

January 8, 2017

Real Life News & Notes

A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers



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Elder of Month

Bryan Crowe

Our Gathering Today



Welcome Guests!

May you be fed and encouraged by our gathering in the name of Jesus Christ as we sing, pray, share the Lord's supper, encourage each other and open the Word of God together. We dismiss by about 11:30. Please stay around and let us get to know you a little better.

**View our web site at grandjunctionchurch.org and Face Book page *Church of Christ of Grand Junction* to discover a little more about us.

The Living Word...the sermon

"Lord, have mercy!" Everywhere I've looked the past month I see this word...mercy. Clouds spell it out. Circumstance keeps nudging me like an elbow in my side to look...there it is again, mercy. *OK, I'm listening God.* As I listened and consulted His word the past few weeks I have seen anew the beauty and blessing of this notion of mercy. "Have mercy" is a plea for God's favor, his help, when we cannot help our self. It's the gracious act of kindness and compassionate aid given to another, to me, when its least deserved. Who among us does not need the blessed gift of mercy, from God, from others?

This morning we will look at a four brief stories in Matthew's gospel that remind us **when we should ask for "mercy!"** We will continue this study next Sunday learning how we **extend** mercy. See you in Matthew chapter 9 as we open God's word together in a few minutes! **Lord, have mercy!**

Honor to whom honor is due!

Our warmest wishes to Tom Deister who has just retired from many years of service as a Mesa County and District Court judge. **Congratulations Tom** on an "honorable" and distinguished career leading and serving our community for so long. Thank you for your godly character, noble example, your wit and wisdom and the often difficult and gut wrenching decisions you had to make on a daily basis in the court room. We know these times often brought you to your knees in prayer, asking for God's help, God's discernment. We are very blessed as a church as Tom continues to serve as one of our Shepherds! **Tom and Kathy** have been a vital and active part of our church family for decades and continue to be a gift to all of us in God's kingdom!

Tom, may God's blessings be on you as you step down from the bench! Thank you! **We love and appreciate you Tom and Kathy!**

Love One Another!

Memory Verse For January: 2nd Corinthians 5:17

"If anyone is in Christ he is a new creature."

Dear brothers and sisters and close friends—For your information and consideration.

I am forwarding a article from Joel Petty who is a missionary in st. Petersburg, Russia (see Below). He gives a few Details about the orphanage in Degtarysk, Russia which is close to Yekaterinburg. This is the city I recently visited and also the city where Gary Powers was shot down on May 1st 1960 in his U-2 spy plane. The Grand Junction Church supported this orphanage for 10 years or so and then as the children grew and left we stopped our support. However the orphanage has now acquired many more young people from their City who have been abandoned by their parents. They are in immediate need of repair for a roof for the house they used to live in but is now mostly unusable because of a roof leak. I have been told that the repair will be around \$8,000. We have one gift already \$1,000 and we may be able to send more. (Important Update!...Just got word from Russian that a Russian Construction Company will donate all the materials, approximately \$5,000 worth). The labor for the repairs is about \$ 3,000. so that is all we need to complete the project.

God bless you and let me know of any suggestions on how we can help these orphans in Russia. And his love, - John

Here now is the Report from Joel Petty of St. Petersburg, Russia-

At the invitation of brother and friend Dennis Podryachikov in Ekaterinburg, Siberia I taught a marriage at a family camp in Degtyarsk a mining town. Forgetting that I had been there 20years ago I'd assumed the camp was organized by a new church in the city. Upon arrival at the lovely campsite in the forest on the banks of a picturesque reservoir Dennis asked "You do know the story of this church don't you?" I didn't. Dennis started to tell the story of Tatyanna, her great faith and esp. her love for children. I was speechless. Tatyannaherself gladly shared the story over camp-style meals. As it turns out the church that organized the camp in Degtyarsk is a family. With the exception of myself and Dennis, Natasha, Karolina and Arina and a few guests the 35 people at the camp were all members of Tatyanna's large and expanding family. Tatyanna worked at a school in the 1990s and was shocked by the sheer number of orphans she met. She and her husband had 5 children and decided to provide foster care for several other children. Tatyanna had strong faith which informed and motivated her desire and decision to care for the children. As we remember the 90s were a chaotic time for the country. Tragically her husband died when he was only about 40. While mourning his loss she decided to continue fostering and adopting children - 11 in all! Overcoming many obstacles (grief, illness, economic hardship, bureaucracy, etc.) through the years Tatyanna loved, served, encouraged, taught, and "imitated God" to her children. Obviously Tatyanna passed on much knowledge, wisdom and skills to the children but her main focus - even now - is passing on faith in Jesus Christ to the children and grandchildren. Over the years these seeds bore various fruit - some followed Jesus while others did not. As God is impartial in his love so is Tatyanna who continued to love and serve all in her family. As grandchildren began to appear there was a turning back to God in the hearts of many of her now adult children. It was a joy for me to observe the love that overflowed from her family. The care for each other, the welcoming atmosphere. The desire and ability to work together - whether setting up a tent or making a campfire, cooking a meal in spartan conditions or organizing a fun game. Several friends attended the camp also - the love for the Lord in Tatyanna's family is a good witness to others. Thanks to God's work through Tatyanna and their own desires the children and grandchildren learned their value as God's creations, their place in society and their roles in a family and their many blessings. I was blessed by meeting Sasha and Sashulya, Artyom and Alyona (more on them below), Viktor (Tatyanna's oldest son) who married Victoria the first girl she adopted (photo below left), Olya, Anya, Alexander and others. Sashulya (at left in blue) did an excellent job coordinating the camp even while falling ill. But each family member was actively involved in some part of the camp. It was a refreshing and encouraging few days. Denis asked me to teach about marriage. We looked at the marriage from the perspective of Ephesians 5 and other scriptures that focused on love and respect in Christ as the basis of a good marriage. Some of the attendees later said I had "opened a door for them and showed a different world." In reality I didn't do that - God does that as we open His Word. We see the world differently and we see ourselves differently. As a result we can create a different world - one that is full of grace and truth, of faith, love and hope. A new world in Christ not unlike the one that Tatyanna created in her home all those years. What Tatyanna, alone but with God's help, was able to do in her large family is proof of the importance of seeking God and following him together in the family. While the church plays an important role in spiritual growth and development the first "church" many experience is the home environment. Some of us may have had a bad spiritual environment at home or none at all. Many have made mistakes. God grants mercy and new opportunities to those who seek him. Don't be discouraged and don't be trapped by indecision. Start anew today with God's grace to honor the Lord at home. Let examples like Tatyanna's inspire you. Maybe you can thank God for a Lois or Eunice in your life. Maybe you can be one to someone else? The teens with Dennis leading them discovered wisdom from Ecclesiastes. Natasha taught children's classes each day. The schedule was well planned with time for relaxation, study, worship, fun and games and of course home cooked food. Though I was invited to teach. I left the camp having been taught quite a bright lesson about family and faith. A special part of the camp was getting to know Tatyanna's youngest son Artyom and Alyona. Artyom is glad to share his story to the glory of God. Artyom started following Christ at home. However as sometimes happens when he left the nest his faith didn't accompany him. But he returned to the Lord and church after he reached a dead-end in his personal and professional life. Not surprisingly questions asked by his mom at this juncture played a key role. At the camp with him was his girlfriend Alyona. Alyona is legally blind. Alyona's perseverance in overcoming the many obstacles she faces in life is impressive. The love and care for her not only from Artyom but from all was a blessing. A bigger blessing was that after their wedding in August Alyona was baptized into Christ. The new couple has moved south to Temryuk in the Krasnodar krai. We pray that God uses them to be his church to their friends and neighbors in that area. Thankfully Dennis and Natasha will continue to go "water" this re-emerging church plant in Degtyarsk. Couples will gather in study and fellowship as they learn how to please God as husbands, wives and parents and honor the Lord in all they do. May they grow as we pray for God's work to continue in them and through them. What a blessing for me to come back to Degtyarsk almost 20 years later and see what the Lord is continuing to do there. My first visit to Degtyarsk in 1996 Truly, as we sleep or work, at night and whether or not we notice, God is at work.

(Mark 4). May God's name be glorified in all things as his Kingdom continues to come. Grace and peace,

Malawi Project

We are accepting donations for vinyl disposable gloves to be sent to Malawi. Please see Dean Blanck if you wish to donate or have questions.

Pruitt Baby Shower

A baby shower for Chenae & Tyler Pruitt will be held from 10:00-11:30am Saturday January 21st. For questions and details, please contact Stephanie Cooper.

Thank You!

A big thank you to Ted Reaves who has been securing the building after services on Sundays and Wednesdays for several years (seeing that everything is locked up). However, he is now in need of a break and we need someone to take over this important responsibility. If you can help by locking doors and windows after services both Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings, please let someone in the offices know.

2017 Budget Report

Bill Wade will be making a short report on the 2017 church budget this morning. If any would like to follow along., there are copies in the foyer.

Please keep the following in your prayers this week. Thank you so much and God bless you for your willingness to lift these up to our Father.

Please keep the families who have lost loved ones recently in your prayers. The Higgins family in the death of Oneita., and the Sitton family in the death of Tammy.

Prayers of thanksgiving that the De Long family were not injured in their recent encounter with a large chunk of ice, which fell on their car as they were traveling. God is good!

Bob Howard's mother has had hip surgery. Pray for her healing and comfort.

Kirby Franklin is being treated for a venous ulcer which affects his ability to speak....pray for him, that the treatments will be successful and for healing and comfort for him.

Continue to pray for Verne Twait, the grandfather of the Hurd's son in law, who sustained a broken shoulder and leg in an accident. Pray for healing and comfort for him.

Continue praying for Jim Fisher, Bobbi June's son who has a head injury. Pray for complete healing for him, and for peace for his family during the healing process.
Tom and Robin English...health issues

Shane Briggs....acute leukemia, waiting results of transplant, suffering with numerous side effects of chemo and meds, pray the transplanted stem cells will work and there will be no rejection.

Della's friend David, who is battling leukemia also, and her friend Betty Jo Lewis, who has cancer. Pray for healing and comfort for both of them.

Please pray for Vickie Downey's sister in law, Debra Trahern... She was diagnosed last week with Ovarian Cancer. Pray for healing and comfort for her and pray for her family.

Our nation and the leaders, the transition of power, and the future of the nation. pray for a turning back to the Lord for Christians to stay strong in the faith in times of persecution, however it comes. Pray for those Christians suffering severe persecution today in many places.

Pray for our church family here that we will be the servants that the Lord wants us to be in the coming year. Pray we will show the love of Christ to one another and to all the Lord puts in our pathways. Pray we will be aware of the opportunities the Lord give us daily to show his love. Pray we will grow in our relationships with God and one another.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for God's love, mercy and grace.....for all the answered prayers, the watch and care He has over us, the blessings we receive from His hand daily. Give honor and glory to His name.

YOUTH NEWS**Huddles:**

Sunday, January 8 - 6-8 pm at the home of Summer Franklin. (Peyton & Rebecca Franklin live at 657 26 1/2 Road - GJ 81506) Guys bring drinks and Girls bring desserts! Please park on 26 1/2 Rd and not in the drive way.

Sunday, January 22 - Julia and Jonnathan Simoes' house

Sunday, February 5 - SUPER BOWL HUDDLE at the DeLongs'

February 12th -

Youth Ministry update meeting following services. Lunch will be provided. Parents, teens, siblings and anyone else who may be interested in learning what's going on in our youth ministry program are invited! For food planning purposes, please RSVP with Charlie by email at myfriendscallmecharlie@gmail.com

Reminder

High School Students— sign up for Winter Peak?



Patterson Road church of Christ

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Grand Junction, CO 81506

Phone: 970-245-4210
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For the Record

Jan. 1, 2017

Attendance	274
Weekly Contributions 1/1/17	\$10,714.00
Contribution 4 week average	\$7,267.00
Weekly Budget	\$6,521.00

Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in January

Phillip Bagga
Larry Ball
Doug Barnett
Bill Barslund
Wes Beaver
Dean Blanck
Scott Boyle
Scott Bradley

Communion Preparation—January

Rebecca Franklin

Communion Table 1/8/17

Roy Karo

Announcements—January

Mike Hurd

Sunday Morning Adult Classes—9:00 AM—9:45 AM

Ron Wilson	Auditorium
Wes Yeager	202
Vince Urbina	103
Young Adult (Under 30)	207

Wednesday Evening Bible Classes 7—7:45 PM

John Cooper	Auditorium
Singing Class	103

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

Cradle Roll—Birth to 2	Nursery
2 & 4 Year Old	104
Pre KK, Kindergarten	205
1st & 2nd Grade	209
3rd thru 5th Grade	208
Middle School	213
High School	203

Wednesday Evening Children's Bible Study

2 & 5 yr. old	104
Kindergarten 1st & 2nd	205
1st thru 5th Grade	208
All teens meet in	203

Thursday Morning Bible Classes

Thursday Bible School for Pre-Schoolers	9:30 am—12:30 PM
Ladies Bible Class, starts 9:30 am	207

Sunday Morning Bible Classes Begin at 9 AM
Sunday Morning Fellowship Time 9:45 AM—10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly Begins at 10:15 AM
Sunday Evening Class begins at 6 PM In Fellowship Hall
Wednesday Evening Bible Study Begins at 7 PM