



A Great Place To Grow in Christ

For the Entire Family

May 5, 2019

This Weeks Events

Today:

- 10:00AM: (Grange)—*Sunday School*—Pastor
- 11:00AM: (Grange)—*Bible Reading*—Rev. Wasilausky
Message—*The abasement of exaltation*—Pastor
- 2:00PM: (Fir Lane)—*Shut In Saints*—Matthew Coale
- 6:00PM: (Grange)—*NO EVENING SERVICE*—Pastor



Upcoming Events

May 12, 2019

- 11:00AM: (Grange)—*Mothers Day Appreciation*—Pastor

June 2, 2019

- 2:00PM: (Fir Lane)—*Shut In Saints*—Matthew Coale

PRAYER REQUESTS

607.	Pastor	Souls saved in Shelton.
680.	Matt	Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000).
973.	Dee	Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse.
1040.	Pastor	Judy Carr's quick healing from back surgery.
1042.	Pastor	Michael, whom I witnessed to, mother would recover from stroke.
1043.	Pastor	2 Jehovah's Witness, whom I witnessed to would see the error of their "gospel" and get saved.
1044.	Pastor	God's will for his life.
1046.	Larry	Jane's traveling mercy to Seattle
1047.	Dee	Clear vision to make the game for kids on her heart.
1048.	Wally	Shirley healing and peace.
1049.	Matt	Brother in law Tim healing from brain surgery.
1050.	Matt	Sister Amanda healing from pulmonary embolism.
1051.	Sally	Sister in law Stephanie has successful delivery.
1052.	Mark P.	Saloum's find a place to stay.
1053.	Melody	Grandson healing.

The Refreshment of Friends



Dr. Al Hughes

May 3, 2019

“Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.” —Acts 27:3

We live in a world that is cold, crooked, callous, and cruel. Isn't it a blessing to have friends you can go to when you're weary and be refreshed?

In our text Paul was under “house arrest” and under the custody of a Roman centurion named Julius. This unsaved Roman soldier recognized the importance of Paul being refreshed by his friends. Therefore he gave Paul “liberty to go to his friends to refresh himself.”

In Paul's epistles he constantly reflected on the refreshment he received from friends (see Romans 15:32; 1 Corinthians 16:18; 2 Timothy 1:16; Philemon 1:20).

I am so grateful for friends who refresh my life. I have a friend I've known for over 40 years who sends me a handwritten note every

month. How refreshing that is. I have another pastor friend who refreshes me every week with a text message that he is praying for me. I have many other friends around the U.S. who pray for me regularly. I cannot tell you how refreshing that is to me. Aren't you thankful for friends who refresh your life?

What are you doing to “refresh” your friends, or your pastor, or some missionary. They could use it! Maybe you should write them a note or send them a text that you're praying for them. I know how it would refresh their spirit.

“For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother” (Philemon 1:7).



Children's Church and nursery services are available for every service.

CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCE SURVIVES COURT CHALLENGE

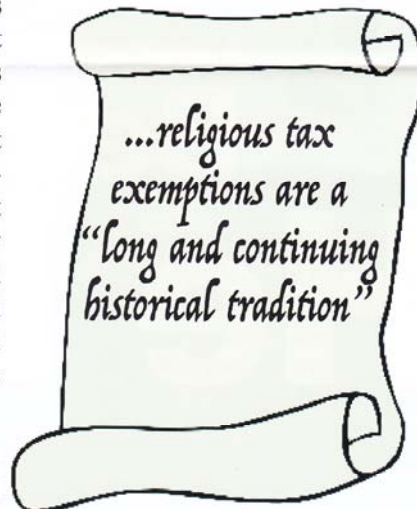


Praise the Lord! On March 15, 2019, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of clergy across the nation by ruling that the clergy housing allowance exception in federal tax law is indeed constitutional.

In the long-gestating case *Gaylor v. Mnuchin*, an anti-religious group has been trying for years to force an overturn of the long-standing clergy housing allowance, which has since the early 1920s provided some tax relief for clergy in regard to their living arrangements. Originally protecting only church-owned parsonages, in the 1950s the exception was enlarged to include cash housing allowances as well. Despite that there are similar tax exceptions for multiple other professions, various anti-faith organizations are intent on targeting and destroying this particular exception for clergy.

Thankfully, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals saw through this shameless and anti-religious stunt and ruled that the clergy housing allowance was similar to the many other tax exceptions: "...we see § 107(2) is simply one of many *per se* rules that provide a tax exemption to employees with work-related housing requirements." The court went on to find that the exception didn't "excessively entangle" the government in religion, and noted that religious tax exemptions are a "long and continuing historical tradition" in our country, and have been addressed and protected by the Supreme Court to some extent as far back as 1885.

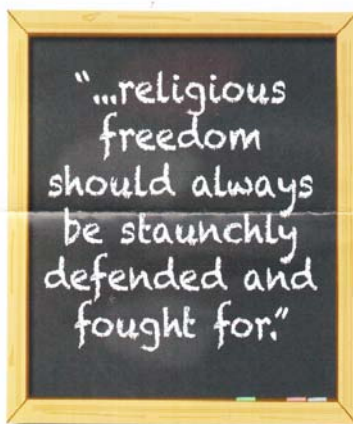
There is of course the possibility that this anti-religious group appeals this decision to the United



States Supreme Court, and there is simply no way to predict whether the Supreme Court will decide to hear this case. That said, this decision is a vital and important win for religious freedom, one we should be thanking God for.

United States Department of Education Stands Up for Religious Freedom

On March 11, 2019, the United States Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, ruled that her Department will not be enforcing certain anti-religious provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) that her Department believes are unconstitutional in light of a recent Supreme Court ruling.



The ESEA required that, under certain programs, local educational agencies provide equivalent benefits and services to private school students as to public school students. The agencies can either provide these services themselves or contract with another organization or individual to do so. However, the ESEA strictly required the agencies only contract with providers who were “independent of...any religious organization.”

Moving forward, the Department of Education is deeming that requirement unconstitutional, and will no longer enforce the ban on faith-based organizations from contracting for services with local educational agencies. DeVos did note that all offered services must be “secular, neutral, and nonideological.”

DeVos consulted with the Justice Department and based her decision on the 2017 Supreme Court case *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Comer*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to refuse a neutral grant for playground equipment to a religious organization solely because of the organization’s religious nature.

This decision is to be applauded, as religious freedom should always be staunchly defended and fought for. However, it is worth noting that this decision will undoubtedly end up being tested in court, since only the courts can definitively rule a law as unconstitutional.

The current Administration has shown themselves as a defender of religious freedom on multiple occasions now. Let us continue to lift up our President and staff in prayer on a daily basis.





THE LANTZ FAMILY

MISSIONARIES SERVING IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

An Extension of the World Wide Mission Ministry of The

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH

11441 East Central Avenue

Wichita, Kansas 67206

Bill Riffée - Pastor

Dear Prayer Partners,

February 28, 2019

Greetings from Brasil. What a year this is starting out to be. Only two months in and already turning upside down. Have you ever felt that you were in the target sights of someone? At the church in Vargem Grande we feel that the devil has put sights on the back of every member. In fact it is making me feel envious of the doctors and hospital workers who are spending more time with my members than they are spending at church. One thing happens to one member and then the next member gets struck. The question that arises is who is going to be next. The only thing that we really know for sure is that God is STILL on His Throne and nothing can change that.

First, a former member and her husband were headed to town on their motorcycle when they were hit head on by another couple on a motorcycle in their lane passing a bus on a curve while exceeding the speed limit. The other couple was not injured but Fernando seriously injured an elbow while Janielle wound up with a broken femur, broken knee, broken ankle along with other diverse injuries. She will be bedridden for several months but at least stated that God know has her complete attention. Elzaphan was on her way to church when she stumbled on lose gravel and broke the little toe on her right foot. Josefa was working with some cleansing materials when caustic soda got knocked over and spilled into a 2 liter bottle containing another cleansing agent. There was a violent chemical reaction causing the mixture to spew upward out of the bottle hitting her in the eye causing a severe burn. Several days later the eye ruptured necessitating emergency surgery and a cornea transplant. In reality this was a blessing in disguise because had her eye not ruptured she would have had to wait at least a year for this surgery so Romans 8:28 comes into mind. Others have experienced flooding in their homes or roofs on their houses being damaged from the intense storms that have hit the area. In fact we were delayed for 3 hours trying to get home after a visit with one of our members because the storm flood an area of the road we take to get between the church and home. Even we have been affected. Car mechanical problems and a recent storm's lightening caused an electrostatic discharged that zapped and burnt out the electronic circuit cards that control our automated gate at the entrance to our house along with the security camera. I figure we must be doing something right if the devil is attacking the entire church with such force.

On the brighter side, Gabriel has completed the discipleship course and we will be marking a date to baptize him. We have an additional 3 people involved in the same course but at different stages of completion. We hope to complete the course with them and baptize them before returning home in July for our next furlough.

Once again, thank you for your faithfulness in supporting us financially and/or prayerfully through the years. The churches in Jardim Varginha and Vargem Grande are here today because you prayed and invested in God's work. Please continue to pray with us that we will continue to see an even greater Harvest of souls for the honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ in 2019.

Thankfully Received

January - February _____

Special Offering or gifts _____

All Because of JESUS,


Jerry & Atalias Lantz

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Brazil Cell Phone as dialed from the US: 011-55-11-96224-9995

Brazil Home Phone as dialed from the US: 011-55-11-5971-3004



THE **MOOBERRY** FAMILY
MISSIONARIES TO **BRAZIL**



Dear Saints,

March, 2019

The last month of our deputation has truly been a blessing. Your prayers have continually helped us in all situations and God has been glorified. The saints in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama showed us the kindness of God as we presented our ministry in some very missions-minded churches.

In our last prayer letter, we requested your prayers concerning our level of our financial support. We are amazed at God's ability to work in the hearts of both individuals and churches. He enabled us to see more new supporters this month than in any month prior. Through your prayers, the Lord of Harvest has helped us raise 43% of our required support to get to the field of Brazil, all in just six months of deputation. Thank you all for praying!

We appreciate your prayers and care for each member of our family. In addition to myself, my wife, Maggie, and our children (Mark (11), Luke (10), Esther (5), and Ruth (2)) have all been blessed by your prayers. One of our family's greatest joys of deputation is fellowship with the saints. Often, we have been refreshed, spending time with faithful fellow believers. I rejoice that God has given me a wife and kids that love God and His people! Whether through Pastors, missionaries, church members, or even new converts, God works through His children, encouraging and comforting our hearts in the Lord. We hear God's people say, "we need foreign missionaries." As true as that is, where would missionaries be without the rest of the body of Christ?

In the harvest, people have been very receptive to our gospel tracts and witness. God's promise is, "**Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.**" Before a meeting recently, I spoke with a father who confessed his teenage son was lost. I prayed that same afternoon and, at that evening's service, made an attempt to speak with him about his soul. After making a little small talk with him, I felt the Spirit leading me to back off and speak to him another time. Shortly after, I was delighted to see that same boy and his Pastor going back into the Pastor's study to "seal the deal." Although that was a quick answer to my prayer, I have no doubt that God's people have wept, labored, and prayed for his salvation for years (sometimes wondering if God would ever answer). That just reminds me that God's work requires faith, patience, and faithfulness. Through the scriptures, we have confidence in God that when Jesus comes, you who pray with us will also rejoice with us "bringing in the sheaves." Please pray that He would give us more boldness and wisdom in dealing with lost souls, and that more souls would be saved.

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ,
Matthew, Maggie, Mark, Luke, Esther, and Ruth Mooberry

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:38

