

Good News Daily

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Sunday, August 2

John 1:43-51 *Jesus found Philip and said to him, "Come be my disciple" and Philip went off to look for Nathaniel and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about. His name is Jesus!"* (vv.43-45 NLT)

Philip is a great evangelist—no sooner does Jesus call him to be his disciple and he is off to invite his friend Nathaniel. In just the same way we can invite our friends, family, and co-workers to come meet Jesus. When Nathaniel doubts that anything good can come from Nazareth, Philip invites him to come and see for himself. After meeting Jesus he exclaims, "Teacher you are the Son of God—the king of Israel!" (v.49).

Later their fellow disciple Andrew finds the boy with five loaves and two fish and invites him to share his lunch with thousands after Jesus blesses the food (John 6). It is so easy to be an "inviter"—try it!

Dear Lord, help me invite my friends and family to meet Jesus.

2 Samuel 6:12-23; Psalms 93, 96; Romans 4:7-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Renk - (Sudan) The Rt Revd Joseph Garang Atem

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, Granite City, The Rev Anthony F. M. Clavier, Vicar; Nzega Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Thobias Lubika Rural Dean; The Mission of St John the Evangelist, San Juan de Miraflores, Peru, The Rev. Luis Villalobos, Priest in Charge; Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Ralph N. and Jan McMichael, St. Louis, MO.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Kiri Palm and belated Birthday of Allan Horsman (8/1)

Monday, August 3

Psalm 80 *Turn us again to yourself, O God. Make your face shine down upon us. Only then shall we be saved.* (vv.3, 7, 19)

This verse is repeated three times in this psalm. The psalmist is asking the Lord to show His mighty power and rescue His people. We need this protection and rescue today—as much as did ancient Israel. We indeed need to be turned again to God.

Our 21st century media, movies, and entertainment are full of worldly behavior and the breaking of all of God's commandments. It has pleased me that several Christian movies have done well recently at the box office. My friends and I have enjoyed seeing *Son of God*, *Heaven is for Real*, and *God's Not Dead*. We know that the number of tickets purchased for movies does speak to producers and directors, so please spend your entertainment dollars wisely!

Dear Lord, please turn us again to Yourself and save us.

2 Samuel 7:1-17; Acts 18:1-11; Mark 8:11-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rhode Island - (I, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Nicholas Knisely

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Jane Kamau, wife of the Rev. James K. Muriuki, Cape Girardeau, MO. Birthday of Mary Beth, widow of the Very Rev. Dr. Keith R. Roderick, Springfield.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Anniversary of Jim & Julie Cooper.

Tuesday, August 4

2 Samuel 7:18-29 *"How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is none like you."* (v.22a)

When we visited Yellowstone National Park we saw tumbling water falls, placid lakes, swift-flowing streams, deep canyons, flowered meadows, tall mountains, herds of bison with their calves, elk, moose, deer, bear, steaming thermals, and the fabulous Old Faithful. How great is our Creator God! As Brian Doyle, writing in "Daily Guideposts," says: "We stare at the immeasurable miracles of the Maker!"

It was great seeing dads, moms, and grandparents with boys and girls of all ages enjoying the wonders of God's creation. It was also interesting to note the cleanup families did after their picnics and snack stops to keep the environment clean and not tempt the animals with food leftovers.

Thank You, O Sovereign Lord, for our beautiful planet. Please help us be good stewards of Your generous gift.

Psalm 78:1-39; Acts 18:12-28; Mark 8:22-33

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rift Valley - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd John Daudi Lupaa
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Desmond C. Francis, Normal.
ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Jenny Pitts.

Wednesday, August 5

Mark 8:34—9:1 *"If a person is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."* (v.38)

I recently attended a theatrical production and was reading the actors' biographies in the playbill. A young member of the cast gave thanks to his family and "the lover of his soul, Jesus Christ, who gave him the gift of song and dance" (Psalm 105:2).

I recently read about a new soccer player who has joined our city's major league team and works with charities to feed children and helps fight their battles with cancer. He wears a T-shirt that reads "I belong to Jesus" under his team jersey and has "God is Faithful" stitched in his shoes.

And my favorite football player is Tim Tebow. He wears special Bible verses like John 3:16 on his eye black and goes on mission trips overseas, as well as befriending crippled children in the U.S. These young men warm my heart with their strong witness. May God continue blessing them!

Dear Lord, help me be brave enough to stand up for Jesus!

2 Samuel 9:1-13; Psalm 119:97-120; Acts 19:1-10

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rio de Janeiro - (Brazil) The Rt Revd Filadelfo Oliviera Neto
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Can. Robert B. and Terry Koehler, New Braunfels, TX; Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Charles J. and Gina Reischman, Littleton, CO; Birthday of Greg Shaw, husband of the Rev Mary Christine "Mollie" Ward, Bloomington.
ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Zack Davingman.

Thursday, August 6

Psalm 145 *All eyes look to you for help. You give them their meat as they need it, then you open your hand and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.* (vv.15-16)

I'm writing this devotional while with my family on a western vacation in the Rockies and Teton mountains—truly the purple mountain majesties! Our God has created such a beautiful world for us to enjoy!

Our Lord has created food, water, and shelter for all the birds and animals, and beautiful scenery in which we can relax. My daughter and grandson brought me a wildflower birthday bouquet of daisies and clover to brighten my day, even though our picnic got rained out. We remember that the Lord sends His rain on the just and the unjust alike (Matthew 5:45)!

We loved the cool mountain air, bright sunshine, and the clear water from snowmelt rushing down the creeks to later flow into mighty rivers. The next day we saw a deer come out of the trees to munch on the fresh green grass—truly God is good!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

2 Samuel 11:1-27; Psalm 83; Acts 19:11-20; Mark 9:2-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rio Grande - (VIII, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Michael Vono

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Feast of Title, Church of the Redeemer, Cairo; Feast of Title, Christ Church, Springfield.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Anniversary of Roger & Debbie Thomas.

Friday, August 7

Mark 9:14-29 *The father instantly replied, "I do believe, but help me not to doubt!"* (v.24)

The little boy is brought to Jesus' disciples for healing, but they have no success. When Jesus arrives the father asks him for mercy and help. Jesus replies, "Anything is possible if a person believes." The father then asks Jesus to help him believe more and not doubt. That is a prayer I have needed to make many times in my life.

When I hear the testimonies at our Tuesday evening healing service my faith is strengthened more and more: "I had stage four cancer but now I'm in remission," "The Lord healed me of ALS," "I was in deep depression for two years and then, through prayer, I was able to forgive my ex-husband, and now I am free and healed!"

Dear Jesus, with the boy's father we pray: I do believe, but help me not to doubt.

2 Samuel 12:1-14; Psalm 88; Acts 19:21-41

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Riverina - (New South Wales, Australia) The Rt Revd Rob Gillion

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Very Rev. Dale D. and the Rev. Joan Coleman, Belleville.

ST. MATTHEW'S: May we come to know you fully, O Christ, through your Cross, Passion, and Resurrection.

Saturday, August 8

Mark 9:30-41 *Taking the child in his arms, Jesus said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me and anyone who welcome me welcomes my Father who sent me."* (vv.36b-37)

The disciples had been discussing who would be greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus reminded them that the first must take last place and be servant of all. Then he makes his statement above concerning children.

Recently, my heart has been broken about news reports of children left to die in hot cars, and about men beating their girlfriend's children until they die, Truly there must be a terrible punishment in hell for such evil people.

Children are a gift from God and need to be loved, cherished, and taught God's way. It is a special challenge for parents and grandparents, but God blesses us through our children.

Thank You, Lord, for our children and grandchildren. Help us train them in Your ways.

2 Samuel 12:15-31; Psalms 87, 90; Acts 20:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rochester - (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd James Langstaff; Rochester - Tonbridge - The Rt Revd Dr Brian Castle

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Mark S. and Kathleen Winward, Valrico, FL.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For those who work that we may rest.

by Jacqueline Littleford

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