

MAY the Mind of Christ my Savior

1 message

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Let this mind be in you
which was also in Christ Jesus."

—Philippians 2:5

The Christian faith is a happy faith and a hopeful faith. We have hope in this life and in our relationship with the Lord, and we have hope for the afterlife. But this doesn't mean that Christians are happy all the time or that we should walk around wearing fake smiles.

After all, Christians have moments of sadness, too. Christians even grapple with depression and other difficulties that everyone else deals with. We have hard times and setbacks, even if we are God's children.

Being a Christian doesn't mean that we'll be exempt from facing a tragedy or a hardship. But what it does mean is that in the midst of our difficulties, we can experience happiness. It comes down to something the apostle Paul frequently referred to when he was writing to the believers in Philippi.

There are 16 references to the mind in Philippians, which tells us that the secret of Christian happiness is found in the way that we think, not in the way that we feel. So if we want to be happy, then we need to think properly.

Paul filled his heart and his mind with Jesus Christ. And why is that important? Because the way we think will affect how we live. For instance, we will walk in the direction that we're looking. That's why it's hard to look over your shoulder and keep walking forward.

In the same way, when we're looking to the Lord, we will walk in His direction. Every action starts with a thought. And what we think is what we'll do.



LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

Learn to do good, seek justice, and
encourage the oppressed.

Many churches have not heard about The FREE INITIATIVE that the Evangelical Covenant Church launched in the spring of 2021. Some churches have heard of the FREE INITIATIVE but not what it is.

FREE IS AN ANTI-SEX TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH.

There are 4 pillars of FREE that the ECC is asking of its churches.

- **PRAY**-For the transformation of lives, social, and judicial systems in our unjust & violent world.
- **LEARN**-The extent, causes, & prevention of human trafficking. To gain an understanding to move us into action to break the cycles of trafficking.
- **GIVE**-To support our partners in the prevention, intervention and rehabilitation of trafficked children & adults.
- **ACT**-Advocate with & for survivors to our churches, organizations and circles of influence.

FREE is partnering with ten organizations, both global and domestic, who are already transforming lives. FREE'S financial goals are by 2024 to raise \$1,000,000 to support our partners. \$300,000 For rescue operations. Due to the needed expertise and risks, very few organizations engage in rescues. The average cost of a rescue is \$6,000. The \$300,000 will support the freedom for 50 survivors. \$300,000 For prevention. A universal truth in all recoveries and prevention is education. It transforms a person from being vulnerable to self sufficiency. \$400,000 For restoration. The spiritual, psychological and emotional restoration of a survivor is time consuming and costly.

The 10 partners of the FREE INITIATIVE of the ECC are:

1. AMIRAH located in Boston, Massachusetts
2. THISTLE FARMS their headquarters is in Nashville, Tennessee. They also have 92 sister organizations in 32 states, plus facilities in Canada, Belize, & New Zealand.
3. RECLAIM13 located in Chicago IL.
4. NAOMI'S HOUSE located in Chicago IL.
5. PRICELESS Alaska based in Anchorage Alaska (Mentorship recovery program)
6. NEW DAY FOR CHILDREN based in Alamo CA.
7. HINDUSTANI COVENANT CHURCH India
8. EL POZO DE VIDA based in Mexico (engages in rescues & restoration of survivors)
9. FREELY IN HOPE based in Zambia & Kenya (education program with scholarships)
10. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION based in Washington D.C.but works globally. (IJM engages in rescues & restoration of survivors)

FREE partners are engaged in holistic and transformative work of anti-sex trafficking through prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation that seeks to support survivors and break the supply and demand cycle.

PRAY, LEARN, GIVE, AND ACT, SO THAT TOGETHER ALL MAY BE FREE
learn more about FREE at covchurch.org/free

(Contact Jennie & Terry Silverberg to speak about human trafficking and the FREE INITIATIVE at your church. email triplek9@msn.com)

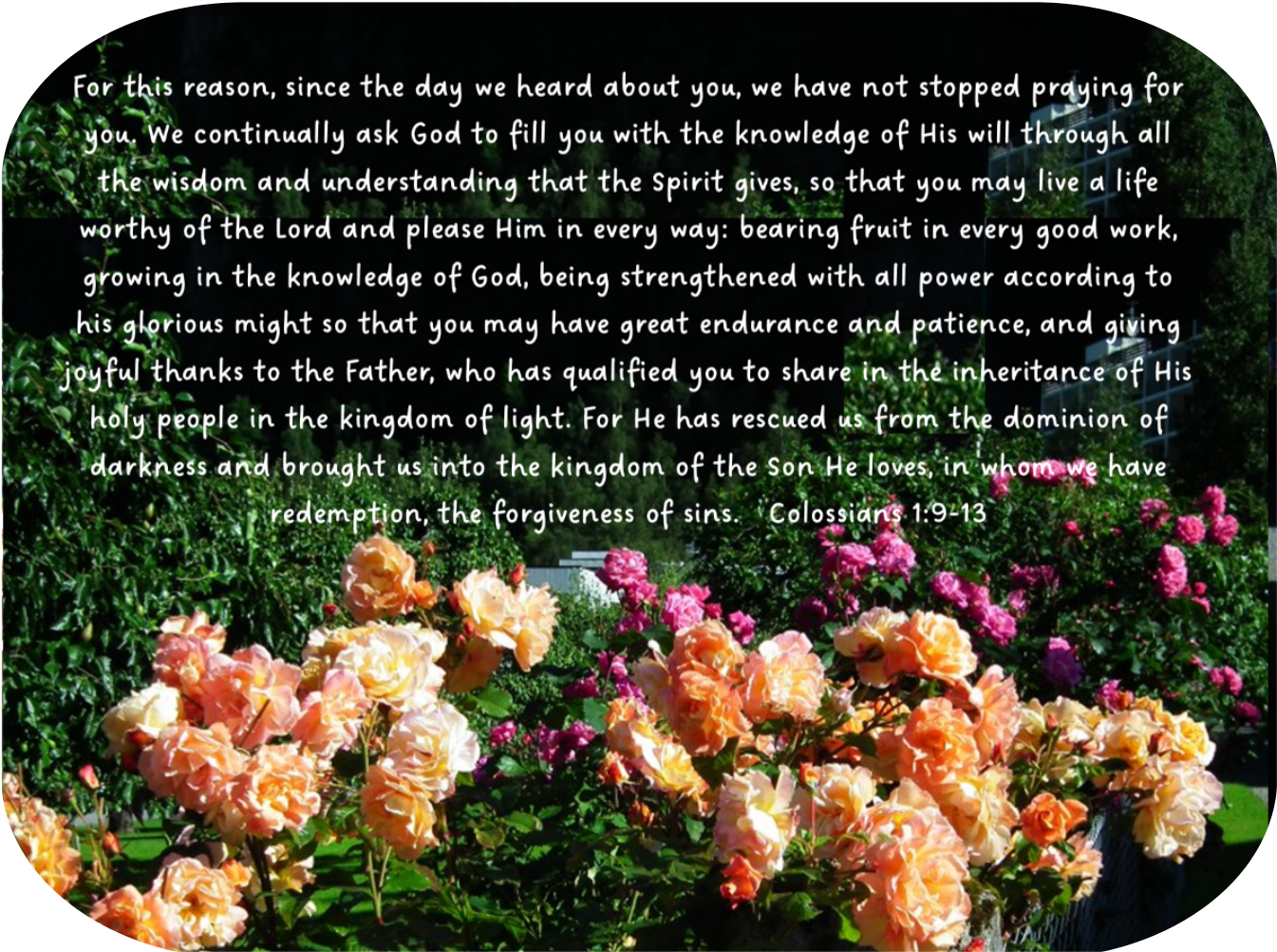
Advocacy for Victims of Abuse

“1 of 6 US women and 1 of 33 US men have been victims of a completed or attempted rape.”

This marring of the image of God is a foundational theme throughout the Covenant’s four-session Bible study “Sexual Violence Uncovered.” The study helps small groups or church communities engage in conversations about sexual abuse and its prevalence and reverberating effects in our society and churches.

Download your copy at covchurch.org/ava

or for help email lmj@covchurch.org



For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:9-13

New Board Member

Hello there, my name is Karen Flodquist, and I’m new to the NWCWM Board. I have found that the personal/spiritual growth that has occurred when ‘women serve other women’ supports/builds my relationship with God. When there was a vacancy for the secretary position, this was something I thought I could do, and I offered to serve.

Regarding my church affiliations, before moving to MN a few years ago, I had been a member of Cedarbrook Church in Menomonie. Then with COVID’s limitations on church services, I was a virtual church attender. Now I’m becoming involved with the MidCurrent church in Hudson, WI.

Participating in women’s small groups/Bible studies, seeing how God makes Himself real, getting to share life’s ups and downs, knowing God more personally, have all been reasons I value small groups. In March 2020, I began

leading a church sponsored small group, and after one in-person meeting, we switched to zoom meetings and completed that study virtually. I joined another virtual, church sponsored women's group and that group continues to meet a year later. We have read/studied five books - mainly female authors writing for NavPress whose desire to make Christ known personally permeates each book. Another book we read together was 'Tattoos of the Heart' by Greg Boyle. I also highly recommend this book, as it describes what happens when a faith-filled Jesuit priest begins to work in the zip code with the highest number of gangs in the country. This book shows what God can do today, and sometimes, aren't uplifting stories like this good for us?

I look forward to my time with womens' ministries, and getting to be with you in person in upcoming gatherings.

Your ministry

We thank you, our churches and our individual women, for your generous donations to Women Ministries of the Northwest Conference (WMNWC). Because of you, we are able to minister to our Northwest Conference churches.

I just wanted to let you know the different ways that you as an individual or as a church can give to WMNWC.

1. You can write a check to WMNWC and mail it to

Financial Secretary WM NWC
%3106 47th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406

2. You can give online through the Tithe.ly website.

*This can be a one time gift or you can set up an automatic monthly gift.
We do have individual women who give through the automatic monthly gift option.*

3. You can give through your own bank with an automatic monthly gift option.
The bank then mails the checks to the above address.

We have women and a church that do this option.

With all these options you can designate money for support which covers our expenses and our consultant, Rachel; AVA (Advocates for Victims of Abuse; SIM (Special Interest Missionaries).

If you have questions about any of these options, please contact Glenda Haverinen, our financial secretary. sghaverinen92@gmail.com

You can give memorial gifts to WMNWC. Many times a church or individual will give a memorial gift in memory of a woman from their church that has been very involved in their church's Women Ministries. Sometimes we receive gifts in honor of a someone special. We also have gotten Thrivent gifts. For ladies involved with Thrivent, you can designate WMNWC for a gift. This comes directly from Thrivent to WMNWC.

Please remember that we do not receive funds from any other group other than you, our churches and individuals. The Evangelical Covenant Denomination no longer has Women Ministries at a national level. So, send all your Women Ministries gifts to WMNWC.

Once again, thank you so much for supporting WMNWC. Please contact Rachel Kleinschmidt if you would like a visit to your church or help on the phone or on a zoom call. She is there for you.

rachel@wmnwc.org

Financial Support Form

Your ladies may find this helpful.

NWC

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NORTHWEST CONFERENCE WOMEN MINISTRIES

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Women Ministry Northwestern Conference of the Evang. Covenant Church

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