

31-Day Scripture Writing Challenge

August

God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 1 | 1 Peter 2:24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 17 | 1 Corinth. 13:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 2 | Luke 18:42-43 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 18 | James 1:27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 3 | Genesis 4:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 19 | Romans 1:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 4 | Romans 5:8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 20 | Revelation 3:21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 5 | Ephesians 1:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 21 | John 8:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 6 | Mark 11:25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 22 | James 2:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 7 | Psalms 103:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 23 | 2 Corinth. 12:9-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 8 | Romans 10:9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24 | 1 Chron. 16:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 9 | Proverbs 19:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 25 | Isaiah 6:3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 10 | Lam. 3:31-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 26 | Habakkuk 3:3-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 11 | Psalms 119:28 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 27 | Zechariah 2:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 12 | Habakkuk 3:17-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 28 | Revelation 1:7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 13 | Isaiah 33:2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 29 | Psalms 19:1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 14 | 2 Thess. 2:16-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 30 | Job 38:4-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 15 | Psalms 147:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 31 | Genesis 12:2-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 16 | James 1:2-4 | | |

Come back next month for a new Scripture writing challenge!

God's Strategy

"This charge I commit to you ... according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare." – 1 Timothy 1:18 NKJV



Paul described Timothy's calling in military terms. In fact, he had been prepared and called to "wage the good warfare." Paul used a Greek word related to the English word strategy that was used to describe how soldiers were prepared for battle.

Timothy needed to understand that his mission was serious. In fact, he faced a real enemy and was engaged in a real war.

As an active soldier in God's army, he had been prepared and ready for life's challenges. But he needed a strategy. And he needed to realize that he was charged with leading others into battle, just as a military commander leads his troops.

This was not just any war. This was "good warfare." The Greek word tells us that this was a good and important cause.

Each of us is called to be a soldier in God's army. We must remember our need to be prepared, trained, and equipped to serve Him, to "wage the good warfare." We need to use the resources we have been given in the right way at the right time. We need people with us who will fight in keeping with the strategies of our Commander in Chief.

Make sure that you take this battle seriously. Submit to the direction of our Commander, the Lord Jesus. Follow His leading. Listen to His voice. As a soldier in God's army, dedicate yourself to waging this good warfare.

From the Pastor's Desk

Grace and Peace to you, my Sisters and Brothers, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is with a profound sense of joy as your newly appointed shepherd that I submit this Pastoral address in this month's edition of THE CONNECTION. I am humbled and honored to share in this new era of ministry with the Wesley church family. I would be remised if I did not take this opportunity to share how appreciative my family and I are to all of you for your warm and magnanimous reception of us into the "Wesley Ladson Family." You have gone above and beyond the call of duty in receiving us; and we are eternally grateful.



As we begin this journey together in ministry, I am enthusiastic about the endless possibilities for evangelistic ministry during these difficult and challenging times in which we are living. I am hopeful for our efforts to yield fruit for the Kingdom of God amid this pandemic. We are living in unprecedented

times, and I venture to say that this pandemic continues to warrant concerns for us all. However, as followers of Christ, it is okay to be concerned; but we are called not to fear because we are people of God and we are people of faith. The psalmist reminds us that we serve a God who promises us to be our refuge, strength, and a very present help in times such as these. With that said, I want to encourage us all to hold fast to these eternal words, trusting and believing that our God will see us through!

In closing, I would like to remind us all to continue to support the Church as good stewards with our prayers, our presence via Facebook, Zoom, or drive-in worship, and our gifts of tithes and offering. Also, please make every effort to remain in contact with our elderly, sick and shut-in, and bereaved families. Let us continue to hold each other up with prayers and virtual hugs. God is indeed with us ALL!

Together in Christ,

Dr. Carlton J. McClam, Sr.

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS PROVIDE "SPECIAL COMMUNITY" FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Each year, hundreds of new students flood our South Carolina universities and colleges.

Wesley Foundations across our state have the unique opportunity to meet these students, welcome them, love them, challenge them and encourage them during their college careers and beyond. From worship to mission opportunities, students immediately are immersed in an active community of faith.

This summer and the start to the 2020-2021 academic year have been unprecedented. Without regular summer orientations or student organization fairs, Wesley Foundations are relying on our local churches now more than ever to connect and engage with our United Methodist college students.

If you know of a student entering or attending college, we would love to connect with them. Please connect the Wesley Foundations and students by completing their **Contact Form** at

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSevoYvxGDXOoL-Q-D.../viewform>



For more information, visit:

<https://www.umcsc.org/wesley-foundations-provide-special-c.../>

Treasure that matters

Jesus had much to say about the treasures of life, and specifically about which are worthy of our heart's pursuit. In Matthew 13:44, Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as buried treasure that is discovered by a person, who then sells everything to buy the land that holds the treasure. That treasure, Jesus tells us, is found within our hearts. It is the gift of knowing God and being in communion with the divine. It is the only treasure that holds eternal and infinite value.

Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as buried treasure that is discovered by a person, who then sells everything to buy the land that holds the treasure.



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

Wesley will celebrate Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry on August 9.



Please consider giving a special offering on this day to support maintaining homes for adults with special needs.

HELP!

"Be not far from me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help." – Psalm 22:11 NKJV

David felt hopeless. Forsaken. Trouble was all around him. He had been mocked and insulted because of his faith. Enemies seemed everywhere, and he felt that “the congregation of the wicked had enclosed [him]” (v. 16). He sought God but had not seen evidence of His intervention.

Yet he still realized that no one else but God could help him. Looking back, he remembered that God had been with him in every situation, even “from my mother’s womb” (v. 10).

As he remembered His faithfulness, David realized that he could depend on God. He was David’s strength. He determined to praise Him no matter what others said.



He realized that God was listening to him. He would answer his prayers and meet his needs. And he realized that dominion belongs to the Lord. No matter how things appeared, God is sovereign, reigning over all the earth. David might have felt hopeless, but God still was there, listening.

Today, we may be anxious and afraid. Worried or filled with doubt. We may face situations that seem hopeless. Nothing may seem to be going right. Do not give in to despair. No matter what appears on the surface, remember that God cares for us. Remain faithful, confident that He will bring us victory.

Declare the promises of God, and start praising Him! God was with David when he was going through uncertain times, and He is with us right now.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” - Isaiah 41:10 NIV

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CHURCHES TO PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Sometimes Mother Nature has a way of reminding us who's in charge. While you can't control when or where a hurricane will hit, the best way to minimize potential damage is to be prepared.

Local churches should review their disaster response plans, including making sure church property is secured and insured, and having a plan to check on church members who could need assistance if utilities were to be interrupted or evacuations were to be ordered. With the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, all planning should include safety protocols to keep all volunteers and other safe and protected.

Hurricane Prep Tips

When a major storm is coming, stay informed by following NOAA Weather radio or your local news channels for updates. In addition, make sure to obey all orders if requested to evacuate by the authorities. Follow these 10 hurricane and storm preparation steps to keep your home and loved ones safe before disaster strikes.

- ◆ **Make a plan** If evacuation is necessary, turn off all utilities and follow community disaster preparedness plans. Select a common meeting place or single point-of-contact for all family members. If you have pets, have a plan for their evacuation as well.
- ◆ **Secure the exterior** Trim large trees and shrubs and bring all outside patio furniture, potted plants, bikes and toys indoors. If necessary, secure outdoor sculptures with burlap or blankets tied with rope.
- ◆ **Install storm shutters** Protect windows, doors and skylights with appropriate shutters or impact-resistant glass. You can nail pieces of plywood to window frames as last-minute protection.
- ◆ **Check wall hangings and art** Make sure wall hangings are secure and take notes about your art collection and any existing damage. Make sure that art hung on outside walls are taken inside, and elevated off the floor.
- ◆ **Move your cars** Move cars to higher ground or park them in your garage against the garage doors. Do not park under trees, power lines or in low-lying areas.
- ◆ **Power up** Fill your car's gas tank, charge your cell phone, test your generator and have plenty of fuel ready in case of power outages.
- ◆ **Unplug appliances** Move appliances and household fixtures away from exterior doors and window openings. Store them in cabinets or interior closets.
- ◆ **Store important documents** Keep important documents, such as legal papers, birth certificates, marriage license, financial papers and insurance policy information, as well as valuables such as jewelry, in a safety deposit box or in a bolted safe in an interior closet in your home.
- ◆ **Prep an emergency kit** Gather flashlights, a portable radio, extra batteries, non-perishable food, bottled water, cash, blankets, clothing and toiletries.
- ◆ **Identify a shelter room** This enclosed area should be on the first floor, in the central part of the house with no windows. Avoid all unprotected windows and doors until the storm passes.

Want a healthier church? FAN online training begins fall 2020



Enroll now in the Faith, Activity and Nutrition online training program – a free resource that gives you the training and tools needed to increase physical activity and healthy eating in your church.

FAN was developed with and for churches to prevent and address the most common health conditions impacting congregations and communities, such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

The program focuses on physical activity and healthy eating because those behaviors are consistently shown in research to prevent and treat these and more health conditions.

FAN online training is designed to support churches to:

- ◆ Increase opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating.
- ◆ Create church guidelines or policies for physical activity and healthy eating.
- ◆ Engage church leaders in FAN goals and support church leaders' health.
- ◆ Share health messages with members through familiar church channels.

Training includes eight self-paced, interactive weekly lessons – each of which can be completed within an hour. Churches will hear FAN success stories throughout the training and will have a chance to share ideas with other churches via the FAN discussion board.

The program also includes 12 months of free materials and resources to help churches launch FAN and sustain it over the first year.

Here is the link to sign up for the Online Fan Training:

https://uofsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4VAVi9MQRuvIjmR