

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Ring in the New Year!

Have you made a resolution for 2023?

Consider the poem by Howard Thurman



After Christmas

a poem by Howard Thurman

“When the song of the angels is
stilled, when the star in the sky is
gone,
when the kings and princes are
home,
when the shepherds are back with
their flocks, the work of Christmas
begins: to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people, to
make music in the heart.”

Quotes to think about:

By Coco Chanel...

“ I am no longer what I was. I will
remain what I have become.”

By Robert Frost...

“ In three words, I can sum up
everything I’ve learned about life:
it goes on.”

By Martin Luther King, Jr...

“Faith is taking the first step even
when you don’t see the whole
staircase.”

Report from Lori in Nepal

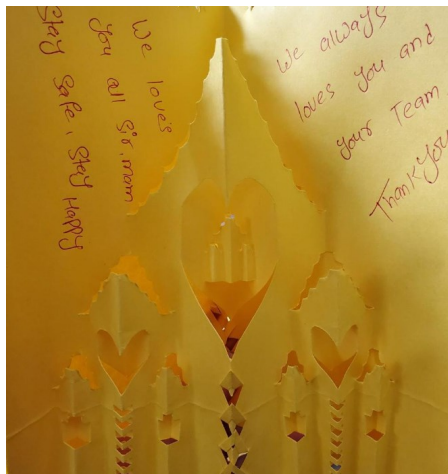


Lori has been sending pictures and comments to David since she arrived in Nepal. Thought I would share with the congregation.

“Today we visited a school on a very remote mountaintop. It took 2 hours in a jeep going 10 mph on a road I can’t even describe. Let me just say we got a flat tire. The children have many hardships. We met with the teachers and they shared the challenges they face. The support from New Community Project provided scholarship for 30 students. I have much to share when I



get back. Peace Lori



“David, yesterday (Friday) we visited a rescue shelter for young girls ages 12-20. They presented a homemade card to each of us” (pictured to the left and lower left)

“We also visited a local woman who lived in the shelter years ago but now raises pigs for income.”



Lori did let David know that neither she nor any of her team were involved in the plane crash that was on the Nepal news this past weekend.

...from David's Desk

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I've heard it said that "missions begin at home; and, there is a great deal of truth in that saying. The church's efforts to relieve suffering in a foreign country would mean little if we ignore the needs that exist across the street or in our own "backyard".

At the same time, while Christian missions may begin at home, Christian missions can not end there. Christ Himself has sent His church out into all the world. In the closing verses of the Gospel According To Matthew, Jesus gave to his disciples "the Great Commission": "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age'."

Part of what Jesus has taught His church, and then calls us to teach others, is Jesus' command to us: "to love our neighbors, even as we

love ourselves". In this part of the Great Commandment the church has always heard Christ's command to relieve the suffering of our neighbor, both near and far, both "at home", but also "in lands far away", indeed throughout the whole world.

Some of us respond to Jesus' command by volunteering in "Soup Kitchens" and "food pantries" that serve our neighborhoods. Others of us may board a plane and fly halfway around the world, like Lori, to help young women escape the curse of "human trafficking". The Christian mission to relieve human suffering has its work to do both at home and throughout the world. Through prayer may each of us seek and hear and answer Christ's calling to us to be the means of God's grace to our neighbor both near and far.

May God bless and keep you.

Your friend and servant in Christ,

David



Fellowship Pancake Breakfast

Sunday February 5, 2023 ~ 10 am

(no Sunday School this Sunday)