

Good News Daily

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Sunday, September 4

Matthew 5:13-20 *“Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father.”* (vv.15-16 NLT)

A very godly man in our church (who has since gone on to heaven) was described by one of our clergy as: “There goes Jesus in his Frank Temple suit!” What a wonderful comment on a Christian person’s life!

Does our life honor our Lord or does it bring shame to His name? Does knowing us make anyone want to know Jesus more? Too often we are “under cover” Christians, only emerging on Sunday morning and then going back into hiding for the rest of the week. Let’s let the light of Jesus shine in our lives 24/7!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, you have asked us to be the light of the world—help us to reflect your light and love and truth!

Job 25:1-6, 27:1-6; Psalms 63, 98; Revelation 14:1-7, 13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Anglican Church of Tanzania [The Most Revd Jacob Erasto Chimeledya](#) Archbishop of Tanzania & Bishop of Mpwapwa

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John's, Decatur, The Rev Richard A. Swan, Rector; Isevia Parish Tanzania, Rev. Marko Kimashi, Rural Dean; The Mission of St. Matthew, San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Jorge Águilar, and The Rev. Jerry Acosta.

Monday, September 5

Psalms 41 *Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The LORD rescues them in times of trouble.* (v.1)

“Give and you will receive” is a truth many of us have experienced. Our church gathers food and toiletries the first Sunday of every month for the Christian Service Center. The second weekend of the month we pack and deliver large banana boxes full of staple food items to almost 100 families identified by our local elementary schools as having children receiving free lunches.

On the third Tuesday of each month our volunteers cook large pots of food to be served by our Youth Group and adult helpers at the Coalition for the Homeless. Our clergy have discretionary funds to help those in financial crisis. Our Pastoral Care Commission takes people to doctor appointments and visits those hospitalized. We have so many opportunities to help and yet there are so many poor in our community. Most every church has helpful programs, so please find an

area of service that fits your talents and schedule, and enjoy the blessings God gives those who are kind to the poor.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me serve the poor in my community and honor You.

Job 32:1-10, 19—33:1, 19-28; Psalm 52; Acts 13:44-52; John 10:19-30

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Gitega - (Burundi) [The Rt Revd John Nduwayo](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Matthew's, Bloomington, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1853; Birthday of Joyce, wife of The Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Karanja, Schertz, TX; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. James Muriuki and Jane Kamau, Cape Girardeau, MO.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Kristi & James Williams' anniversary.

Tuesday, September 6

Psalm 45 *My heart overflows with a beautiful thought!* (v.1a)

I have been reading *The 5 Love Languages of Children* by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell in order to be a better grandmother. They are helpful for spouses as well: physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, and acts of service.

It is interesting trying to figure out the unique love language of each grandchild, but it is a labor of love. The authors point out that a child can be deeply hurt if they don't receive the love they need. Many children ignore or break the lavish gifts some parents shower on their children, while the child deeply longs for quality time with his parent.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You so much for Your love. Please help us be sensitive to the love needs of our children, grandchildren, and spouses.

Job 29:1-20; Acts 14:1-18; John 10:31-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Glasgow & Galloway - (Scotland) [The Rt Revd Gregor Duncan](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, continue to bless us with your love.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Bill Rolley's birthday.

Wednesday, September 7

Psalm 119:49-72 *This is my happy way of life: obeying your commandments.* (v.56)

Monday was Labor Day, the children are back in school, the fall schedule has begun. Will our family make time for Sunday worship, will our children get to Sunday School and Youth Group? Or will football games, soccer practice, and ballet lessons be more important in our family's fall calendar? Now is the time to set our priorities! We cannot let the secular squeeze out the sacred in our lives. Sports and community activities are good, but not when they don't leave time for

worship, Bible study, service to the needy, and Christian fellowship. We need to put first things first!

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us put Your kingdom activities first in our lives and on our calendar.

Job 29:1, 30:1-2, 16-31; Acts 14:19-28; John 11:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Gloucester - (Canterbury, England) [The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek](#)

Gloucester - Tewkesbury - [The Rt Revd Martyn James Snow](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, XI Bishop of Springfield.

Thursday, September 8

Psalm 50 *Trust me in your times of trouble and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.* (v.15)

I'm writing this just after nine of our Christian brothers and sisters were murdered at their Bible study-prayer group in Charleston, S.C. That this evil could happen in the Lord's house breaks my heart. The angry young killer wanted to start a race war in the U.S., but instead we saw people of all races, colors and denominations joining in prayer, and the grieving families speaking of forgiveness. Truly God turned an evil event into a mighty witness for good.

Christian people need to share the love of Jesus which can overcome racial hatred and bring peace and brotherhood to our nation.

Prayer: Dear Lord, forgive our sins and heal our nation. Have mercy on us and help us.

Job 29:1, 31:1-23; Acts 15:1-11; John 11:17-29

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rt. Rev. Peter H. Beckwith, X Bishop of Springfield.

Friday, September 9

Psalm 40 *My only hope is your unfailing love and faithfulness.* (v.11b)

The sister of my daughter's good friend died a heron addict. Despite Ruth's friend and her husband paying for rehab three or four times, the sister returned to her addiction. As she told her sister, "Once you start heron you're hooked for life" (and an early death, I might add). The addict stole many items from the home and garage of her sister and husband to pawn for cash to pay for her addiction. She died young and emaciated, and with a broken-hearted family—a wasted life.

We need to remind ourselves, our children, and grandchildren that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) and that we need to keep them clean and pure. Have you been at a party where the other guests say, "Try a

little booze, have a few drugs, watch a little porn—it won't hurt you"? But it does its damage—all are very addictive. Beware!

Prayer: Praise God for healing ministries that help people leave addictive lifestyles behind.

Job 29:1, 31:24-40; Psalm 54; Acts 15:12-21; John 11:30-44

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Gombe - (Jos, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd Henry Ndukuba](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Look kindly on our world, and may the Light we have in Jesus illuminate and brighten the entire world.

Saturday, September 10

Job 38:1-17 “*Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?*” (v.4)

On our summer travels we witnessed much of the grandeur which God has created in North America: snow-capped mountains, deep river canyons, the geothermal energy of the geysers in Yellowstone National Park, beautiful lakes and streams, majestic trees and colorful flowers, fertile valley farms and the cattle on a thousand hills.

When Job complains to God in our reading for today, God asks him, “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? What supports its foundation and who laid its cornerstone?” (vv.4, 6).

After our family tragedy my daughter questioned, “If God really loved my dad and brother, why did He let them die?” Our priest wisely answered, “This wasn't God's perfect plan for their lives. He's sad just like you, but we live in a fallen world. People take chances, they make mistakes and there are accidents.”

Prayer: Even though we experience troubles and sorrows, help us rejoice and be uplifted by the beauty of Your creation, dear Lord.

Psalm 55; Acts 15:22-35; John 11:45-54

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Grahamstown - (Southern Africa) [The Rt Revd Ebenezer Ntlali](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Give us insight, Lord, to understand and feel as others feel.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Annie Ingersoll's birthday.

by Jacqueline Littleford

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