

Westgate Witness

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September 2025



Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

Another Surprising Truth from the 23rd Psalm

I have read the 23rd Psalm many times over the years for a word of comfort—a word of strength in difficult times. Occasionally I will think beyond the surface affirmations and go a bit deeper. I formerly thought that verse 5 **“He anoints my head with oil”** was figurative language for God keeping the Psalmist healthy but recently I came to learn something more.

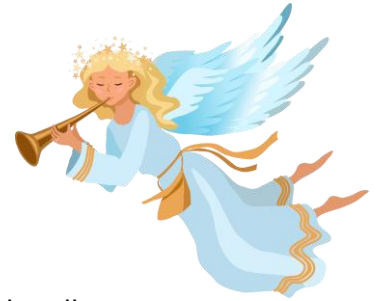
“Anoint My Head with Oil...”

Did you know that sheep can get their heads caught in briars and actually die trying to get untangled? Also, there are horrid little flies that like to torment sheep by laying eggs in their nostrils, which turn into worms and drive the sheep to beat their head against a rock, sometimes to death. Their ears and eyes are also susceptible to tormenting insects. So, the Good Shepherd anoints their whole head with oil as a protecting repellent. Then there is peace. That oil forms a barrier of protection against the evil that tried to destroy the sheep. Sometimes we as fallen people have times of mental torment. Tremendously worrisome thoughts invade our mind over and over again. Do we beat our heads against a wall trying to stop fears or thoughts? Have you ever asked God to figuratively anoint your head with



oil? He has an endless supply! His divine oil protects and makes it possible for us to fix our hearts, minds and eyes on Him. There is a transcendent peace in the midst of the valley! This peace I have discovered quite a few times in the past month as I have struggled to regain my sight. Today I ask the God our father to anoint our heads with his divine oil of protection. I also pray that our cups overflow with his favor, grace, and blessings.

by Pastor Robert Zimmerman



Remembering Charlie Kirk



On September 10, 2025, while on stage at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, for a TPUSA event, "The American Comeback Tour", Kirk was fatally shot in the neck. The shooting took place around 12:20 pm, 20 minutes after the event began, in front of an audience of about 3,000 people.

Immediately before being shot, Kirk was discussing mass shootings. A student asked, "Do you know how many mass shooters there have been in America over the last 10 years?", and Kirk's last words before being shot were his reply, "*Counting or not counting gang violence?*"

Kirk was taken to the Timpanogos Regional Hospital in critical condition, where he was pronounced dead later that afternoon. He was 31.

Early life and education

Charles James Kirk was born on October 14, 1993, in the Chicago suburb of Arlington Heights, Illinois, and raised in nearby Prospect Heights. His mother is a mental health counselor, and his father is an architect. Kirk was a member of the Boy Scouts of America and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. In 2010, during his junior year at Wheeling High School, he volunteered for the successful U.S. Senate campaign of Illinois Republican Mark Kirk (no relation). In his senior year, Kirk created a campaign to reverse a price increase for cookies at his school. He also wrote an essay for *Breitbart News* alleging liberal bias in high school textbooks, which led to an appearance on Fox Business. Kirk attended Harper College near Chicago, but dropped out before completing a degree or certificate.

At a speaking engagement at Benedictine University's "Youth Empowerment Day", Kirk met Bill Montgomery, a retiree more than 50 years his senior, who was then a Tea Party-backed legislative candidate. Montgomery encouraged Kirk to engage in political activism full-time. He subsequently founded Turning Point USA (TPUSA), a "grass-roots organization to rival liberal groups such as MoveOn.org" At the 2012 Republican National Convention, Kirk met Foster Friess, a prominent Republican donor, and persuaded him to finance the organization.

Turning Point Faith

Kirk founded Turning Point Faith, an organization that encouraged pastors and other church leaders to be active in local and national political issues. Its activities include faith-based voter drives and inculcating TPUSA's core values. According to TPUSA's 2021 Investor Prospectus, the program—with a budget of \$6.4 million—"will 'address America's crumbling religious foundation by engaging thousands of pastors nationwide' in order to 'breathe renewed civic engagement into our churches'."

Christian nationalism

In the 2020s, Kirk was a Christian nationalist who advocated for the end of the separation of Church and state in the United States. In 2024, Kirk stated, *"One of the reasons we're living through a constitutional crisis is that we no longer have a Christian nation, but we have a Christian form of government, and they're incompatible. You cannot have liberty if you do not have a Christian population"*.

Personal life

May 2021, Kirk married Erika Frantzve, a businesswoman, podcaster, and philanthropist who won the Miss Arizona USA pageant competition in 2012. The couple's first child, a daughter, was born in August 2022. The couple's second child, a son, was born in May 2024.



(October 14, 1993 – September 10, 2025) R.I.P. You will be missed.



**The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.
Psalm 121:7-8**

“If ONLY”

Philippians 4:11-12 “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances—whether well fed or hungry—in plenty or in want.”

Have you ever been caught up in the **“If only...”** conversation—a conversation we have with ourselves. If only I had more money—If only I had not wasted money. If only I had a better career—or a more fulfilling job. If only I were married. If only I were single. If only I were healthier. If only I had listened when I had the chance. If only I lived somewhere else. If only I could reverse the hands of time—oh the things I would do differently. **“If only, If only, If only.”** Most of us have spent time on **“If Only Island.”** It can be a disconcerting place to stay very long. It’s in human nature to think we are just one change or one relationship away from a better place and a better feeling of fulfillment. If only I had _____ then I could be content.

The Apostle Paul says that contentment is something he learned. Contentment for him didn’t revolve around something he awaited—something right around the corner. It seemed to have a more immediate tone. It seemed to be found in recognizing what God is doing in the now of life—it seems to be found in experiencing the peace of Christ sometimes mysteriously in the here and now of my existence. I think one of the ways we affirm God’s presence **in the moment** is when our heart shifts from grumbling to gratitude. When we live in the spirit of gratitude, we become aware of small blessings that are right in front of us at this very moment. When we live in the spirit of gratitude, we become more attentive to the gifts of life both great and small. When we live in the spirit of gratitude, we are able to trade the **“If only”** mindset which makes blessings seem rare—and causes us to live in a spirit of celebration and even contentment. I’ve begun to wonder more and more if contentment is a simple trust in the goodness of God—a goodness and grace that will walk along with us throughout all the seasons and chapters of life. He told me to tell you!

“Today upon a bus, I saw
A lovely maid with golden hair; I envied her - she seemed so gay -
And oh, I wished I were so fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle,
She had one foot and wore a crutch,
But as she passed, a smile.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two feet - the world is mine.



And when I stopped to buy some sweets,
The lad who served me had such charm;
He seemed to radiate good cheer,
His manner was so kind and warm.
I said, "It's nice to deal with you,
Such courtesy I seldom find."
He turned and said, "Oh, thank you, sir!"
And I saw that he was blind.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two eyes - the world is mine.





Then, when walking down the street,
I saw a child with eyes of blue.
He stood and watched the others play;
It seemed he knew not what to do,
I stopped a moment, then I said:
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"
He looked ahead without a word,
And then I knew; He could not hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two ears - the world is mine.
With feet to take me where I'd go,
With eyes to see the sunset's glow,
With ears to hear what I should know:
I'm blessed indeed, the world is mine;
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine."



Crafts for Christmas Shoebox Project

September 24th @ 10:00 am

There will be a lunch break at 12:30, then we will continue crafting as long as anyone wants to stay.

We will have washcloth bears, sock puppets, and jump ropes again to work (play?) on. We will also have T-shirt jump ropes to add to our crafts and a crocheted "critter" that some may want to try. Come out and enjoy fellowship with other women while doing fun activities. We had a good turnout last time and we hope to see another large group joining this Craft Day. *All are welcome!*



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FACT about 9/11

It is estimated that the attack caused a minimum of \$10 billion in infrastructure and property damage. The cost of the cleanup was \$750 million dollars.

Practicality vs. Religion

Dedicated to you by your church Administrator Lora Shirey!

During a recent ecumenical gathering, a secretary rushed in shouting, "The building is on fire!!!"

The **METHODISTS** gathered in the corner and prayed.

The **BAPTISTS** cried, "Where is the holy water?"

The **QUAKERS** quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The **LUTHERANS** posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.

The **ROMAN CATHOLICS** passed the plate to cover the damage.

The **JEWS** posted symbols on the doors hoping the fire would pass.

The **CONGREGATIONALISTS** shouted, "Every man for himself!"

The **FUNDAMENTALISTS** proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"

The **EPISCOPALIANS** formed a procession and marched out.

The **CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS** concluded that there was no fire.

The **PRESBYTERIANS** appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The **SECRETARY** grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

- Author Unknown -



Ladies Bible Study.
Join us every Tuesday
at 9:30 am.

NO STUDY ON SEPTEMBER 16th

As we gather for coffee,
fellowship, prayer and
study. We would love to
study God's word with you!



To start off we'll take another look at the familiar story of Jonah, the rebellious prophet. We all know the story, but can we learn anything new?



FACT about 9/11

The ages of the victims ranged from two to 85 years old. About 75-80% of the victims were men.

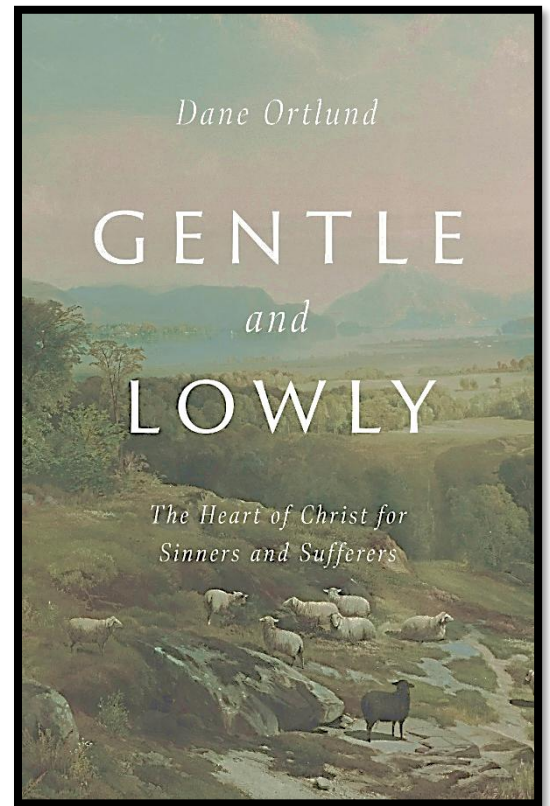
Sunday School

Please join us starting Sunday September 14 at 9:15 am for coffee, fellowship and learning as we spend time with the book Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortland. Quoting from the book's inside cover "Christians know what Jesus Christ has done - but who is he? What is his deepest heart for his people, weary and faltering on their journey toward heaven? Jesus said he is 'gentle and lowly in heart'. This book reflects on these words, opening a neglected yet central truth about who he is for sinners and sufferers today."

Stephen Appleby will lead the study utilizing both video and discussion. Hope you can join in.

Book Summary: Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortland

The book Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortland is a profound exploration of the character of Christ, focusing on His gentleness and lowliness in heart. It draws from biblical texts to reveal Christ's affections for sinners and encourages believers on their journey. The book is written with pastoral gentleness and quiet beauty, offering comfort, strength, and rest to readers. It is a timely work that directs attention back to the person of Jesus, centering on the Scriptures and drawing upon the best of the Puritan tradition. Ortland reminds readers of Jesus's promises of rest and comfort, as well as the Bible's vision of Jesus as a kind and gracious King.



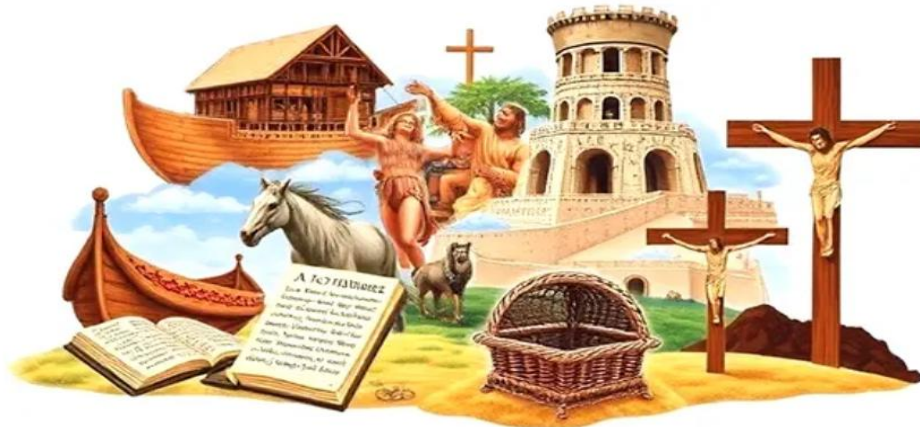
The World Mission Offering (WMO) for 2025 has started!

The World Mission Offering is an annual initiative that encourages churches and individuals to contribute to global mission efforts. It provides essential funding for missionaries, partnerships with national churches, and various ministries aimed at spreading the Gospel. The offering is a way for congregations to engage in the mission work that is taking place around the world through International Ministries and other organizations.

Please consider donating

Challenge yourself with Bible Trivia.....

answers on last page but no peeking!



1. What covenant did God give to Abraham?
 - a. Circumcision
 - b. Passover
 - c. Salvation
 - d. Wisdom
2. What important figure witnessed Stephen's stoning?
 - a. Peter
 - b. Saul
 - c. Judas
 - d. John
3. What prophet did the Ethiopian eunuch read when Philip met him?
 - a. Isaiah
 - b. John the Baptist
 - c. Joshua
 - d. Samuel
4. In what city did Philip perform miracles?
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Sidon
 - c. Samaria
 - d. Egypt
 - e. Judea
5. Who offered to pay money for the power to give the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Simon
 - b. Philip
 - c. Ananias
 - d. Saul



9/1 Samantha Thamovong
 9/9 Kay Cameron
 9/10 Rachel Stump
 9/11 Woody White
 9/20 Claire Martin
 9/22 Annie Saylor
 Bonnie Campbell



9/2/08 John & Ruth Hessen
 9/16/67 Jim & Kay Cameron
 9/22/18 Will & Samantha Thamavong
 9/29/19 Luis & Rosy Guillen

Treasurer's Report

2025 Total Funds Received including Kachin & Reformation				
Month	Actual		Budget	Variance
January	\$	14,748	\$ 11,062	\$ 3,686
February	\$	7,678	\$ 12,312	\$ (4,634)
March	\$	13,059	\$ 14,565	\$ (1,506)
April	\$	6,742	\$ 12,312	\$ (5,570)
May	\$	10,465	\$ 12,312	\$ (1,847)
June	\$	15,582	\$ 14,565	\$ 1,017
July	\$	8,280	\$ 12,312	\$ (4,032)
August	\$	8,893	\$ 14,565	\$ (5,672)
Total Aug YTD	\$	85,448	\$ 104,005	\$ (18,557)

Answers to Bible Trivia on page 8

1. What covenant did God give to Abraham?

a. Circumcision < Correct Answer

Explanation: Stephen reminded the council of God's promise to Abraham.

Reference: Acts 7:8

2. What important figure witnessed Stephen's stoning?

b. Saul < Correct Answer

Explanation: Saul watched the stoning and the death of Stephen.

Reference: Acts 7:58

3. What prophet did the Ethiopian eunuch read when Philip met him?

a. Esaias < Correct Answer

Explanation: The Ethiopian eunuch studied on his own but did not understand Esaias' words.

Reference: Acts Chapter 8

4. In what city did Philip perform miracles?

c. Samaria < Correct Answer

Explanation: Philip healed illnesses and cast out spirits.

Reference: Acts 8:5

5. Who offered to pay money for the power to give the Holy Spirit?

a. Simon < Correct Answer

Explanation: Simon was a sorcerer who wanted more power.

Reference: Acts Chapter 8



Facts about 9/11

After September 11th, The Department of Homeland Security was created to prevent further terrorist attacks.

184 people were killed by the planes hitting the Pentagon, including the passengers and hijackers.

As of August 2017, only 60% of the WTC victims' remains have been positively identified. This leaves 1,113 of the 2,753 who have no biological confirmation of death.