

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII

August 5-11, 2018

Number 31

Sunday, August 5

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 *Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times you may abound in every good work. (vv.7-8 ESV)*

As my husband and I approach the autumn of our years, we are enjoying the blessings of gifts and acquisitions that more than forty years of marriage and children have gathered. And now it is time to disperse those blessings in that proverbial action of “downsizing”. It is easy to cast off the things that hold little emotional value, but so many objects hold special memories for us. They require the hard decisions. Family furniture and furnishings passed down through the years no longer have a place in the homes of our next generation. It gives us great joy when they do accept some of the things that will fit in their homes. As I contemplate the task ahead, my mind and heart are often redirected to the early followers of Christ who willingly sold all their possessions, gave to the poor, and followed him.

Judges 6:1-24; Psalms 93, 96; Mark 3:20-30

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Scottish Episcopal Church The Most Revd Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church & Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Rantoul, The Rev Steven Thorp, Vicar; Choma Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Gershon Charles The Parish of Christ The Redeemer and St. Peter, San Juan de Miraflores, Peru, The Rev. Misael Varillas, Regional Vicar; Birthday of Greg Shaw, husband of The Rev Mary Christine “Mollie” Ward, Bloomington; Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Can. Robert B. and Terry Koehler, San Antonio, TX; and of the Rev. Charles J. and Gina Reischman, Littleton, CO.

Monday, August 6

Judges 6:25-40 *Then Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.” And it was so. (vv.36-38a)*

In our daily lives, we experience conflicting messages from advertisers, media, and salespeople, so we do research to prove their claims. Before we purchase a product or a service we need “proof positive” that it will perform. We need to see for ourselves. And so, too, did Gideon demand proof as we read this week in Judges.

Gideon is called to lead Israel against the Midianites. Despite knowing that God led the Israelites out of bondage, he still asks for a show of proof that God will be with him to back him up if he undertakes the challenge. And he requested proof three times! In our daily lives, we read our Bibles that teach us about miracles and acts of faith. That is the only proof we need to trust in God and his plan for us.

Psalm 80; Acts 2:37-47; John 1:1-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Faisalabad - (Pakistan) [The Rt Revd John Samuel](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Feast of Title, Church of the Redeemer, Cairo; Feast of Title, Christ Church, Springfield.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Debbie & Roger Thomas' wedding anniversary.

Tuesday, August 7

Psalm 78:1-39 *They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.* (vv.10, 38)

Parenting is replete with joyful, fascinating, and humorous moments. It also has its vexing and distressing scenes. Each parenting style is unique, but there are basics that apply to all families. Parents set the rules and expectations; children challenge, defy, test, and often ignore the rules. Then follows a punishment period before reconciliation. In today's psalm, we are reminded that God as our Father set the rules and we, along with the generations, disobeyed His commandments despite His enduring love that continued to provide sustenance and mercy. He sees through our hearts when we are not truthful, yet He forgives us. He delights in us as our Father, but still commands that we obey Him.

Judges 7:1-18; Acts 3:1-11; John 1:19-28

ANGLICAN CYCLE: False Bay - (Southern Africa) [The Rt Revd Margaret Brenda Vertue](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Grant us the grace of your holy spirit to devote our heart to you.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Emily Lavikoff's birthday.

Wednesday, August 8

Psalm 119:97-120 *Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually!* (vv.116-117)

The beauty of these two verses is their simplicity in asking God first to live a good life and then to be safe in that life. A good life is following the teachings of Jesus by showing love to all. A safe life is diverting evil and harmful things away from us. And notice how "Uphold me" and "Hold me up" seem to be poetically repetitive, but the phrases here have subtle differences. "Uphold" means support,

confirm, sustain, and maintain, alluding to the psalmist's continual devotion to God's will. "Hold me up" implies a grasp or support to refrain from stumbling along life's paths. To live a good life and to be safe are surely our desires as well. We will always face adversity, but with God's help we will be guided through the troubles.

Judges 7:19—8:12; Acts 3:12-26; John 1:29-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Enugu North - (Niger Delta, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd Sosthenes Eze](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Mark S. and Kathleen Winward, Camp Lejeune, NC.

Thursday, August 9

Acts 4:1-12 *This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.* (v.11)

The young man is autistic. He attended a local high school and graduated with his class. He always said that he was autistic, but he was not stupid. Let's call him Steven. Several weeks after graduation, he and his dad happened to stop into the local coffee shop. Steven received a great big hug by the worker who ran from behind the counter to greet him. Dad was introduced, and the two young men caught up on news. Several days later Dad returned to the coffee shop to ask the worker about how he knew his son. The story is priceless. The worker said that he struggled with an advanced math course that he needed for graduation. Steven offered to tutor him during lunch for the better part of two semesters. The worker graduated and was exceedingly grateful for the help that was offered by Steven.

It is easy to overlook the perceived "least" among us. Yet everyone is blessed with a talent that is not apparent on the surface.

Judges 8:22-35; Psalm 145; John 1:43-51

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Federal Ministries - (Province II, The Episcopal Church) [The Rt Revd Carl Wright](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Suzanne, wife of The Rev. Dr. John F. Wall, Fredricksburg, VA.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Jack Schaeffer's birthday.

Friday, August 10

Acts 4:13-31 *So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."* (vv.18-20)

Standing up for what you believe in takes courage and boldness, especially when your adversary holds power or rank. In today's reading, Peter and John were perceived as common and uneducated men by the high priests of Jerusalem, yet the

priests were aware of the miraculous healing that had occurred. Their only response was for Peter and John to cease talking about Jesus. Led by the Holy Spirit, Christ's followers continued to minister with boldness. This is a lesson for us in our modern society. With diverse opinions in every aspect of society, it takes boldness to talk about Jesus, to teach his Word, and to minister as he taught us to do.

Judges 9:1-16, 19-21; Psalm 88; Acts 4:13-31; John 2:2-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Esan - (Bendel, Nigeria) [The Most Revd Friday Imaekhai](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: I am here abroad, I am here in need, I am here in pain, I am here in straits, I am here alone. O God, aid me -- *Celtic Charm*.

Saturday, August 11

Psalm 90 *You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.* (v.8)

What were those little secrets that were part of your childhood and are still held in your memory as reminders of the bad stuff you were not supposed to do? Are there still secret sins that are tucked away in your heart and recalled with sorrow and sadness? A most harsh lesson was learned by Ananias and his wife Sapphira as we read in today's Acts lesson. They sinned by withholding proceeds of a sale and lying about it instead of giving all to the poor. The good news is that God, who knows all our sins, will forgive us these sins if we repent and humbly say that we are sorry.

Judges 9:22-25, 50-57; Psalm 87; Acts 4:32—5:11; John 2:13-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Fianarantsoa - (Indian Ocean) [The Rt Revd Gilbert Rateloson Rakotondravelo](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Caleb S. Roberts, Champaign;
Wedding anniversary of The Rev. T. Larison and Patricia Phillips, Champaign.

by Dorothy Magill

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Jenna A., Mary, James T., Julie C., Valerie R., Barbara A., Bill B., Ms. Shayne, Diane B., Steve J., Carol D.

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., Daniel T., Ina R., and Margaret P.

Pray for: The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar