

## Their Lives in Our Hands

Arthur Barry

There are countless souls around us who are “dead in sin” (Ephesians 2:1) with no hope of removing that sin by themselves. There is only One who can remove that sin and He is Jesus, the Christ, Son of God. As I reflect on the last few months in dealing with cancer, I see some direct correlation with the process of salvation. I have childhood memories of watching a program on television called “Your Life in Their Hands”. It was a graphic documentary which showed various surgical procedures and was difficult to watch even in black and white. As Christians we must acknowledge that the lives of lost souls, who are looking for healing, are in our hands.

I had no way of removing my own cancer but, thankfully, we have a health care system that directed me to someone who could take care of it for me. Once my condition was officially diagnosed, I had to make the decision to have the cancer surgically removed, or not; I had to verbally respond to the question, “Do you want to go ahead with surgery?” My life was in the hands of my surgeon and his team at that point.

Jesus works with His team, and that team is His Church. He sends us to the lost with the good news that He can remove their sin, but they must accept His offer. God’s Word leaves no doubt that sin is removed when one is baptized in the name of Jesus and that God bestows His Spirit on us once we are cleansed of sin (Acts 2:38).

I have heard perspectives about this process that are troubling. For example, the idea that people who believe must wait to be baptized till it is convenient, which can mean waiting up to a year in some cases. This defies the biblical teaching about sin, death, and salvation. Can such teaching come from the team that Jesus sent into the world? How would I feel about a surgeon who gets me to commit to life-saving surgery then tells me to come back in a year for the procedure?

If it is true that Baptism now saves us (1 Peter 3:21) and we encounter sinners who want to be saved, then we should be crying out, “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16). Jesus has given the lives of mankind into the hands of His followers. We are the team that calls sinners to be washed in the blood of the Lamb. How dare we accommodate the need for convenience by delaying the saving work of Jesus?

Love gives no thought to convenience.

*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

Romans 5:6



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

April 3, 2022  
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### 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:

Paul will be preaching this morning.

### Scripture Reading:

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**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...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the **Psalms** and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate. Last week we started Psalm 106.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** April 6<sup>th</sup>, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing the study of Hebrews starting with Chapter 4.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, April 5<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 7, Day 4.**
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing- May 29<sup>th</sup>, here at Valley Cities.**



### MAGI BOX NEEDS:

- 15 coloring books
- 17 pairs boys' shorts, size 6
- 2 dresses, size 6
- Band aids
- Extra items: reusable cup, hats, sunglasses

**Mark Hatfield, our contact in Pittsburg, plans to come here in a few weeks and talk to us about how to pack the boxes and answer questions.**

**We collected \$580 to send to the churches in Ukraine for help with refugees and to keep people safe.**

**Arthur and Sandy are worshiping with the church in Flushing Queens this morning. They plan to see Alex Tullis, who is in town visiting his dad, and other friends. This is the church who contributed half of the money we needed to buy our building here.**

## PRAYERS

- **Pray for the people of Ukraine** and the people of neighboring countries who are taking in refugees from the violence.
- **We offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the great test result Arthur had: 0% cancer! We pray that continues as he is monitored periodically in the future.**
- **Jerry made another trip to the ER last week and is now home with his son Greg being treated with antibiotics for pneumonia.**
- **Please pray for Jackie.** She has recently had a second skin cancer removed and sent for biopsy to check whether she needs more removed.
- **Dan Myer** will be having biopsies on two masses in his lung on near his ribs. Pray for good results.
  
- Pray for:
  - **Linnett Short** (lung cancer, tumor on liver)
  - **Deb Barnhardt** (lung cancer)
  - **Pat Guthrie** (lung cancer, chemo)
  - **Gail Westerhold** (problems with remaining kidney)
  - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army)
  - **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant)
  - **Arthur's brother Chris** in England (Alzheimer's)
  - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer)
  - **Jim Sexton** (esophageal cancer)

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.