

...from the Heart

*Published quarterly by the Patchogue
Church of the Nazarene
Fall 2016*



BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

A man named Jack was walking along a steep cliff one day, when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he grabbed a branch, which temporarily stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that the canyon fell straight down for more than a thousand feet.

He couldn't hang onto the branch forever, and there was no way for him to climb up the steep wall of the cliff. So Jack began yelling for help, hoping that someone passing by would hear him and lower a rope or something.

HELP! HELP! Is anyone up there? "HELP!"

He yelled for a long time, but no one heard him. He was about to give up when he heard a voice. Jack, Jack. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, yes! I can hear you. I'm down here!"

"I can see you, Jack. Are you all right?"

"Yes, but who are you, and where are you?"



"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."

"The Lord?"

You mean, GOD?"

"That's Me."

"God, please help me! I promise if, you'll get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person. I'll serve You for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises, Jack. Let's get you off from there; then we can talk."

"Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully."

"I'll do anything, Lord. Just tell me what to do."

"Okay. Let go of the branch." "What?" "I said, let go of the branch. Just trust Me. Let go."

There was a long silence.

Finally Jack yelled, "HELP! HELP! IS ANYONE ELSE UP THERE?"



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Stay Connected to Your Forever Family!

Pastor Jerry sends out a daily email which includes updates and announcements regarding church activities, prayer requests, a devotional, jokes, (of course) *quotes, trivia, news, and so much more!*

To begin receiving "Good Morning" please send your email address to: pastor.jerry@verizon.net and you will be added to the distribution list.

Check out our website at www.patchnaz.net
Sermons, Bible studies, and Church Activities

Can you relate to Jack? We say we want God's will until we find out it may not be what we will. I find that many people are not praying for God's will but demanding that God give them what they want.

Recently I copied and posted a devotional by David Wilkerson in my "Good Morning!" (a daily email I send out which some call the "God Morning!"). In his devotional David Wilkerson said that, "Jesus prayed a 'breakthrough prayer' at Gethsemane."

Jesus' "breakthrough prayer" was simply this:

Not what I will [not what I desire], but as You will *and* desire.

- Matthew 26:39 AMP

David Wilkerson also called it the "ultimate prayer." By *ultimate* he meant final, the end of a series. It's a prayer that is prayed at the point when everything had been tried and this was the ultimate, or final, prayer. He said it was, "the one that would move mountains and shake hell."

"Jesus gets up from pleading and says, in essence, 'I have prayed, wept, fasted, done everything. Now, Father, I unload My soul to You, in total trust. Your will be done.'"

Here is the question, "Have you ever presented this 'ultimate prayer' to the Lord over a situation?"

- I have prayed, fasted and interceded over this matter.
- I have asked, knocked, sought and believed.
- Yet what is happening now is not what I want.
- I don't think I can handle it.



"Then you add, 'But You are the Almighty God, and I cast everything into Your hands. Now, Father, do what *You* want to do, when *You* choose to do it. I rest in Your promises to me.'"

Whatever your need, until you can pray this prayer, "Lord, not my will, but YOUR will be done," and totally trust God, you will not have peace. God wants to give you peace in the midst of the trouble you face, the situation you are concerned about, the decision you need wisdom for. It is the peace in which God declares to us, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be My child."

But until you pray this ultimate prayer, you cannot move your mountain. But when you do pray this prayer, God will open your eyes to something amazing and you will no longer miss the answer to your prayer when it comes.



It is not easy to pray this prayer. It's not easy to get to a place where you are willing to give up what you want, even though it is not God's will for you. Even after praying, worry may start to creep back in again and you will have to remind yourself that you prayed the ultimate prayer, and perhaps pray it again. But when you are sincere in the prayer you will find what Paul described in Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Need a breakthrough? Pray the "breakthrough prayer."

And that's...

F.T.H.
Pastor Jerry



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Is published *quarterly* by the

Church of the Nazarene

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www.patchnaz.net

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Sunday Service at 10 am
Senior Pastor: Rev. Jerry Bonfiglio
Associate Pastor: Rev. Nick Franco

Newsletter Editor: Linda Cucinotta
linda23.pcotn@gmail.com

Sunday

9:30am - 9:45am – Prayer.

10am - Service - Nursery available.

10:45am - Children's Sunday School -
Fellowship Hall.

10:45am - Teen Bible Study - HPYC Building.

First Sunday of the Month -
Holy Communion.

Third Sunday of the month -
Children's Missionary Workshop
with Barbara Brennan.

Monday

7pm - First & Third Monday of the month -
September through June - M.E.N.
(Men's Encouragement Network) -
Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday

7pm - Every Tuesday. Ladies - In - Touch at Mary Ann Malcolm's Home.
Call 631-286-2435.

Wednesday

7pm - Every Wednesday - Fellowship & Games - HPYC Building - For Men and Women
of all ages - Let's get to know one another.

7:30pm - First & Third Wednesday of the month - Kairos - Young Adult Bible Study -
Fellowship Hall - Ages 18 to 40.

Thursday

7pm - Second Thursday each month-
September through June - Ladies Sewing Circle - HPYC Building.

Saturday

8am - First Saturday of each month-
September through June - M.E.N.'s Breakfast - Fellowship Hall.

7pm - First Saturday of each month-
September through June - Good News Bowlers at Bowl Long Island Patchogue.



Coming Up...

In September...

September 5 - Labor Day - Church Office Closed
 September 22 - 7:30pm - NYI
 (Nazarene Youth International) - District teen leaders meeting at the Bay Shore Church of the Nazarene.
 September 30 through October 2 - Ladies Retreat



In October...

October 8 Weddings:
 Angela Castagna & Danny Dempsey
 Daniela Lynn Olsen & Jason Koontz
 October 15 - Softball Dinner
 October 22 Wedding:
 Jennifer Henry & Brian Holland



In November...

November 5 - We host and are invited to the Springfield Gardens Church of the Nazarene Annual Prayer Retreat.
 November 11 through 13 - Men's Retreat.
 November 22 - 7pm - Thanksgiving Service
 November 24 - Thanksgiving Day



Good News Bowling League - First Night is September 3 at Bowl Long Island in Patchogue. We meet every first Saturday of the Month thru June. It is a fun mixed handicap league. If interested see or email Corinne at corinnechurch@verizon.net \$30 first night \$20 thereafter. Must be 18.





Buildings and Grounds

Have you noticed the new paving of the parking lot?
Sidewalks have also been repaired.
The landscaping looks great too!

“Thankfulness to God is a recognition that God in His goodness and faithfulness had provided for us and cared for us, both physically and spiritually. It is a recognition that we are totally dependent on Him; that all that we are and have comes from God.” Jerry Bridges



THANKSGIVING Offering

The Church of the Nazarene’s annual Thank Offering for the World Evangelism Fund has been a denominational tradition for more than 75 years. Every year we look back and remember what God has done. Out

of thankfulness, we give back to God. This year’s World Evangelism Fund Thank Offering celebrates how our time, prayers, and donations help spread the gospel. Through language schools, church plants, mission hospitals, and many other ministries, God uses our gifts to do amazing things. Imagine what God will do through our generation and those that follow as we continue to serve Him. Today’s sacrificial giving to the Church of the Nazarene around the world assists in

Developing the Future.

Ladies Sewing Circle-



Recently with the help of the ladies of “Long Island Quilts for Kids” 40 "pillowcase" style sundresses were sent along with Pastor Manny Alvarez and a group from the East Rockaway Church of the Nazarene to the mission project in Haiti. If you know how to use a sewing machine - ask me for instructions and supplies. The next mission trip to Haiti will be in January and hopefully we can send more.

The Ladies took a break for the summer but we will resume meeting every second Thursday of the month starting September 8th at 7pm in the Youth Center. Bring whatever projects you are currently working on. We will provide coffee and refreshments and laughter.

Keeping you in stitches :-) Corinne

Baby Dedications this Summer...

June 26, 2016 - Makaylah Faith Boutsikos
Proud Parents - Matthew and Desiree Boutsikos

August 21, 2016 - Karai Faith Fasano
Proud Parents - Richard & Kara Fasano



*Twelve new members were welcomed to our church family in June.
They were Lisa Akers ,Willie & Lauren Barker, Will Barker,
Brian & Jenelle Callaghan, Kelley Carpenter, Bill & Linda Cucinotta,
Evelyn Cortes, Joey Gardner, and George Phillips.*

WOMENS MINISTRY

With a few cooler days this week, I have been thinking about "fallish" things so I could make a submission to the newsletter. It is hard to think of pumpkins and falling leaves in the heat of the summer!

As we have for the past several years, the ladies have continued to meet for in-touch at my home on Tuesday evenings. There always seemed to be many prayer requests each week and it was such a blessing to be able to lift those in need whether we knew them or not. Instead of a formal study, we did a devotion and shared our thoughts about it with one another. Of course, we finished up with coffee and some sweets.

In the fall, our Tuesday night group will continue to meet at my home each week at 7pm but we will be adding a Thursday morning group as well. This group will meet at HPYC at a time to be determined. My hope is that those ladies that aren't able to come out on Tuesday night will be able to come on that day. The study will be the same for both groups. Hopefully, many ladies will be able to be a part of this. I will let you know the exact date and time that we will be starting the new studies.

We are living in fast-changing times. Things we never thought we would see happen are happening right in front of our eyes and we are unable to stop them. More than ever before, we must be seeking God's wisdom and direction by spending time in His Word. We must put our faith first and stay in fellowship with other believers so that we can encourage one another when the times are difficult. Our hope is in the living Christ; let's live our lives so others might come to know His grace, love and mercy too!

Be blessed and be a blessing,

Mary Ann



Look Up!

By: Elizabeth Duffy

This summer flew and 2016 is accelerating at lightning speed. I will say it was a rough year, but a productive one as God revealed many things to me. I went through several bouts of funks or mini depressions as I call them. Unfortunately, it was of my own making. There were issues that I did not address seriously and they became strongholds. The Lord upset my circumstances to bring this to my attention. I believe I even thanked Him for it at one point. In June I was brought to my breaking point and begged Him for help and of course He came through. He equipped me with what I would need, because it would be quite a battle to destroy what I created for myself. I was to journal and read through Psalms. In each entry I was to write a verse that praised Him and His works. So, armed with a pen and a prayer, I went about each day giving my heart back to the Lord. It has done wonders. I have made it a point to give my lunch break to the Lord and I look forward to it! I plug in, read, pray and write at a desk in the far corner of the lounge that has a window I look out of.



He has already blessed me since I began writing everything down. One particular day at work was overwhelming, and I began my entry apologizing and complaining. For some reason, after the third line, I stopped and looked out and up at the sky. Afterward my writing moved in a new course of direction. I was no longer concerned with, well, me. I was in awe of our Creator who set the stars in the sky, how He keeps the Earth in place as it completes each revolution around the sun, has allowed us tools to glimpse the infinite expanse of the universe, dazzles our senses with our four seasons.

Yet, somehow, we are the crown of His creation. You. Me. We are His masterpiece even when we muck it up. Remember, my shortcomings brought this particular season in my life and He is still faithful! I don't believe I will ever stop being enamored with His grace and that He continually desires to be in my life, even when I fail Him.

With that, are you tired and overwhelmed? Has tragedy struck and you can't breathe? Or is the weight of your sin crushing you? Then look up and praise Jesus for all He has done and made, for I promise you, He will lift you up!

New Perspective

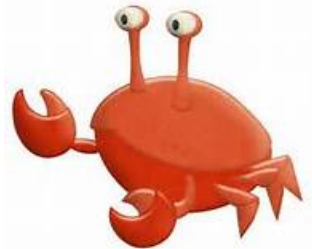
By: Elizabeth Duffy

It has been another exciting year at VBS! This time around was a slightly different experience for me. I was able to monitor all age groups, take pictures of the stations in full swing, while Sue Herrmann took the Helm (see what I did there?) and taught the children. She did a wonderful job, and it was fun watching her teach all of the children. I tried my hand at decorating which was a heady combination of satisfaction and wanting to destroy all of my creations. No in between! Thankfully the latter did not prevail.



I was grateful for the opportunity to spend time with the children. When you teach, you have a 20 minute window to effectively and lovingly present the lesson. The lessons are the most important aspect of VBS, however, you miss all of the other interactions throughout the night. I would ask the kids each day what they looked forward to most. I received heartfelt, varied responses that they either loved the lessons, crafts, games or the music portion. It was also refreshing to take time before each night and go to the Lord in prayer for all volunteers, instead of last year's desperate prayer, "Lord how am I going to do this?!". This time my prayers were focused largely on everyone else.

On Wednesday, I had more autonomy to capture the essence of VBS; joyful service. Everyone willingly gave themselves to dedicate their gifts and it was evident. Was everyone exhausted? Yes. Were the weeks leading up to VBS stressful? You bet! Were there some complaints? Don't go there. However, the moment you commit two things become clear; it's about Christ and His Children. You put everything else on the side. It doesn't matter what was sacrificed because when you see their lit up expressions, excitement, and happiness, all the aggravation melts away. That is exactly what we did; we put our all into this ministry. I enjoyed this new perspective this year and we can all say, unanimously, that VBS Submerged was a success!



What Took Me So Long?

Judges 16:28...30 – “Then Samson prayed to the Lord, ‘O Sovereign Lord, remember me, O God, please strengthen me just once more... and let me die with the Philistines.’”

Corinne and I (and Gizmo) made our annual pilgrimage to the Lancaster area this week. We went to see this year’s show at the Millennium Theater, SAMSON. My sister and brother-in-law purchased tickets in the seats next to us. They came from Va. and us from NY to see the show together and spend some time with each other. We were very excited about the show and the fellowship time. The show started off differently from others we have seen. It was not as sensational, but the ending was great and the story was very good. As I reflected on the story they told afterward, I appreciated and related to the story’s intent. We can all learn something from it.



Samson, like many of us, grew up in “church” or the synagogue or under the teaching of the Law. He learned about God and Faith, but it never really stuck with him personally. He knew the lessons he was taught, but he never applied what he was taught to his own life. He remained with one foot in the world and its lusts and one foot in God. That never works – then or now. His entire life was a flip/flop between God and the world.

Finally, after years of betraying and being betrayed, Samson came to his senses while captured and imprisoned by the Philistines with his eyes gauged out. He finally saw when physically blind what God wanted all along. He finally gave himself fully to God and died bringing glory to God. He prayed that God would strengthen him one last time, so that he might bring glory to God and vengeance against the Philistines, who detested the One True God. God honored his prayer, because it was finally sincere and from a changed heart.

It took Samson his entire life to receive God’s Grace, even though it was available to him all his life. God is still the same today. He extends His grace to us and offers forgiveness and another chance over and over again so we will do what He intends for us to do all along. He has a plan and a purpose for each one of us if we would just accept His offer and follow Him fully. Don’t wait until the end of your life to finally submit to His will. Heb. 3:7-8a – “This is what the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today when you hear His voice, don’t harden your hearts...’”

He is still calling us today. Will you respond to His call? You will be blessed if you do. He promises. Don’t wait like Samson, who didn’t get it until the end of his life. Don’t have to ask yourself that question, “What Took Me So Long?” Yield to Him today. Serve Him today. Receive His grace today.
Pastor Nick