

# Faith

## Going through transformation

As a previous Christian elementary school teacher, my favorite subjects to teach were the Bible and Science to students. My passion was to make the Bible come to life and use science lessons to illustrate the concepts. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3 and 7 that he could not see the kingdom of God unless he was born again or reborn. That was one of the lessons that was hard for children to understand. I decided to use the life cycle of the butterfly to illustrate the concept to the best of my own understanding from the Word of God. Butterflies lay eggs. From those eggs, a caterpillar is formed. The job of the caterpillar is to eat, rest, and grow. They are only able to move slowly along the ground, crawling to find new leaves to eat. They are selfish creatures. At the appointed time from two to five weeks, God alone really knows, they find a branch, hang upside down, and

form a cocoon around themselves. Inside the cocoon, a transformation begins to take place. During the next 10 to 14 days, the caterpillar's body turns to juice and struggles as it changes in size, shape, color, and forms a new body structure. If this process is disturbed, the butterfly will die. Their new body has wings, antennas, and long legs. The butterfly that emerges dries its wings and then takes flight. They have the ability to see and experience all the beauty God has created. They don't have to eat leaves and crawl along the ground. Now, they move from place to place sipping sweet nectar from flowers and plants. In addition to the fact they are pollinators for our plant life. We undergo a similar transformation to be born again. When we are born from our mother's womb, we have one nature, a sinful one. Our lives consist of eating, sleeping, growing, and thinking mainly about

ourselves and how to survive. We are always looking for ways to fulfill the emptiness we have in our lives. At an appointed time that only God knows, we feel the conviction of God's Holy Spirit letting us know we need to be born again. The Holy Spirit convicts us of that sinful nature, of God's righteousness, and His impending judgement to those who choose not to go through His transformation process (John 16:8). Those who make the decision to repent and be born again receive a new nature. If someone thinks they can change this process by giving lots of money, just attending church, or feeling they are a good person at heart, they will not be reborn. Like the caterpillar, we have to allow the required process (Romans 12:2). Our new spirit, soul, mind, and heart change our wants for a desire to follow Jesus, live for Him and do for others (Ephesians 4:22-25). We then have a new insight into God's Word and His plans (Colossians 3:9-10). We are a new

creation in Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." We have freedom to soar through this life and experience the sweetness of His protection, provision, and peace. Psalm 34:8, "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him." Additionally, born again saved Christians spread the Good News of the Gospel to others along their journey, so they, too, have the opportunity to experience life as beautiful butterflies. Do you want to spend your life like a caterpillar or be transformed and born again as a butterfly? These creatures don't have a choice, but you do. Reading the following verses can provide additional understanding: Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 8:1, 10:9-13, and 1 John 5:13. Denise Barrett serves as a devotional writer, Bible teacher, and Gathering Grace CWM (GGCWM) volunteer.



DENISE BARRETT




DALE DEPOYSTER  
WHY CATHOLIC?

## 144,000 people in the Book of Revelation?

It's a symbolic number, 12 x 12 = 144 x 1,000 = 144,000. 12 is a sacred number, and, in this case, 144,000 denotes a multitude. It refers to the Church, the spiritual Israel. John on the island of Patmos was given the vision of the Liturgy of the Kingdom of God. It consists of the messages to the seven churches given by the seven angels. What do the angels do? They read the words of the Holy One, the Son of God, the first and the last, who walks among the seven golden lamp stands (menorah). The glory of God is shining through precious gems. His throne is the focus of nearly all activity of the book of Revelation. From the throne comes declarations of truth and judgments, and around it stands an entourage of angels and men engaged in worship. Then John saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain (Rev. 5:6-14). This is Jesus Christ, the

Lamb of God and the seven horns and seven eyes revealing His full power and knowledge. Only He can open the scroll from the right hand of God. And when He took the scroll, they all fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense which was the prayers of the saints. The Word of God comes to us the same way at Mass each day. Think about Mass and then read Revelation, and you will see how the early Christians celebrated as we do today! This describes the first half of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word. And when we celebrate, Heaven is celebrating! Jesus, Mary, Saint Joseph!



To satisfy delinquent accounts, the contents of storage units #80, #139, #149, #199, #209, and #213 will be sold on February 14, 2025, at 8:30 AM at EZ Self Storage, 1402 Brandenburg Rd., Leitchfield, KY. Weather permitting. Terms are cash. EZ Self Storage reserves the right to bid. This notice is pursuant to KRS Chapter 359, Section 4. If an account is settled prior to the date of sale, the sale will not be conducted, and no notice of cancellation will be announced.

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www.gatewaybeacon.com

## God is love

Many would say that John 3:16 is the greatest sentence ever written: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." These great words tell of God's love, Christ's sacrifice for us, and of our only hope of salvation. But there is a three-word verse which is greater than John 3:16, and it is 1 John 4:8b. The

verse says, "God is love." Without this verse, there would be no John 3:16, no gift of God's love, no heavenly hope for you and me. Because "God is love," He wants to commune with us, He wants to bless us, He wants the best things for us in time and eternity. And this is the love which made Him give His only begotten Son to die for us — "for God so loved the world that He gave..." "God is love." It is God's nature to give. He

cannot help it. He loves, therefore He gives. It doesn't matter who you are, whether you be the greatest sinner or the greatest saint. If you had been the only lost person in the world, God loved you enough to give His Son for you — God so loved. "God is love." We see this in the manner in which He treats sin. He received and forgave the prodigal son. God's love is so great that He stands ready to forgive when we turn from our sin and turn to Him. "God is love." In Isaiah 63:9, we read that "in all

their affliction He was afflicted." God knows our sorrows and sympathizes with us. "God is love." When we come to the end of the way, God walks with us. Because God loves, we know He is going to give us something better than this world. Yes, God is love. All the way from grace to glory. His love will last throughout eternity. Now in view of this great love, we should surrender our heart and life to Him giving Him all that we are. All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.



GEORGE SMITH  
FOR THE LIVING OF THESE DAYS



NATHAN LOWE  
INJOY

## Facing life's obstacles

For our devotional this week, please take time to read Joshua 1:1-9. As Joshua stepped into the giant-sized shoes of Moses, he faced tremendous challenges! He now had the responsibility of bringing the Israelites into the Promised Land. The responsibility was huge! We are to suppose, by the Lord's repeated commands to "be strong and courageous," that Joshua was probably not feeling up to the task (Josh. 1:6-7; Josh. 1:9). I think, at one time or

another, we have all faced obstacles that seemed insurmountable. The question is, how will we respond? The reality is, all of us react differently when we face major life obstacles. The question is, how will you react? Some people try to push their way around the barriers. Others wallow in hopelessness and give up when struggles come. But, in difficult times, the Lord wants us to trust Him to remove each impediment. We must always remember, any obstacle that stands

between us and God's purpose is subject to God's supernatural power. Most of us would agree that nothing is too difficult for the Lord. When we begin to focus on our fears and worries, our doubts will begin to control our actions. When we begin to focus on our problems, we allow the problems to grow so large that they begin to block our view of almighty God. God knew the difficulty of Joshua's assignment, so He assured him that he would be successful in completing the mission. Both God and Joshua had a responsibility in taking the promised

land. It was God's responsibility to remove every hindrance that stood between the Israelites and the land that He had promised to give them. It was Joshua's responsibility to believe the Lord and carefully obey all His commands. Obstacles are one way God builds and grows our faith. When you become confused with life and cannot see how God could work out your situation, it is then you walk away in defeat and miss His blessing. God wants to teach you His way of obedience, trust, and courage. If you can believe Him, He will always keep His promises.

### CHURCH SERVICES

- PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST**

Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church located off Concord and Duff Road. Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. Worship services start at 11 a.m.
- PLEASANT VALLEY UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pleasant Valley United Baptist Church of Millwood, will have services on the second Saturday at 7 p.m., the following Sunday at 11 a.m., and on the fourth

- Sunday at 11 a.m. Pastor Adam Jenkins. Sunday school every Sunday at 10 a.m. Prayer meeting every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.


**PLEASANT VIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church on Caney Creek Church Road will have services every Sunday. Sunday School at 11 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m. No services on the fifth Sunday. Pastor Bro. J. H. Manion.
- Everyone welcome.

**POTTER'S HOPE MINISTRIES**

Potter's Hope Ministries, 135 Commerce Dr., Leitchfield, 270-287-9117. Pastor Wayne Clemons. www.pottershope.com. Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages; 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service; 6 p.m. Evening Service; Children's Church is for ages 5-12 — nursery provided. Monday:

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## LEGAL NOTICE


**PUBLIC NOTICE**

THE CITY OF LEITCHFIELD, KY will be receiving sealed bids for the sale of surplus real property, of one parcel located at 0 Basham Drive in the City of Leitchfield, KY. A copy of the legal description of the property is available upon request at City Hall, 515 South Main Street, Leitchfield, KY, during regular business hours. There is a minimum amount set and if the bids do not meet that minimum all bids will be rejected.

Sealed bids will be received until 4:00 pm on February 14, 2025, at City Hall, 515 South Main Street, Leitchfield, KY 42754. The sealed bids will be opened at City Hall on Monday February 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm or as soon thereafter as may be practical.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

**Lori Woosley**  
Leitchfield City Clerk



## LEGAL NOTICE

I, Stacie Blain, Clerk of the Grayson Circuit/District Court, hereby give notice that administration has been granted in the Estates named below. All persons having claims against these estates shall present them verified, according to the law to the administrator or executor as named below at the address as shown no later than six (6) months after the date of this publication.

ESTATE OF: Alma D. Bratcher, 1634 Miller Orchard Rd. Caneyville, KY 42721; FIDUCIARY: Scotty Bratcher, 5161 Caney Creek Rd., Caneyville, KY 42721; Amanda Kilgore, 4999 Caney Creek Rd., Caneyville, KY 42721; ATTORNEY: Thomas Goff, 53 Public Square, Leitchfield, KY 42754

ESTATE OF: Roger Andrew Embry, 219 S. Main St., Caneyville, KY 42721; FIDUCIARY: Roger Dale Embry, 101 McCreery Ct., Hartford, KY 42847; Andrea Dawn Mudd, 1121 Pleasant View Rd., Millwood, KY 42762; ATTORNEY: Thomas Goff, 53 Public Square, Leitchfield, KY 42754

ESTATE OF: Wanda Snodgrass, 1129 Indian Ridge Rd., Falls of Rough, KY 40119; FIDUCIARY: Vickie Morris, 1070 Hudson Lane, Calhoun, KY 42327; ATTORNEY: John C. Whitfield, 19 North Main St., Madisonville, KY 42431

ESTATE OF: Levina Jane Lucas, 1898 Brandenburg Rd., Leitchfield, KY 42754; FIDUCIARY: Michael Keith Lucas, 1710 Sunbeam Rd., Leitchfield, KY 42754; ATTORNEY: Darren L. Embry, 62 Public Square, Leitchfield, KY 42754