



Wade's Newsletter

Could it really be September already? Is time going faster or am I going slower? In August I turned 77 years old. I decided to go back to 75 instead to see if that would improve my energy level. Well, of course it didn't but it was fun joking about it.

We (our pastor, board chairman and myself) have been in touch with The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to see if they would consider sending Will Graham to do ministry in Goshen County, WY (where I live) and Scottsbluff County, NE. This area is predominantly farming and ranching. The first step will be a meeting with area pastors of likeminded faith to discover the level of need and desire for such ministry. We are excited to see how the Lord will lead and ask you to pray for the Lord's clear leading.

Vacation Bible School

I took a week off from doing ministry with the elderly to help with Vacation Bible School. My part was to be Joseph the carpenter and to help the kids with wood crafts. Jennifer Iden, our pastor's wife did a tremendous job organizing and leading the VBS. Below are a few pictures. We had a total of 13 children and 13 adult/teen helpers. It was a great experience for our church.

Wall Hangings Depicting Downtown Nazareth



Joseph's Carpenter Shop, One of the many shops the kids could visit



Parts for Toy Sheep

Completed Toy Sheep



The nursing home and assisted living facilities where I minister have been open to the public during the summer. It has been a welcome relief for everyone to not have to wear masks and be checked for COVID when entering the facility. With the greater freedom and greater visitation by friends and family I have not written the regular devotional letters to the residents during part of July and August. Bible

Studies and visits have continued weekly as normal. As fall approaches it is unknown at this point what new COVID restrictions will be required. During one of our Bible Studies one of the men (Jerry) has been coteaching with me. He was in



an auto accident when about age 20. He has been in an electric wheelchair ever since (30 years) with little use of his left hand and limited use of his right hand.

He was raised by faithful Christian parents and attended church. He has continued faithful in the Christian life. He uses Our Daily Bread devotional to share with the people. I expand a copy on my copier to make it easier for him to hold and read. I plan my

teaching to refer to the points he makes in his presentation and thus we coteach to the group. It provides a blessed opportunity for him to serve the Lord.

One of the great challenges of ministry anywhere is observing the acceptance and the rejection of the Gospel. When people are nearing the end of life, as in nursing homes, the feeling of concern is especially acute. The Apostle Paul described it this way. . .

To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things? 2 Cor 2:16.

You are deeply appreciated. I depend on your prayers to open hearts to the Gospel and to enable me to share that Good News with residents. Some are openly resistant. Others are friendly but passive. Some seem to seek the Lord while still absorbed in self interest and resentments. Others, treasure the Lord and seek His presence daily to aid them in their final days. The nursing home is a microcosm of what the community was in years passed including many different occupations, churches and community leaders.

I find comfort in what the Apostle Paul said, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:29-30.

The following poem might encourage you as it does me.

He Maketh No Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad to know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead,
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break,
I'll pin my faith, my all, in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim,
But come what may,
I'll simply trust and leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift,
And plain it all He'll make,
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

A.M. Overton, 1932

Pastor Overton wrote the above poem while he was listening to another pastor preach the funeral service of his wife and baby who had both died in child birth. He had three other children.

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Thank you for all your special help in this ministry.