

Written by Pastor Don Lain

COMMITMENT! It is a taboo word in modern American society. It carries with it the negative connotation of being trapped, tied down, and imprisoned. Persons of past generations saw the value of commitment and lived in a time and place where commitment was rewarded with returned commitment and security. But current generations have come to find that commitment seems to produce little return, so why get "trapped"?

WORSHIP! We like that word much more. But we tend to see the word worship in a limited way - we think about the word as referencing the time in our lives when we are listening to and singing music. We call our gatherings "Worship Services" and refer to the time of singing as our "time of worship." However, the Apostle Paul understood worship to be much bigger than that; it has to do with commitment. He proclaims in Romans 12:1: "*I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual ACT OF WORSHIP.*" (NIV) Worship in its fullest expression is, in fact, commitment - total commitment.

The challenge for the Christian is to trust that this level of commitment to Christ is good. The benefits and joy that come from a totally committed life to God and His church are unlimited and immeasurable. In fact, the rules of commitment in the church are totally opposite of the world: failure to be committed to Christ is what produces negative results and the feeling of being "trapped." One Haitian pastor illustrated the need for total commitment to Christ with this parable:

"A certain man wanted to sell his house for \$2,000. Another man wanted very badly to buy it, but because he was poor, he couldn't afford the full price. After much bargaining, the owner agreed to sell the house for half the original price with one stipulation: he would retain ownership of one small nail protruding from just over the door.

"After several years, the original owner wanted the house back, but the new owner was unwilling to sell. So the first owner went out, found the carcass of a dead dog, and hung it from the nail he still owned. Soon the house became unlivable, and the family was forced to sell the house to the owner of the nail."

The Haitian pastor concluded his parable with these words: "If we leave the Devil with even one small peg in our life, he will return to hang his rotten garbage on it, making it unfit for Christ's habitation. (Source: Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching, "Commitment", pg. 37)

Commitment is total: we lay all down at the feet of Jesus and chose to live as living sacrifices. This is our "reasonable act of worship."

My good friends, my family in Christ, as we enter the season of thanks - a season of worship - let us seek after and live the committed life. In the months ahead, let us ask ourselves the question, "What does it mean for me to live a life totally committed to Christ?" and then live accordingly. The benefits are ". . .immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us. . ." (Eph. 3:20)

November Birthdays



Jim VanderSchoor	01	Marty Adams	19
Miranda Cornett	08	Phyllis Long	20
Julie Long	10	Barbara Flack	20
Marcella Rivera	12	Eric Anderson	21
Melanie DeMeo	14		

November Anniversaries



Joanna & Mike Kolpjen	03
Melanie & Romeo DeMeo	11

If you have a birthday or anniversary that needs updated, please email or call the church to let us know!
office@parknaz.org

The November Messenger Continued..

NYI QUIZ SCHEDULE

Quizzes begin at 9:00 a.m.:



November 20-21 (Virtual)

December 4-6 (St. Louis)

December 11-12 (Fun Quiz)

The teens are studying the book of Matthew.

Parkside Quiz Practice Schedule:

November 1 & 15 at 7:00 p.m., in person at Parkside.

Tri-State Quiz:

The Teens will meet at the church from 4:30-10:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20 to participate in this quiz virtually. See Pastor Marcella or Joanne Murphy with any questions.

Significant Dates :

November 1 & 15: Teen Quiz Practice at 7:00 p.m.

November 5, 12 & 19: Ladies Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

November 8: Finance Committee Meeting

November 10: Church Board Meeting

November 20-21 : Tri-State Quiz (Virtual)

November 22: Together... a service of Thanksgiving (NCO)

PARKSIDE CHILD CARE CENTER

See the picture for this year's Halloween Celebration Schedule.

This November, Parent/ Teacher Conferences will be virtual the week of November 16. The Thanksgiving lunch will look different this year, but the rooms will celebrate on November 24. The Child Care Center will be closed on November 26 and 27 in observance of Thanksgiving.

If you have any questions regarding the Child Care Center, please contact Pastor Marcella or Cheryl in the School Office.

Classroom Pumpkin Decorating Contest

- Parents will vote on their favorite pumpkin. The classroom with the most votes will win a Pizza Party!
- Voting begins Tuesday, October 27th

Parade

- Friday, October 30th at 9:30am
 - Children will show off their costumes and parade outside, weather permitting.
 - Social distancing and masks are required.

Special Treat & The Great Pumpkin

- Friday, October 30th
 - Each classroom will receive a Special Treat and enjoy a showing of IT's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.

Goodies to Share

- Children may bring in goodies to share with their classroom friends and teachers. Goodies must be pre-packaged and able to fit inside of each child's treat bag (provided by Parkside). ALL treats will go home!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Many children around the world have never heard the Gospel message of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

They live in hard-to-reach, impoverished communities where parents struggle to provide the basics. Rarely, if ever, do the children receive a present that's just for them.

This year, more than 10.5 million children in over 100 countries and territories received shoeboxes full of special gifts. And, for the first time, these children heard that God loves them. This has resulted in **evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication** across the world!

If you would like to participate, please take a box and a list of instructions from the table in the foyer. Please return your box by Sunday, November 8. If you have any questions, please see Frances Cooney.



Live Stream of Weekly Services & Devotionals:

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (these are also held in person)

Wednesday Devotionals at 11:00 a.m.

Go to: www.facebook.com/parknaz/ or www.youtube.com/ParksideNazareneChurch