

Have you ever had something cross your path at just the right time that you needed it? I certainly have and in fact it happened just recently. I receive a newsletter ever two months from The Francis Asbury Society. The newsletter is called "High Calling". The most recent one had a series of articles dealing with the gap. What that means is this. There is a "gap" between what we are and what we ought to be.

I invited Christ into my life many years ago, something like 35 years ago. And there are some times in my life when I wonder if I've matured spiritually in those thirty five years or NOT. Maybe you've had some of those same wonders. I can well understand you may have wondered about ME. But have you ever wondered about YOU?

In this issue of "High Calling" there are eight articles by that many different authors. There are titles like: "The Gap", "Pig Pen Christians", "A Cloud of Witnesses", "Power Over Sin", "A surprising Source of Help", "The Dangers of Holiness", "A Plain Account of the Other Side of the Chasm", and last but not least "The Sanctification of Eustace Clarence Scrubb". It is this last article that I want to print out for you cause it so caught my attention and made sense of my own dilemma. Maybe it will make sense out of your dilemma....if you have one.

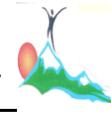
This article is taken from C. S. Lewis' book *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Lewis is describing the transformation of an egotistical, self-centered, pompous little jerk named Eustace Clarence Scrubb. While visiting a deserted island, Eustace discovered a cave full of treasure. Wanting to hoard the wealth all for himself, his greed turned him into a dragon! This was the background for his life-changing encounter

with the lion Aslan (the Christ-figure in this story). **The following is excerpted from Eustace's explanation of what happened.**

*"Well, anyway, I looked up and saw the very last thing I expected: a huge lion coming slowly towards me...I was terribly afraid of it. You may think that, being a dragon, I could have knocked any lion out easily enough. But it wasn't that kind of fear...Well, it came closer up to me and looked straight into my eyes and told me to follow it...It led me a long way to the top of a mountain. And on the top of this mountain there was a garden--trees and fruit and everything. In the middle of it there was a well.. The water was as clear as anything and I thought if I could get in there and bathe it would ease the pain in my leg. But the lion told me I must undress first.*

*I was just going to say that I couldn't undress because I hadn't any clothes on when I suddenly thought that dragons are snaky sort of things and snakes can cast their skins. Oh, of course, thought I, that's what the lion means. So I started scratching myself and my scales began coming off all over the place. And then I scratched a little deeper and instead of just scales coming off here and there, my whole skin started peeling off beautifully, like it does after an illness, or as if I was a banana. In a minute or two I just stepped out of it. I could see it lying there beside me, looking rather nasty. It was a most lovely feeling. So I started to go down into the well for my bathe.*

*But just as I was going to put my foot into the water I looked down and saw that it was all hard and rough and wrinkled and scaly just as it had been before. Oh, that's all*



*right, said I, it only means I had another smaller suit on underneath the first one, and I'll have to get out of it too. So I scratched and tore again and this under skin peeled off beautifully and out I stepped and left it lying beside the other one and went down to the well for my bathe.*

*Well, exactly the same thing happened again. And I thought to myself, oh dear, how ever many skins have I got to take off? So I scratched away for the third time and got off a third skin, just like the two others, and stepped out of it. But as soon as I looked at myself in the water I knew it had been no good.*

*Then the lion said--but I don't know if it spoke--"You will have to let me undress you." I was afraid of his claws, I can tell you, but I was pretty nearly desperate now. So I just lay flat down on my back to let him do it.*

*The very first tear he made was so deep that I thought it had gone right into my heart. And when he began pulling the skin off, it hurt worse than anything I've ever felt. The only thing that made me able to bear it was just the pleasure of feeling the stuff peel off. You know--if you've ever picked the scab of a sore place. It hurts like billy-oh but it is such fun to see it coming away...*

*Well, he peeled the beastly stuff right off--just as I thought I'd done it myself the other three times, only they hadn't hurt--and there it was lying on the grass: only ever so much thicker, and darker, and more knobbly looking than the other had been. And there was I as smooth and soft as a peeled switch and smaller than I had*

*been. Then he caught hold of me--I didn't like that much for I was very tender underneath now that I'd no skin on--and threw me into the water. It smarted like anything but only for a moment. After that it became perfectly delicious and as soon as I started swimming and splashing I found that ll the pain had gone from my arm. And when I saw why, I'd turned into a boy again...."*

*I think you've seen Aslan," said Edmund...*

*It would be nice, and fairly nearly true, to say that "from that time forth Eustace was a different boy." To be strictly accurate, he began to be a different boy. He had relapses. There were still many days when he could be very tiresome. But most of those I shall not notice. The cure had begun.*

Well then, the cure has begun for me and hopefully you as well. I must have been pretty sick those thirty five or so years ago. But I am getting better now. Thanks to Aslan, oh--I mean Christ.  
Your friend in Christ

Pastor Vern

## **Special Note**

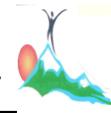
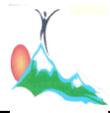
Today, April 3,2016, a memorial service will be held at the Cuyler Fire Station for the late Rev John Portney.

Services will be from 2 pm to 5 pm.

## **Community Choir**

The final concert for the spring season will be at the Taylor Wesleyan Church this afternoon starting at 2:30 .

Don't miss it!



**Christian Education April 2016**

The PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade has decided to sponsor a child through Compassion International. His name is DeCarlos Rios, he is 10 years old and lives in Bolivia. He had been waiting about one year for a sponsor and lives in an area with high risk of exploitation and abuse. Our support will help to provide DeCarlos with medical checkups, nutritious food, health and hygiene training, educational assistance and more. DeCarlos also has a church in his community which partners with Compassion he attend and hears about Jesus.

Please keep DeCarlos and the other children needing sponsors in your prayers.

Our Easter Egg hunt March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Parish house was a big success. We had about 40 children attend with their families. They left with a full bag of Easter candy after hearing the Easter Story. Thank you all for your support as usual, for the candy, the hay from Calvin, Linda's niece, Brooke White for helping Friday night and Saturday morning and the cleanup crew – Janet, Tom, Pastor Vern, Ed and Kris and the Whalen family. We would not be able to do these events without you!!!

Cortland Bible Camp will be opening for their summer season. If you know of any kids that are Apr 2~6:30pm Youth Group interested in attending, please let us know.

Also the Redline conference at the New Life Christian Church in Watertown is the middle of April and we have 6 youth attending. Please keep the conference and youth in your prayers.

Thank you ALL for your continued support of our program.

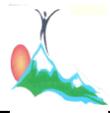
In his Service, Maurine

**Birthdays for April**

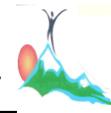
- Apr 3~~Aubrey Hennigan
- Apr 7~~Laurie Palladino
- Apr 7~~Scott Hillman
- Apr 9~~Ola Mae Haskins
- Apr 10~Carrie Lidell Long
- Apr 12~Maurine Brown
- Apr 13om Springer
- Apr 15~Ann Etter
- Apr 16~Bobby Cuddeback
- Apr 17~ Leon Wedge
- Apr 20~Dorothy Arnold
- Apr 25~Becky Wightman
- Apr 30~Michael Furlough

**Calendar of Events**

- Apr 2~~6:30 Youth Group @ PH
- Apr 3~~9:30 SS~ Adults @ Ball's  
Young adults @ L.Springers  
Kids @ Parish House  
11:am Worship @ Church  
Communion
- Apr 5~8am Prayer in Pastor Vern's office
- Apr 6~~6:30 pm Comm Prayer Mtg @PH
- Apr 7~7pm The Way of the Master @ PH
- Apr 8 6:30pm Youth Group @ PH
- Apr 9~8-10 am Men's Group @ PH
- Apr 10~ 9:30 am SS Adults @Ball's  
Young adults @ L Springer's  
Kids @ Paris House  
11 am Worship @ Church
- Apr 12~8am-Prayer in Pastor Vern's office
- Apr 13~6:30pm Comm Prayer Mtg @ PH
- Apr 14 7pm The Way of the Master @ PH
- Apr 15~6:30pm Youth Group @ PH



## United Church of DeRuyter Newsletter~April 2016



Apr 17~9:30am SS Adults @ Ball's  
 Young Adults @ L Springer's  
 Kids @ Paris House  
 11 am Worship @ Church

Apr 19 8am Prayer in Pastor Verns office  
 Apr 19~3pm-5pm Closing date for After  
 School Program held @ Parish House  
 Apr 20 6:30pm Comm Prayer Mtg @ PH  
 Apr 22~ 6:30 Youth Group @ PH  
 Apr 23 8-10 am Men's Group @ PH  
 Apr 24~ 9:30 am SS Adults @ Ball's  
 Young adults @ L Springer's  
 Kids @ Parish House  
 11:00 am Worship @ Church

Apr 26~8am prayer in Pastor Verns office  
 Apr 27~ 6:30pm Comm prayer mtg @ PH  
 Apr 29~ 6:30pm Youth Group @ PH

### Mission News~~April 2016

We had a very informative visit with Robert Solano from Clear Path for Veterans during our worship service Sunday, March 6, 2016. Robert is a retired Marine working for Clear Path and gave us much information about the many opportunities and programs available for veterans of all ages and their families. Clear Path, which is located in Chittenango, has been one of our local mission projects for the last couple years and Robert was able to help us understand just what important work they do for past and present returning veterans. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to visit their site and pray for their work there.

Mike Harris Jr. is still stateside here in DeRuyter while he continues to try to raise the funds necessary to return to his mission in China with Elim Fellowship. He needs to have \$1,700 pledged per month before he will be allowed to return. Our Mission Board met recently and

voted to raise our monthly support from \$75 a month to \$100 in hopes that this will be of help, but prayers are needed for Mike to raise additional funds from more sources.

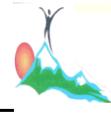
News from Carlos and Caryn Benitez: On Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> believers in Niger celebrated the dedication of the New Testament in Tamajaq. Four New Testaments have been dedicated in Southeast Asia and a New Testament in Northern Thai has been completed as well. Please pray for their daughter Rachele's school, Grace International School, as it is about to lose it's campus and the school leaders will need wisdom and discernment as they try to negotiate for the provision of a new campus.

Rick Chiesa traveled to South Sudan in February where he met with leaders of several tribes. His role there is to put a project together to accomplish Bible translation and help the Laarin people find salvation. They have a long and fascinating history involving drums, which are the symbol of the origins of the many peoples in the area. Loss of these drums and traditions cause dissention and reconciliation is needed and desired. Rick and Betsy had a special visit in early Feb. from their daughter Kayleen and granddaughter Isabel at their home in Florida. Please pray for Rick's strength to return following a bout with dehydration after returning from South Sudan and heading to Mozambique. Please pray also for Betsy's IT team that has encountered many system failures in the middle of their very important Wycliffe work.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Whalen

**Memorial Fund Balance as of 2/29/16**  
**\$3,083.02**

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**News From Family Life**

**Network**

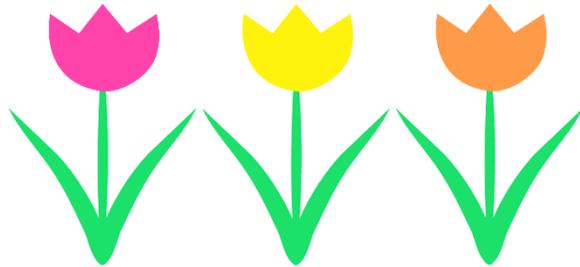
Family Life Network will begin broadcasting on the Syracuse signals sometime Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Sometime in the afternoon.. Here are the locations and the signal information;

Oswego: WCIO fm at 96.7

Oneida: WCIT fm at 106.3

DeRuyter: WCIS fm at 105.1

Syracuse: Translator at 98.3



**M&M's**

The ladies Bible Study group will be meeting the First & Third Wednesday at 10 am. If you would enjoy a friendly time of study and fellowship why not come out? Bring your Bible and join us at the home of Joan Ball. We are all learning together. If you have questions ask someone in the group. See you on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April!

*The Joy of Springtime*

*Lord, what joy fills my heart  
As You usher in the Spring  
I think of the many pleasures  
And the promises it brings*

*The earth has been renewed again  
With life we hold so dear.  
My eyes are filled with wonder  
At the beauty far and near.*

*To me Spring is a treasure chest  
That is filled with special gifts  
You adorn Mother Earth with  
beauty*

*That gives my heart a lift.  
There are no jewels more precious  
Than the daffodil and rose  
I savor Spring's soft showers  
And the gentle breeze that blows.  
When the rose has finished blooming  
And its petals fall to sod,  
I know that soon another bloom  
Will be replaced by God.*

*To me Spring is a promise  
Of God's love for you and me.  
It reminds me of His beauty  
With blessings such as these.*

*Shirley Hile Powell*