

# ...from the Heart



*Published quarterly by the Patchogue Church of the Nazarene*

HELLO  
SUMMER  
2022

What's new? We often ask others that question hoping, in turn, to be asked the same. It tends to happen when we are excited about something new in our lives; we are dying to share it! Well, aren't you going to ask me?

Our church recently entered into; the Half-Million Mobilization (HMM). We're praying with all the Nazarene Churches throughout the United States and Canada; for the Lord's Protection, Direction, and Revelation. We started right after Easter; we're praying our way to Pentecost. However, I like to say *to Pentecost and beyond!*

What do I mean by that? Well, when I say we're praying for the Lord to protect, direct, and reveal himself to us, it may sound, well, a bit self-serving and narrow. And when we say we're going to pray for fifty days, it could sound like a limited-time engagement or a fulfilling of another *religious obligation*. And all the above isn't what HMM is about!

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave his followers the following instructions: ***Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.***

Jesus' instruction would help usher in a new age because time spent waiting in Jerusalem was time spent praying. It was a lighting of a *fuse*. It was the *start* of something big. And so it is with HMM. It's about ushering in a lifestyle and cultural shift from relying on ourselves and depending more on the Lord. It is not only for a season but also for eternity. It's about partnering with the presence and person of the Holy Spirit! This partnership is what gave birth to the first-century church.

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Furthermore, my time of dialog and *listening* to the Lord has broadened my limited perspective and increased my faith. It has better readied my heart and my spirit to *respond* to whatever the Lord puts before me to do. It has better *equipped* me to confront and handle whatever difficulties come my way; to walk *toward* them and not *away from* them. And as I have become more *attentive* to the presence of the Holy Spirit, I am less anxious and more at home in my skin.

In closing, I would leave you with a simple thought. When we are in love with someone, we want to spend as much time with him or her as possible. We are not quick to get off the phone or end a conversation, nor do we tire when it comes to texting. There is no more intimate way to express our love to the Father and Son than through our praying in the Holy Spirit. There is body language that begins to form when we pray. Starting June 1, the body of Christ in Patchogue at 2 Nazarene Way will open its doors every Wednesday at 7 pm for prayer, and you are welcome to join us. We are praying to Pentecost and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Vincent Linguiti

COMING UP...

JUNE

- June 4 - March for Life
- June 5 - Pentecost Sunday
- Children’s First Holy Communion
- June 19 - Father’s Day
- June 21 - First Day of Summer
- June 25 - Men’s Breakfast

JULY

- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 11-15 VBS
- July 17 - VBS Celebration Service
- Church Picnic

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FOOD PANTRY  
OPEN: MON, WED, FRI 10AM - 2PM  
65 Franklin St. (Rear Entrance)

For our weekly schedule of meetings, check out our website at  
[www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net) Sermons live stream on Facebook.  
Find us on YouTube



Summer is right around the corner, and you know what that means...VBS IS COMING!!! This year we will go on an “off-road adventure” through canyons and deserts as we learn about The Greatness of Our God. His Love for us is *Monumental*, and who better to share that message with than our kids!! We are excited to announce a new program this year – a Teen extension of VBS! Teens can help during the normal Elementary rotation, then stay

for their own time to learn and grow together in faith. We can’t wait to see how God moves through this program! Registration will open Online in Mid-June – stay tuned for announcements in church and on social media. Want to get involved? There are lots of ways to volunteer! Contact Sue Herrmann at [jandsh817@optonline.net](mailto:jandsh817@optonline.net) for more information.

**DATES: JULY 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

**from 6:00-8:00pm for Pre-k through Elementary students**

**8:00-9:00pm for Teens**

**CELEBRATION SERVICE: JULY 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**

Thank you for your continued support, love, and encouragement!

Sue Herrmann

Revelation 4:8, Psalm 51, James 4:7-10.

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We recently have started to post a monthly financial update in the bulletin. We hope that this will keep you informed on where we stand in relation to our yearly budget. Even though we had a rough start at the beginning of the year our outlook is on the bright side. You have been faithful to give, and we are thankful for that and pray we can be faithful stewards of what you have given.

Our apportionments have been changed to meet all our obligations to the “Church” as a whole which include Pensions & Benefits plan, World Evangelism Fund, the District and to the Education namely (Eastern Nazarene College). This means our church not only ministers to our Local body and neighborhoods but is an outreach far beyond our borders and what we can do on our own. I know that inflation is taking a toll on our wallets these days making it harder than ever to give. Please pray and seek the Lord as to what you can give. Give in faith believing the Lord will multiply it.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Corinne Franco, Church Treasurer



You can give online by using the PayPal button on our website [www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net)

While in the Dollar store in Florida I met two women by the card section. One commented on trying to find some cards that expressed the true meaning of Easter not just bunnies and eggs. We managed to strike up a conversation and at the end one of the ladies handed me her “card.” Her name was Stephanie Jones.

Her card led me to a website [www.TheLightStillShines.org](http://www.TheLightStillShines.org)  
It is a tribute to her daughter Kim. I encourage you please  
visit and read Kim's story. It is a truly inspiring story of  
passion and faith.

I'm not sure why God had me bump into her that day because I thought it was for something entirely different on my mind. I took running into this Christian woman as a sign that I was on the right track with my thinking and expectations. As it turned out none of what I thought was God's providence and intervention worked out for me the way I thought it would.

Why would God put her in my path at the right time with the right connections I needed, and then not work out? God has a plan for all of us but it isn't always what we think and I have to trust that God's timing is perfect. Perhaps it was just to share her story.

*"We're basically a bunch of backpackers. We are all just travelers. We are all just on a journey, and we're heading for our Home."* Kim Jones, July 1999

– Corinne Franco

[illegible]

# Slow down

Walk a little slower, Daddy, said a little child so small.  
I'm following in your footsteps and I don't want to fall.  
Sometimes your steps are very fast; sometimes they're  
hard to see. So walk a little slower, Daddy, for you are  
leading me. Someday when I'm all grown up, you're  
what I want to be. Then I will have a little child who'll  
want to follow me. And I would want to lead just right,  
and know that I was true; So walk a little slower,  
Daddy, for I must follow you.

—Author unknown



# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



## CHALLENGE

It's summertime once again,  
and do you know what that means?  
Summer reading! It's the perfect time

of the year to get out the lawn chairs, make some sun tea, set up the bocce court, and read an enjoyable book outdoors. I think we

tend to overlook the importance of reading today, due in no small part to the vast number of streaming services vying for our attention and dollars. But books have long since played an important role in our Christian heritage. Saint Augustine recounts in his Confessions how he heard a child chanting from a neighboring house "Take up and read," which prompted him to pick up St. Paul's letter to the Romans and open it. He read the first line on the page: "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying" (Rom. 13:13). It changed his life, and in doing so changed the course of Christian history.

I thought about this fact: how no other book has revolutionized the world as has the Bible. One little verse changed "the course of human events" not just once, but again and again. Martin Luther was struggling to understand the idea of God's righteousness, when he wrote that, by the mercy of God, "I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith . . . [it is] the work of God, that is what God does in us, the power of God, with which he makes us wise, the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God." Luther's subsequent writings and teachings on justification by faith shook the Church and led to Reformation.

It's on a smaller scale, however, that the importance of the Scriptures can be most clearly seen; that is, the Bible has shaped the course of individual human lives, yours and mine included. In 1967, country music legend Johnny Cash had a conversion experience; after years of drug and alcohol abuse, Cash decided to end his life by crawling deep into a cave where no one would find him. God spoke to him while he was in the cave, and Cash was changed; he crawled out of the cave, sought out treatment for his dependencies, got married to June Carter, and recorded his hit record "At Folsom Prison." It was toward the end of his life where he made the decision to record the entire New Testament; it's over 19 hours, and worth every minute. He said "I did it with a great deal of joy, because I love the Word." The Man in Black was shaped by the Word of God.

Lastly, William Tyndale, English Bible translator and scholar, was arrested for opposing Henry VIII's annulment and subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn. He was holed up in a prison cell in a drafty castle near Brussels. One letter of his survived from his imprisonment; in it he writes "Above all, I beg and entreat . . . with the lord commissary, that he would allow me the use of my Hebrew Bible and Hebrew Grammar. . . ." Even in his last days, awaiting execution, his focus was on reading and translating the Word of God for the people of God.

I hope you all get some quality reading done this summer. I have a list of books I'd like to get through – murder mysteries, novels, and pulp thrillers. But I hope you also get a chance to read the Bible. Maybe not all the way through, but enough so that God speaks to your heart. Or maybe plug in your earbuds and listen to Johnny Cash read the Bible. Do it with great joy, because you love the Word.

Jon Ollett





# Blinded by the Night

By Sue Cerruto



A recent trip to the optometrist resulted in a referral to an ophthalmologist, where exam results gave two diagnoses: small cataracts and the label "glaucoma-suspect". I was handed an information sheet with reassurances about early treatments and warnings about ignoring the conditions. Eyes still dilated I drove home, thankful that the disappearing sun was giving way to the semi-dark of twilight.

If I were to list abilities I would never want to lose, my vision would be high on the list. Everything would change dramatically and, from my initial, knee-jerk reaction point of view, not for the better. Later that evening, on my knees before God, I asked for faith. I asked for healing. I asked for wisdom and strength and trust and peace and spiritual vision. Finally, I ended my prayer with "...not my will but Thine be done"<sup>1</sup> because, ultimately, everything about me is in His hands.

As unsettling as physical blindness might be, spiritual blindness is even worse. Unlike some well-known repressive societies, we who have the luxury and benefit of owning a Bible, who can freely gather in person in His name every Sunday to meet and pray openly, wear our faith visibly on our clothing and in our home decorations, download Christian-themed apps on our cell phones, and walk about in this country relatively free from persecution (although we shouldn't take this for granted much longer) are so prone to treating our constitutionally guaranteed God-given Christian liberties lightly and carelessly. We ignore them when they're inconvenient or they conflict with our personal agendas. Paying homage to the god of safety instead of the God of peace<sup>2</sup>, we let fear rule in our hearts and minds, we act accordingly, and we put ourselves in danger of growing increasingly blind to the lowering spiritual darkness that is descending on this nation and in this world. The only way to avoid being blinded by the night is to embrace the Light of the gospel<sup>3</sup>, the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup>

## Additional Resources:

[https://answersingenesis.org/culture/religious-freedom-under-assault-america-2021/Religious\\_Freedom\\_Under\\_Assault\\_in\\_America\\_in\\_2021?](https://answersingenesis.org/culture/religious-freedom-under-assault-america-2021/Religious_Freedom_Under_Assault_in_America_in_2021?) by Brandon Clay, January 16, 2021  
(It's now May 2022. Do you see Christian persecution in America as worse or better?)

2 Timothy 3: An in-depth sermon on the evils of people in the last days. Taken in context, and backed up by several commentaries (Benson, MacLaren, Calvin, Darby, and others<sup>5</sup>) indicate that Paul is speaking of those *within* the church, not outside it!

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 22:42

<sup>2</sup> Colossians 3:15

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 6:22-23(AMP): The eye is the lamp of the body; so if your eye is clear [spiritually perceptive], your whole body will be full of light [benefiting from God's precepts]. But if your eye is bad [spiritually blind], your whole body will be full of darkness [devoid of God's precepts]. So if the [very] light inside you [your inner self, your heart, your conscience] is darkness, how great *and* terrible is that darkness!

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12, 9:5

<sup>5</sup> Biblehub.com/commentaries.

## SPRING CLEANING



*My room isn't dirty, I just have everything on display, like a museum,* was the ten year old's reply to his mother's request to straighten his room.

Imagine arriving at your vacation destination to find your room a jumbled pile of chaos. After a collective gasp, you race with your spouse to the front desk, ready to unleash the tongue lashing of the century. No one wants to discover their vacation get away is a cluttered mess. You took the vacation, at least in part, to escape the daily barrage of nonstop, mind numbing clutter.

Isn't this the situation we've all been living with for the past two years? It seems everyone is searching, hoping for a sense of normality. Except we've lived so long with intrusive clutter we no longer know what it looks like. How do we get back our old lives ... do we press on moving forward or retreat, trying to recapture what's been lost? While we wait for an answer, we continue to sort through the piles of information and disinformation we've accumulated: the inclusion of "woke" curriculum into school curriculum, the vacillating public health directives and mandates, the never ending debate over governmental overreach or public welfare, to mention just a few. If you're a thinking person, you've discovered that trying to disseminate fact from fiction to get to the truth is no easy task.

Case in point, the recent premature "leak" of the U.S. Supreme Court decision on the 49 year old case of *Roe V Wade*. How did the leak happen? Why did it happen and what are the repercussions and hateful eruptions that followed it? What is and isn't significant about the illegal and potentially dangerous precedent this leak has caused?

The shortest book in the Old Testament is the book of Obadiah. Neatly tucked away between Amos and Jonah, the prophet Obadiah has a lot to say in the 21 verses that make up his single chapter book. Obadiah's message is anything but insignificant and might even help clear away some of our 21<sup>st</sup> Century clutter.

A hurried reading of Obadiah might leave you with the conclusion that Edom is the clear villain and Israel the victim of their injustice. But Obadiah reveals that God's chosen people are about to find themselves in a new context and vocation; using the reins of government to administer God's justice in a, *just manner*. The oppressors, are about to become the oppressed, with God declaring that he would judge Edom for its cruelty. Think of some of the prayers you've mouthed to God in your desire to see things change. Many of us have been praying against an attack on our personal freedom, including the right to live our lives according to God given directives of holiness. But perhaps a second read of Obadiah, influenced and directed by Holy Spirit, might help us to clear away the clutter of personal prejudice.

God wanted to break the cycle of injustice by using His people to judge righteously, allowing Him to rule through them. Does God still deliver His people from oppression? Does He still work through people to accomplish His righteous purpose? Our job as believers is to seek that purpose. Everything starts with a prayer that seeks to align our hearts with His, but that's the beginning not the end of our responsibility.

*<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. <sup>16</sup> You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.* John 15:15-17 NLT

Obadiah's final prophetic word had the intention of God's chosen people taking a major step away from the centuries of hate and rivalry. Clearly God wanted His people involved and informed, accepting the responsibility of governing their former enemies righteously as God desired and stated in the final verse of Obadiah.

Imagine the kind of revival that would break forth if we combined God's Old Testament directive to Obadiah, to lead and govern righteously, with Jesus' New Testament command, to love absolutely. Let's do some spring cleaning, clearing away all the unsettling clutter, choosing instead to listen to the heart instructions of the Holy Spirit. We'll hear those instructions in prayer and find those directives in the Bible, God's inspired Word.

Serving Him Together,

*Pastor John Mercurio*



## THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

As I write this, we are midway in “Praying our way to Pentecost”. I hope that you have been reading the devotions and taking time to sit quietly before our Lord. As Pastor Vinnie has told us, if you miss a day, it is okay but try to keep it as regular as you can.

All through the Bible we are called to pray and to be patient as we await the answers we are seeking. We have confidence that God hears both our audible prayers and those that are in our hearts. Often times those prayers don’t have the answers we asked for but they are always the right answers according to His plan for our lives.

Sometimes our prayers are answered very quickly but other times it can even take years before we have the direction and hope that we seek. In “Streams in the Desert”, which is a devotional I read daily, I came across something that we often forget with regard to prayer. The following is something I think we all need to be reminded of. The Scripture reference is Daniel 10:12-13.

“This passage is a wonderful teaching on prayer and shows us the direct hindrance Satan can be in our lives. Daniel had fasted and prayed for twenty-one difficult days. As far as we can tell from the biblical account, the difficulty came not because Daniel was not a good person nor because his prayer was not right but because of a special attack from Satan.

The Lord had sent His angelic messenger to tell Daniel that his prayer was answered the moment he began to pray but the good angel was hindered by an evil angel who met him along the way and wrestled with him. This conflict occurred in the heavens yet Daniel experienced the same kind of conflict here on earth as he agonized in prayer (Eph.6:12). Daniel was nearly defeated and Satan would have been glad to kill him but God would not allow anything to come upon Daniel beyond what he could bear.

Many prayers of believers are hindered by Satan. Yet you do not need to fear when your unanswered prayers are piling up for soon they will break through like a flood. When that happens, not only will your answers flow through but they will also be accompanied by new blessings.” From a sermon given by Charles E. Cowman.

I hope you will be encouraged to take time each day to pray. It is one of the most important things that we can do as believers in Jesus. Corporate prayer is also very needed and on Wed. June 1, we will be starting a weekly prayer meeting. Even if you can’t make it every week, it would be nice to have many of you join us as we lift the needs of family, friends, church, community and our world. Many people don’t feel comfortable to pray out loud which is fine. But come and join your heart with your sisters and brothers in the Lord as we seek God’s direction in all things.

Blessings,  
*Mary Ann*



# A Personal Note about Prayer

Paul admonished us in 1 Thess. 5:16-18, ***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”***

I have experienced some really good times in prayer. I have heard the voice of the Lord in his Word and in thought. I have received direction, guidance, and insight from Him in my times of prayer. However, these have been specific times and occurrences. I cannot boast about my prayer life in general. I never could relate to Paul’s command which is the will of God for me to pray without ceasing. My life is so busy that I can’t stay still long enough to really focus on personal prayer.

As I hope you all know, we have engaged in a special emphasis on Prayer throughout the Nazarene denomination. We have handed out prayer journals with a daily reading, a prayer, and a place for you to write your thoughts. I hope you are taking advantage of this tool. The program is called, Half-Million Mobilization. It was designed to get 500,000 Nazarenes praying daily from May 1 to June 5 (Pentecost). It was put in place at this time in our nation when things are or seem to be out of control on many levels. Prayer is our only hope for many reasons.

People think, “You’re a pastor. You have to have a great prayer life.” While I pray in public and am requested to pray for people all the time, this has nothing to do with my personal prayer life. This emphasis on prayer has helped me personally, and I know it will help anyone who dives into it also.

When I first looked at the prayer journal and read the first two days, I was mostly disappointed. I was thinking, like the old Wendy’s commercial, “Where’s the beef?” It seemed so simple and didn’t have much substance for me. However, I stuck with it and continue to do so. I have been very affected by the simple and short lessons each day. I have been especially reminded during this effort of the importance of the Holy Spirit’s involvement in our personal prayer time. I have changed the ways I pray as I read the daily devotional part. God has been reviving my spirit through my times of reading, reflecting, and praying along with the journal.

I had a pastor long ago say that when you sit down to pray, the parade is going to start. It is a parade of distractions and will be a different length parade for each individual, but if you wait long enough for the parade to end, you will be in the presence of God and your prayers will have substance. My head is always on the move and my parade can be long at times. It is hard to wait for the end of the parade.

Be diligent. Prayer is a discipline. Prayer is our power. Prayer is our connection to God directly. Eventually, you will get to a point when you find yourself praying all day long without realizing it. That is praying without ceasing. You may not be there yet, and that’s OK. Start small, but start somewhere. God is waiting to hear from you and maybe more importantly, to speak to you. Prayer is a two-way conversation with Almighty God. We all have requests, and we need answers. He can’t answer if we are not listening for Him to speak. He wants to give you the answers to your prayers. Pray and Listen! May God Bless you as you engage in this prayer journey with us,  
Pastor Nick

<https://www.halfmillionmobilization.org>

