



## Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, May 9, 2021

Office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00am-3:00pm.

Contact info: [office@greenbankcoc.org](mailto:office@greenbankcoc.org) or 302-994-3800

### One Life Becomes Many by Mark Finn

THE CROSS is not a place you go to enthusiastically. Jesus didn't. He sought another way. He wrestled with it in the Garden of Gethsemane. But he loved and trusted his heavenly Father. And he especially loved us, and so he was willing to go. A sacrifice isn't just offhandedly throwing something away. It is the giving up of something precious, valued, in order to bring about a much greater good.

If all you've even known has been ease and a charmed life, the cross won't make a lot of sense. But if you've suffered, really suffered, or through a compassionate heart felt the suffering of someone else, maybe someone very close to you – the cross makes sense. It even draws you to it. Here is God, not observing our sufferings, but *in* our sufferings. No matter what we've gone through or will go through, we can confidently say, "Dear Lord, you know what it's like. You've been there. You understand." You're right; he does.

While Jesus' disciples were whistling along, clueless about the salvation of the world, Jesus knew fully what was ahead. With the enormity of this task looming before him, he once more tried to get through to them, saying, "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12:24).

There is a principle here that for new life to come, something must die. When that happens, it is not a negation but a multiplication. The cross was planted, and from Christ giving up his life, came many seeds. To this day we are seeing the results. In calling us to take up our cross, he extended this principle to all of us. We don't die on a wooden cross, but we must die to an old selfish way of living, an old way of being self-centered rather than God centered and others centered. A part of us dies, so that Christ can live in us. Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ." When that happens, blessings multiply and in Jesus' words, "produce many seeds." Your life wasn't meant to add up to just one, but many.

If Satan can just keep us plugged into ourselves, becoming a self-referential loop focused on our own preferences, comforts, complaints, and gripes, he's won. But if we plug into this cross, into this Christ-focus that leads us to serve others – our life produces many seeds. It branches out, blesses, unburdens – and as Christ gets our focus off ourselves – of all things – we find deep joy. This is what Jesus means when he said, "If you lose your life, you will find it."

### *Prayer Requests*

**Shuleika Reyes:** baptized on Thursday evening; We rejoice in the adding of her soul to the Lord's kingdom, and we pray for her as she continues to grow in faith.

**Paul King:** pray for his ongoing health concerns.

**Sharon Rood:** had a stroke last week; she is Wilma Blue's sister.

**Deborah Diaz:** her Covid-19 has developed into pneumonia and she has been admitted to the hospital.

**Gracie Arrowood:** 3 month old with a rare disease; she is at A.I. duPont Hospital for Children.

**Shirley Grapes:** undergoing treatment for cancer.

**Joseph Vishal:** pray for his family as they go through a difficult time.

**Shala & Jeff Clark, Jr:** pray for healthy pregnancy and birth of a son due in August.

**Mike Dudas & his sister, Susie:** Susie's children, ages 7 & 9, drowned in a pool in Florida.

**Mozambique:** pray that God will send just the right person to teach the mission team's children.

**Greenbank church:** Godly guidance for our elders & minister as they lead our congregation.

**Pray for unity in our country and for our leaders to seek God's wisdom and guidance.**

If you have an item for prayer or praise, please email it to [office@greenbankcoc.org](mailto:office@greenbankcoc.org) for inclusion in our weekly list. To view previous prayer requests and those on our ongoing lists, please visit the Weekly Bulletins page on our website [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org).

## ***Congratulations!***

Brent Tucker has graduated at the top of his class at Lipscomb University with a PharmD (Doctorate in Pharmacy). He has accepted a residency at St. Luke's Hospital in the Baylor Medical Center and will move to Houston in June. Well done, Dr. Tucker!

## ***Announcements and Upcoming Events***

### **Ladies & Young Girls Classes**

All ladies are invited, and encouraged, to join us for the final class of our current study. We will meet online at 11:00am on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have not previously attended the class, register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0845AFAE2EA6FB6-ladies> and Crystal will send you the link to connect on Zoom. We would love to have an outstanding number of ladies join us!

### **2021 Baby Bottle Benefit**

Please consider donating to A Door of Hope Pregnancy Center. This organization ministers to expectant mothers who may be at risk for abortion. An easy way to donate is by clicking on this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Greenbank-Church-of-Christ>. This is a private and secure page. If you prefer to use a check or money order, make it out to Greenbank Church of Christ, put "BBB" in the memo, and mail it to the church. We encourage you to do what you can to give to this Christian ministry.

### **Building Security**

There will be a security meeting on Saturday, May 22 at 9am for about an hour. There are several topics to discuss that include identifying potential security issues, reviewing new lock quotes, beginning to write the security plan, and more. If you are interested in serving on this committee, plan to attend this meeting.

## ***Join Us for Worship***

**Sunday Mornings 9:00 a.m. Spanish service English service @ 10:30 a.m.**

- 1) **Facebook Live:** <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>
- 2) **Greenbank Website:** [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org) Click on the Facebook Live tab on the menu bar at the top of the page. PLEASE NOTE: You do NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the live feed through our website.
- 3) **Phone In:** If you do not have internet access, you can dial in on your phone to connect.  
(301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

## ***Bible Study ONLINE***

**Wednesdays @ 7PM:** Facebook Live <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>

**Ladies & Young Ladies Classes:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Online using the Zoom platform. Register for class here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0845AFAE2EA6FB6-ladies>  
Our book is Honorable and Dishonorable Women of the Bible by Crystal Reyes available on Amazon Kindle.

## ***3 Ways to Give***

**We appreciate those who have been able to maintain regular giving.**

- 1) **In Person:** You may give your contribution during our Sunday morning worship service, or drop it off at the office on Monday or Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **By Mail:** Send your contribution to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.
- 3) **Online:** PayPal has been set up on our website [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org). Click on the "Donate" button and follow the instructions. (Note: there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)

**Last Week's Contribution: \$6,134 Weekly Average: \$4,758**