What Are We Here For?

Arthur Barry

As I think about mission work and the demands of organizing and strategizing to reach lost souls, I can be overwhelmed by the responsibility and challenges to accomplishing this task of planting churches and saving souls. Then, recently, as we have studied from Matthew 24 and 25, I have been stunned by the concept that Jesus conferred a kingdom on His disciples (Luke 22:29). This parallels Matthew 16:19 where Jesus promised to give them the keys of the Kingdom, and is involved in His preparing the apostles to take over for him as we read in Matthew 24:45 through the end of chapter 25.

Jesus left the earth to return to Heaven and left the apostles in charge of His household (kingdom). He gave them the authority to grant sinners entrance into this kingdom and, even today when we baptize a person "in the name of Jesus Christ", we are exercising that authority. When we tell someone about the one, true God we do so by the authority of Jesus Christ.

How many people are there whom you would trust with your affairs, your family, or your identity? Would you want someone else going around using your name to do whatever work you do? And yet, our LORD gives us His blessing, and His seal, to go and do His work, take care of His affairs...in His Name.

What is that work?

Seeking and saving the lost. (Luke 19:10)

A more comprehensive statement might be ...Glorify God by obeying His will to bring salvation to mankind.

Apart from that work, the church has no purpose. It is not something the church does; it is why the church is here.

And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840 (570) 886-1838 Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732 May 28, 2017

WELCOME!

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.
	Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Class- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Thursday</u>	Home Bible study-7:00pm

ALL THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST GREET YOU. Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: Is Hell Real?

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website. Bulletins are archived on the website. **valleycitieschurchofchrist.org aicoc.org** (Antioch Initiative) Find us on Face Book **www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc** Scripture: Revelation 20:11-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- > Next potluck: June 18. Summer theme.
- Ladies Class: has been suspended for the summer. We will resume after Labor Day in September. Watch this space!
- Midweek Bible study Thursday nights at 7pm.



- Sam invited us all to a Nigerian dinner at his home last evening. He did all the cooking himself and served us some typical Northern Nigerian food. We ate with our hands and enjoyed it! Thank you Sam for the rich cultural experience! What a fun time we had! We danced, we ate and drank, we listened to music, we looked at pictures, we talked and peppered Sam with questions about his family and his home land...
- ✓ There will be a summer outreach campaign in Tunkhannock involving visiting workers, beginning in June.
- ✓ Darlene and Jackie will be leaving a week from tomorrow, June 5th for OK to be with Vicki as she recovers from breast cancer surgery. They will return on the 14th.
- ✓ Arthur and Sandy have booked a flight to Alaska on June 26th, returning July 10th. They will be visiting their son, Robin, his wife, Katie and their 7 children in Soldotna, and many friends and church brethren in Anchor Point and Homer as well as in Soldotna.
- Arthur is working on a canoe/kayak trip down the Susquehanna River from Owego to Sayre to take place sometime this summer. We may try a few shorter excursions first to "test the waters". ;-)
- ✓ Lani is at the Family Camp at Camp Hunt in NY today.

PRAYERS...

- Pray for all of our family members and loved ones who are yet lost or have strayed far away to come (back) to Christ.
- Lori Kashorek had a successful surgery Tuesday to remove a cancerous egg-sized tumor on the brain. She recovered quickly and was home by Thursday afternoon. She plans to be hiking and climbing mountains in the Adirondacks this summer! We offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord!
- Darlene's husband Doug is going in for a checkup at the VA in Wilkes-Barre on Tuesday. Pray for him as he has a few serious health concerns.
- Emily Barry has to have surgery in the third or fourth week of July on her thyroid to remove a large node for biopsy. Pray for courage for Emily and a negative result for cancer.
- Please remember Kiley and Thomas Dolan's mom, Heather Morse, in prayer.
- Remember Patty's son, Tim Bump, as he deals with problems in his life. He is also looking for a new job.
- Patty is thankful that she has a car again!
- Remember Loren, the man who lives in his van near where Lani lives. He has been in hospital recently.
- Patty and Ruthie's sister in law, Deborah, has kidney problems and needs eye surgery. She also has concerns about a blood clot in her arm.
- If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry :

barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.