

## *Good News Daily*

**Volume XIX**

**May 5-11, 2019**

**Number 18**

### **Sunday, May 5**

Daniel 4:1-18 *“This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”* (v.18 NIV)

My dreams are usually “fluff” that dissolves upon awakening. Once in a while, however, I have a dream that is powerfully clear in content, but not in meaning. It comes with an urgent sense of importance and I know I need to find its meaning. I consider these to be messages delivered by the Holy Spirit of God. Like Nebuchadnezzar, who knew his dream had meaning and sought out those he thought could interpret it, I search for answers. I am reminded how important it is to go to the right source for dream interpretation. We can easily be led into occult mysteries that fuel our curiosity and draw us into the enemy camp. How fortunate we are to be living on the other side of Easter where the Holy Spirit can dwell within us and guide us in the way of Truth! He is able to reveal to us whatever we need to know.

Psalms 148, 149, 150; 1 Peter 4:7-11; John 21:15-25

**ANGLICAN CYCLE:** **Pray for** the Anglican Church of Kenya, The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit - Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya

**DIOCESAN CYCLE:** The Cathedral of St. Paul, Springfield, The Very Rev. Andrew S. Hook, Dean; St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Tabora, Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, Dean, The Rev. Canon Rogers Kashimba, Sub Dean, Rev. Lucas Ngassa, Curate; The Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Lima, Peru, The Very Rev. John Park, Dean; Birthday of Mary Ellen, wife of The Rev. David L. Wells, Springfield.

**ST. MATTHEWS:** Shelley Carter’s birthday.

### **Monday, May 6**

Daniel 4:19-27 *“Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”* (v.27)

Many times the Lord has shown me, through dreams, the direction I need to go and I have said, “Later, I’ll do it later.” Why is it so hard to change when we know we will be better off for it? We ask for advice, then refuse to take it. For me, it usually means stepping out of my comfort zone. When I do take the risk and take that step, I am rewarded beyond measure. The lesson looks clear, but my fallen nature still wants to go its own way. I can relate to Nebuchadnezzar. I will face a

hurricane, but not the winds of change. God's patience constantly amazes me because He is willing to gently lead, me one step at a time. In His mercy, He is peeling away one thin layer at a time instead of stripping to the bare bone as He told Nebuchadnezzar He would do.

Psalm 25; 1 John 3:19—4:6; Luke 4:14-30

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Multan (*Pakistan*) The Rt Revd Leo Rodrick Paul; Yirol (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Paul Tokmach Lual, The Rt Revd Isaac Nyaryiel Aleth; Ikeduru (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Maduwike

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. Richard A. Pugliese, Topsham, ME.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Phyllis & Dave Halt's wedding anniversary.

## **Tuesday, May 7**

Daniel 4:28-37 *Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.* (v.37)

God punished Nebuchadnezzar for seven years until he was humbled and willing to acknowledge God as all powerful. Then his kingdom was restored. I, too, went through a seven-year period of change and spiritual growth. It was not as painful as the king's seven years, but I was brought to a place of depending upon God's mercy and grace on a daily basis in several areas of my life. Even though the number 7 signifies "complete," I know that God is not through with me yet. I did learn to trust God for "daily bread," to pray for others, and to hear His voice. I learned to praise God in many new ways. I learned to give up my identity as Artist, and become simply Child of God. Faith grew as God poured out His blessings through difficult times. All of my present spiritual growth leaps out of those seven years of trials, release from bondage, and new depths of loving.

Psalms 26, 28; 1 John 4:7-21; Luke 4:31-37

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Mumbai (Formerly Bombay) (*North India*) The Rt Revd Prakash Patole; Yokohama (*Japan*) The Revd Ignatius Osamu Irie

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Grant us, we pray, Almighty God, that we may always believe in your only begotten son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Fr. Joe Dunlap's birthday.

## **Wednesday, May 8**

Luke 4:38-44 *But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."* (v.43)

If I had the success Jesus had in healing the sick, I would have thought I had found my "niche." How often do we settle for less than God's plan for us? How often do we let success side-track us? A successful day of healing "all who came to him" did not side-track Jesus from his mission to preach the gospel in as many places

as he could. Jesus knew his mission. He didn't let other successes keep him from that assignment. When I read this passage, I realized how tenuous my relationship has been with Father God. How can I know my full potential unless I have a working relationship with God the Father? I thank God for sending Jesus to us because through him we can know God the Father. After many years of various art endeavors, I believe I have finally reached a place where my mission is becoming clearer.

Daniel 5:1-12; Psalm 38; 1 John 5:1-12

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Mumias (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Joseph Wandera; Yola (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Markus Ibrahim; York (*England*) The Most Revd & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, The Rt Revd Paul John Ferguson, The Rt Revd John Bromilow Thomson, The Rt Revd Glyn Webster, The Rt Revd Alison White

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Cn. Eugene A. and Janet Stormer, Springfield.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Liam Halt's birthday.

### **Thursday, May 9**

Psalm 37:1-18 *Take delight in the LORD and he will give you your heart's desires.* (v.4 NLT)

My "heart's desires." How fickle one's heart can be! Through the years I have had many dreams and goals. Looking back, I see that my plans were confining, and my dreams were self-serving. When I met Jesus head-on, I knew that to love Jesus and to follow him was the desire of my heart. Most of my dreams and plans were realized, but my heart yearned for something more. Not until I had experienced the love of Jesus, did I realize that my heart's desire was to "delight in the LORD." Gradually, I am learning to live in the *now*—learning from the past, looking to the future, but enjoying the present moment. Now I pray for enough vision to see God's plan for today, the courage to carry it out, and to trust Him for tomorrow. On those days when my heart is right with God, I find connections that electrify my spirit and my accomplishments well beyond my dreams.

Daniel 5:13-30; 1 John 5:13-21; Luke 5:1-11

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Mundri (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Bismark Monday Avokaya Azumu; Ysabel (*Melanesia*) The Revd Ellison Quity

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Gregory A. Tournoux, Springfield, ordination to the Priesthood.

### **Friday, May 10**

Luke 5:12-26 *But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.* (vv.15-16)

In the midst of our busyness we must take time to pray. Often that is when prayer is most needed.

In the hospital as I recovered from hip surgery, my roommate, Joyce, and I were in much pain from all the peripheral stuff—anesthesia, infections, and antibiotics. Early one morning as I lay there deep in my own pity-party, a revelation hit me: Satan loves pain, not so much because it hurts but because it isolates. He doesn't want to see two or three Christians gathered together! So, I pulled back the curtain that separated us and shared my news with Joyce. We decided the best weapon was *praise*. We would sing! Very softly (at 5:30 a.m.) we began "Jesus Loves Me." Soon we heard a third voice. Our nurse had arrived and joined in. Our hearts began to fill with joy as we sang and prayed together. It did not take away the pain, but it became much easier to endure. We even forgot about the pain for a while! Through that experience, I learned something of the power of prayer. Psalm 105 says to "thank the Lord for all the glorious things he does: seek the Lord and his strength."

Daniel 6:1-15; Psalm 105:1-22; 2 John 1-13

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Mundu Area (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Samuel Lomue Eluzai; Yukon (*Canada*) The Rt Revd Larry David Robertson; Ikka (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Peter Onekpe

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Matthew B. Kemp, Chicago, ordination to the Priesthood; M. Joan Coleman, Roseburg, Oregon, ordination to the Diaconate.

## **Saturday, May 11**

Luke 5:27-39 "*I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*" (v.32 NIV)

It is hard to confess when you are unaware of your sins. Through the years, I have gone from feeling righteous to being aware of sin in my life. Even now, it often catches me unaware. Not long ago, while being prayed for in my group, I knew I was being healed of something, but I didn't know what. My prayer partner said, "Ask Jesus." I replied, "All I get is 'stiff-necked.'" "What does that mean to you?" she asked. After some thought, I said, "Arrogance, but I know I am not arrogant!" (Arrogance never recognizes itself). Finally, I asked Jesus to show me where I was arrogant. He did. He showed me how I view art shows by judging the work and ignoring the artist—unless I really like what they do. Jesus said, "I want you to see my people, not just their work." So, I began to look at work that did not interest me and speak to the artist. In my arrogance I thought I was supposed to minister to them. Wrong again. They ministered to me. In many ways I was blessed beyond measure.

Jesus is still working on me and revealing new areas as I am able to accept them. He is too gentle and kind to overwhelm me with more truth than I can take. In Psalm 32:8, the Lord says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go."

Daniel 6:16-28; Psalms 30, 32; 3 John 1-13

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Muranga South (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Julius Karanu Wa Gicheru; Zaki-Biam (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Benjamin Vanger; Ikwerre, The Rt Revd Blessing Enyindah

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord, help us and your whole church to walk as children of the light.

*by Ellen Smith*

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**Pray for** the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Margret L.

**Pray for** the Faithful Departed: Woody S. & Bob C.

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