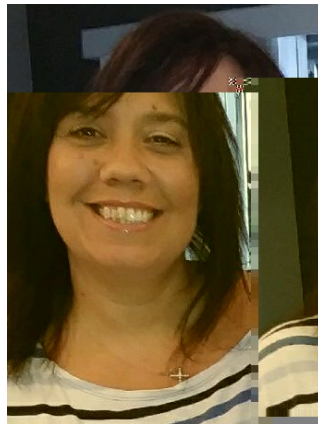


GETTING TO KNOW YOU



WHO'S THE GOAL?

By Elder Nicole Freeman

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ. Colossians 2:2

When we think about it, we all have goals in life; some we talk about, others we just think about because they seem to unrealistic to even come out of our mouth. But, it's easy on a Sunday morning at church, when the pastors on the altar ask us "who is the goal", and of course all of us good Christians say, "Christ". But, what does that mean? How do we get Him and how do we attain the

goal?

For instance, if my goal was losing weight; I couldn't just say a prayer and wake up skinny. It would take some application, having a plan. Figuring out what I'm going to eat and what exercises I will be doing. Eventually if we follow it, we will reach our goal.

But what do we do when Christ is the goal? We have been encouraged to find Him and to love Him back. I love that we were encouraged not to seek Him for problems and answers but in the purest form, with no motive, "I just want to be with You Lord". I don't know about you but truth speaks from the inside of me and when I pondered that thought it caused me to see the relationship different, not me going to get something but realizing that because of Him I have everything I need to live this life.

It doesn't mean that life will always go the way we want but it's being able to see Christ no matter what happens. We have this hope as an anchor for our soul, firm and secure. This year we have had a greater understanding of a righteousness that is not of my own. Our righteousness is Christ and that's what spending time with Him does, it gives us our identity that is only found in Him.

The word of God is powerful; it causes me to love, to forgive and to change the very person I thought I was. Spending time in the word is no different than me saying spending time with the Christ or truth of faith or love. It opens our eyes to the Christ in us and all around us.

Nothing is outside of Him; which is why I need to stay connected to the source because all my answers flow from Him. But if I think I have to do something to attain this goal, I missed it.

I thought of the verse in Romans 9:31-33, But the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as it were by

works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. This is me every time I think I have to earn Christ, through any effort that includes self.

The law showed us our need for a savior but was not able to change our heart, only Christ can change us, and when He doesn't work the way I think He should, we try to control the situation and in our efforts to help and we end up going against Christ. Then, like the diet, we want the rules and regulations and the program to follow Him. What I've learned is that there's no heart in rules. Christ died to have a relationship with us and us with each other. What we desire from each other is the mystery Christ in you, the hope of Glory.

WAITING



HELLO FROM HELEN

Hello Family,

I hope you are all doing well.

We have not been together as much as we usually are but we still have that close family bond.

We are still having Sunday mornings Church Service. You can always find it on You Tube if you are unable to attend in person. Of course it's always better in person but isn't it amazing how we can always be together in one form or another. I'll tell you, God is always at work and He is good all the time.

Wednesday night bible study with Pastor Michael is always fun and we learn so much. Pastor Michael always makes you feel wonderful while at the same time, he teaches us with a whole new perspective then we ever could have imagined. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for now.

You have to feel great on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.

We are so blessed to be in each other's life's and I am grateful for each and everyone of you.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Coming soon to the "**Victory Garden**"
our new "**Prayer Gazebo**"

As you probably already know by now, we are getting a makeover on the outside. We are getting a "**Prayer Gazebo**" and all types of beautiful landscaping surrounding it. We have met our goal and I want to say "**thank you**" to everyone. I for one can't wait. I am imagining weddings, parties and just quiet times with God. What a blessing this will be.

I hope and pray that we all have a safe and wonderful August!

With God's Blessings,
Deacon Helen J. Caliendo

