



# THE MESSENGER

of Quaker Gap Baptist Church - King, NC



Volume 27, Issue 3

MARCH 2025

A Word From *Pastor Jack...*

## Though I Be Despised by Some

Imagine this. War breaks out in your homeland. Just a teenager, you are taken captive. Forced into slavery by the enemy, you shepherd their flocks. Your faith in the Lord Jesus grows as you trust him for strength every day. One night, in a dream, you see yourself escaping slavery. The next day you take the initiative to flee aboard an outgoing ship, returning to your home country after six years bound. Moved by the goodness of God, you give your life to him and prepare for a life of ministry.



After years of preparing, your ministry assignment comes in. Of all possible places, you are called as a missionary to the very people who enslaved you. You must return to the country in which you were once held captive. Will you be able to love your enemies, as Jesus tells you to do?

This is the story of a man named Padraig. Raised in Britain, he was captured in war and forced into slavery in Ireland. After escaping slavery, he returned home to Britain and studied for the priesthood in France. Padraig was eventually assigned as a missionary to Ireland. Rather than turning down his assignment, he poured his life into it. He loved the Irish people and taught them the doctrine of the Trinity using a three-leaf clover. Christianity spread throughout Ireland because of the faithful testimony of Padraig. Today, we know Padraig as St. Patrick. The shamrock he used to teach about God is a national symbol of Ireland. People of Irish heritage wear green on March 17<sup>th</sup> each year, St. Patrick's Day. In the words of St. Patrick, "I am a slave in Christ to a foreign nation for the unspeakable glory of the eternal life which is in Christ Jesus our Lord...I have vowed to my God to teach the heathen, though I be despised by some."

St. Patrick serves as an example of Christlikeness. Jesus died for his enemies and forgave those who hung him on the cross. Patrick returned to the scene of his lowest moment in life to reach the lost. Sometimes the Lord calls us to love and serve people we are not naturally willing to love and to serve. In the power of the Spirit and the footsteps of Jesus - we can go, we can serve, and we can love. Not naturally, but supernaturally.

UPCOMING SERMONS

SERMON SERIES: THY KINGDOM COME



*Mar 2	"Kingdom Citizens"	Matthew 5:1-2; 6:9-13; 7:28
Mar 9	"Surprising Citizens"	Matthew 5:3-12
Mar 16	"Shining Citizens"	Matthew 5:13-16
Mar 23	Speaker: Rev. James Byrd	
Mar 30	"Righteous Citizens"	Matthew 5:17-20
*Apr 6	"Pacific Citizens"	Matthew 5:21-26

\* We will be Observing **The Lord's Supper** on **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Amid Life's Storms

The hurricanes that battered the East Coast in fall 2024 also battered my soul. I was over the rain and humidity. I was tired of lugging my two preschoolers through the downpours and driving through flash floods at night. Yet I had no reason to complain. Our house was still standing, with no damage.

The news around us was worrying and heartbreaking. "What if that was us?" I wondered. "Would I be strong enough?"

Then the kids asked to play outside. Even though I knew they'd get wet and muddy, I gave in. When a rainbow appeared, I'd never been more humbled as I remembered: I don't need to be anxious. I don't need to be strong enough. God watches over us all. He knows the hurt and sorrow. And he promises to be "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1, ESV).

Lord, forgive my unbelief. "Hear my cry, O God ... when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:1-2, ESV).

— Kristen Greene

Quaker Gap Baptist Church Financial Summary

January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2025

General Fund	Actual	Budget	Variance
Church Offering	\$ 21,105	\$ 29,176	\$ (8,071)
Special Purpose Funds	\$ 1,672	0	\$ 1,672
Total Receipts	\$ 22,777	\$ 29,176	\$ (6,399)
Expenses	\$ 34,106	\$ 29,176	\$ 4,930
<b>Receipts Over Expenses</b>	<b>(\$11,329)</b>		

Checking/MM/CD Account Balances as of January 31, 2025

General Fund	\$336,975 *
Building Fund	\$190,727
Cemetery Fund	\$ 31,148 **

\* \$27,175 in Money Market

\*\*\$ 9,220 in Cemetery CD



- 1 Landon Darida
- Ashlee Hooks
- Dianne Johnson
- 3 Casey Christopherson
- Matt Gordon
- 5 Colton Carroll
- Julius Tingen
- 6 Donna Clark
- Waylon Lampky
- Sofia Penza (2 yrs. old)
- Tyler Van Meter
- 7 Pam Moore
- 8 Katie Lawson
- 9 David Lee
- Lucas McKinney
- Levi Morgan
- Jeff Work
- 10 Nich Boles
- Debbie Hicks
- Mark Holt
- 11 Janet Holsclaw
- 13 Michelle Tedder-Smith
- Steve Tucker
- 14 Ryan Ragan
- Renée Stowers
- 16 Chad McKinney
- Phillip Vance
- 17 Madelyn McKinney Walser
- 18 Zach Boles
- Kathy Hartung
- 19 Peggy Boles
- 22 Jennifer Benfield
- Bryan Largen
- 23 Carrie Gaudet de Lestard
- Carol Heflin
- Levi Stonebraker (2 yrs. old)
- Jamie Strom
- 24 "Nubbin" Greene
- 25 Joey Bottoms
- 26 Natalie Borders
- Jerry Greene
- Donna Wood
- 27 Alivia Gordon
- Reagan Lee
- 28 Michael Miller
- Jonathan Rose
- 29 Michael Castellucci (4 yrs. old)
- Melinda Gibson
- Suzannah Hale
- Diane Scoville
- Harper Smith
- 30 Kay Hightower
- 31 John Henry Boles

*James' Lagniappe*   
 (lan-yap, n. a little something extra)

## Hear Me When I Pray and Answer Me

*<sup>4</sup>Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life. Proverbs 22:4*



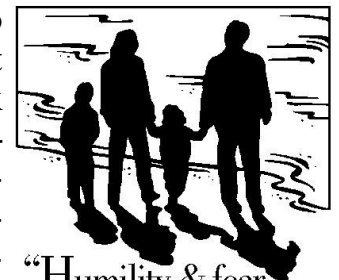
I began reading Proverbs again this past month. Several years ago, I would read one chapter a day until at some point I thought I had graduated to more “mature” reading. Silly me! I wonder if the LORD rolls His eyes at my thinking sometimes. The book of Proverbs is made up of 513 of 3000 proverbs that Solomon compiled and wrote. Proverb means “to be like” so they are comparisons between common images and life’s most profound truths. Proverbs are not the same as the law from the priests, or a Word from the Lord given by prophets, but instead wisdom, wise counsel.

They contain moral and ethical elements that stress upright living as a result of a right relationship with God. That brings me to Proverbs 22:4.

Solomon, when he wrote “*Humility is the fear of the Lord;*” had learned something about deep reverence and respect for God from his father, King David. The respect came from recognizing his dependence on the LORD. There are lots of distractions that pull me in every direction, every day. It’s easy to get “pulled” in a dozen directions when I take my eyes off the Father. The challenge is during the day-to-day routines that despite being comfortable with what I know I’ve done hundreds of times that I pause and take a moment to ask the LORD for his guidance, His help to handle this or that thing!

I remember after moving back to North Carolina, over 15 years ago now, the very first time I was called out to repair a door lock for a student who could not get into her room. “Can I figure out the problem and fix it?” “Will I find the right residence hall and bedroom?” My years of experience and skill did not calm me in those moments, but the desperate calling to the LORD to guide my hands and to give me words and understanding to solve the problem that I was being called out for. In those moments, as I focused on the LORD, He gave me peace and confidence because I knew the LORD was right there beside me.

And when we are dependent on the LORD, we earn a few things... “*its wages are riches and honor and life.*” Solomon was not talking about just material wealth. He was also writing about a good reputation, a fulfilled life, and specifically a close relationship with God. Whether we are in school, at work, retired, no matter in what stage of life, dependence on the LORD is the key to our success!



“Humility & fear  
of the Lord bring  
wealth and  
honor and life.”  
Proverbs 22:4

Soli Deo gloria, (Glory to God alone)

*James*  
James Byrd

## Resting in Jesus



An old hymn declares:  
I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest.  
Lay down, O weary one,  
lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn and sad.  
I found in him a resting-place,

and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are "weary, worn, and sad" need to hear Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest."

Jesus wants to be our resting place – but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God's love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God's goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.  
-Heidi Hyland Mann

## Outreach Ministry Donations



This month, we collected 8 toothbrushes, 9 toothpastes, 1 bottle of vitamins, 30 sets of plastic utensils, 3 canned foods, 2 boxes of Beef Stew, 1 box of microwave popcorn, 8 bars of soap, 1 lg. container of baby wipes, 2 bags of feminine pads, 1 tube of diaper rash ointment, 6 stick deodorants, 2 hairbrushes, 4 bottles of body wash, 2 bottles of shampoo, 4 pairs of socks, 10 boxes of diapers, 4 cases of water, 2 lg boxes of individual chips, 4 lg. jars of peanut butter, and a lg. box of Nabs. We sent all of these items to the flood victims of WV. Please remember that this an ongoing ministry, and we will continue to collect items for KOM and ESOM each month. Rotating between two.

The most needed items are personal care products (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) feminine sanitary products, baby diapers, and toddler diaper pull-ups.

Donations may be left outside the front entrance of the fellowship hall and educational building on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

## Women Warriors Prayer Group



All ladies are invited to join our Women Warriors study group on **Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM** at the **home of Lynne Bowman** (9735 Sedeca Dr. Rural Hall). Our

Ladies Ministry Team will serve an Irish potato bar for dinner, and we will discuss, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" from our *Daily Grace "I Am" series*. Make plans now to come and invite a friend.



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous and extraordinary tax-deductible gift of \$50.00 to the American Diabetes Association® (ADA) given by Quaker Gap Baptist Church in memory of **Carolyn K. Redding**.

You should be satisfied to know that 100% of your donation made to the American Diabetes Association® will go directly to the science that will help find ways to treat diabetes and one day cure this illness.

Through your generosity, YOU make life better for people living with diabetes. I know if they could, the over 38 million American who live with diabetes would thank you themselves. So please, accept my sincere gratitude.

Sincerely,

Charles Henderson  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Diabetes Association®

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday

9:30 AM	Sunday School
10:30 AM	Worship Service
	Children's Church
5-6:00 PM	Salteens Youth Group

### Wednesday

7-8:00 PM	Bible Study
	Choir Rehearsal
	GapKids
	Salteens Youth Group
8:15 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal

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Rev. Dr. Jack Darida, Senior Pastor  
Tyler Van Meter, Minister of Youth

Rev. James Byrd, Minister of Music  
April Ragan, Administrative Assistant

# Quaker Gap Baptist Church Activities



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1	
2 9:15 AM Prayer Group 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church 5-6:00 PM Salteens Youth Group	3	4  6:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ PB Clark's, King	5 6:00 PM Eat In Meal in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band Rehearsal <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	6 12:00 NOON Bulletin Deadline 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study - Home of Lynne Bowman	7	8 
9  8:00 AM Men & Boys' Breakfast in FH 9:15 AM Prayer Group 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church 6:00 PM Youth Super Bowl Party—Location TBD	10	11  6:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ PB Clark's, King	12  5-6:30 Drive Thru/Eat In Meals @ Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal Youth Group Salteens GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band	13 12:00 NOON Bulletin Deadline	14	15
16 9:15 AM Prayer Group 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church 5-6:00 PM Salteens Youth Group	17 Deadline for April Newsletter Submissions 	18  6:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ PB Clark's, King	19 6:00 PM Eat In Meal in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band Rehearsal	20 12:00 NOON Bulletin Deadline <b>Welcome Spring</b>	21	22
23 9:15 AM Prayer Group 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church	24	25  6:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ PB Clark's, King 11:00 AM Friendly Club Meeting in FH	26  5-6:30 Drive Thru/Eat In Meals @ Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal Youth Group Salteens GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band Rehearsal	27 12:00 NOON Bulletin Deadline	28	29
30 9:15 AM Prayer Group 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church	31					

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Return Service Requested



# PUZZLE

## FROM WORD TO WORLD

Words are important! God spoke and created all things.  
What does the psalmist declare about creation?

Directions: Using the word clues, unscramble the letters to complete Psalm 102:25, NIV.

A preposition	NI	Genesis means this	NINBGEIGN	A plural noun meaning base	SODTAINFONU
An article	HTE	A second-person pronoun	OUY	A preposition showing possession	FO
Past tense of to lay	IDAL	An article	HET	An article	TEH
A concrete noun meaning world	HRTEA				

Psalm 102:25, NIV