

July 2024

The Lighthouse

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY: GIVE ME JESUS OR GIVE ME DEATH!

Rev. Shannon K. Philio, Assistant Pastor

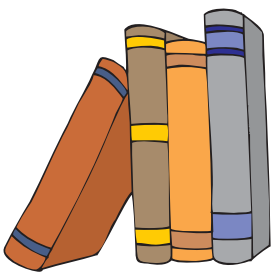
GATHER – GROW – GO (IN CHRIST)

Happy 4th of July to all! “Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation! And this be our motto – 'In God is our trust.'” (The Star-Spangled Banner) Keep trusting in God. Keep thanking and praising the Lord for His grace upon our nation from sea to shining sea. And keep praying for revival across America and the world. Founding Father Patrick Henry, in the year 1775, closed his most famous speech, “Gentlemen may cry, 'peace, peace,' but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” Henry would later serve as Virginia's first governor post-independence. He was raised Anglican, but his mother often took him to hear Presbyterian preachers such as Rev. Samuel Davies.

As I read the closing words to Patrick Henry's speech, I could not help but spiritualize it. Satan, the world, and the flesh (sin), the three great enemies to the faith, cry, “Peace, peace,” but the Lord says in Isaiah 48:22, “There is no peace for the wicked.” True liberty, freedom, and peace only comes through a saving faith in and relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Jesus says in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you.” In Ephesians 2:14, we read, “For Christ Himself is our peace.” Galatians 5:1 says, “For freedom Christ has set us free.” Jesus preached in Luke 4:16-30, quoting from Isaiah 61, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me to proclaim liberty to the captives.” Satan, the world, and the flesh held us captive and enslaved under the law (Ephesians 2:1-3, Galatians 3:23, 4:3).

Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." We were all on eternal death's row, shackled in chains. But Christ came and set us free. He gave us liberty. Jesus preached in John 8:31-32, 36, "If you abide in My word, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Jesus says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Sin enslaves and brings eternal death. Jesus, the truth, sets us free and brings deliverance, salvation, and eternal life. In Jesus only, we find true liberty.

So, back to Patrick Henry's speech. Satan, the world, and the flesh may cry peace, but true peace is only found in Jesus Christ. There is no true peace anywhere else. The war is actually begun, a war between good and evil, truth and falsehood, light and darkness, life and death. Throughout the New Testament, we are reminded of this spiritual warfare, such as Ephesians 6:10-18, wherein we are called to put on the full armor of God. 1 Timothy 6:12 says to keep fighting the good fight. 2 Timothy 2:3-4 calls us to be good soldiers of Christ. As Patrick Henry reminds us, the war is already begun. Jesus has won this war by His birth, sinless life, crucifixion and death on the Cross, resurrection from the grave, ascension into Heaven as King, and His promise to return soon (Revelation 19-20) to put a final end to the war. Until then, we stand up and fight with the full armor of the Lord and with prayer. Now is not the time for Christian idleness. Everyone is called to arms. Those who can use the sword, the Word of God, swing. Those who can run with the combat boots of peace, zealously always being ready and prepared to witness, to teach, and to preach, march forward. Those who can use the weapon of all-prayer, pray without ceasing. Our fellow Christian Soldiers are already in the field, some staring the enemy in the eyes, some being put to death for the Gospel. Is our comfort and amusement and desire for instant gratification, entertainment, and lack of conflict so sweet as to be purchased by the deathly chains of slavery to Satan, the world, and the flesh (sin)? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me and my household (Joshua 24:15), give me liberty, give me Christ, or give me death! "Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before! Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; forward into battle, see His banner go! At the sign of triumph, Satan's host doth flee; on, then, Christian soldiers, on to victory! Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise; Christian soldiers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise!" Give me true peace! Give me true freedom! Give me true liberty! Give me only Jesus!



Book Report

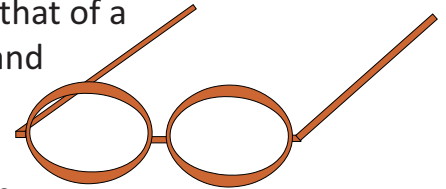


The Whole Armor of God: How Christ's Victory Strengthens Us for Spiritual Warfare By: Iain M. Duguid

The Christian Life is a battle! From the moment that we begin our “new life” in Christ, we are in a daily struggle against the three great enemies of the Christian: the world (the environment in which we live), the flesh (our old habits, mindsets, and learned behaviors from our pre-conversion days, as well as the “desires of the flesh”) and the devil, who at every turn desires to derail us. In this book Dr. Iain Duguid, a professor of Old Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary and pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Glenside, Pennsylvania, describes how Christ's victory prepares and strengthens us for “the battle”. Noted Christian author Sinclair B Ferguson refers to this book as "A battle manual for every Christian."



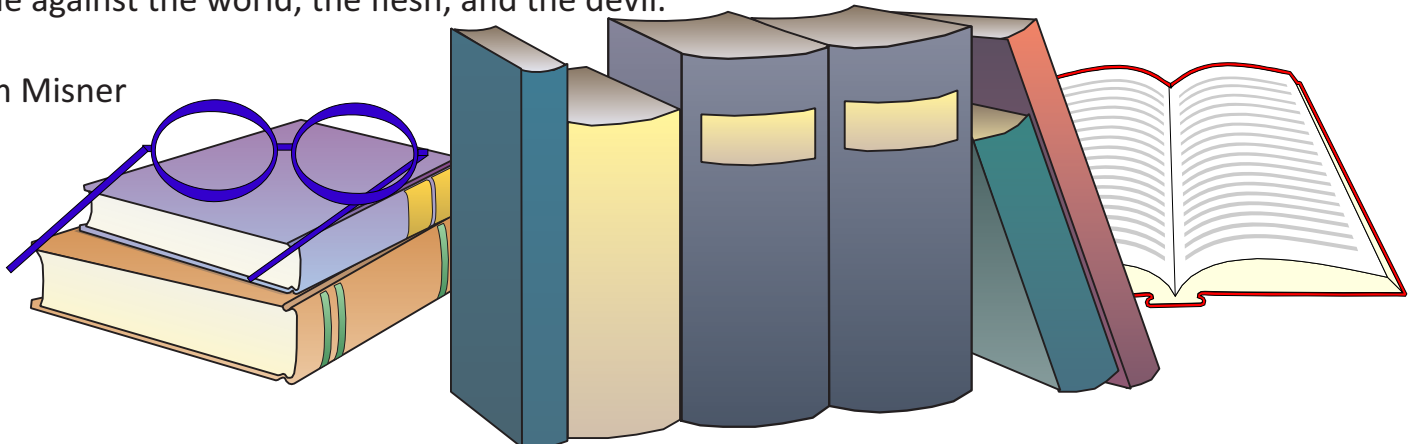
As those who have committed Our Lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, we enter into a “spiritual battle” – the conflict between the kingdom of God and the three great enemies of “the new soldiers” – the world, the flesh, and the devil. The equipment for our battles, as described by Paul in Ephesians 6:10-18, is that of a Roman soldier who in that historical time frame was the most efficient and effective military "machine".



“His book unpacks each of the pieces of Spiritual armor Paul describes in Ephesians 6, inviting us to take up the armor each day, all while resting in the finished victory of Christ and the assurance that our strength for the battle comes from hope” (back page).

This work is outstanding! I found it to be a great encouragement for the daily struggles we all face. Plus, it is readable and ready to be "put into action" as we battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

– Jim Misner

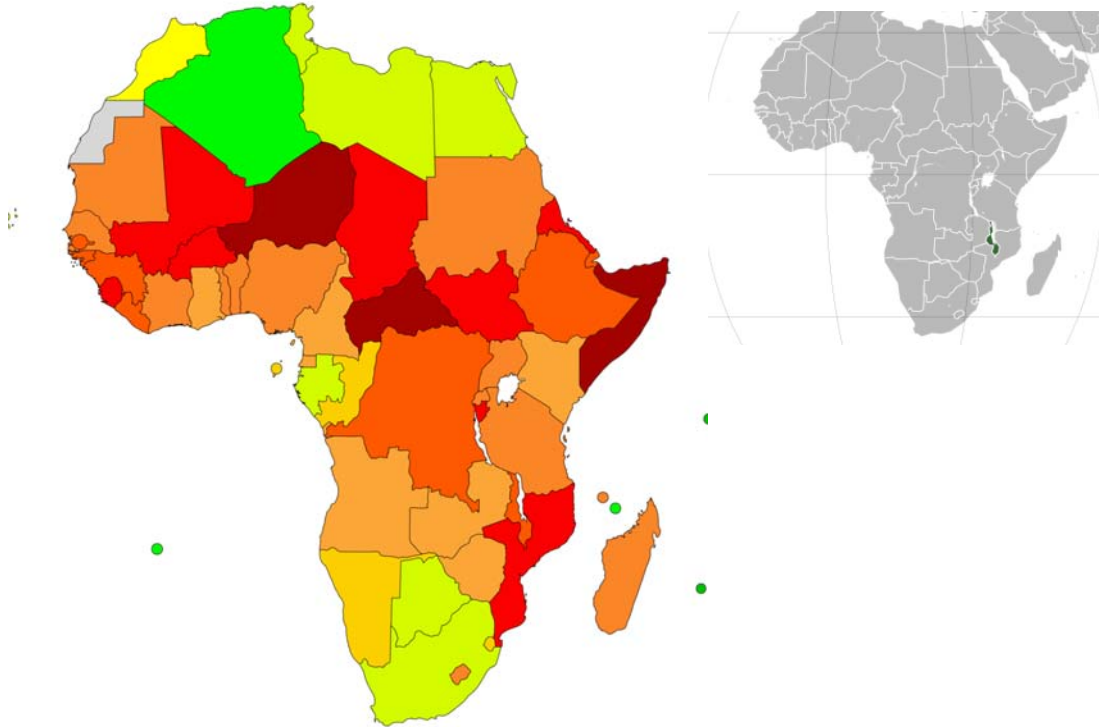


Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

June 7, 2024

Can you find Malawi? (Maps are from Wikipedia, 2024.)



Travels:

June 19--To CHSC, near Dallas, for a board meeting and orientation of new medical missionaries

July 25 to August 5--To Malawi?

Prayer and Praise:

1. Praise God that the International Wholistic Missions Conference and our Children's CHE/GameLife pre-conference went well. Thanks to all the speakers and all the organizers who worked hard on this.

2. We also had an enjoyable CHE Service Team retreat in the mountains of Arizona after that.



3. **Greyson and Ruth** have an amazing ministry in Malawi and are rescuing 18 orphan children. They have asked us to give community health evangelism training in order to enhance their ministry. But Malawi is hard to get to, and costs are high, so we have struggled to meet the budget. Josephine and Sammy (and perhaps Rhodessa) may lead the training instead of my going. Please be praying.

Greyson Nkhoma



We are called to mobilize children outside the church boundaries to Know Jesus and walk with Him for their life time.

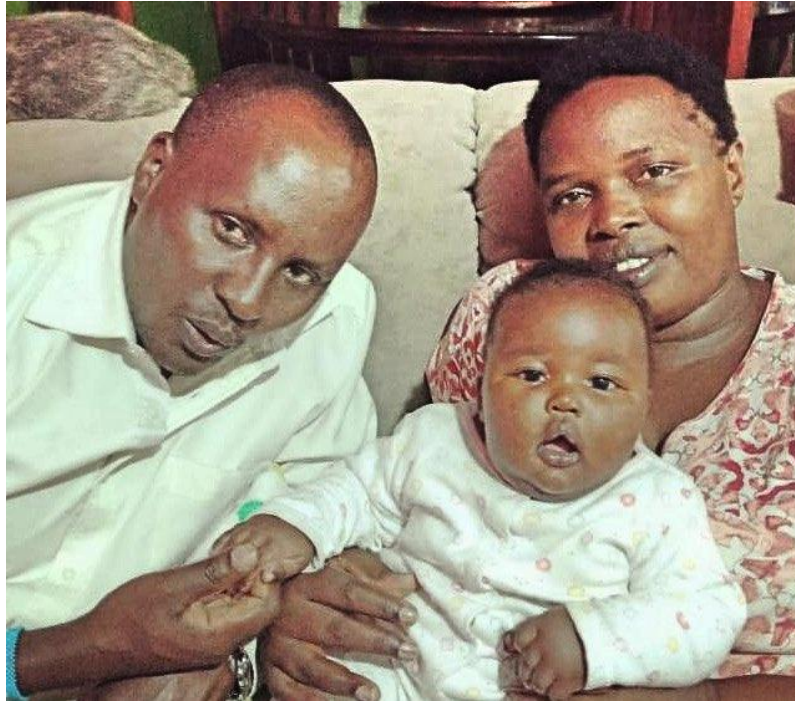
We disciple and encourage them to bring their friends to the Lord Jesus.

Education , discipleship and feeding program are the regular activities we go with.

Farming is the main source of our food , pray that God will provide for us to continue feeding, educating children and do farming well.

4. **Josephine** has been coordinating the Kenya flood relief and also worked with the audio Bibles. She has marvelous ministry, working with women, children, and families with CHE ministries in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and several other countries. Jo and Ben also raise cows as a way to support their family and feed their

neighbors. I thank God for Jo and Ben and their ministries!



5. **Sammy** describes his ministry: "Thank you for support in expanding God's kingdom in this part of the world. Because of your support the following major ministries milestones have been achieved as of today. In March, over 50 pastors were equipped on effective outreach to muslims here in East Africa. Likewise 50 Sunday school teachers were equipped for ministry and over 100 kids reached out for Christ. I could go on and on, but for now I want to say a Big Thank to God FOR YOU for obeying the call of God in your life and letting God use you in special way."



6. **Simon**, who is living in the Kamuli district of Eastern Uganda and is married with 4 children. is serving God in Uganda, in the hard to reach areas of Karamoja, Patongo, and around Lake Victoria doing community health empowerment, Farming God's Way, stewardship training and Foundations of Faith training for local missionaries. Simon is a key part of our Africa CHE teams, but he won't be traveling to Malawi this time. Pray for Simon't healing--he has hip and joint pain, and will be having an orthopedic evaluation and possibly surgery.



Please be praying for each of these ministries. The Malawi CHE training could really use your support. Please also consider supporting the ministries of Greyson and Ruth, Jo and Ben, Sammy, and Simon, and helping with Simon's medical costs. Read more about their ministries at [Palm Ministries](#). If the Lord leads you to give to them or to the Malawi training (which would be an answer to prayer), you can [donate online](#) or mail your gifts to PALM MISSIONARY MINISTRIES, 203 Long Lake Rd., Hawthorne, FL 32640

¡Muchas gracias!

Many thanks to God for the gift of his Son. Praise God for the hope we have in Christ.

And thanks to you for your prayers, encouragement, and support! Let me know how I can be praying for you.

With love,

Jody

Send donations to:

Global CHE Network

200 W Frontier St., Suite Q

Payson, AZ 85541.

Please designate that they are for my support. Thanks!

BIRTHDAYS for JULY

Sarah Horn 5th

Kathy Davenport 14th

Steve VanderKooy 9th

Kerri Willson 21st

David Allen 12th

Gideon Smith 25th

Andy Bagby 31st

Dates to Remember for July

July 1 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall

July 4 Holiday, Church office will be closed

July 6 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall

July 7 Communion

July 10 Ladies Circle at 9:30am in the church parlor

July 15 Deacons Meeting at 5:30pm at the church

July 15 Men's Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church

July 23 Session Meeting at 6:00pm in the church

Join us for a picnic on the 4th of July at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own meat to be grilled and a side dish or dessert to share. Tea, lemonade & water will be provided. Bring your own lawn chair to watch the FIREWORKS at 9:00pm on the front lawn of the church.

Due to this event we will not have our monthly luncheon in July

HAPPY
4th

