

JANUARY 16, 2022

CROWN HILL NEWS

Prayers

- Continue to lift up the Ramseyer family in your prayers.
- Pray for Alysa Hamlet who is pregnant with a due date of January 30th.
- Pray for Austin Zuercher in Costa Rica who we support through EMM.
- Remember Beulah in prayer as she continues radiation treatment and Larry Morrison as he continues his chemo treatments.
- Continue to pray for Win as she works on building strength back up in her foot.
- Pray for Earl Webb as he remains hospitalized with pneumonia.
- Remember our people in nursing homes: Patt (&Earl), Suzan, Martha & Carolyn.
- Pray for our shut-ins: Pete Stauffer, Paul Troyer, Elmer Richard, Mary Nussbaum, Ila Zimmerly, Win Ramsyer, Brady Murray and Fred's mother Doris Hoffman.

Upcoming Events/Announcements

- Tuesday, January 18th at 9am Women Serving Christ will meet. Thomas Dunn will have devotions. Bring a sack lunch.
- January 23 is our congregational meeting before Sunday School.
- January 30 is our Sign Up Sunday
- The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again on Sat Jan 15th at 8:30 am. We'll be studying Following God's Guidance. All women are welcome, whether you've attended a previous study or not! See Doris or Myrna if you have any questions.
- WINTER READ. Join us for Winter Read, facilitated by the Ohio Mennonite Conference and our six church community. The study will be on the book by Latasha Morrison titled BE THE BRIDGE: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation. The Salem-Wooster congregation is our host for the study. The gatherings at Salem will take place from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. on Jan. 20, and Feb. 3 and 17
- Reminder: all are invited to join in prayer on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

January 16

Dan Preaching
Sermon: Let's Think About It
Scripture: Luke 19:11-27

January 2 Offering

\$2340 General
\$100 Myron Ramseyer Memorial

In honor of Martin Luther King day on January 17th, we are including this abridged version of Dr. King's 1963 sermon titled, "Love In Action."

Few words in the New Testament more clearly and solemnly express the magnanimity of Jesus' spirit than that sublime utterance from the cross, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." This is love at its best.

It is a marvelous expression of Jesus' ability to match words with actions. One of the great tragedies of life is that men seldom bridge the gulf between practice and profession, between doing and saying. On the one hand we proudly profess certain sublime and noble principles, but on the other hand, we sadly practice the very antithesis of those principles. But when we turn to the life of Jesus we find the gulf bridged. Never in all history have we found a more sublime example of the consistency of word and deed. So Jesus consistently taught his disciples that love and forgiveness were absolute necessities for spiritual maturity. Now the moment of testing emerges. What will he say? Jesus lifts his head up amid the wreath of thorns that encircles his brow and cries out in words lifted to cosmic proportions: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

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"Love in Action" Continued...

There is a second lesson that comes to us from Jesus' prayer on the Cross. It is an expression of Jesus' awareness of man's intellectual and spiritual blindness. "They know not what they do," said Jesus. Blindness was their trouble. The jeering mob that lined the roadside which led to the cross was not composed of evil people but blind people. They knew not what they did. The Apostle Paul was not a bad man when he was persecuting Christians. He was a sincere, conscientious devotee of Israel's faith. He thought he was right. The Christians who engaged in infamous persecutions and shameful Inquisitions were not evil men but misguided men

This tragic blindness expresses itself in so many ominous ways in the modern world. There are those who still feel that war is the answer to the problems of the world. They are not evil people. On the contrary, they are good respectable citizens whose ideas are dressed in the garments of patriotism.

Notice how the truth of this text is revealed in race relations. Slavery was perpetuated in America not merely by human badness but also by human blindness. True, the causal basis for the system of slavery must be traced back, to a large extent, to the economic factor. But men soon convinced themselves that a system which was so economically profitable must have been morally justifiable. They began to formulate elaborate theories of racial superiority.

They sincerely came to believe that the Negro was inferior by nature and that slavery was ordained by God.

All of the resistance to integration is not the rear guard action of professional bigots. There are some who sincerely feel that what they do in attempting to preserve segregation is best for themselves, their children, and their nation. In most instances they are good church people, anchored in the religious faith of their mothers and fathers.

From all that I have attempted to say it should be clear now that sincerity and conscientiousness are not enough. History has proven that these noble virtues can be relegated to tragic vices. There is nothing more dangerous in all the world than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. The church must never tire of reminding men that they have a moral responsibility to be intelligent. But if we are to call ourselves Christians, we had better avoid intellectual and moral blindness.

Throughout the New Testament we are reminded of the need for enlightenment. We are commanded to love God not only with our hearts and souls, but also with our minds. Over and over again the Bible reminds us of the danger of zeal without knowledge and sincerity without intelligence.

One day we will learn that the heart can never be totally right if the head is totally wrong. This is not to say that the head can be right if the heart is wrong. Only through the bringing together of head and heart—intelligence and goodness—can man rise to a fulfillment of his true essence. Neither is this to say that one must be a philosopher or a possessor of extensive academic training before he can achieve the good life. I know many people of limited formal training who have amazing intelligence and foresight. The call for intelligence is a call for open-mindedness, sound judgment, and love for truth. It is a call for men to rise above the stagnation of close-mindedness and the paralysis of gullibility. No one need be a profound scholar to be open-minded.

As I behold that uplifted Cross I am not only reminded of the unlimited power of God, but also of the sordid weakness of man. I not only think of the glory of the divine, but of the tang of the human. I am reminded not only of Christ at his best, but also of man at his worst. We must continue to see the Cross as a magnificent symbol of love conquering hate, and light overcoming darkness. But in the midst of this glowing affirmation, let us never forget that our Lord and Master was nailed to that Cross because of human blindness. Those who crucified him knew not what they did.

