

Greater *things*

Jesus said to his followers: "... if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father." (John 14:12)

In A World Where You Can Be Anything...

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" Gal. 5:22-23

The simple fact is we do have a choice. God loves us kids so much that He gifted us free will to make decisions.

However, IF we consider ourselves created in His Image (Gen 1:27), IF we believe His one and only son spent nine months in a mother's womb, three days in a borrowed tomb enduring pain and suffering just to save us from our sins (John 3:16), not forgetting everything he did in between. If we really believe all of that, then we believe God loved us enough to give a handbook on how He wants us to live our lives. He created us for a purpose; He created us to be suitable helpers to each other to look over His Creation. That's a lot of free will to give a human being who all have different backgrounds to decide what is right and wrong on their own.

One look at a news channel or newsfeed and it is easy to get angry or hurt by what is shared there. No one ever said the Devil was unintelligent. The Devil uses ungodly ways to try and stir the pot of hatred, frustration, or whatever it is that distracts us from Kingdom work. We can see it all around us.

Anyone who has not sinned, you can cast the first stone. (John 8:7) What that woman needed was someone to extend kindness and help her out of the dark hole she was walking in. Luckily, Jesus was there for her.

Currently, I'm piloting an Instagram cleanse; I unfollow anyone who isn't extending kindness because I felt my screen was filled with hurtful and discouraging content. Candice Cameron Bure (a Christian, who happens to also be a well

known actress in Full(er) House & many Hallmark movies and mysteries) is one whom, in my opinion, does this very well. I don't know her personally, but in her Instagram Stories, she is kind even as hateful comments are sent her way. In her recent book, *Kind is the New Classy: The Power of Living Graciously*, she shares her secret for how she fights the urge to reflect cultural expectations: "Kindness: It's classy, unexpected, even counter-cultural, and ultimately wins the day."

New vocabulary for you: De-churched. While Unchurched were never introduced to church, De-churched individuals are ones who have been hurt by the church. As we all know, Church doesn't hurt people, people hurt people. The reason is best explained in a quote believed to be said by Mahatma Gandhi: "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

Falling into traps of pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth (nicknamed as the Seven Deadly Sins) is too easy. None of those include being kind to myself, so why on earth should I be that towards others?! Fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, & Self-Control) are always in season. This month I challenge myself and all of us to discern how we are doing in the kindness area of fruit-giving. Is it ripe? Have we let weeds surround it? Did we forget to plant kindness this season?

In a world where you can be anything, Be Kind.

Minister of Administration & Community Life:
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Discipling:
Jeff Marner

AMC
arthur mennonite church

Minister of Outreach:
Lamar Miller

Minister of Youth and Worship:
Ashley Litwiller

Pictures from Menno Night Yoder's Pond on Aug 12



First Fruit Giving *Giving God Our Best*

Stewardship Attendance

8/5/18	\$3,896	114
8/12/18	\$4,563	104
8/19/18	\$2,395	128
8/26/18	\$3,839	149

Creation & Calling of Human Beings

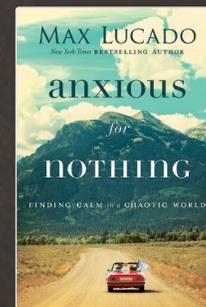
"We believe that God has created human beings in the divine image. God formed them from the dust of the earth and gave them a special dignity among all the works of creation. Human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation. "

Article 6 of the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective

New in the AMC
Library

Anxious For Nothing

Finding Calm in a
Chaotic World



"Philippians 4:6 encourages the believer to "be anxious for nothing." As Lucado states, the apostle Paul seems to leave little leeway here. "Be anxious for nothing. Nada. Zilch. Zero."

"What's he suggesting? That we should literally be anxious for absolutely nothing? Lucado says, "The presence of anxiety is unavoidable, but the prison of anxiety is optional. It's the life of perpetual anxiety that Paul wants to address. Don't let anything in life leave you perpetually in angst."

Americans especially know about living in perpetual anxiety. According to one research program, anxiety-related issues are the number one mental health problem among women and are second only to alcohol and drug abuse among men. Stress-related ailments cost the nation \$300 billion every year in medical bills and lost productivity. And use of sedative drugs like Xanax and Valium have skyrocketed in the last 15 years. Even students are feeling it. One psychologist reports that the average high school kid today has the same level of anxiety as the average psychiatric patient in the early 1950s.

"The news about our anxiety is enough to make us anxious," says Lucado. But there's a prescription for dealing with it. Lucado invites readers into a study of Philippians 4:6-7, the most highlighted passage of any book on the planet, according to Amazon:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

"With His help you will learn to face the calamities of life. You'll learn how to talk yourself off the ledge. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you will learn to view bad news through the lens of sovereignty; to discern the lies of Satan and tell yourself the truth. You will manifest a gentleness that is evident to others. Anxiety comes with life. But it doesn't have to dominate your life."

You can find this book in the foyer bookshelf!