

Greater things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2021



“Keep It In Context”

by Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach

Do unbelievers possibly think that Christians live in a fantasy land? Have some Christians left the faith because they lost faith in “out of context” scripture? How can we, as believers, change this? How can we show the true meaning of scripture and depth of the love of Jesus? Psalm 119:11: “I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you...” 15: “I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways...” 18: “open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.” Psalm 119 is a beautiful poem glorifying God and His word. I am not a bible scholar by any means, but I am finding more and more the importance and beauty in studying God’s word and listening to the words and teaching of Jesus.

If uttering the words of Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you” would open the clouds and spill God’s plan for life like a scroll before my eyes, would I believe more? If every time a finger was cut while slicing vegetables at the kitchen counter, someone said, “by his stripes, we are healed”, instantly healed; would I trust more? What is God asking of us if this is not always reality? Do unbelievers see no truth in these scriptures, because they do not see instant results?

We do not live in a perfect world; we live in a sinful world. We live among sin, we live among right and wrong, good and evil. Some scripture, to an unbeliever, would seem like false information and the scriptures that Christian’s sometimes quote do not hold any merit when seen out of context; like when it is printed on our t-shirt or on a coffee mug that we carry around in the morning. Could these things open up conversation...absolutely! There is nothing wrong with these things. We as Christians I think are asked to look deeper into the word and also help explain and encourage others to look deeper. How is it all connected? In what context does scripture come to life? Life can be difficult, but a relationship with Jesus is beautiful, full of truth, full of

hope, full of faith.

One day as I was scrolling through Facebook, I stumbled across an article containing heartbreaking news of underground churches in Afghanistan being hunted down. The epicenter of spiritual warfare, half a world away, laying bare before my eyes. An ugly truth that begs for prayer. The very next post was a scripture. This scripture is well known, but to unbelieving eyes is out of context. Isaiah 54:17 “...no weapon turned against you will succeed...” Right there next to the article, side by side, not even posted by the same person. How can we explain this? I knew that God’s word was the truth. Why was this scripture, right next to this post, so hard to understand? It took me until Sunday school one morning to see this situation tied back to what the Bible truly means. Look at Paul’s Life for Christ. His life was not easy. He was imprisoned due to his faith in Christ, yet he spoke out of Joy and out of Love for Christ. In Philippians 1 verse 12 he says, “And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ”. Verses 20-21 say, “For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.” If you read more of this chapter, Paul shares that he can be fruitful while he is living but he longs for the day he can be with Christ. I encourage you to finish reading the full chapter or even more!

How did this connect to the Facebook article? These Christians were full of the spirit of Christ. The spirit of Christ is not concrete. It cannot be destroyed. It is living and moving among us. While on earth, these people lived for Christ as we should. (cont. on back side)

Minister of Discipling & Worship:
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Community Life:
Nancy Kuhns

AMC
arthur mennonite church

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Jeff Marner

They were not ashamed of their faith. Their work was fruitful. So as the weapon may have destroyed an earthly body, these Christians are rejoicing in heaven with Jesus. They are living out the promises of hope and the beauty of heaven. In their living, they left the name of Christ Jesus with those who are left behind to also be fruitful and spread the good news of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:6-11 "So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord...because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too." Be encouraged to dig into the word, find scripture in context, and believe in the truth of God's word!



Join us at the Moultrie 4-H Center for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Bring lawn chairs, games, and a dish to share for the carry-in potluck at 5pm.

See you there!

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Ivan Yoder	1st
Floyd Borntrager	2nd
Lamar (Karen) Miller	3rd
Jamison Miller	7th
Olivia Gingerich	7th
Jeff & Jenni Marner	8th
Ron & Janice Thomas	8th
Ashley Stone	9th
Ervin Kuhns	11th
Jory & Natalie Borntrager	13th
John Yoder	15th
Gloria Yoder	17th
Larry Herschberger	17th
Sam Petersheim	18th
Bertha Yoder	24th
Morgan Cotton	24th
Ed & Edna Gingerich	24th
Kyle Crabtree	26th
LeAnne Tully	26th
Jamin Caskey	27th
Lanora Gingerich	30th
Lyndora Miller	30th
Michelle Snyder	30th
Phyllis Kauffman	30th
Clara Wood	31st
Debby Kauffman	31st
Maranna Chupp	31st



ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Arthur MCC Thrift Shop is struggling to find volunteers, and without them, they are having to consider cutting hours. The work is fun, flexible, and rewarding.

Talk to Nadine Miller soon about helping...even if it's just a few hours!

First Fruits - Giving God Our Best

Stewardship

9.05.2021	\$6,610
9.12.2021	\$4,242
9.19.2021	\$4,655

If you would like to give tithes & offerings during this time, please place it in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or mail your envelope/check to the church at:
710 E Park, Arthur, IL 61911.

Please include your envelope so your number can be recorded.

What is your job and what does it consist of?

Manufacturing Services Manager at Mid-State Tank Co, Inc. I handle boarding, inventory, project management, safety operations, marketing, etc.

What is your favorite verse of the Bible?

Matthew 21:22 "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Is there a time in your life you have felt God's presence stronger than any other time? Every time I sing in church.

If you could host a dinner party with any three people in the world, living or dead, whom would you invite?

Jesus, My Dad, and Pastor Allen Nolan from Cornerstone Fellowship in Tahlequah, OK

What is the happiest memory of your life?

When my best friend became my wife.

What is your favorite song we sing at church? Amazing Grace

What was your first job?

Walking beans for Charlie Steck.

AMC PERSONAL PROFILE **MIKE TAYLOR**

