

How Committed Are We?

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26).

Last week, I attended a conference co-hosted by World English Institute, Partners in Progress, Sunset International Bible Institute and World Bible School that was hosted in Mainz, Germany. Having been influenced by each of these ministries at various levels, I admire all of them. This conference was focused on vision for evangelism in Europe and exhorted us to "Lift up our eyes".

The one that impacted most was a Q&A session with a North African Christian. Many years ago, he had come to Europe seeking a better life. Being a practicing Muslim, he had come in contact with Christians who had shown him the Way. As he was relating his story, I was reflecting on the great price some people have to pay to become followers of Christ. I know of people who come from differing levels of hostility toward Christianity, but his story was heart-warming.

He started by quoting Luke 14:26 and illustrated with his life what that verse really means. When he had become a Christian, his family turned against him. He continued to love them and provide for them in the new home. In fact, he had saved money and helped them start a small business in their home country. However, a few years later, when his father was dividing the inheritance, he was not given a part. He spoke with pain about how his mother is pointed out by other people as the "mother of the Christian".

Recently, his daughter had been hit by a Muslim woman with a car, and when his family found out, they literally told him: "What did you expect? You became a Christian." He went on to say that for many months, he could not bring himself to forgive the woman who hurt his daughter. He was still battling with it, when he was called to the police station. The officer had asked the daughter: "What this woman has done to you is very bad. We can put her in prison if you press charges". She turned to the officer and said: "We are Christians and we forgive her, don't we Dad?". The father listened to his daughter and said: "Yes dear. We are Christians and we forgive her".

I turned around to my friend Tom Langley, the president of World English Institute, and I remarked: "We complain in vain of a hard life". Tom said that I was so moved that I was in tears, and when I turned and you were in tears as well, I felt some relief. It is normal to react to pain in the world. However, this is more than a nice story. It is a situation that demands a question: How committed are we?

Bledar Valca
Tirana, Albania



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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
Oct 15, 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: *The Fellowship of the Ring*

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

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Scripture: Exodus 26:1-6

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, October 17th 10am. Sandy will not be here. Patty will lead the discussion.**
- **Midweek Bible study Thursday nights at 7pm. No study this week.**
- **Next Potluck: November 19th.**
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- ✓ NEW CHURCH BUILDING! We are all sending letters out to churches we are familiar with or know members who attend there to ask for help with the purchase price. Please help by sending a letter to places and people you know. We will be discussing when we will have a “giving” Sunday of our own. There have been pledges and actual money coming in.
- ✓ Potluck today! Let’s chow down, all you cowboys and cowgirls!



- ✓ There will be a meeting right after worship today, before the potluck. It will be a short meeting to vote on whether to go ahead with the purchase of the new building at 701 S. Wilbur St. in Sayre. Please be sure to pick up a ballot and check yes or no on it.

*Arthur and Sandy will be away in TN this week visiting his sister, returning late Saturday.

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.
- Pray for Darlene’s sister, **Vicki Joice**, in OK. She continues to have problems with lymph edema. She still has a couple radiation treatments to go. Pray that she feels well and has no further problems resulting from treatments.
- **Doug Elsbree** is being considered as a possible match to donate a kidney to his brother Mark, who is having renal failure. He will be tested soon. Meanwhile, he has been mourning the death from lung cancer of his cousin.
- **Emily Barry** is planning thyroid surgery in early December.
- Please remember **Kiley and Thomas** in prayer.
- **Darlene** has been dealing with a sore throat and stomach upsets. Pray for relief from her health conditions. She is in need of prayers of encouragement.
- **Kevan Barry** is in Kuwait. Pray for his safety and for his family as they carry on at home.
- Kelly asked for prayer for **her friend Sarah** with her marriage. Also, another friend, Sarah Dunn, here in this area has a **son, Joshua**, who is near the end of his life due to cancer. Kelly also needs prayers of encouragement.
- Continue to pray for the work in Tunkhannock.
- Remember to pray for all our loved ones here and away who are affected by less sunshine and shorter days as we move into the winter season.
- Pray for **our effort to buy a church building** and that we are doing what God wants us to do to **reach out to the lost**. Prayer of thanks for all the support and encouragement we have been receiving from brothers and sisters in other congregations all over the world.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry :

barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.