



# COVENANT LIFE

MINISTERIAL ORGANIZATION

newsletter

## Faith over Fear: Trust in the Lord Pastor Gordon Peterson

I read a quote the other day that is so true: **“The only thing that has spread faster than the Coronavirus itself is the FEAR raging around it.”** Although this is a serious medical situation, it has caused widespread panic and alarm like we have never seen before.

Here in the United States, schools and universities have suspended classes, non-essential workers have been asked to stay home from work, streets and airports are like ghost towns. The stock market has been going up and down.

Even though we are going through this difficult time, we can know that we serve a God who has promised to **“never leave us or forsake us”** (Hebrews 13:5). Before He left this earth, Jesus said **“He would be with us always”** (Matthew 28:20), Hebrews 13:6 says, **“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear”**, and Jesus called Himself the **“Good Shepherd”** in John 10:11-17.

Jesus loves us and **Psalms 23:1 reads, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”** The shepherd had a relationship with his sheep and knew them by name; he led them out of the sheep pen. In the same way, Jesus knows us. He knows what we are going through at this time of crisis. The shepherd goes before the sheep and they follow him because they know his voice. Are you listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd? He is going before us, leading us. As we have faith and we depend on our Good Shepherd, we can know that He will take care of us.

**Verse 2 tells us** that **“He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.”** The “green” pastures are the new, tender grass. Sheep graze all day long, and they can’t digest all the grass they graze on until they lie down. They don’t have the good sense to do it on their own, so they have to be **made** to lie down. God knows what we need and, as our “Good Shepherd”, He leads

us and sometimes, “makes” us lie down in green pastures. One of the blessings of this crisis is that families have more time together. They are eating and praying together.

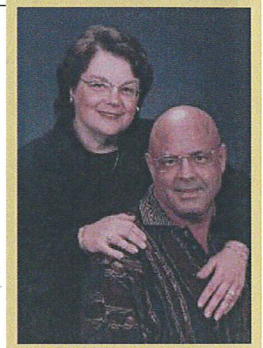
Sheep have an instinctive fear of moving waters. Their wool is heavy and if they fell into the water, they would likely drown, so the shepherd piles up rocks to make a still pool where they can get water to drink. In the same way, Jesus has made a safe place for us. He will provide the green pastures and still waters we need. We don’t need to fear ... He is preparing safe places for us.

**Verse 3 says, “He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”** How often do we stand in the crossroads ... which is the right path? Do our actions glorify God? We can know that He is leading us and directing our paths. America needs to be restored ... and only the Good Shepherd can do that.

**In verse 4 we read, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and staff, they comfort me.”** Even though we are in the midst of a crisis, we don’t have to fear anything, because we know that He is with us. His rod will guide us and his staff will correct us when we need it. We are comforted by the fact that He loves us and He is with us.

**Verse 5 tells us, “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.”** What a comfort it is to know that He has prepared a table for us ... our heads are anointed ... and our cup runs over. This is a beautiful, descriptive verse of the Christian life ... abundance ... joy unspeakable ... peace that passes human understanding!

(continued on next page)



Pastors Gordon & Nancy Peterson



## Pastors Joe and Judy Fornara visit several CLMO churches!



**January 25<sup>th</sup>, Pastors Joe and Judy Fornara & Pastors Gordon and Nancy Peterson hosted a breakfast for Senior Pastors and Heads of Ministries in the Minneapolis - St. Paul area.** Many of the those who attended said that it was one of the best CLMO events that we have ever had! There was a discussion of the victories and challenges that the pastors had experienced during 2019, and afterwards, we prayed for victories and success in 2020.

**February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Pastors Joe and Judy flew to Frederick, Maryland, to visit with CLMO members and pastors, Viktor & Tatayna Prikozchekov.** Pastors

Joe and Judy have known these dear pastors for many years, so it was an excellent opportunity to renew their friendship and see what God is doing in Maryland. Pastor Joe taught a financial seminar entitled, "Christian Money Management" and Pastor Judy ministered on the Life of Samuel. They prayed and prophesied over those present.

In that most of their congregation is Russian, Pastor Judy requested that to have Borscht soup for one of their meals, and the Prikozchekovs were happy to oblige. Pastor Judy commented that the soup and other Russian foods were delicious!



**March 13 and 14, Pastors Joe and Judy braved a snowstorm to visit Pastor Bill Sites and his wife, Charleen, who started a new work, Journey Church, with many "seasoned" believers in Sioux Falls, SD.** Pastors Joe and Judy encouraged the pastors and did a great job of feeding the sheep. Even though the weather was severe in Sioux Falls, the congregation and pastors had a very profitable time. They arrived home in Minneapolis in time to minister at Spiritual Life Church at the Sunday services.



**March 16, Pastors Joe and Judy drove to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to meet with Pastors Steve and Nancy Brown who have pastored Oasis**

**Church in Tomah, Wisconsin for the past 12 years.** The Browns graduated from Spiritual Life Bible College in 1993, joined CLMO in the same year, and have been teaching the Bible wherever the Lord has led them since their graduation 27 years ago.

Shortly after graduating, the Brown's went to Albania as missionaries. The Lord has used them in many places, and in each place, they have been faithful to open up schools and teach the Word. The students that have graduated from SLBC - Tomah, are very active in Oasis Church and many are members of CLMO. Now the Brown's are planning to open up Spiritual Life Seminary in Tomah.

Pastors Steve and Nancy enjoyed their visit with Pastors Joe and Judy. *"We had a wonderful evening with our Pastors; they are the best thing that ever happened to us! We will always be forever grateful for their Love and support in the work of God's Kingdom."*

*Pastors Steve and Nancy Brown, Tomah, Wisconsin.*



### Continued from article on page 1:

**Verse 6 states,** *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* The result of Jesus being our Good Shepherd is that goodness and mercy will be with us all the days of our lives! What a blessing! With that knowledge ... we have no reason, at all, to fear anything!

None of us knows when this Covid 19 Crisis will end, but we know who holds us and we can choose to live a life of faith, not fear; faith in a God who cares for us, loves us and is our Good Shepherd! As Christians, we can be a bold testimony for the Gospel as we refuse to cave into the hysteria, panic and fear! Look for opportunities to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ ... Faith not Fear!



## Save the Date for our next C.L.M.O. Breakfast June 13, 2020!

### Apostle Alidor Mvuala - Breakfast - Saturday, June 13th!

CLMO is pleased to announce that one of our favorite speakers, Apostle Alidor Mvuala, will be our guest speaker at the next CLMO Breakfast and meeting, Saturday, June 13th. A healthy breakfast will be served at 9:00, worship will begin at 9:45, followed by a stirring teaching by Apostle Alidor.

Apostle Alidor Mvuala is the author of a book, "Transfer of Legacy". He is a sought-after speaker and minister all over Europe as well as various countries in Africa. Apostle Alidor will share an Apostolic Word that will motivate, encourage and stir us up in our personal life and ministry.

This breakfast/meeting was originally planned for May, but due to the Covid-19 C Crisis limitations the world has been experiencing, it has been re-scheduled for June 13th. Please join us in prayer that we will be able to have this meeting as scheduled. We will notify you of any changes should they become necessary.

Many people have commented that they miss our CLMO gatherings, and the Koinonia fellowship that is shared at these meetings. We will keep you informed as we have more information.



*Apostle Alidor Mvuala*

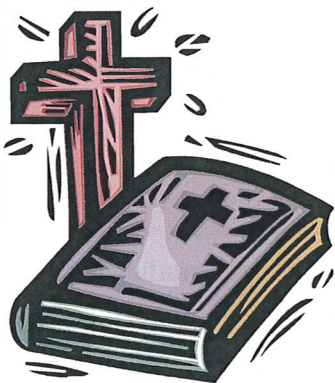
## 2nd Quarter Chaplains' Meeting to be held Friday, May 29th

### SAVE THE DATE!

### JOIN US FOR THE 2nd QUARTER CHAPLAINS' MEETING

**FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020 - 7:00 pm**

(Please note change of date)



Join us for a presentation on **GRIEF** and how we can minister to those who are grieving!

*"...weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."- Psalm 30:5*

At our January 17th Chaplains' Meeting it was suggested that, at future meetings we would have Scriptural presentations on various subjects of interest to Chaplains/ministers so that as we minister to people, we would be armed with more information and understanding to help them.

We are going to "kick off" this new meeting format on Friday, May 29th meeting with the subject of "**GRIEF**". Chaplain Wanda Walker is a grief counselor as well as the facilitator for Life after Loss (LAL), a widows' grief support group that meets once a month at Spiritual Life Church.

Chaplain Wanda will present an overview about grief and how to help someone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. She has been used greatly by the Lord to minister to many people going through the process of grief.

Everyone is invited to attend! You don't have to be a CLMO Chaplain to attend. We welcome everyone!

Due to the restrictions placed on us by the limitations pertaining to the Covid-19 Virus, we have changed the date for the 2nd Quarter Meeting to Friday, May 29th.

*"A chaplain's biggest gift is to be present, listen, and pray."*



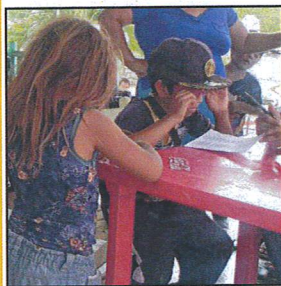
## Report of Missions Trip to Mayan Indians in Tizimin, Mexico

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020; I was blessed to be able to go on a 7-day mission trip with Pastor Randy Gerold and his team to the city of Tizimin, in the Yucatan, Mexico.

We partnered with DCI missions. Direct Christian Impact which is a faith-based organization that mobilizes Christian mission teams throughout the year, bringing aid to people who need it the most.

We arrived late in the evening and first thing the next morning, DCI gave us our daily assignments. We were involved in many projects, including community aid projects. We ministered to Mayan children at the Magdalena's childrens' site, which is a day program for children to play, do various activities and learn about Jesus. We were involved in feeding programs where we went to villages and distributed bags of food. Although the bags of food were enough for maybe only one small meal, the people were so thankful and were open to the Gospel and to prayer.

There were park outreaches and eye glass clinics too. We brought reader glasses of different strengths for families that cannot afford glasses or do not have access to an eye doctor. What a blessing to see the looks on their faces when they were finally able to read the tracts we gave them about the Lord. After many of the women received the glasses, they could now start sewing and embroidering again, which for most households, is how they make a living. Many were touched and received salvation.



*Child trying out reader glasses*

The team was able to minister at three different churches, and after one of the services, the people went and brought the mayor of the city and his family to receive prayer. We also participated in a Mayan womens' conference, where some of the women rode on buses for over four hours just to be able to attend, fellowship and hear the Gospel from other women.

The people in Tizimin still live and follow the Mayan traditions of their ancestors. They don't have a lot of resources for jobs or food, but they are very loving and caring people. I was so blessed to be able to serve them and share with them the Good News of Jesus. I'm excited and looking forward to going again later this year as the Lord leads.

*Rev. Vicki James, CLMO Licensed Minister & Chaplain*

*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15*



*Rev. Vicki James*



*Revs Randy and Vicki ministering to Mayans*

## Front Line Nurse Praises Jesus!



*Marcus, Jeanette, with Pastors Joe and Judy*

Meet CLMO member, Jeanette Rupert. Jeanette is a wife and mother of 4 children and works full time as a RN at a local hospital. She and her husband, Marcus, assist with the Youth Department at Spiritual Life Church.

In her dealings in the Covid Ward, Jeanette said, "I can literally feel God's protection. In crisis situations, where people are tanking really fast, He is giving me wisdom on what to do. There is no textbook for this. We are flying by the seat of our pants. One of my fellow nurses asked me why I am not freaking out like other nurses ... I told her it's because of prayer. Thank you all for praying and thank you Lord for Your protection."

"God has called me to this Covid Crisis, reminding me that I am a minister of Nursing. My mom mentioned to me last night, right when I was about to start my shift, 'What better person to put on the front lines than a believer?'"

Please pray for our front-line medical workers, first responders, farmers, truckers, store workers and others who are on the front lines of the supply system.



*Jeanette in her PPE*