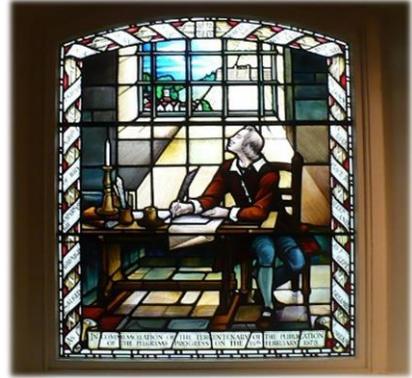


December 5, 2020

Good afternoon, Everybody.

I trust that you're enjoying a blessed day. We have so much to be thankful for; *all the time!* But this season of the year reminds us to count our blessings in order to *see what God hath done*. When we do, we're generally overwhelmed with feelings of how gracious and generous the Lord has been. For those who you who are 70 and older, Psalm 71 is a wonderful template for reviewing the Lord's mercies to you from your youth on up to the present. The heading in the NASB says, *Prayer of an Old Man for Deliverance*. I think that you'll find the psalm to be a great encouragement to your soul, regardless of your age or condition right now.



I'm writing this afternoon in order to let you know that I have the CORONA virus. Thursday there was a dull headache, which became more pronounced on Friday. Friday afternoon I began to feel feverish, and then had a temperature last night of 101.9. This morning I went to an AFC Urgent Care for a rapid test result, and the doctor confirmed my having the virus.

It's good to be able to say that so far the headache and the fever, along with some sinus congestion, are the only symptoms. I know that you folks will faithfully pray for me. But Linda and I are concerned mainly for my mother, who turned 88 just two weeks ago. We'd appreciate your prayers that the Lord might protect her. Thankfully, I can quarantine here in my study and stay at a distance from her and Linda.

But this means that there will be some special speakers in our services for the next two weeks.

All of our pastors are willing to help in any way necessary, and during the next two weeks each of them will probably be bringing at least one message. And we have others in our assembly who are ready to meet the need as well, and men outside our church who would be glad to help.

So for tomorrow, one of our missionary deputees, David Minnick, will take the morning service. He'll give a brief update on his family's deputation, and then

preach the morning message. Tomorrow night, Pastor Vincent will preach and oversee the Lord's Table. These men are graciously filling in with very short notice, so please uphold them in prayer.

We have others in our church who are struggling with the virus. Esther Neal, one of our secretaries, and Jerry and Yvonne Farnsworth, are the latest that I know about. John Rodgers is improving somewhat, but still has a long ways to go in gathering strength and being able to breathe on his own. He's not yet able to sit up due to shortness of breath. And too, he's recovering from surgery to his leg and battling with a stubborn infection. Both he and Mary are very appreciative of your ongoing prayers and support. Wayne Camfield has improved remarkably. He was down to such a low level of oxygen support this morning that they may soon be able to begin therapy in preparation for him to be able to return home. The weekly prayer sheet lists others in our church who are ill as well. Please do use the prayer request sheet to stay alert to their needs and to intercede on their behalf. Remember Samuel's perspective on not persevering in prayer:

Far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you. . . (1 Samuel 12:23).

Often prayer **does** decide the outcome of things. Why? Because it is God's pleasure that it does (smile). Just as it is His pleasure that hard work, frugality, contentment with such things as we already have, and generosity with the poor are factors that determine whether or not our own needs will be met. God uses means, whether they be the work of our hands or the prayers of our hearts.

May the Lord richly bless you tomorrow. I'm so thankful for the livestreaming capability that the church has, and for those up in the A/V room who are providing for its use. Our family will be watching tomorrow and entering in with you here in our home. We look forward to a really enriching time.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick