

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

June, 2017

## Mercy at What Cost?

### Definition of Mercy, for English Language Learners:

1: kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly. 2: kindness or help given to people who are in a very bad or desperate situation.

The reason I put the definition of mercy for English language learners was for me, because I like the way it is worded; it just makes more sense to me. Most of you that know me know I don't speak or write with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, as Paul wrote. So I would like to start this newsletter off with a couple of events that recently happened with me.

Most of you know that I am kind of a handy man person: you know the jack of all trades, and master of none. Well I do a lot of work for this doctor, and I consider him a friend. He will always see me, or my wife and son, if we are sick or have any physical problems of any kind, and he makes sure that whatever the insurance does not pay he will not send me the bill of what I owe. Now over the years, this has probably added up to a lot of money, and I have told him many times not to do this, but he still does.

Now within the last couple of years, he has been going through some difficult times financially, because he was trying to build a large doctor's office building where he is located, and he hired a company to get things started; and of course, you would think it would cost a lot of money. So I think he had to use most of his properties as collateral. Now within the last year, he has lost most of the properties, and still may lose more. I don't know the reasons as to why, or how, this is happening, but it is.

I don't work for him because I need the money; I have a full time job that lets me and my family live a decent life. I think it's just because I know I can do most of the work that he needs done, and that extra money is like a bonus to me. So needless to say, he hasn't been able to pay me for quite some time, and I told him not to worry about it.

So a couple of weeks ago, I got a call from him on a Friday evening, and I could tell his voice was not the

same – something was wrong. I will also say, he sounded very desperate. Well, he asked me if I could lend him some money, and it also had to be cash. Oh, he also said that he needed it by Saturday or Sunday, and he said he would be able to pay me back in a couple of months, with interest, of course. It was a rather large amount, at least for me, and I don't have that kind of cash lying around. My first thought was to say no, because I can't get that amount of money by tomorrow; but something inside told me differently. I told him I will see what I can do, so found most of my credit cards to see how much I could get on the cash advance of each one.

Saturday morning, I went to the banks and I was able to get most of what he needed; and I must say, I felt like the guy on TV with a briefcase full of money, a little nervous, and maybe a little scared. But anyway, I brought him the money, and I could see his face in disbelief and surprise. He looked like he wanted to cry and hug me. Then he said, I don't know what to say; but he was very thankful, and yet, he still had me do a couple things around the office.

So let me ask you, do you think I was showing him mercy, or grace, or compassion? But wait; don't answer yet, because I would like to tell you about another event that happened about 2 weeks before this one.

I have this good friend that used to work at my company; and I would like to tell you a little bit about him, and the things going on in his life. He is a marine that served two tours in Iraq, and I know he went through a lot, because he can't, and won't, talk about it. I also think he might have PTSD. He used to work at my company about 5 or 6 years ago, and he was laid off because things were slow. He found other jobs after that, but not as good as our company. Well about 2 years ago, they hired him back, and I must say that everybody, including the company, knew he didn't have a lot of experience, but he was a good worker, and did his best to make sure the work was done correctly. He was also very grateful to have his job back. He told me about his new gift from God: his daughter (which the doctors have been telling them for years that she can't

(Continued on next page)

MERCY

get pregnant), and how glad he was to be working for a company that has insurance and a pension.

Not to long after he came back, his wife was getting bad headaches, and the doctors said she had a brain tumor; and his daughter was also getting sick often because she has a low immune system problem. He told his boss and the service manager, at that time, and they were very understanding. But after five or six months, the service manager had found another job, and the company started changing things around. So he had a new boss and a new service manager, and he told them his situation, and they said, OK. He started having some problems after the new boss started, and I don't know why, but his new boss would come out on the floor and stand there watching him for 15 to 20 minutes at a time, and this kept on, day after day. Now when I noticed this going on, I tried to go talk to his boss, but that didn't do any good, because he too was in the marines, and he is the tough guy kind of person, so he didn't care. So with all this going on with my friend, I think it was hurting him bad. I tried to talk to him as much as I could. I gave him that little saying: no God, no peace; know God, know peace, and, of course, footprints in the sand; I also gave him a Bible. Day by day, he was doing better, and soon after, he seemed back to normal.

About 5 months ago, the company made some more changes, and they moved him to another department. Now I thought this was a good idea, at the time, because in that department most of the work is a little easier, and I thought that the jobs didn't require a set time limit. Boy was I wrong, because a month and a half ago, he received a warning letter from the company for taking too long on most of his jobs; and this was the first time the company has ever done something like this, so I was very shocked. Now I looked at the warning letter that had every job he worked on for the last 3 months, and the set times for those jobs. Most of the jobs that were assigned to him were for more experienced technicians, and I couldn't understand why they were giving him those types of jobs. So I went to his boss and asked him point blank, are they trying to get rid of him; and all he could tell me was, no. I must say, I know his boss pretty well, and I trusted what he said; so I told my friend, your boss told me they are not trying to get rid of you, so just keep doing your best, and try to go a little faster.

About a month later, he was called into the office again on a Friday for the same thing, and I was out of town at the time. When I came back to work the next week on Monday, he told me what happened. The company told him that he had 2 choices: one would be to work at another branch that is twice as far from his house, and it pays 11 dollars an hour less than what he gets now, but he keeps the same insurance and pension; or he will be fired, and they gave him the weekend to think about it. I must say I was very upset, I couldn't understand why his boss told me they weren't trying to get rid of him, and do this a month later. Then I realized, this was the plan all along. So on Monday, they asked him if he talked it over with his wife, and what answer was. Well he told them he would go to the other branch only if they kept his pay the same. So they got very upset with him and told him that the company will not pay for his unemployment, and you better go ask your wife again, or you will be fired. And on Tuesday he told them the same thing, and they fired him. Even the union said they can't help him, and told him to take the deal.

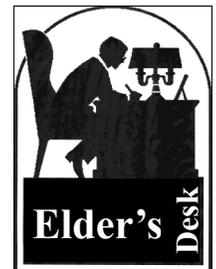
I called him a couple days later to see how he was doing, and of course, he was upset, but he knew he would get through this no matter what happens. I also told him if he needs anything, I will do what I can to help. I can't afford a house payment, but I will do whatever I could.

So do you think I was showing him mercy, or grace, or compassion? Well I didn't think so, because of what I did for the doctor only 2 weeks after this. I was willing to give the doctor a lot of money, because I felt he would be able to repay me soon, but my other friend who lost his job, I told him I couldn't afford a house payment. Luke 6:34 says: "And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full." And in Galatians 6:10: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

I think sometimes we might think we are doing good for people, but not realize we are treating them different. I would like to sum this up with the words from Jude 20 & 21: "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life."

Your humble servant in Christ,  
Ted Gehman

P.S. Please don't mention the lending part to my wife; she doesn't know yet.



<b>Connect</b>	Published by: <b>Sunny Place Church of God</b> 901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101 Church Office (630) 530-1830 Editor: Lynn Drury
	Senior Pastor: Peter Weber Treasurer: Glenda Kasza Elders: Sam Jacob, President Tim Kasza, Vice President Chuck Bender, Secretary Ted Gehman, Director Nona Koivula, Director

# TLC

Together Loving Christ

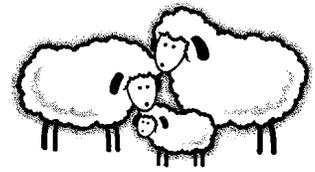
Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

**Grow in the Word!**

## Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine  
*Nursery Services Provided*



### **Indoor/Outdoor Game Day & Cookout**



Hot dogs and Hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a side dish to pass.

Sunday, June 25th  
at 12:30  
on the parsonage lawn



Please join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Feel free to bring your favorite game.

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

**Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ**

# Minutes of the Elders Meeting, May 4, 2017

Attendees: Ted Gehman, Pastor Weber, Sam Jacob, Chuck Bender, Tim Kasza, and Nona Koivula.

Devotion and Prayer: Acts 20:28-32. In these verses, Paul is reminding us to keep watch over ourselves and those around us in the church. We often need reminders to keep us heading in the right direction. We are the shepherds of the flock, it is our responsibility to be vigilant and instructive to those around us. The Holy Spirit has made us overseers of the church; the Lord has called us to this role. We need to always be on the alert for wolves in the flock, and false ideas that distort the truth. We need to stay on top of what we believe, and always be on our guard. We need to constantly seek the truth and build up our strength. We are Elders of the church, and it is our responsibility to build up the church with the tools God has given us. Know God's Word, and have an active relationship with Christ.

## **Ministry Reports:**

Treasurer: Budgeted bank balance for April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 is \$1495.56

We are behind on our Faith Promise giving and The Children of Promise.

Worship: The Easter Cantata was a great success, and new productions are in the planning stages. Quotes are being received for the new sanctuary projector and needed equipment.

Christian Education: The new adult study begins on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May and the topic is "The Logos" (The Word). John, Pastor and Sam will be teaching several Sundays.

Hospitality & Encouragement: Cards and flowers have been sent to those with birthdays and those who are ill. Mother's day is quickly approaching and preparations have been made for that day.

Missions: Our 2017 Missions Fest was enjoyed by all. The reception and lunch that followed was well attended. Our Faith Promise Commitments that day were \$20,470.00. We are still waiting for 2016 funds to come in.

Stewardship & Support Services: Our Next church work day is the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. We will be having breakfast at the church that morning hosted by the Ladies Ministry. We have lots of interesting projects to accomplish; all are welcome, from the youngest to the oldest. We are on track for a three day church work project, planned for August 10, 11, and 12. We need volunteers to help tackle several larger projects around the church and parsonage. See Chuck or Tim for details.

Ladies Ministry: They will be combining Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> with the Stewardship team, breakfast and some cleaning and repair projects around the church. A Ladies outing is being planned for June to **The Gardens at Cantigny Park** with a picnic lunch.

Evangelism and Outreach: The outreach team will be sponsoring Senior Luncheons. This event will be hosted every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Go to our website and sign up to attend. There is a need for volunteers to help with this event.

Men's Ministry: The Men's bike ride has been rescheduled, See Fred for details.

Pastoral Counseling: New beginnings counseling will be on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. See Laura Grafer for details.

## **Old & New Business:**

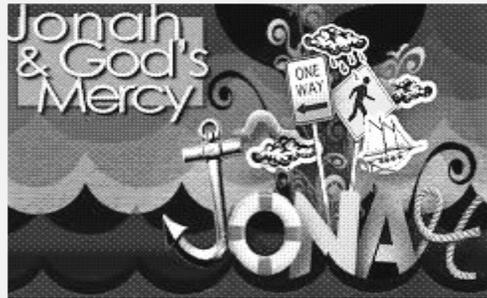
- The Capital Funds Campaign ends December 2017. We are checking on Jim Walters to speak at the close of the campaign.
- Request for a fundraiser for the NICE foundation in the amount of \$4500.00, is needed to complete the food drive.

The next Elder's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017



Kid's

# Connection



The great city of Nineveh, was very evil and wicked.

“The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittal: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.’” Jonah 1:1-2

But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed to Tarshish, the opposite way from Nineveh. He boarded a boat and the Lord sent a great storm and Jonah was thrown overboard by the ship’s crew. Then the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah and save him from drowning; because Jonah prayed and asked for forgiveness for disobeying Him..

“The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.’” Jonah 3:1-3

The people of Nineveh believed and repented, and fasted, and prayed for forgiveness, and all of them, including the King, promised to change their evil ways and obey God.

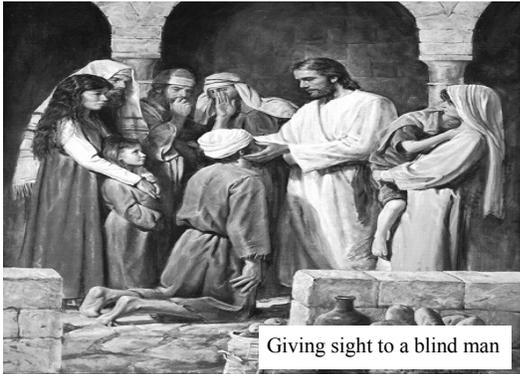
**God and His great mercy** did not destroy the Ninevites.

He forgave them and Jonah for their disobedience.

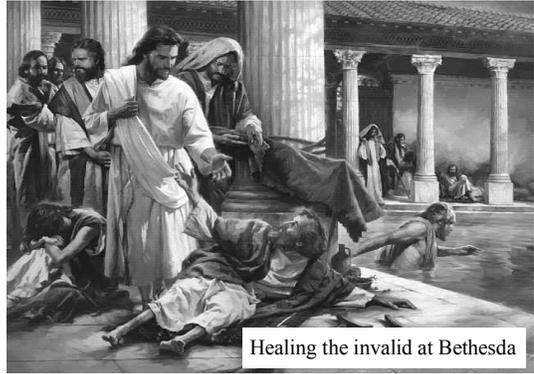
God gave both the Ninevites and Jonah a second chance.

## Jesus' Loving Mercy

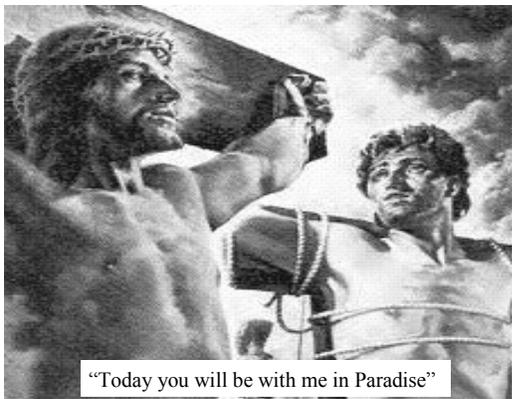
His Mercy is sufficient.  
His Strength will sustain you.  
His Arms will comfort & hold you.



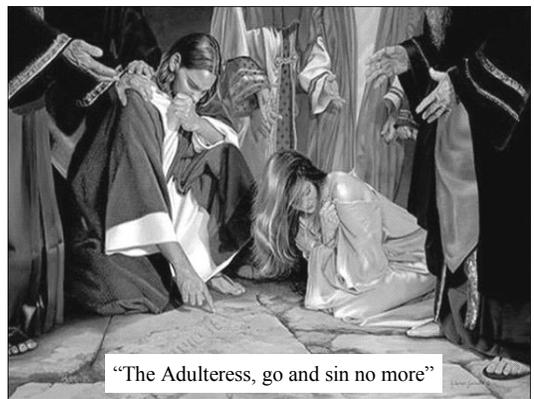
Giving sight to a blind man



Healing the invalid at Bethesda



"Today you will be with me in Paradise"

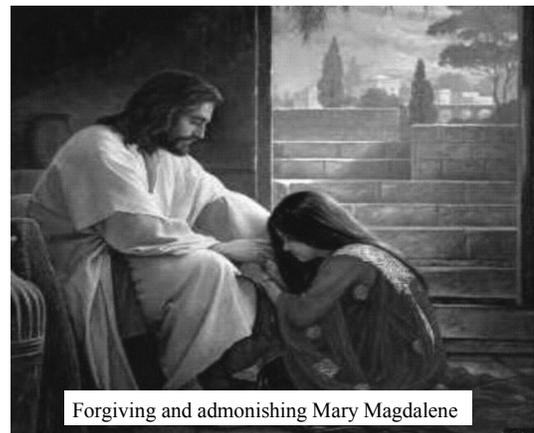


"The Adulteress, go and sin no more"

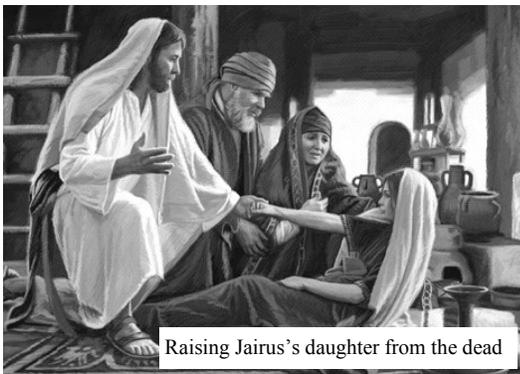


Healing of the 10 lepers

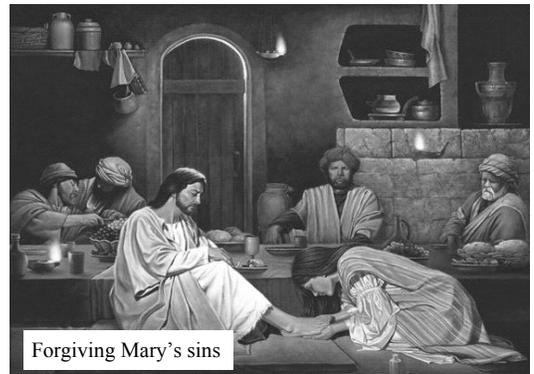
Illustration by John W. Sneed



Forgiving and admonishing Mary Magdalene



Raising Jairus's daughter from the dead



Forgiving Mary's sins



**Cantigny Gardens**  
**1S 151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL**  
**The beauty and tranquility will take your breath away.**

Meet at the Visitors Center at 9:30 a.m. for the Woman’s Ministry, docent-led tour of Cantigny Gardens, for our tour of the Shade, Rock, Rose, Formal and Idea Gardens. In addition there is a two acre Prairie restoration field containing hundreds of native wildflowers.

The walking tour will involve an hour or more of taking in the sites. There will be several benches along the paths; a stopping place for relaxation and rest. Regretfully, there will not be golf cart transportation around the gardens. Walking enables us to experience the floral beauty close up and personal. There is much to see and learn at this outdoor education facility donated by Colonel Robert R. McCormick to the residents of Illinois.

After the tour, several ladies wish to join together for lunch at the Le Jardin Restaurant in the Visitors Center. There is also a gift shop with unique gift items and plants.

Details: There is a \$10/per car fee only. Please use the entrance on Winfield Road, drive to the far side or east end of the parking lot, to be close to the Visitors Center, where we will all meet at 9:30 a.m. All ladies, children, friends and family are invited.

Please let Nona know of you plans to attend at 630/220-4298

**Sunday School Line-Up**  
 Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult  
Bible  
Study

**“God’s Plan of  
Salvation”**

God’s plan from the  
foundation of the world.

*Led by John Gryparis*



**Children’s Classes**

- Grades 1-4** led by Carla Weber
  - Grades 5-7** led by Chuck Bender
  - Youth 8-12** led by Sabra Martin
- Nursery services are provided***



**Thursday Evenings**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**at Sunny Place**

**“A Walk on the  
Roman Road”**

A Bible Study through  
the book of Romans.

*Led by Pastor Pete*

# june 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	2	3
4	5	6	7  Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	8  Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	9	10  Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
11  Afternoon of Prayer, light lunch to follow 12:30p.m. at Sunny Place	12	13	14  	15  Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	16	17  Men's Cookout 12:00 noon @ Bob's home
18  Honor Your Father  	19	20	N.A.C. - Wichita, KS			24  Ladies Outing at Cantigny 9:30 a.m., meet @ Visitor's Center
25  Game Day & Cookout, 12:30 @ Sunny Place  	26	27	28  Stewardship Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	29  Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	30	