

Real Commitment

By Alan Smith

During a confrontation between Malaysia and Indonesia in 1964, a group of Gurkhas from Nepal were asked if they would be willing to jump from transport planes into combat if the need arose. The Gurkhas had the right to turn down the request because they had never been trained as paratroopers.

The Gurkhas usually agreed to anything, but on this occasion, they rejected the plan. However, the next day they sought out the British officer who made the request and said they had reconsidered and were prepared to jump under the following conditions: the ground was marshy or reasonably soft with no rocky outcrops and they wanted the plane to fly as slowly as possible at no more than 100 feet high.

The British officer assured the Gurkhas that all these conditions could be met except one. To jump from only 100 feet was impossible, because the parachutes would not open in time from that height. Then the Gurkhas said, "Oh, will we be wearing parachutes? You didn't mention parachutes before. In that case we'll jump anywhere with parachutes!"

When I read that story, I can't help but compare the commitment those men had with the commitment that we ought to have to Christ. Here is a group of people so committed to their leaders that they were actually willing to jump out of an airplane from 100 feet without a parachute! And yet, that's the kind of commitment that God expects from His people -- a willingness to go anywhere, do anything, even if it means giving up our lives.

When God asks us to do something, our immediate reaction is often to ask, "How much time will I have to give up?" or "How much money will it cost me?" The faith of Abraham in being willing to give up his only son seems foreign to us. We are so resistant to giving everything to God.

But in Matthew 16:24-25, Jesus says: *"If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*

When God says jump, our only response should be, "From how high?"



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

September 22, 2019

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: Fear Not

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 Facebook

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Scripture: Psalm 46:1-3

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** September 25th, 6:30pm. Arthur will continue with our study of Galatians.
- **Next Potluck:** October 10th
- **5th Sunday Regional Singing: September 29th here at Valley Cities.**



NEWS

- We will be hosting the **5th Sunday Regional Singing** next Sunday at 4:30. After singing, we will be offering a selection of soups, breads and desserts. Please plan to attend and help out with the food.
- **Arthur** enjoyed the Men's Retreat at Camp Hunt for the past 3 days. Ask him about the lessons that were presented over the weekend, including the one he spoke about: Overcoming Problems in the Church.
- **Randy and Barb Salsgiver from Kittanning** plan to be worshiping with us next Sunday as they travel to New England.
- **Plans are being made to start a Grief Ministry** as an outreach service to the community.

PRAYERS

- **Continue praying for follow up visits and calls to contacts made during our two recent door-knocking campaigns.**
- **Andrea Lentz**, who has lung cancer, is staying at Elderwood in Waverly. Her cancer has spread to her bones. Please pray for Andrea to be free from pain and for healing.
- **Continue to pray for Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor soon, **Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer (Lori is the minister's wife at the Plattsburgh, NY church), **Erin Beiber**, who has metastatic breast cancer (Erin is Sandy and Arthur's neighbor and Darlene's cousin), **Ronnie Jones**, who is recovering from a stroke, and **Don Myers**, minister for the church in Elmore, AL, who is suffering from back pain and the effects of his pain medication. **Peyton Chacona**, seizures.
- **Jackie** required a cortisone shot last week for pain in her hip area.
- Pray for those of us who have people in our families who are yet unsaved or have strayed.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.