



## Encouraging Word from a Shepherd

## Pining for the Old or Planning for the New

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines *Pining* as, "Yearning intensely and persistently, especially for something unattainable." Listening to the current news about COVID, we hear the persistent question, "When are things going to return to normal?". After a year of COVID with its many restrictions and prohibitions, we have even resorted to referring to our lives pre-COVID as the old normal. In light of the current circumstances, the old normal has become something we considered good, something to be cherished, and something that we long for. Listening to enough news about COVID however, might even cause some to conclude that the old normal is something unattainable thus compounding their pining and deepening their despair. While there are certainly some things about the old normal that we as Christians should be missing such as all of us being able to assemble together for worship and praise, Bible study, and fellowship unincumbered by masks, social distancing, and the constant reminders of being present at a super spreader event, I think we should also be looking for and pursuing the opportunities in our current circumstances and planning for what will in many respects be a new normal post-COVID.

Marsha and I recently binge watched the entire first season of *The Chosen*, and while I was struck by several things that broadened by perspective on certain events and passages of scripture, one statement made by Jesus stood out among all the rest, at least for me. Jesus' disciples were challenging him regarding the way much of what he was doing was different and how it was making them uncomfortable and raising the ire of the religious sects. Jesus simply turned to them and said, "Get used to different." Now, you won't find that as a direct quotation from scripture but I think it is an excellent paraphrase of his statements in Matt. 5, where six times he makes statements similar to, "You have heard it said...But I say...". I firmly believe that, "Jesus Christ [the Word] is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Heb. 13:8), and I am neither advocating for nor telling you about radical changes to come. I am simply saying that perhaps some of us are spending too much of our precious time pining for the old normal rather than looking for the opportunities God has placed before us today and preparing ourselves to serve God better in whatever our new normal looks like. "Get used to different", and make the most of it today and every day that God continues to give us breath.

God bless us everyone,

Sid

## Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Leonard Pamplin—David Pamplin's father has been admitted to the hospital with COVID and needs our prayers. His oxygen levels are very low and not doing very well. Please be praying for he, David and all the family. They are still mourning the loss of David's mom.
- ◆ Jean Sims—My 2 year old great granddaughter is in the hospital for tests. She has had a cough for a while. Her brother tested positive for Covid several days ago. Please pray for the medical team and recovery for Miah.
- ◆ Hardy Kail—Was admitted to the hospital after his vascular doctor discovered small blood clots in one leg and in his lungs. It is anticipated he will be in the hospital 1-3 days. Please pray for Hardy, the doctors and nurses while they find the right medication that will dissolve the clots. Also, pray for Cathey during this time.
- ◆ John Long—Continue to pray for John as he is trying to regain some strength back. Also, pray blessings on Shirley as she is walking with him.
- ◆ Ray Bruce—His lymph nodes biopsy is benign. So once again, just 1 tiny tumor. They will get the treatment plan after the doctors take it to the tumor board.
- ◆ Mark Snider—Please continue praying for his recovery from his foot surgery.
- ◆ Andrew Pope—(Friend of the Teague's) No change in his kidney function and is on dialysis. He has had some issues with his heart rate and blood pressure. The doctors are discussing amputation on part of one leg and the other will need further surgery. We would appreciate your prayers on his behalf. God has been showing up in a mighty way with this family and we praise Him for it! May God be glorified.




**AREA-WIDE YOUTH PRAISE**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21ST**  
**6:30-8:00PM**

@ Northwest Church  
of Christ Parking Lot

Don't Forget Your Lawn Chair



### Ladies Class Leader Needed

Elaine Lewis has led the NW Ladies Bible Class for several years and has decided to step down. We really appreciate all the time and effort that she has put into this class. Thank you Elaine!

If you are interested in leading this class on Tuesday mornings, please contact church office or Bob Harris.



**Spring Break Mission Trip**

Join us as we Rise Up together for a short mission trip to Pharr TX for all ages. Family friendly trip with kid friendly projects throughout the trip.  
 Cost: \$30 per person

March  
 6th-10th,  
 2021

REGISTER AT [NWCHURCH.US](http://NWCHURCH.US)  
 BEFORE FEBRUARY 14TH

### New Podcast Available

*NorthWest has a new podcast available! It is called Soda and Stories where we interview a different person from our church family each episode and hear about that person's experiences, tragedies, triumphs, and faith formation. Episodes currently feature Brenda Key, Doug Daye, and Sid Dowell!!*

*To access this podcast, simply go to the podcast icon on your iphone, click on the search option in the bottom left corner, type in Soda and Stories, and the podcast should appear! From there, simply click on the image and click to subscribe or choose your episode. We plan to add more as time goes along and to add this podcast to more platforms such as Spotify in the future. Hope you enjoy the podcast!*

