

## INTO THE FIRE

By David Sargent

The Independence Day celebration on July 4th in Prescott, Arizona, served a dual purpose: people celebrated the freedoms that are enjoyed in this country, but they also honored 19 fallen firefighters.

The nineteen firefighters were members of the "Hotshots" firefighting team. The Hotshots crew had deployed on the previous Sunday to what was thought to be a manageable lightning-caused forest fire near the small town of Yarnell, about 35 miles from Prescott. Violent winds fueled the blaze and trapped the team. The Hotshots deployed their emergency fire shelters to no avail. They died while trying to put out the raging fire that threatened the town of Yarnell, a fire that as of the night of Independence Day has destroyed more than 100 homes and burned about 13 square miles.

Some of the bereaved family members of the deceased firefighters spoke about their loved ones. Coleen Turbyfill, mother of 27-year-old Travis Turbyfill, recalled that she had misgivings when her son's elite "Hotshot" firefighting crew set out for a fire burning so close she could see the flames, but he comforted her and told her, "This is what I love."

When we were doomed because of our sins and headed for the "everlasting fire" of punishment, God sent Jesus to our rescue so that we would not perish in the flames (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus went "into the fire" and suffered the punishment for our sins. He "endured hell" so that we wouldn't have to. "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree [i.e., the cross], so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). He died for us so that we might live (1 Thessalonians 5:10).

Jesus will save and give eternal life to those who accept His offer of salvation on His terms: placing their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turning from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse those who strive to continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

Why would Jesus go "into the fire" for us? He did it because it was His Father's will (John 6:38) and because of His great love for us...

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." – John 15:13

Won't YOU respond to His great love by accepting His gift of salvation and life on His terms?



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

July 23, 2023

**All the Churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

**Today's Sermon: The Blessing of Being Stuck in God's Mind.**

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:25-32**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm July 26, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the 4th chapter on R (repenting).
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – August 20.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, July 25. Amos pt.2
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing** – July 30. Here.
- ❖ **Men's Prayer Breakfast- August 12 @ Wellsboro.** Arthur will lead the devotional...Yearning.



The “**House to House and Heart to Heart**” mailing – We continue to receive favorable responses to this mail out and Bible studies are happening through the mail.



We should be planning our **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing** which we are hosting next Sunday at 4:30.

Steve and Amy are at Camp Hunt this week helping in the kitchen. Arthur is also planning a day or two at the end of the week to help out.

## PRAYERS

**Thanks for success with the House to House and Heart to Heart** outreach effort.

**Kathleen Farrell**, a contact from the mail-out, has asked for prayers as she has been suffering from leukemia for the last 13 years.

**Pray for cessation of all the wildfires.** Greece and Canada are particularly hard hit right now. Also pray for clean air.

**Darlene** has been suffering from severe inflammation of the esophagus, making her unable to perform her singing engagements and causing her pain. Pray that she can find the correct medicine to remedy this.

**Bonnie's brother Greg** has been in the hospital since July 3<sup>rd</sup> because of complications following his prostate cancer surgery. Pray that he can be pain free and healed.

### Pray for these people:

- **Amy**- stomach issues from unknown causes
- **Bob** (Steve Burger's brother-in-law)- lung and rectal cancers
- **Sue Barry**- Breast cancer stage 4 chemo treatment. Pray that she will go into remission.
- **Pat Guthrie**- lung cancer, stage 4 chemo treatment
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia.
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer, back on chemo.
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **The people of Ukraine, Russia and Sudan** and other war-torn areas of the world.
- **Jerry Lowe**- needs contact with a church, and encouragement.

If you have any **PRAYERS** or **NEWS** that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.