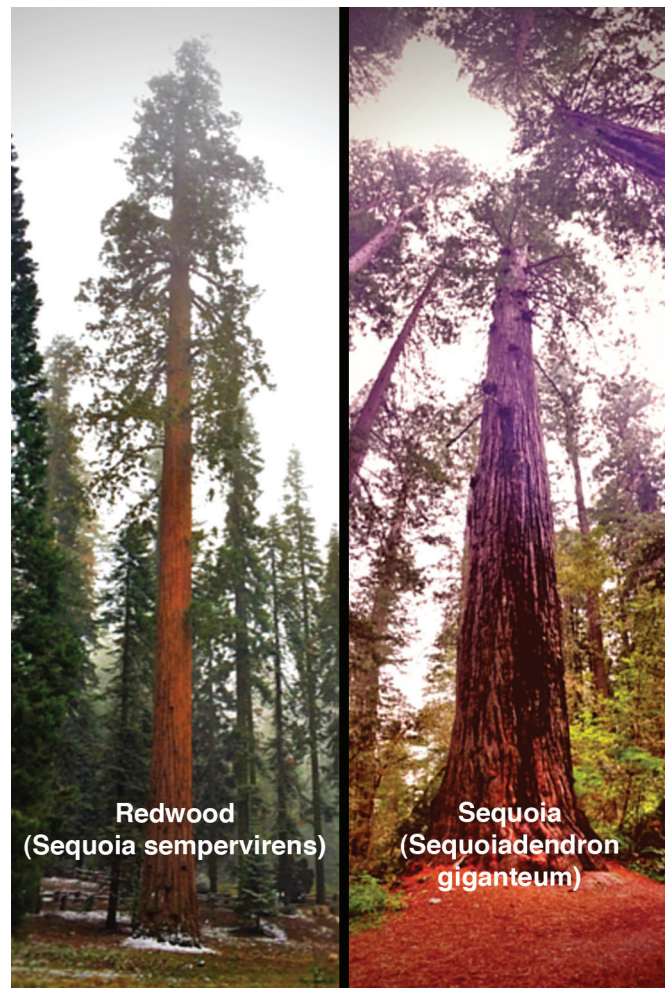
This idea of growing upwards in Christ is the call of discipleship. We keep our eyes focused on the example Jesus gave us and depend upon Him and the rest of the Trinity to help us to become more like Christ in every area of our lives.

A tree that is going to grow tall needs to have a solid root system so that it doesn't fall over. Last year we talked about growing down into God's grace, and it is my hope that you have begun to put your roots deep into the limitless grace of the gospel.

We are called then to grow upwards in Christ once we have put our roots deep into the grace He has for us. Ephesians 2:8-10 gives this full picture when it says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

So, as we seek to grow upwards in Christ, let's remember that our foundation for the growth is the grace of God and not our performance. Our fuel for this is dependence on God to give us what we need to grow.

Our facing is towards Christ which determines our direction. It reminds me of a line from the old song, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus;" which reads:



Redwood
(*Sequoia sempervirens*)

Sequoia
(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace."*

Let's look together towards Jesus Christ this year and intentionally seek to look more like Him ourselves and help others around us towards that as well!

Kay Vega retires!

As a hospital pharmacist, Kay had to work every other Sunday. Now that she's retired, the first thing she says is, "Wonderful! I can be in church EVERY Sunday!"



Kay Vega, being celebrated by her friends at work with daily teas and flowers.

Larry Andrzejewski honored for retirement service

Ed's Note: Larry served as an Elder at Grace Fellowship Church for four years (2007-2011). Congratulations on this well-deserved retirement recognition, Larry!

Larry Andrzejewski accepts the 2020 Knox County Outstanding Senior Citizen Award in front of friends, family, & community leaders.

SEP. 8, 2020: LARRY ANDRZEJEWSKI DAY!

Adapted from "Knoxpages" by GRANT PEPPER



Larry Andrzejewski has a hard time sitting still. And an even harder time accepting praise. His award was presented by Teresa Cook, District 5 Vice President of Administrative Services. He was nominated by Danielle Sutton, the volunteer coordinator at Hospice of North Central Ohio, and selected by the agency's review board. "I am so blown away by it all," Larry told those

OCTOBER 2020

"Growing Upwards in Christ"

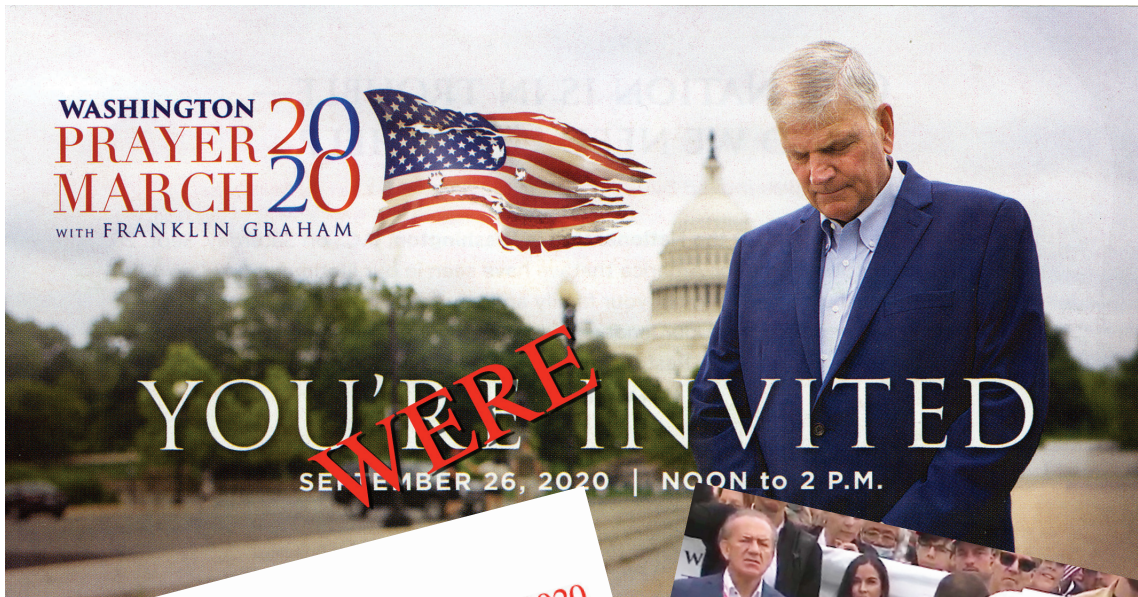
- 4** Eric Byrom preaching, Daniel 2:1-49, 10 am
- 11** Jon Vega preaching, Daniel 3:1-30, 10 am
Circle Church leaders' zoom meeting, 2 pm
- 13** Missionary to Mexico, Becky Kuelker, will share with the Women of Grace, 3:30-5 pm in the Youth Building. Send Kay Berry an RSVP for the meal by 10/11
- 17** Men's Prayer Breakfast 9 am at church—bring a sack breakfast
- 18** Eric Byrom preaching, Daniel 4:1-37, 10 am
- 25** Eric Byrom preaching, Daniel 5:1-31, 10 am

who had gathered for the ceremony. "I feel totally blessed because I got a chance to be with other volunteers who are just wonderful people. Our county is laced with them."

Larry has volunteered with Hospice for the last 12 years and the Winter Sanctuary homeless shelter for the last 10 years. He has also been an advocate with TouchPointe Marriage and Family Resources, Divorce Care for Kids, and Knox Starting Point. In addition to his regular volunteer work, he has coached Little League teams over the years and has done mission work through prison visitation. He also served as an elder at Grace Fellowship Church in Mansfield.

He taught physical education and health at Lexington Local Schools for 31 years. Because he taught semester courses, he is believed to have taught every student (an estimated 7,000 total) who passed through the school district from 1976 to 2007!

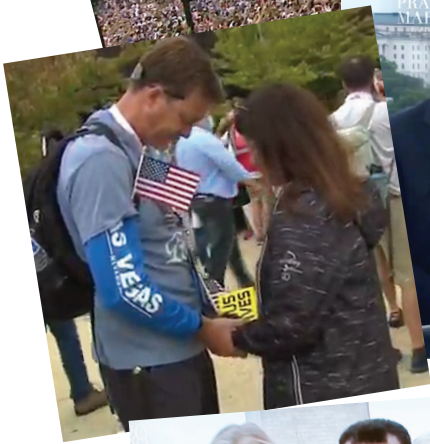
A Toledo native, Larry moved to Knox County at the age of 24 after fighting two years in the Vietnam War, where he served as a lieutenant platoon leader. Now he is 73 and lives with his wife, Mary Lou, near Ankenytown. He credits his faith for his ability to serve others. "I truly believe the Lord has called me to do this. I can't believe how much I've enjoyed every part of it. So I give all the glory to Him." Even with COVID-19, he manages to visit inmates at the county jail on Monday nights. He talks and prays with them. But most of all he listens . . .with his heart.



50,000 came to march & pray on September 26, 2020



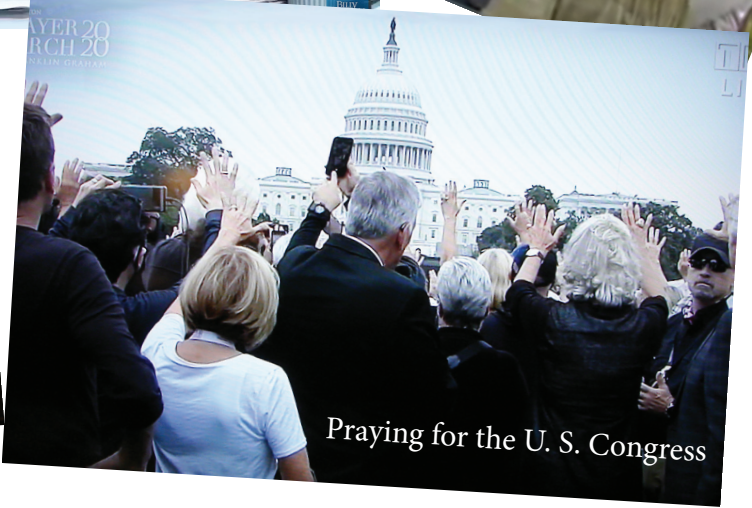
Vice President Mike Pence



T.V. Hosts:
Gov. Mike Huckabee
and
Cissi Graham Lynch



Keep on praying!

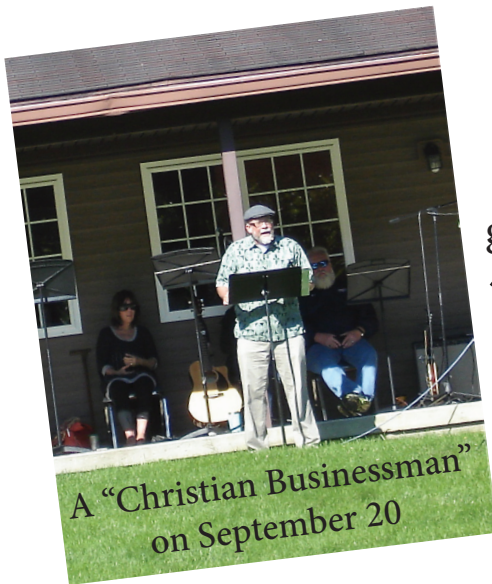


Praying for the U. S. Congress

Recent G.F.C. Happenings:



Community Celebration on August 29



A "Christian Businessman" on September 20

Some special guests...



Dr. Tim Bartholomew and family on September 27



GFC at worship on September 27 - outdoors!

Box City on September 19 fundraiser for Harmony House Brrr!!



TrailNotes is a publication of Grace Fellowship Church

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