

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

August, 2021

The Cross is the Bridge to Eternal Life

BRIDGE BUILDING

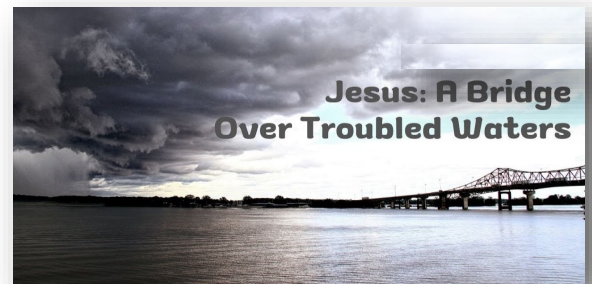
In pondering on “bridge building” the first thoughts that came to me were “connecting point A to point B” or getting from “here to there.” Realizing that I was thinking about it in the literal sense why bridges are built and what the purpose a bridge serves, I decided to look up the meaning of these two words put together in the dictionary to find if there were other meanings of the saying. In the Collins British English dictionary, I found “bridge building” is defined as “an effort to establish communications and friendly contacts between people to make them friends or allies.” As I kept thinking on the topic at hand my mind began turning to the spiritual meaning of bridge building.

I recently read an article by Adrian Williams, called “**Bridge Building: The Time is Now.**” (ourchristchurch.com, June 20, 2020). I would like to share some nuggets from the article with you that spoke to me after seeing and living through the events of this last year.

Williams writes, “In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020, accompanied by nationwide protest, I believe that our country is coming to grips with an unsettling truth—we are a nation of many colors and hues, varied socioeconomic backgrounds, and places of origin, but we don’t really know each other. Sure, we may be more familiar with those with whom we share cultural norms, economic status, and those who look like us, but as those similarities decrease so does our familiarity with who they really are. Thus, we need to bridge those divides.”

After reading those words, I was reminded of how much we all saw and personally experienced since the start of 2020 from Covid to the marches, riots, and to the racial attacks on our nation. As I sat and thought about the struggles we are facing as individuals and a nation, I asked myself “how can we bridge divides?” The answer immediately came to mind, Jesus!

JESUS IS the master bridge builder who willingly laid down on a cross, shed His blood and gave His life for you and me. He became the bridge for you and me. He paid the ransom which gave us the access to the narrow road, from a life of sin to eternal life.



1 Timothy 2:5-6 has come to my mind more than once lately, “⁵**For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;** ⁶**Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**” As Christians, so what does the word “bridges” mean for you and me?

Williams goes on to say “**Bridges are fascinating because they are designed to bring things together—land masses, roads, and people. I have found my life as a Christian to be exciting for the very same reason, because now I get to be a**

(Continued on next page)

bridge builder for Christ. Of course, Jesus is the only mediator between God and man (see 1 Timothy 2:5); but, acting under his authority, Christians have the privilege of building bridges also. What kind of bridges can we build today? Christians and non-Christians alike often have barriers that keep us from experiencing that intimacy with Christ and each other. Just as Jesus left Heaven to come and mingle with the sinful world, he has left us with the glorious task of creatively penetrating our world with the good news."

As exciting as it sounds, to have the privilege to build bridges, we must first consider do we have what it takes to build a bridge? Have we allowed God to equip us for this task? In thinking about bridge building and potential barriers, how do we achieve and experience fellowship with God and one another? To me, I see it as simple, as it comes down to a relationship based on love, trust, and two-way communication through us reading, listening, and obeying God's word. Reading our Bible and praying for Him to write His words on our hearts and in our minds by His Holy Spirit. Which are essential to establishing a "bridge of communication" between God and us, His children.

There are three scripture passages that come to my mind that reinforce the importance of a bridge of communication.

Psalms 119:5 "***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.***"

Proverbs 3:5-6, "***Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.***"

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of***

God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

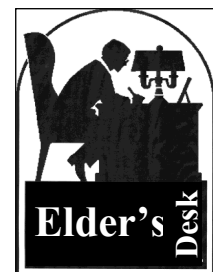
We must each ask ourselves "How much time do I spend reading my Bible or in prayer?" "Have I allowed God to equip me for His work?" "Is my bridge of communication strong or weak?" Think about it for a second or two, food for thought.

When we are in the right relationship with God and the bridge of communication is established, He can then use us to reach others. At this instance I can't help but think of our brother Sam Jacob who has shared various parts of his life story with us both publicly and at times one on one. How many times have we heard Sam say, "What's your story?" or "Tell me more."? Williams calls this approach "**bridge building of understanding and relationships**". When we share our stories and when we listen to others share their story with us, it provides a glimpse into who we each are as individuals, what we think, and why we think and behave as we do. It opens doors of understanding; it builds trust and relationships.

Most importantly, it provides us with the opportunity to share the gospel message with others and tell them about Christ. When this happens, we are being "**gospel bridge builders.**" Because we are sharing with them God's plan for our salvation through the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross for the remission of past sins. By this we are reconciled with God the Father and have access to His Holy Spirit to live godly lives. In doing this we not only share the words of life with others, which were once shared with us, but we are being faithful and obedient servants by fulfilling the great commission.

Matthew 28:19-20a "***Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.***"

Your servants in Christ,
Phyllis Clark & J. A. Garcia



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

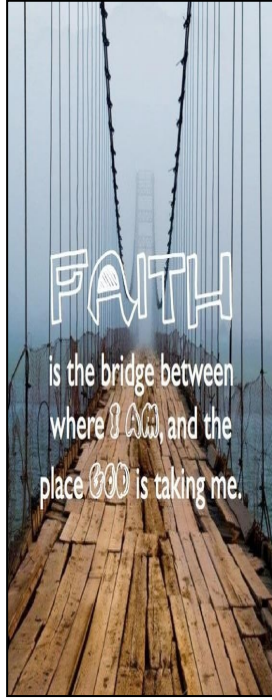
TLC

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!



Sunny Place Church is now open for Sunday Morning Services

We are happy to announce that the COVID-19 policy at Sunny Place has come to an end. The level of risk has lowered significantly to the point where we can allow masks to be optional. There will also be no social distancing limits or roped off pews.

We are grateful to God for taking us through this unusual and challenging ordeal. He has kept us safe and provided for us in many ways so that we could continue in worship and ministry throughout the entire fourteen plus months.

We will continue using Zoom for some waiting to finish getting vaccinated or transitioning to in-person activity. If not vaccinated and have not had COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask. But the decision is up to you.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please send us an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held July 7, 2021

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman, Glenda Kasza and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” *1 Peter 5:5b-9*

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,240.56 Giving \$13,605 Expenses \$14,262.49 Faith Promise \$3,095

Worship & Prayer: There was a Worship team meeting, June 13. The Wednesday Worship will begin again in August. The first one will be at the Jacob home on Wednesday Aug. 25. Everyone is invited. Details will be available soon. Hymn Request Sundays will happen on the last Sunday of every month beginning in July. Any one in church can request a song from the Church of God hymnal.

Christian Education & Fellowship: The Adult Bible Study at church and over Zoom continues on Sunday Morning studying the Church of God Revealed in the Scriptures. The Thursday evening Bible study on Zoom will be “Instruction for Leaders of the Church”, A study of the Pastoral Letters of Paul. There will be a church picnic in Sept.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: The Ministry continues with phone calls and cards to the congregation.

Outreach & Missions: The second Saturday Senior Luncheon will occur on Saturday July 10. This is the last Saturday the team will offer lunch both in person in the Fellowship Hall and drive thru. From now on it will be offered in the Fellowship Hall only. Phyllis is working with our missionaries to involve them on our Facebook page and Faithlife. We hope to build more awareness about the Children of Promise worldwide program as it expands. This Church of God program helps to build future leaders around the world. Our 2021-22 Faith Promise Commitment (\$20020) goal was exceeded: \$20600.

Stewardship & Support Services: Our church was able to purchase and install a new air conditioning unit. Most of the funds for the A/C unit were donated by grateful givers. Tim thanks Ted for the countless hours of work he did as needed in the basement. During heavy rains there was water intrusion in the basement. Tim reminds all of us to help pitch in to clean the church on Sunday after Worship service.

New and Old Business

- Our church will participate in a community wide garage sale on Saturday July 17. Many people intend to sell items during the sale at our church.
- On Faithlife, Jacob placed links to short videos about the history and leadership of the Church of God. They offer valuable information and are recommended for viewing.
- Pastor Pete and Carla will be out of town from Aug. 9 to 18.

Next Elders Meeting August 4, 2021

Sunny Place Church, August, Events

Wednesday, August 25th, 6:00pm



At the home of the Jacob family
1016 Balmoral Lane
Elgin, IL
(847) 337-7393

There will be dinner, fellowship, singing, and an encouraging message, all are welcome.

Please bring a dish to share. (please be aware there are nut allergies; If you do bring a dish with nuts, please label it clearly).

2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon
Saturday, August 14th, 11:30 am



Sunny Place Church

Free for Seniors +55, register at 630/398-2314



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

"The Church of God
Revealed in Scripture"

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom



**"Instruction for Leaders
of the Church"**

A Study of the Pastoral Letters of Paul

Led by Pastor Pete
7:00 p.m. On Zoom only

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times. If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you. You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.