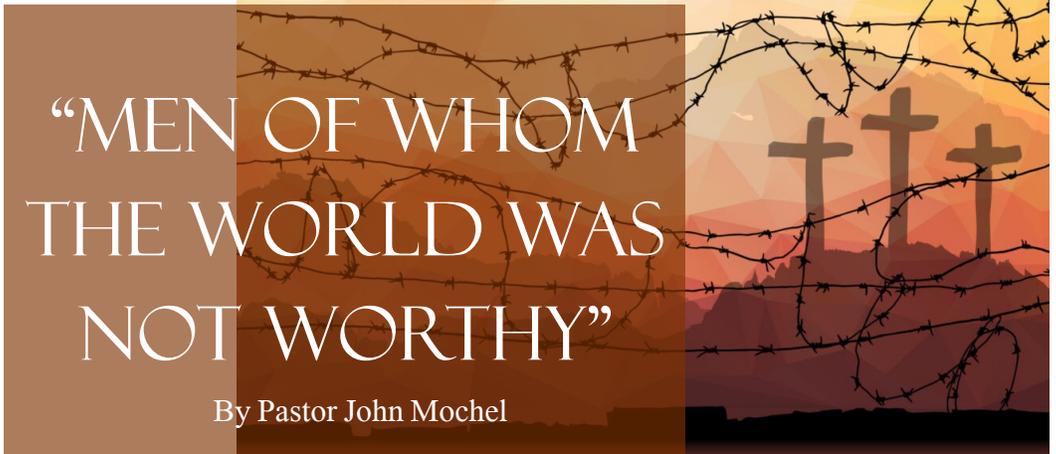


The Banner

Nearly every book in the New Testament and many in the Old make it clear that, if you faithfully follow the Lord, you will be persecuted. Such is the nature of sin, human ignorance, and the designs of Satan in God's world. Sometimes it will be hot persecution. At other times it will be cold. Sometimes this means the fires of the furnace and the sword. Sometimes it means the cold shoulder and the cruel word. Sometimes it means jail, torture, and death. Other times it means you will be made fun of in school or be called a "bitter clinger to God and guns."

Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:12, comes right out and says it, "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." It is not a question or a possibility. It is a fact, a certainty. Paul knows this from experience and from the teachings of Jesus.

¹⁸ *"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates*



“MEN OF WHOM
THE WORLD WAS
NOT WORTHY”

By Pastor John Mochel

me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'" John 15:18-25

In these words of Jesus, we learn that we will be persecuted and we learn why. People will hate you because they hate God and you remind them of Him. People will hate you because your presence makes them feel guilty about their sin. People will hate you because they do not want to hear any of the words of Jesus. He threatens their illusory autonomy.

This has all been true for 2,000 years. It is true today. I just returned from a Pastor's Conference in India. I heard many stories from the pastors there of what they are currently enduring. Persecution has been heating up in India over the past ten years or so. The rise of Hindu nationalism has made persecuting Christians politically advantageous. Recently, anti-conversion laws have been passed that make it illegal to try to convert people from Hinduism

(Continued on pg. 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

to Christianity. These laws are variably enforced, but they cause Christians everywhere in India to be fearful.

One of the pastors at the conference had just been released from jail. I'll call him Pastor Isaiah, though that is not his real name. He and his wife have been caring for poor widows and orphans in the city in India where they live. There is a women's group that meets in their house. Some of these women they have helped get on their feet financially, find jobs, and gain some self-respect. A couple of these ladies have now become believers in Jesus Christ.

Then, Isaiah was accused of paying people to become a Christian. A Hindu mob caught him on the street and beat him. Then they went to the police and accused him of trying to convert Hindus and of causing a riot. Isaiah then had to hire a lawyer to defend himself from the charges. He was arrested anyway and thrown in jail. His wife bailed him out after a few weeks with money that other Christians had sent her. The case is still in the courts and has cost much money, time, and stress.

The goal of those who do this to people like Pastor Isaiah is not to win a court case or save society from bad people. They just want to make this man's life miserable. They hate him for his faith in Jesus and want others to notice what happens when you follow Jesus.

Nearly half of the pastors at the conference had personal stories like this one. It is commonplace. It is simply a fact of Christian living in India.

In Hebrews 11 a list is given of those who had trusted the Lord in all that God brought them through. At the end of the list, we find a conclusion:

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated -- men of whom the world was not worthy. Hebrews 11:37-38a

I told the pastors in India they have brothers and sisters in South Dakota who are proud of them and are praying for them. They were so encouraged. They are not forgotten. They teach me courage.

There is a song, a favorite of mine, which captures my imagination as I think about all of this. It is titled, "When the Saints," and sung by Sarah Groves. You should listen to it, over and over. †

WHEN THE SAINTS

Lord, I have a heavy burden of all I've seen and know
It's more than I can handle
But your word is burning like a fire shut up in my bones
and I can't let it go
And when I'm weary and overwrought
with so many battles left unfought

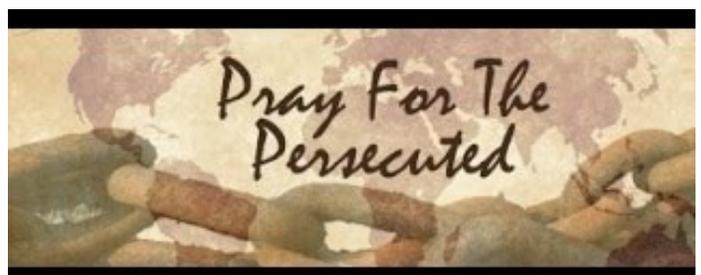
I think of Paul and Silas in the prison yard
I hear their song of freedom rising to the stars
And when the Saints go marching in
I want to be one of them

Lord, it's all that I can't carry and cannot leave behind
it all can overwhelm me
but I think of all who've gone before them and lived
the faithful life
their courage compels me
And when I'm weary and overwrought
with so many battles left unfought

I see the shepherd Moses in the Pharaoh's court
I hear his call for freedom for the people of the Lord
And when the Saints go marching in
I want to be one of them

I see the long quiet walk along the Underground Railroad
I see the slave awakening to the value of her soul
I see the young missionary at the angry spear
I see his family returning with no trace of fear
I see the long hard shadows of Calcutta nights
I see the sisters standing by the dying man's side
I see the young girl huddled on the brothel floor
I see the man with a passion come and kicking down that door
I see the man of sorrow and his long troubled road
I see the world on his shoulders and my easy load

And when the Saints go marching in
I want to be one of them



UPCOMING EVENTS

BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

The Adoption and Foster Care Ministry invites you to participate in the **Baby Bottle Boomerang** to support life-affirming care for families. Pick up a baby bottle, take it home, and fill it with your spare change. All donations go directly to **ZoeCare Pregnancy Center in Yankton.**

Baby bottles and information about ZoeCare are available in the upper church foyer.
If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Adoption and Foster Care Ministry team:
BJ Pramann, Michelle DeLay, Nick Van Hofwegen, or Stacy Sims.

ANNUAL NORTHSTAR FUNDRAISER

March 1 | 5:30pm | Brooklyn Church

Let's help send local kids to camp at Hidden Acres in Dayton, IA!

Catering by B&T's Barbecue

Donations of homemade pies, sweet treats, handmade goods, crafts, services would be appreciated to auction off.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Mochel or the Missions Committee.

OYATE CONCERN MISSIONS TRIP

Brooklyn Church will be sending a team July 12-17 to support Oyate Concern. This organization is located near Oglala on the Pine Ridge Reservation and has been supported by Brooklyn for many years. Oyate Concern's mission is "to make disciples of Jesus and empower indigenous Christians to lead disciple-making ministries where lives and communities can be transformed through the gospel."

Last summer, the team that attended helped with the construction of the exterior of a horse barn, did painting of the preschool, made improvements of the road to the new property, etc. Several community outreach events were also provided. This year, the Brooklyn Mission Team will help construct a Ministry Center, finish the interior of the horse barn, complete landscaping, and work on the community garden.

This is truly an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining the Brooklyn Mission Team.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Pastor John Mochel or Connie Schmidt (605-957-5585).**

A signup sheet is available in the church foyer on the Welcome Desk.

February

<i>sunday</i>	<i>monday</i>	<i>tuesday</i>	<i>wednesday</i>	<i>thursday</i>	<i>friday</i>	<i>saturday</i>
1 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship, Communion 5p Belize Youth Fundraiser	2 6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	3 8a CC 6:30p Women's Study	4 6:30p Awana, MS/HS AIC Youth	5 9:30a Women's Study	6	7
8 Gideons 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6p Evening Study	9 6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	10 8a CC	11 12p Community Study 6:30p Awana, MS/HS AIC Youth	12 9:30a Women's Study 9:30a Bethesda Service 7:30p Men's Dis- cipleship	13 9a Elder Board 2-3:30p CC, FH	14 
15 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6p Evening Study	16 6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	17 9a DTS Pastor's Group, YB 6:30p Women's Study	18 12p Community Study 6:30p Awana, MS/HS AIC Youth	19 9:30a Women's Study	20	21 9a Missions Committee Meeting
22 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6p Evening Study	23 6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	24 8a CC	25 12p Community Study 6:30p Awana, MS/HS AIC Youth	26 9:30a Women's Study 7:30p Men's Dis- cipleship	27	28
<i>Feb. 1-6: Pastor John will be in Chicago for BOMS meetings and Theology Conference</i>						

Happy Birthday:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Teddy Gordon | 10 Allen Sveeggen | 25 Karen Erickson |
| 2 Annalisa Stake | 11 Chase Adam | 25 Evelyn Monen |
| 3 Lily VanHofwegen | 11 Fred Fahlberg | 28 Memphis Meier |
| 3 Mayana Wynia | 14 Nancy Swanstrom | 29 Benjamin Wergin |
| 5 Andrew Meier | 22 Lindsay Koth | |
| 5 Carmen VanHofwegen | 22 Shaun VanHofwegen | |
| 9 Lily Harms | 24 Adam Monen | |
| 10 Clara Sims | 24 Marsha Nelson | |

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP

February 1

AM | John 14:1-14, Communion
 Theme | My Father's House
 PM | No evening study

February 8

AM | John 14:15-31
 Theme | The Spirit of Truth
 PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

February 15

AM | John 15:1-11
 Theme | Jesus the True Vine
 PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

February 22

AM | John 15:12-25
 Theme | Love in a Hateful World
 PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology



MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Date	Greeters	Nursery	Children's Church	Music/Missions	Scripture Reader
2/1	M/M Wynia	Karla Bovill Wesley Krebs	BJ Pramann Sydney DeLay	Communion	Rhonda Wynia
2/8	B/B Erickson	Michelle DeLay Bethany Hoffman	Harley Koth Jack DeLay	Missions Moment	Robin Leikvold
2/15	C/M DeLay	Jen Gordon Selah Stake	Julie Saugstad Hunter Pramann	Hannah Bird	Ted Lewis
2/22	M/K Bovill	Hannah Bird Annalisa Stake	Nancy Mochel Payden Hoffman	Zech Stake	Jeremy Saugstad
3/1	C/S Carnes	Stacy Sims Isaac Bovill	Colleen Buss Andrew Bovill	Missions Moment	Allen Sveeggen
3/8	K/R Leikvold	Nancy Mochel Lewie Gordon	B VanHofwegen Elsie Bovill	Open	Arlyn Abrams
3/15	K Erickson	Jackie Krebs Audrey Bird	Michelle DeLay Isaac Bovill	Tavin Lewis	Dan Paulson
3/22	T/H Lewis	Karla Bovill Clara Sims	BJ Pramann Elijah Stake	Steve VanHofwegen	Matthew Wynia
3/29	A Sveeggen	Michelle DeLay Memphis Meier	Harley Koth Isaac Bovill	Open	Jerrold Wynia

February Worship Leader: John Fahlberg

Keyboard: Connie Twedt

Ushers: Mark Bovill, Matthew Wynia,
 Brian Erickson, Andy German

March Worship Leader: Pete Fahlberg

Keyboard: Doreen Fahlberg

Ushers: Eric Adam, Clif Carnes,
 Ron Swanson, Reid Jensen

