

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

Good Deeds & Pressing Needs

By Pastor Brian De Jong

At the close of his letter to Titus, the Apostle Paul made a comment that is well worth our consideration. Specifically he said in Titus 3:14 *Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

This directive assumes several important truths, and the first is that there are many pressing needs that crop up in the church. Some of these needs are material – people who don't have enough to eat, or warm clothes to wear, or a place to sleep. Other needs are of an emotional nature – they crave friendship, they battle with loneliness or struggle with feelings of depression. Other needs are of a relational sort – a single person wants to be married, a couple wants to have children, a widow misses her family. Still others face spiritual needs – their walk with Christ is inconsistent, they fall prey to temptation and feel guilt, their prayer life is almost non-existent. The list could go on and on, but you get the point – no shortage of needs in the church.

That is not even to mention the needs we encounter in society all around us, as unbelievers grope about in the darkness. They seek meaning to life, but can find none. The needs of society are even more pronounced than those within the church.

A second undergirding assumption is that Christians can meet pressing needs by a commitment to doing good



deeds. Before I say more, I'm sure you'll understand that this is no legalistic call to works righteousness. "Be good and God will accept you" is not Paul's point. Rather, because God has accepted you, you should do good works to help other.

The classic example of this in Jesus' teaching is his parable of the good Samaritan. This kind soul saw the bloody and beaten man laying on the roadway, left for dead. He came over and began caring for the victim of this crime. He took the man to an inn and paid for his rehabilitation.

The good Samaritan did a good deed to meet a pressing need. Believe it or not, Christians have the capacity to step into the gap and meet the need of the hour.

Yet another point gleaned from Paul's instruction is that this ministry of good deeds must be learned. It doesn't come naturally or through osmosis. It is something to be learned from a teacher. This would suggest that church leaders must teach both by precept and by example how to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs. This is true for Pastors, Elders and Deacons – all of whom are to engage in ministries of mercy toward the needy and the lost, as well as caring for those within the congregation. God's people often learn by seeing an example and following it. My fellow officers – take note!

Then finally, consider the warning at the end of Paul's

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Update on the Hopps in Haiti



The Next Generation

What hope is there for the future of the church in Haiti? We continue to be thankful that we do not rely on our own efforts or plans but on the Spirit of God working the hearts and minds of people. We try to be faithful in preaching the gospel, speaking to people of their need of the Savior, and encouraging the saints to "work out their salvation with fear and trembling." But we don't always see the fruit of our labors.

We do know that children are a blessing from the Lord - and these children are growing up. In Haiti, too, these children are growing up into young men and women. We have many opportunities to teach them and help them grow. A couple weeks ago, we once again held our annual Carnival youth conference. Instead of spending their time at Mardi Gras parties, 40 young people came for three days of teaching on the book of Philippians.

A visiting PCA pastor from Savannah, Georgia came to teach the young people at the Port-au-Prince congregation. He commented that he was particularly impressed by the depth of the questions the young people had. His teaching was particularly useful because he focused on the need for our doctrine to lead to right living. This is the message that Haiti needs. Please pray with us that God would be raising up the next generation of his church to be increasingly faithful in living out the Scriptures. Haiti is a place full of temptation for young people. It is our desire to encourage them to grow in grace, in love for one another, and in service to the church.

The Previous Generation

Although the young generation is the majority of the Haitian population, not everyone is young in years. We don't have many older folks in the churches, but those we do have are a true gift, and a reminder of God's faithfulness over a lifetime. This makes it more sad when we lose a faithful member of our churches. This was the case last month when Madame Solon from the Doglace church went to be with her Savior.

Her funeral took place a couple weeks later. She had several children living as far afield as Brazil. Plans needed to be made and those children returned home to La Gonâve for her funeral on a Sunday afternoon. Ben was able to participate in the service. Unlike North American funerals, there is a lot of outward expression of grief. The loud crying can sometimes overwhelm the message being preached, but it is a reminder that death is our last great enemy. After singing, praying and reading Scripture, along with much weeping, we made our way to the graveside. It was the closing of the last chapter in the life of this dear saint.

The reality of death is a lot more obvious in Haiti. Almost every time we travel, we come across a funeral procession. Everyone follows the coffin out to the graveside, often accompanied by the music of a small brass band. Whether it is a rural funeral like that for Madame Solon, or whether it's a crowd walking along the



Kids Corner

What was your favorite Winter Olympic event you got to watch?

Ethan: Watching hockey was awesome. The Men's Biathlon was also exciting!

Emma: Women's Half Pipe Snowboarding. Chole Kim was amazing!

Elijah: Men's Big Air and Snowboard Cross was a close second.

Esther: Couples' Figure Skating and Chloe Kim on her snowboard!

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national highway on their way to the cemetery, the reminder of death is clear. But for those who are in Christ, the perishable will be clothed with the imperishable: Death is not the end, but rather it is a marvelous beginning of eternal life in Heaven with the Lord.



Our Generation

And what about our own family. The kids continue to grow and we can say they work hard and play hard. It is always refreshing to take time out of our busy schedule to visit with friends and enjoy the warm, Caribbean waters. Through some missionary friends in Gonaïves, we discovered a beach about 30 minutes north of our home. It has a wonderful sandy beach, some exquisite reefs to snorkel, and is generally quiet when we go. A perfect place relax and recharge

Our kids love the water and all the things they can discover in God's creation. They keep busy all day, only taking time out to eat. At the end of the day they are tired out, but in a good way. We are very thankful to the Lord for the way in which He has provided friends from other missionary families for our kids over the years. In His providence, as their friends' families leave Haiti, he always seems to bring someone else to take their place. Saying goodbye is always hard, but they can be excited to see who God will bring next.

Prayer/Praise Requests for Haiti

- Tomorrow (Feb. 28th) a team arrives from Pennsylvania. Ben and Elijah will travel with them to La Gonâve to spend a week plastering the wall around the guest house. Please pray for safe travels, a safe work site, and the opportunity to show the team all God is doing in the ministry on La Gonâve.
- Continue to pray for God's blessing as plans move ahead for another meeting of all the men from 3 Reformed ministries working here in Haiti. We will meet later in March for a two-day conference to discuss practical issues related to the regional church and to worship together.
- Pray for the continued spiritual growth of the Port-au-Prince congregation through Sunday School instruction, Bible studies, and the weekly preaching. Also pray for a new members class that will begin soon.
- Give thanks for a good youth conference this past month. Pray for the young people - that they would grow in maturity, that they would be diligent in their studies, and that by the Spirit they would be kept from following after the world.
- We praise God for good health but ask you to pray it would continue so that the ministry and school work could move ahead.
- Pray that those attending the churches on La Gonâve and in Port-au-Prince would see their need for regular Bible reading so they might grow in grace and knowledge of their Savior.
- Continue to pray for the family and friends of Madame Solon from the Doglace church as they grieve her loss.

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry March Newsletter



As I sit to write this article, the calendar shows that we are approximately three weeks from the official beginning of Spring. As I look out the window, it looks like spring is still a long way off. The near freezing temperatures (actually quite warm for us) and the snow don't seem like they'll be gone in the next three weeks. Nevertheless, I know that Spring will eventually arrive. Soon the cold temperatures will gradually warm up above 50 degrees! (For us in the Great Lakes area, it's been quite a while since we've felt that.) Soon the white on the ground will melt away to reveal the brown lifeless lawn. That lifeless lawn will suddenly spring to life and turn a beautiful shade of green. Tulips will soon burst forth to life to transform the drab brown with an array of colors. I say that with confidence because I personally know the One who sets the seasons in place. Do you know Him? Or, do you know about Him? There is a vast difference in these two questions. I've heard it said the difference is 12-15 inches. That's an average distance from the brain to the heart. The difference of "heart knowledge" and "head knowledge".

You may be wondering, "What does this have to do with the coming of Spring?" Others of you may know where I'm going with this. You see, springtime is when we see new life come into being. We see it in the flowers, lawns, trees, insects, the animal kingdom and in just about everything around. The "One who sets the seasons in place", is also the one who brings "new life" into being.

Colossians 1:15, 16 "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him." Jesus is the One who formed all things. He is the one who brings new life into His creation.

The good news of the gospel is that you don't have to wait until springtime to experience the newness of life. Jesus gives it to anyone who comes to Him in faith.

Romans 10:9-13,

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

In our Detention Center, we've seen this "newness of life" happen in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. In God's Kingdom, it's always planting and harvest season. New life can spring up at any time. I'm so privileged to be partners with so many who believe that Jesus is truly the answer for a broken, hurting world. Thank you for believing with Jesus (and with me) that anyone who believes in Jesus will experience new life!

Chaplain Rick

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Gayle's Corner

Gayle Janzen is a "Chaplain In Training" with Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

The ladies are doing a Bible study called "The Easter Experience." One of the lessons deals with Peter and Judas. Judas betrays Jesus by selling Him to the Jewish leaders for 30 pieces of silver. Peter disagrees with Jesus that he would never forsake Jesus. Then in fear for his life, Peter denies Jesus 3 times. Jesus lovingly interacts with both men. He asks Judas in the garden if he is betraying Him with a kiss? Yet, Judas continues with his plan. Judas is filled with remorse, a deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed. Later he goes out and kills himself—a tragic response. Peter is filled with repentance. He goes out and weeps bitterly. Later Peter recommits his life to serving Jesus. The extensive Roman Catholic church is started because of Peter. Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 21. How do you respond when you sin, do you tragically take life into your own hands or do you confess those sins, receive the Lord's forgiveness, and witness to others? May you have blessed forgiveness and a happy Easter!!!

The American Bible Society started a Trauma Treatment Program in Africa 15 years ago to deal with the genocide, aides, and other traumatic situations. This program has been very helpful in many foreign countries. 97 % of women who are incarcerated have had major trauma and no help to deal with these events. 85% of incarcerated men have faced street trauma. Because of this the American Bible Society has partnered with Good News Jail & Prison Ministry to provide training for Chaplains and volunteers to take the program into the jails and prisons. I have received the first part of the training and plan to conduct the first set of classes March 20-26 with the ladies. Many of the ladies have turned to drugs to deal with the pain. Please pray for the women to be healed and set free through this program.

Our Annual Partner Banquet is April 24th at Blue Harbor. We do not charge for the tickets however a free will offering will be received. You must have a ticket. If you need tickets, you can call me at 920-889-8987 or Chaplain Rick at 920-459-1356.

Please pray that all of the ladies that would commit their lives to Jesus and become a witness to the others of the great God we serve.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for our new Sheriff, Cory Roeseler as he transitions into his new position
- Pray for the churches, businesses and individuals who financially support this ministry.
- Pray for the men and women who have put their faith in Jesus. Pray that they continue to follow Jesus when they get released or are transferred to other jails or prisons.

Ministry Needs

- Paper products for the Tee Box, transitional living home.
- One twin size bed frame for the Tee Box, transitional living home.
- Men to serve as mentor for men in the Tee Box
- Long sleeved t-shirts or sweatshirts size L, XL, 2X (crew neck, plain with no writing or graphics)
- Chaplaincy Support Teams members from each of our supporting Churches

John Ploughman Chapter 11: Things Not Worth Trying

That is a wise old saying, "Spend not all you have, believe not all you hear, tell not all you know, and do not all you can." There is so much work to be done that needs our hands that it is a pity to waste a grain of our strength. When the game is not worth the candle, drop it at once. It is wasting time to look for milk in a gate post, or blood in a turnip, or sense in a fool. Never ask a covetous man for money till you have boiled a flint soft. Don't sue a debtor who has not a penny to bless himself with—you will only be throwing good money after bad, which is like losing your ferret without getting a rabbit. Never offer a mirror to a blind man: if a man is so proud that he will not see his faults, he will only quarrel with you for pointing them out to him. It is of no use to hold a lantern to a mole or to talk of heaven to a man who cares for nothing but his dirty money. There's a time for everything, and it is a silly thing to preach to drunken men; it is casting pearls before swine. Get them sober and then talk to them soberly; if you lecture them while they are drunk, you act as if you were drunk yourself.

Do not put a cat on a coachbox or men in places for which they are not fitted. There's no making apples of plums. Little minds will still be little, even if you make them deacons or elders. It's a pity to turn a monkey into a minister or a maid-servant into a mistress. Many preachers are good tailors spoiled, and capital shoemakers turned out of their proper calling. When God means a creature to fly, He gives it wings; and when He intends men to preach, he gives them abilities. It is a pity to push a man into the war if cannot fight. Better discourage a man's climbing than help him to break his neck. Silk purses are not to made out of sows' ears, and pigs will never play well on the flute, teach them as long as you like.

It is not wise to aim at impossibilities—it is a waste of powder to fire at the man in the moon. Making boards out of sawdust is a very sensible scheme compared with what some of my London friends have been aiming at, for they have been trying to get money by buying shares in companies; they might quite as soon catch the wind in a net or carry water in a sieve. Bubbles are fine fun for boys, but bubble companies are sharp-edged tools that none should play with. If my friend has money which he can afford to lose, there is still no reason why he should hand it over to a set of knaves. If I wanted to get rid of my leg, I should not get a shark to snap it off for me. Give your money to fools sooner that let rogues wheedle you out of it.

It is never worthwhile to do unnecessary thongs. Never grease a fat sow or praise a proud man. Don't make clothes for fishes or coverings for altars. Don't paint lilies or garnish the gospel. Never bind up a man's head before it is broken or comfort a conscience that makes no confession. Never hold up a candle to the sun or try to prove a thing which nobody doubts. I would advise no one to attempt a thing which cost more than it is worth. You may sweeten a dunghill with lavender water, and a bad living man may keep up a good character by an outward show of religion, but it will turn out a losing business in the long run. If our nation were sensible, it would sweep out a good many expensive but useless people, who eat the malt which lies in the house that Jack built; they live on the national estate but do it little service. To pay a man a pounds earning a penny is a good deal wiser than' keeping bishops who meet together by the score and consult about the best way of doing nothing. If my master's old dog was as sleepy as the bishops are, he would get shot or drowned, for he wouldn't be worth the amount of the dog tax. However, their time of reckoning is nearing, as sure as Christmas is coming.

Long ago, my experience taught me not to dispute with anybody about tastes and whims; one might as well argue about what you can see in the fire. It is of no use plowing the air or trying to convince matters of no consequence. It is useless to try to end a quarrel by getting angry over it; it is much the same as pouring oil on a fire to quench it or blowing coals with the bellows to put them out. Some people like row—I don't envy their choice; I'd rather walk ten miles to get out of a dispute than a half-mile to get into one. I have often been told to be bold and take the bull by the horns; but, as I rather think that the amusement is more pleasant than profitable, I shall leave it to those who are so cracked already that an ugly poke with a horn would not damage their skulls. Solomon says, "Leave off strife before it be meddled with," which is much the same as if he had

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Ploughman Continued...

said, "Leave off before you begin." When you see a mad dog, don't argue with him unless you are sure of your logic. Instead, get out of his way; if nobody calls you a coward, you need not call him a fool—everybody knows that. Meddling in quarrels never finds answers: let hornets' nests be alone, and don't pull down old houses over your own head. Meddlers are sure to hurt their own characters: if you scrub other people's pigs, you will soon need scrubbing yourself. It is the height of folly to interfere between a man and his wife, for they will be sure to leave off fighting each other and turn their whole strength upon you—and it would serve you right, too. If you put your spoon into other people's broth and it scalds you, who is to blame but yourself?

One thing more, don't attempt to make a strong-minded woman give way, but remember:

"If she will, she will,
You may depend on it.
If she won't, she won't,
And there's an end to it."

The other day I cut out of a newspaper a scrap from America, which shall be my endpiece:
"Dip the Mississippi dry with a teaspoon; twist your heel into the toe of your boot; send up fishing-hooks with balloons and fish for stars; get astride a gossamer and chase a comet; when a rain storm is coming down like the cataract of Niagara, remember where you left your umbrella; choke a flea with a brickbat! In short, prove everything hitherto considered impossible to be possible but never attempt to coax a woman to say she will when she has made up her mind to say she

Annual Chaplain's Banquet

This year the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry banquet will be held at Blue Harbor on Tuesday, April 24, at 6pm. There will be a speaker and special reports from Chaplain Rick Cawthon and the ministry of the Good News Jail ministry. Tickets for the banquet may be obtained from Ivan DeMaster or Jack DeTroye. Tickets are free and an opportunity will be provided to support the jail ministry of Chaplain Cawthon and Gayle Jansen. Your prayers and support are appreciated.



Baby Shower

Save the date for Stephanie Arndt's baby shower to be held on Saturday, April 7th.



Milwaukee Admiral's Hockey



We are planning a fun group outing to a hockey game on the evening of Friday, March 30. Ticket cost is \$14.00 per person and need to be reserved by March 16. Please contact Bob or Debbie Boss for more information, to purchase tickets, or to make car pool arrangements.

Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast

The Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 24th at 7am at the church. Join us for this encouraging time of food and fellowship!



March Birthdays

Paul Damkot	1 st
Marge Halbach	4 th
Lynn Baatz	5 th
Oliver Mamazza	6 th
Tammy Voskuil	8 th
Margaret Adam	10 th
Caitlin Ver Velde	19 th
William Lorenz	23 rd
William Wilke	23 rd
Tim Voskuil	24 th
Joe Mamazza	29 th



March Anniversaries

Jeff & Wendy Froh
~March 1st, 22 years~





Christ In Us

The Hope of Glory

2018 New Hope Women's Conference

Friday, April 27th

&

Saturday, April 28th

New Hope OPC

Guest Speaker

Hannah Anderson

*For more details see Ellen McNeese or the bulletin board in the
fellowship hall*



Book Review

By Carla DeMaster

Sing a New Song by Lydia Brownback
A Woman's Guide to the Psalms

Written by a MAR graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary, this book is intended for women for personal Bible study or small groups. Because people are relational, emotional beings, we are drawn to the Psalms. "As the Psalmists pour out their hearts to God, they uncover the multifaceted character of the Lord Almighty and reveal His grace-filled plans for his people."

Each Psalm is covered in two pages with the 5 themes.

1. Theme of the Psalm
2. Harmony-the setting of the Psalm— who wrote it and why
3. Singing in Tune—goes through the Psalm and explains it, especially the relationship of the Psalmist and God.
4. Musical notes include God's Grace and his/our response to it and God's Attributes— what is revealed about God in this Psalm.

A common quote in the Psalms of lament is: "God welcomes boldness and honesty when we cry out to Him and we need not fear that He won't hear, because He has promised never to turn away from those who truly seek Him."

I especially appreciate the 5th theme, called "Sing the Son," where application from the New Testament highlights how the Psalm's theme is found there. Taking notes has been a habit and this study provides a reason.



"There is no Christian victory or blessing if we refuse to turn away from the things that God hates. Even if it is accepted in the whole social class of which you are a part, turn away from it. Even if there is something that has come to be accepted by our generation, turn away from it if it is wrong and an offense to our holy and righteous Savior."

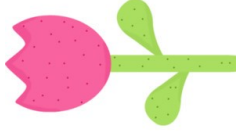
-A.W. Tozer-



Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace OPC

March 2018



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Session Meeting	14	15	16 Spring Presbytery Meeting	17
18 Fellowship Lunch	19	20	21	22	23	24 Men's Breakfast
25	26	27	28	29	30 Milwaukee Admirals Hockey Game	31

Ultimate Chocolate Chocolate Chip Cookies



*“For He
has satisfied
the thirsty soul,
and the
hungry soul
He has filled
with what
is good.”*

Ingredients:

- 4 cups (*two* 12-oz. pkgs.)
- 2 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs

Instructions:

PREHEAT oven to 375° F.

MELT 2 cups morsels in small, *heavy-duty* saucepan over low heat; stir until smooth. Remove from heat.

COMBINE flour, baking soda and salt in medium bowl. Beat butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in melted chocolate. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in *remaining* 2 cups morsels. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheets.

BAKE for 8 to 9 minutes or until cookies are puffed. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.



Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

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Spurgeon Corner

*“They shall be abundantly satisfied
with the fatness of thy house.”*

Psalm 36:8

Sheba’s queen was amazed at the sumptuousness of Solomon’s table. She lost all heart when she saw the provision of a single day; and she marvelled equally at the company of servants who were feasted at the royal board. But what is this to the hospitalities of the God of grace? Ten thousand thousand of his people are daily fed; hungry and thirsty, they bring large appetites with them to the banquet, but not one of them returns unsatisfied; there is enough for each, enough for all, enough for evermore. Though the host that feed at Jehovah’s table is countless as the stars of heaven, yet each one has his portion of meat. Think how much grace one saint requires, so much that nothing but the Infinite

could supply him for one day; and yet the Lord spreads his table, not for one, but many saints, not for one day, but for many years; not for many years only, but for generation after generation. Observe the full feasting spoken of in the text, the guests at mercy’s banquet are satisfied, nay, more “abundantly satisfied;” and that not with ordinary fare, but with fatness, the peculiar fatness of God’s own house; and such feasting is guaranteed by a faithful promise to all those children of men who put their trust under the shadow of Jehovah’s wings. I once thought if I might but get the broken meat at God’s back door of grace I should be satisfied; like the woman who said, “The dogs eat of the crumbs that fall from the master’s table;” but no child of God is ever served with scraps and leavings; like Mephibosheth, they all eat from the king’s own table. In matters of grace, we all have Benjamin’s mess—we all have ten times more than we could have expected, and though our necessities are great, yet are we often amazed at the marvellous plenty of grace which God gives us experimentally to enjoy.

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Evening, March 4th, C.H. Spurgeon

Front Page Concluded...

instruction – so that they will not be unfruitful. As believers in Christ, we ought to strive to be fruitful. Our heavenly gardener prunes us to make us even more fruitful. An unfruitful Christian is a contradiction in terms, for Christians are to bear much good fruit, by definition.

So here are some closing questions to reflect upon: Do you see the pressing needs all around you, and do understand that you can help meet them? What are your gifts? What abilities do you possess, that might be helpful to others? Are you

committed to sacrificing your time, your energy and your schedule to help those in need? Do you want to be a more fruitful Christian than you are right now? What is one obvious situation in your life where you might put this verse into practice?