

## 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.

*"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." (Matthew 16:24-25 )*

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



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

January 16, 2022

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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

Romans 16:16

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**Today's Sermon: Faith V Fear**

Arthur is preaching today.

**Scripture Reading: Acts 19:11-20**

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** January 19<sup>th</sup>, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew, chapter 27, starting at verse 45.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday):** February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, on Zoom.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Lesson 5, Day 3.
- ❖ **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing- January 30<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at Ithaca.**



- It's time once again for our **annual business meeting to elect trustees and affirm our bylaws.** Current trustees are **Ted Chacona (3-year), Jerry Lowe (2-year), Tim Bump (1-year).** This year the **2-year and 1-year positions are up for re-election.** Our meeting will take place **TODAY** in place of last week, following worship.
- **Please stay for the potluck meal today, even if you didn't bring anything to share. There is always more than enough to go around and there is nothing like fellowship with the brethren!**

## PRAYERS

- Pray that **our congregation can step up to supply some of the support** we have recently lost from the Antioch Initiative, which was responsible for starting this work in Sayre 7 years ago. **We are thankful for the help** we have been promised for this coming year.
- Pray for our **Annual Meeting** this morning, that we can comply with State requirements and still glorify God in the process.
- **Arthur** has an appointment on January 26<sup>th</sup> to have a CT scan before he can be cleared for surgery.
- **Patty Albro** has been diagnosed with cancer and will need surgery. Her surgery has been scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup> at Crouse Irving Hospital in Syracuse.
- **Dan Myers** has developed a spot on his lungs. He will be seeing his doctor and having further tests to determine how to treat it. Please pray for his good health.
- **Sue Machuga, Arthur and Sandy's niece in TN,** is suffering from a chronic back condition which has caused her to be bedridden for several weeks. Pray that her pain control insertion will resume working and that she can join family activities once more.
- **Please pray for comfort and peace for the family of John Alexander in the event of his rather sudden death.**
- Pray for:
  - **Linnett Short** (lung cancer)
  - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army)
  - **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant)
  - **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's)
  - **Pat Gutherie** (lung cancer)
  - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer)
  - Dawn's niece Bobbie's husband, **Arthur** (waiting for a room in rehab to recover from Covid).
  - **Jeff Arditti** (in Chicago recovering from Guillian-Barre)

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.