



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT SOLOMON'S PORCH

Services Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

October 2010, Volume 1, Issue 5

Who's Afraid of the Dark?

Maggie McDonough

*For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will
lighten my darkness." 2 Samuel 22:29*

I'm not real keen on the dark, unless I'm trying to go to sleep. Other than that, give me a little light. I was thinking about that word "dark" and how sometimes being in the dark can really make us afraid. It literally means "devoid of light".

There's a few times when I've really been scared in the dark. I remember one time our car got a flat tire at night and there was nothing around us for miles. It seemed like forever before we got out of there and there were no nearby houses or towns and it was just pitch black for miles. I just sat there with my heart racing. That whole unknown world in the dark gave me a little scare. Things just seem different in the dark. Even walking through your own home you can sometimes get off track in the dark or think one thing is another until you turn the light on. Light has a way of shedding revealing powers. There are some instances in the bible where some people got stuck in the dark and I think it's good to read their stories and see how they came out of the dark with God's help. I know I use some of these characters a lot for examples but I'm always learning from their lives.

- **Jonah.**

Now Jonah really put himself in this predicament. You probably know the story how he disobeyed the Lord and found himself inside of a big fish. No portholes inside there! Must have been dark, let alone how stinky the inside of a big fish must have been. He didn't just have the electricity go off for a few minutes but he was inside of there for three days and three nights, without even a cell phone to open and shed a little light.

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17

As you go on and read that story in Jonah chapters 1 and 2, you see that Jonah "remembered the Lord" in verse 2:7 and prayed. What I love is that next part. The way God turned on the lights in this situation.

It says in verse 2:10, "*And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.*"

Don't you just love that all God had to do was speak to a fish? In an instant, Jonah found himself out of that big dark belly he had been stuck in.

- **Joseph**

I love the story of Joseph. We always hear about his coat of many colors but it's the predicaments he got in and how God used him in the end that makes it such an endearing story to me. Remember how his brothers conspired and left him in a pit? We usually think of pits as being dark places as they are basically just holes in the ground.

*And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty,
there was no water in it. Genesis 37:24*

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We welcome others to contribute to this monthly newsletter. If you have something that you would like to place in next month's newsletter, please submit it to Maggie McDonough at Newsletter@tfasp.org.

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About that time some Midianites came along and Joseph's brothers sold him to them and into slavery. Of course you know those Midianites just didn't "happen" to come along at that exact time. God was in control and turning on the light switch for Joseph. If you keep reading Joseph's story, you see he endured so much more but at each turn it was like God was there flipping that switch on and working at every turn. God's the same way today with us. I can't count the times I've seen the Lord working through circumstances in my life. Sometimes not even the best of circumstances but always working everything together. Turning that light on at the right time.

- **Daniel**

I'm not sure how really "dark" a real lion's den is but certainly one thing for sure is that if you were fed to some hungry lions, it would seem to be a very dark place indeed. In the story of Daniel, we see he was put into the lion's den with no way to escape.

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Daniel 6:17

Look how God took care of Daniel and turned the lights on for him. Look what Daniel said in answer to the king who came to check on him the next morning. *My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Daniel 6:22*

We might not know it when we have angels there for us but the bible mentions them and that verse in Hebrews comes to mind. *"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2*

- **The Disciples**

Remember how the disciples of Christ were out on the boat in the evening and a storm came up?

And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. Mark 4:35-37

In the end all it took was for Jesus to say, "peace be still". You find that in verse 39 of that chapter.

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Just by His voice, the Lord can calm anything even at night or in the dark.

I love that song, "Master of the Wind".

*I know the Master of the wind.
I know the Maker of the rain.
He can calm a storm, make the sun shine again.
I know the Master of the wind.*

Aren't those words exciting? That we know the Master of the wind is so wonderful, but think too how He's the Master of the dark. In Amos it talks about God making the morning darkness.

"For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name." Amos 4:13

Conclusion:

Something I see in all of these people's lives is that God brought them through the dark. We don't have to be afraid of the dark because the Lord will be with us. Sure, sometimes it's not the most comfortable place to be but we have the God who made the dark and the light and that should be a comfort. He's going to be there for us. I love the fact that the Lord is there to utter things like "peace be still" as He did for the disciples or talk to the fish like He did in Jonah's case. I'm so glad that same God that did those things for them is my Light!

Our verse in 2 Samuel is David talking and David had some periods of going through some darkness too. *"For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness." Samuel 22:29*

Again that same thought is mentioned again over in the Psalms. *For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. Psalms 18:28*

One of my favorite passages of Scripture is Psalm 91. When I'm afraid or when I feel like I'm out in the dark in an unknown place and there's nothing to light the way, I go to these verses. I memorized the whole chapter when I was a kid and I'm so glad I did because I've turned to it many times in periods of darkness over the years. Verse 5 of that Psalm says, *Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day.* If you haven't read Psalm 91 in awhile or aren't familiar with it, look it up and read every verse and take in every word. It's a great way to keep the darkness from overtaking you.

**A MESSAGE TO TEACHERS FROM
Maggie McDonough:**

"There is a saying that 'As the twig is bent the tree is inclined.' You who teach [our children] are engaged in the labor of bending the twig...

There is no dividend that any human being can draw from bonds or stocks, or anything in the wealth of the world, that compares with the knowledge in one's heart that he or she has been an instrument in the hands of God of shaping some life for good; and I can promise the righteous teachers of our youth that as the years come and go they will gather dividends of thanks and gratitude from the children whose lives they have been the instruments in the hands of God of shaping for good...

We may think that the impressions we make may not be lasting, but I can assure you they are. I am sure that a testimony borne by a teacher to little children, under the inspiration of the living God, is a difficult thing for them to forget...

Each and every one of our teachers has the opportunity and the power under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, to make an impression upon the hearts and souls of little innocent children and young boys and girls who are starting out in the battle of life. I pray with all the fervor of my soul that God will help you in your labors, and I can promise you that He will help you. The important thing for you is to have a love of your work and to do your work under the inspiration of the Spirit of the living God."



OCTOBER IDEAS FOR FAMILY HOME EVENING

1. Family Hymn Sing
2. Cook Dinner Together
3. Family Bible Time
4. Movie Night In Pajamas
5. Family Game Night
6. Make A Family Mail Box (take a box and leave words of encouragement to each other. Kids like getting mail and Parents love that they aren't bills).
7. Create A Family Cookbook
8. Start A Family Journal
9. Write A Story Together
10. Make Up A Play And Take It To A Nursing Home
11. Clean House Together (Have a pick-up party)
12. Get Out The Family Photo Album

A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity,
knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils.

~ Ever Garrison ~



AUGUST TREASURER'S REPORT

Received This Month: \$3,319.66

Church Operations	\$1,148.09	Elder's Fund	\$418.75
Deacon's Fund	\$195.91	Capital City Rescue	\$157.70
Owen Carey	\$131.25	John & Mary Henry	\$312.50
Tom & Libby Little	\$212.50	Victory Church	\$137.50
World Vision	\$72.00	Capital Improvements	\$255.13

PSALM 133 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

Psalm 133

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.

- ¹ How wonderful and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in harmony!
- ² For harmony is as precious as the
anointing oil
that was poured over Aaron's head,
that ran down his beard
and onto the border of his robe.
- ³ Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from
Mount Hermon
that falls on the mountains of Zion.
And there the LORD has pronounced his
blessing,
even life everlasting.

Shared By Jan Wasson During a Service...

Doors close
Doors open
Old friends leave
God brings new ones
My ways are not your ways
Step back and allow my ways to flow

Sometimes when you help
You hinder
When I say rest,
Rest you should
Move over and let new life blossom
If you do not retire
How can I raise new blood up?



Mark Your Calendars!

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|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| ❖ Oct. 2 nd | Church Work Day | 8:00 a.m. until? |
| ❖ Oct. 3 rd | Don Rumble Sharing | 10:00 a.m. |
| | Crochet/Knitting (after church service) | |
| ❖ Oct. 6 th | Worship Rehearsal Team 2 | |
| ❖ Oct. 7 th | 4 Brothers Meeting | 4:30 p.m. |
| ❖ Oct. 8 th | Pizza & Movie Night for Teens | 6:00 p.m. |
| ❖ Oct. 9 th | Tom Little Memorial Service | 1:00 p.m. @ Loudonville |
| ❖ Oct. 10 th | Pete Rogati Sharing | 10:00 a.m. |
| ❖ Oct. 13 th | Ladies Prayer Meeting @ Bunny's | 7:00 p.m. |
| ❖ Oct. 14 th | Bible Review @ Barnwell | 2:30 p.m. |
| ❖ Oct. 16 th | Harvest Party (Bring A Dessert) | 7:00 p.m. |
| ❖ Oct. 19 th | Ladies Fellowship @ Regina McCune's | 6:30 p.m. |
| ❖ Oct. 20 th | Men's Pizza & Fellowship | 6:30 p.m. |
| ❖ Oct. 27 th | Ladies Prayer Meeting @ Bunny's | 7:00 p.m. |
| | Worship Rehearsal Team 2 | |

Look Who Is Having A Birthday Or Anniversary!

Birthday's:

Anniversary's:

Steve Kline Oct. 12th

Tim & Maggie McDonough Oct. 18th

Mike McGlaufflin, Jr. Oct. 14th

Bob Lucido Oct. 17th

Joseph Hagadone Oct. 30th

Gabriel McGlaufflin Oct. 31st