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# THE VISION

# August 2018

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..."

Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

## Struggles

Perhaps we have read this following article. It was sent to me from Gardner-Webb University, where Donna and I are graduates— it has a timely message even in 2018!

"For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole

armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm," (**Ephesians 6:12-13**).

The green anaconda is considered the largest of the giant snakes, considering thickness, weight and length. It can grow more than 20 feet in length and weigh over 300 pounds. The following excerpt, which is now known to be legend, was allegedly from the United States Government Peace Corps manual for volunteers working in the Amazon jungle. It details what to do if an anaconda attacks you—pay close attention to guidelines 9 and 10—

- 1. If you are attacked by an anaconda, do not run. The snake is faster than you are.
- 2. Lie flat on the ground. Put your arms tight against your sides, your legs tight against one another.
- 3. Tuck your chin in.
- The snake will begin to nudge and climb over your body.
- 5. Do not panic.
- 6. After the snake has examined you, it will begin

- to swallow you from the feet end—always from the feet end. Permit the snake to swallow your feet and ankles.
- 7. The snake will now begin to suck your legs into its body. You must lie perfectly still. This will take a long time.
- 8. When the snake has reached your knees, slowly and with as little movement possible, reach down, take your knife and very gently slide it into the side of the snake's mouth
- 9. between the edge of its mouth and your leg, then suddenly rip upwards, severing the snake's head.
- 10. Be sure you have your knife.
- 11. Be sure your knife is sharp.

Here is our Application: we never know what spiritual conflicts we will face in life. The Apostle Paul, in writing to the church at Ephesus, reminds us as followers of Christ that we are involved in a spiritual battle and we should not go into battle unprepared. Generally speaking, spiritual conflicts take the form of either temptation or spiritual opposition. When we are tempted to sin, we are to run away or flee (Il Timothy 2:22). When we are confronted with spiritual opposition, we are to stand and fight (James 4:7; Ephesians 6:13-14). Most of us however, are noted for reversing the two. As followers of Christ, we need to recognize our enemy and know what to do. We are to take up the whole armor of God and stand strong in His mighty power!

Pastor Bud Goude

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# Deacon's Devotional

# **FAITH**

Faith is complete trust in God. We have to stand firm in our faith. His word says the righteous will live by faith. (Romans 1:17) We are justified through our faith. (Galatians 2:16) We live by faith, not by sight. (2nd Corinthians 5:7) Faith without deeds is dead. (James 2:17).

We have to have faith in God to receive His blessings.

- F forgiven; our sins are washed away
- A abound; to have more than enough
- I immortal; imperishable, exempt from death
- T trust God
- H hope; to desire something with confident expectations of its fulfillment

Without faith there is no hope.

- H heirs of God and co-heirs of Christ
- O opportunity; favorable circumstances or advantage
- P peace; freedom from strife or discord
- E eternity; fellowship forever with God

In Christ's Love,

Al West

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### Deacon of the Week

8/5—Keith Martin

8/12—Keith Belvin

8/19—Pauline Littell

### **Nursery Workers**

8/5—L. Walton & G. Breeden

8/12 – Alishia Milligan

8/19—Devan & Elyza Willard

8/26—David Crummett 8/26—Shannen Jenkins

# **August Ushers**

Barbara Mangrum Chris Hutson Keith Belvin

Leslie Belvin

# **August Tellers**

Helen Spence Bill Breeden

# Sun. Sch. Nursery

Sharon/Howard Warren



### Older Children's Church

8/5—Paige Belvin

8/12—Jennifer & Lauren Hall

8/19—Madison/ & eth Gandee

8/26—Charlene/ & John West

# Younger Children's Church

8/6—Tracy Williams & Jade Jenkins

8/12—Nancy Dyson & Sonya Anthony

8/19—Denise Gandee/Mallory Wagner

8/26—Laraine Sentz & Rachel Wells



# Women's Get-Away

November 2-3 or 3-4, 2018

# **Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg**

Please get with Pauline LIttell (804-815-8030) if you are interested in going to the Women's Get-Away at Eagle Eyrie scheduled for November 2-3 or 3-4, 2018. Information and sign-up sheet have been posted on the WMU bulletin board in the Narthex.

# WHAT CANCER CANNOT DO

It cannot cripple love.

It cannot shatter hope.

It cannot corrode faith.

It cannot eat away peace.

It cannot destroy confidence.

It cannot kill friendship.

It cannot shut out memories.

It cannot silence courage.

It cannot reduce eternal life.

It cannot quench the Spirit.

It cannot lessen the power of the Resurrection.

Anonymous

Submitted by: Barbara Fryer

# WMU NEWS

GPBC certainly has a heart for missions! This Spring you:

- supported American Heritage Girls' Silent Auction with \$811.00;
- contributed \$1045.00 to PBA Missions;
- donated \$1570.00 to Care Net Peninsula Crisis Intervention Services (filling baby bottled);
- gave supplies to Virginia WMU for it's "Standing Rock Summer Ministries."

### THANK YOU CHURCH!

Continue to "..work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:12-13

WMU will be collecting school supplies for the back to school drive sponsored by Connected Communities and the G.U.E.S.T. Program. Please place donated supplies in the collection box in the Narthex by August 19th. Contact Laraine Sentz at 757-876-3273 if you have any questions.

