
KOINONIA

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (Koinonia) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

2 Corinthians 13:14

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2021



Norwin Alliance Preschool News

Each month the preschool children collect specific food items for the Irwin Area Food Pantry. If you would like to contribute, a box is available in the narthex. February's collection item: **SHAMPOO and SOAPS**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.



When you don't feel close to God, is that a sin?

Most growing believers in the Lord will have times of not feeling close to God at all. During those times we might think we are losing our faith, or God is not real, or we are in some far country of sin. Did anyone in the Bible not feel close to God and yet belonged 100% to the Lord?

David *“My God, why have you forsaken me?”* Jesus prayed this too. Psalm 22

Job *“I cry out to you, O God, but you do not answer.”* Job 30

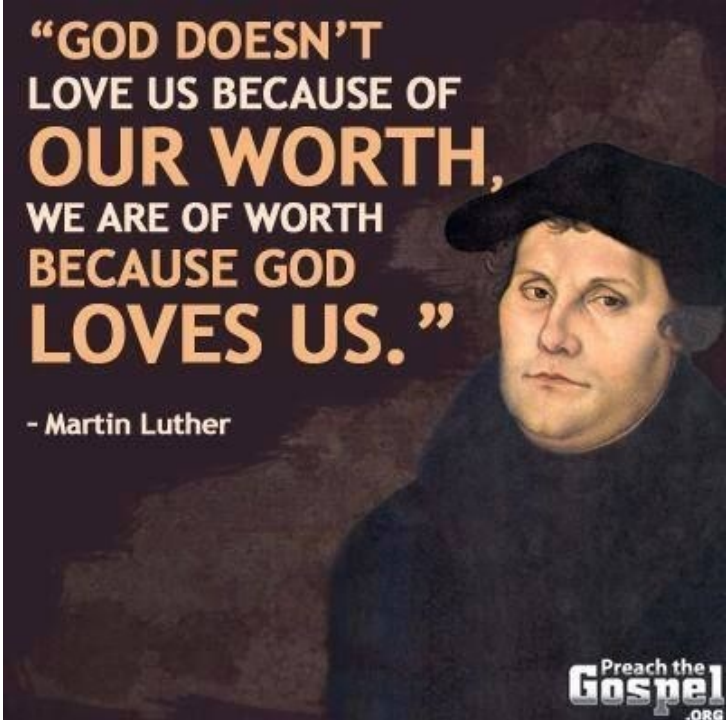
Isaiah *“O Lord, why do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts . . .”* Isaiah 63

John the Baptist *“Jesus, are you the Messiah or should we expect someone else?”* Luke 7

Feeling far from the Lord is a chronic temporary experience for the Christian. Jesus' gift of salvation, His friendship with us, and His faithful Presence in our lives are not shaken by whether we notice Him everyday.

*“When I fear my faith would fail,
Doubt and bad thoughts still prevail,
God will stay and win the fight
‘Till our faith is turned to sight.”*

Amen.



**“GOD DOESN'T
LOVE US BECAUSE OF
OUR WORTH,
WE ARE OF WORTH
BECAUSE GOD
LOVES US.”**

- Martin Luther

And now these three remain:
faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



Preach the
Gospel
.ORG

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

John and Isobel Kuhn ministered as missionaries, beginning in China. John began in 1926; Isobel came in 1928. After a year of language training, she and John were married.

Isobel (Miller) was born 1901 in Toronto, Canada. After childhood and college education, she became a teacher. In a few years she attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois to prepare to be a missionary as she felt God was calling her for service. She had a short delay, that later she realized was a preparation for the 'mission filed' as she served at an evangelistic mission for girls in Vancouver, Canada. She taught the girls of the importance of prayer; many became prayer partners as he/ others ministered.

Off to China - 1929 to 1934 - John and Isobel served in Chengchiang, and then Tali, Yunnan providence in southwest China. In 1934 they moved to the mountains of northwest Yunnan to work among the animistic LISU people (these people had fear and hopelessness; the women were treated with degradation). Isobel expressed the beauty of the area, although it could be dangerous when the rainy season brought continuous flooding. It was during this season that "Rainy Season Bible School" was set-up. This was a time for teaching God's Word, singing, preaching and evangelism. Farmers could not work their fields during this season. Isobel reminded the prayer support groups to Pray-Pray-Pray because of the serious medical concerns, lack of proper nutrition, adequate housing, and just basic care to survive.

In 1950, during the communist takeover of China, Isobel and her son, Daniel (6yrs) escaped over the border to Burma and then returned to the USA where John met them. They lived in Illinois where their daughter, Kathryn was studying at Wheaton College.

During this time, John was asked to enter

Thailand to survey the needs for evangelistic work among the tribes in norther Thailand. At age 50, Isobel would have to learn a new language, Thai, climb rough trails and go pioneering again. She left son Daniel with family in the USA and went to Thailand with John. They lived in the city of Chiengmmai where a homebase was established for missionaries.

Isobel became ill with cancer. She returned to the United States for medical treatment that she could not receive in Thailand. John stayed in Thailand in 1951-1954; he came to be with his wife September 1955. During the final two years of Isobel's life, she had the abilities and gifts to write five books about her life and the ministries. Daughter Kathryn also became a missionary far-off in Asia; but shortly married another missionary there.

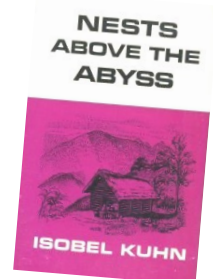
Isobel entered heaven at age 55. In her book NESTS ABOVE THE ABYSS, Isobel shares these thoughts:

Just to let Thy Father do what He will;

Just to know that He is true and be still;

Just to follow hour by hour as He leadeth;

Just to draw the moment's power as it needeth.



1901 — 1957
Isobel Miller Kuhn

Missionary to Lisu tribes;
Wife of John Kuhn;
Writer.

The Women's Corner

By Janis Swope

Happy Valentine's Day! Here we are in February already and I know many of us have still not gotten over the craziness that was 2020. Let's all pray for brighter days ahead.

I've been reading a devotional that a dear friend gave me for Christmas. When I read the devotion for Sunday, January 9th, it touched my heart. It was about a woman all cuddled up with a blanket in her favorite chair, sipping hot coffee and looking at her day planner. "Oh no!" I thought, "has someone been watching me in my house?". It was a perfect description of what I do just about every morning. The woman in the devotion was looking at her goals for the day before and realized that she had not accomplished anything on her list. That is exactly what I do. I'm one of those people who feel so much better when I write down everything that I do and hope to accomplish; and I did this often when I was younger and it helped me. Now that I've gotten older, it helps a lot. But just like this woman. (Ok, ok, I know you are already thinking that I'm obsessive compulsive, but I don't mind LOL!). I have days where I look at what I was supposed to do yesterday and find that nothing had been done. The woman in the devotion opened her Bible and prayed to God about how discouraged she was and asked Him if she would ever learn to focus. As she was reading her Bible, a fly that had been tucked away for winter hibernation woke up from the heat of her lamp and started buzzing circles around her head. She would read a few verses, then bzzzz, bzzzzz, bzzz. The fly would make a dive for her nose and then veer to the light bulb. She described him as a "fighter pilot on a bombing mission as he flew straight for the light." Bam! He crashed head-on into the light bulb and fell into her coffee! (Ugh!) When she went to dump her coffee out she had a strange thought. "Distractions are like that pesky fly; they discourage me and I end up tossing away my goals. It's time to focus on God and tackle my days with Him." She started consciously struggled to keep her thoughts on God and asked Him to her. Each day she was able to whittle away at her goals.

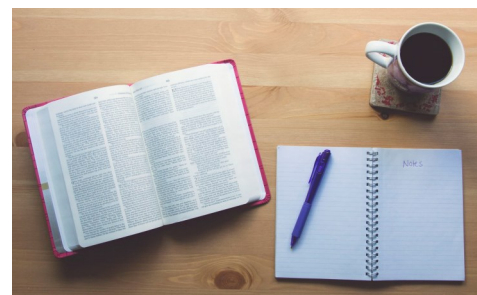
This really made me think. Because I have been staying home so much because of the virus, I've let my goals slip. After all, there's another day tomorrow and I'm not going anywhere, why not put it off until tomorrow? And my focus had been on other distractions during the day. Focusing on God and asking Him to lead me every day has really helped. Hebrews 12:2, 3 says "We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. . . Then you won't get discouraged and give up." (CEV). Well, I better finish now 'cause I have to get back to my list!

Important News About Women and Men's Bible Study. Because the nasty Covid-19 is still being a thorn in our flesh, we will not be starting up in February as we had hoped. For now, we are going month to month and are keeping our eyes March. When a final decision is made, you will all be contacted. Keep praying that we can get together soon.

Women's Sunday School Class has its starts and stops due the virus, but we are back again and praying that we don't have to cancel again. We are still looking at 1 Thessalonians and will begin 2 Thessalonians in a couple of weeks. If this sounds interesting to you, I hope you'll give our class a try. You can see us in the Craft Room at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday.

The Last Word

"You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary." Jonathan Edwards, b. 1703- d. 1758 at the age of 54. He was a revivalist, preacher and theologian. He is widely regarded as one of Americas most important preachers and theologians. One of his most famous sermon is "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."



2021 PRAYER CHAIN

New 2021 Prayer Chains are in the process of being put together.

What is the Prayer Chain and what does it do?

Those members and adherents of Norwin Alliance Church who wish to be prayer intercessors for the church family are placed on Deaconess' lists. You are called to pray only - you do not need to make any phone calls. When the intensive prayer chain is activated (for emergency or critical needs of our immediate church family), your Deaconess will call you to pray. This chain is also activated to inform of service closings. All other prayer requests are circulated through the Deaconesses and Elder only for prayer.

Not all prayer requests go through the intensive prayer chain. As stated above, only emergency or critical needs of our immediate church family are placed on the intensive chain ~ unless the family specifically requests that the full chain be activated. Some prayer requests are of a personal nature and only the Elders and Deaconesses are contacted for prayers.

When calling in prayer requests, if you want the intensive prayer chain activated, please indicate this when calling. In the same manner, not all requests are printed on the Praise and Petition sheet. We try very hard to honor everyone's privacy. If you would like your request printed on the Praise and Petition sheet, please state this when calling in for prayer.

When called to prayer ~ pray as though the need was for a member of your own family ~ we are all a part of God's family.

EVERYONE who would like to be part of the Prayer Chain needs to submit your name and phone number to the church office by **February 21st**.

If you have any questions about the Prayer Chain, please contact Cindy Barnhart, Judy Himler, Jeff Ewing, or Pastor Bob.



Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

PRAYER CHAIN

Yes, I would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain.

Please include my name.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Please turn this completed form into the church office by Sunday, February 21, 2021.