

Making Disciples Aflame for Christ

OCTOBER 2024

"...the hope laid up for you in heaven..." (Colossians 1:5)

Charles Spurgeon once wrote: Our hope *in Christ* for the future is the mainspring and the mainstay of our joy down here today. Our hearts will be stirred by thinking often of heaven, for all that we can desire is promised there. Here we are tired and weary, but over there is the land of rest... Through the Spirit of God the hope of heaven is a most powerful force... Those who have this hope IN them go about their work with vigor, for the Joy of the Lord is their strength...

The Summer of 2024 has been filled with much labor that oftentimes has left us tired and weary – but the Light and Hope of Christ IN us has enabled us to labor with vigor; and the joy of the Lord's presence has truly been our strength.



LightHouse of Hope
Ministries

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Tressa's mom (90) and Norman (85) on June 12th.

On June 12th, we took Tressa's mom to visit her brother, Norman. You all know him as Tressa's "Uncle Norman". It was a wonderful visit. Norman (fondly known to most as "Norm") had been recovering extremely well after his great battle with Leukemia in 2023. Yes, he was weaker but he was walking with a cane and even driving!

Unfortunately, the very next day after our visit, Norman became extremely ill. For weeks, he had no strength to get out of bed and no appetite. We arranged for Caregivers to come to the house as he lives 40 miles away from us. After two hospital stays, we received the diagnosis. Something had attacked his heart – whether it be viral or the oral chemotherapy he was taking, Norman was in Stage IV Heart Failure and now required skilled 24-hour care.

On July 30th, Norman entered Hospice care and entered Maplewood Nursing Home – thankfully, just 10 minutes from our home which enabled us to visit him every day and care for his physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

As happened everywhere with "Norm", the staff fell in love with him. Even in the midst of his suffering, he called them "family". Our daily visits to Norman became precious times as he would relay stories of his life as an award winning journalist and novelist. He was a man of many interests and took great interest in people. He was gifted to relay stories through the written word.

Norman and Ray became quite close. Norman would ask Ray to give him lessons from the Bible. He requested daily Scriptures (as he was too weak to read the Bible for himself). On August 15th, Norman called upon the Lord to save him – entrusting his future hope in the death, burial and resurrection of God's only way of salvation – the Lord Jesus Christ...and Norman kept wanting to hear more from the Bible.



Norman never regained his appetite and lost over 30 pounds in 3 months. Unfortunately, our area experienced a vast Covid outbreak, and Norman became ill. On Sunday, September 29th, God called Norman home to heaven. **Our Lord Jesus Christ truly is the Great Hope of Heaven.** God promises in His Word that those who have placed their faith in Christ – like Norman did – will live in Christ's wondrous presence in heaven to love, worship and adore Him forever. In heaven, we will sin against God no more and live in a place that has no sin, sickness, sorrow, or death.

Dear Ones, Life is hastening quickly away! Eternity is at the door! Are you living for eternity? Are you living to love and serve Christ with a whole heart? Do you seek God's glory in all things? Are you sharing God's Good News of Salvation in Christ with souls in need of Great Hope? Norman was in good health on June 12th. On June 13th everything changed! And, by God's grace, on September 29th, he became absent from his body and present with the Lord!

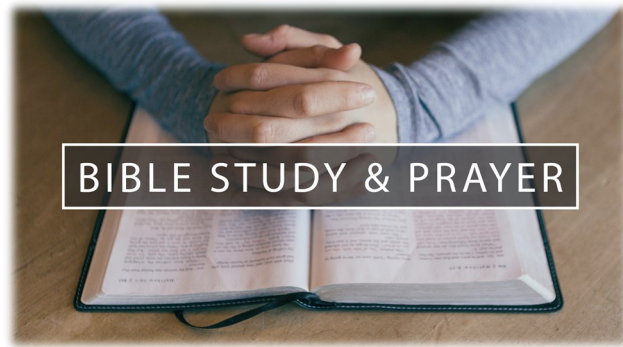
Yes, this summer has been very wearying, but the nearness of God has been our strength. **God truly is our Refuge and Strength, a very present Help in trouble.**

We love and thank you for your many prayers for Uncle Norman and for us. We also thank those who responded to our Ministry need for Office Supplies and Cartridges. God has provided through your gracious gifts!

We treasure each one of you.

Ray, Tressa and Gwen





NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE WEEKLY STUDIES, PLEASE CONTACT US!

WEEKLY GROUP STUDIES/MEETINGS INCLUDE:

- ⇒ **10:30 AM TUESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY** currently in the book of **REVELATION** taught ONLINE by Tressa via Zoom
- ⇒ **7:00 PM TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING** led by Ray ONLINE via Zoom
- ⇒ **10:30 AM WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES STUDY -- Attitudes of a Transformed Heart.** Utilizing Martha Peace's book, this study is about being transformed by the renewing of our mind and of not being conformed to this world. Our heart is who we are on the inside. Through the study of the Scriptures, this study will challenge our thinking and help us to honor and glorify God by how we think and live. Taught in person by Gwen.
- ⇒ **10:00 AM THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY** currently in the book of **REVELATION TAUGHT IN PERSON** by Tressa at Simpson Creek Baptist Church in Bridgeport. All women are invited (not just members of Simpson Creek).
- ⇒ **7:00 PM THURSDAY NIGHT LADIES BIBLE STUDY** currently in the book of **REVELATION** taught ONLINE by Tressa via Zoom
- ⇒ **7:00 PM THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** currently in **HEBREWS** taught ONLINE by Ray via Zoom
- ⇒ **9:30 AM FRIDAY MORNING LADIES STUDY Attitudes of a Transformed Heart** (see above for more detail). Taught ONLINE by Gwen via Zoom

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Visit us at: www.TheLightHouseofHope.net Or E-mail us at: TShaw@thelighthouseofhope.net or GCornman@thelighthouseofhope.net



A Flame
for Christ

Making Disciples Aflame for Christ filled with His Light and Hope.

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