

Reaching Out for Help

Several years ago, I was talking with a therapist who worked at the Christian counseling center that I direct. She was in her late 60s, and I asked if she had thought about retirement. Her response was immediate: “Where else could I go where I get to see God at work right in front of me? I see people making healthier choices, feeling better about their life and the world, improving their relationships, and moving beyond feeling trapped in the past.”

The counselors I work with are honored to listen to the stories from clients. Often these stories are horrific to hear, yet the people sitting across from us actually lived through the events and realized—by God’s grace—that they needed help and healing.

Everyone needs encouragement and a listening ear, especially in difficult times. It is a sign of maturity and strength when someone reaches out for support. Jesus often asked for help himself—whether for a drink of water from a well or for someone to take care of his mother when he was dying on the cross.

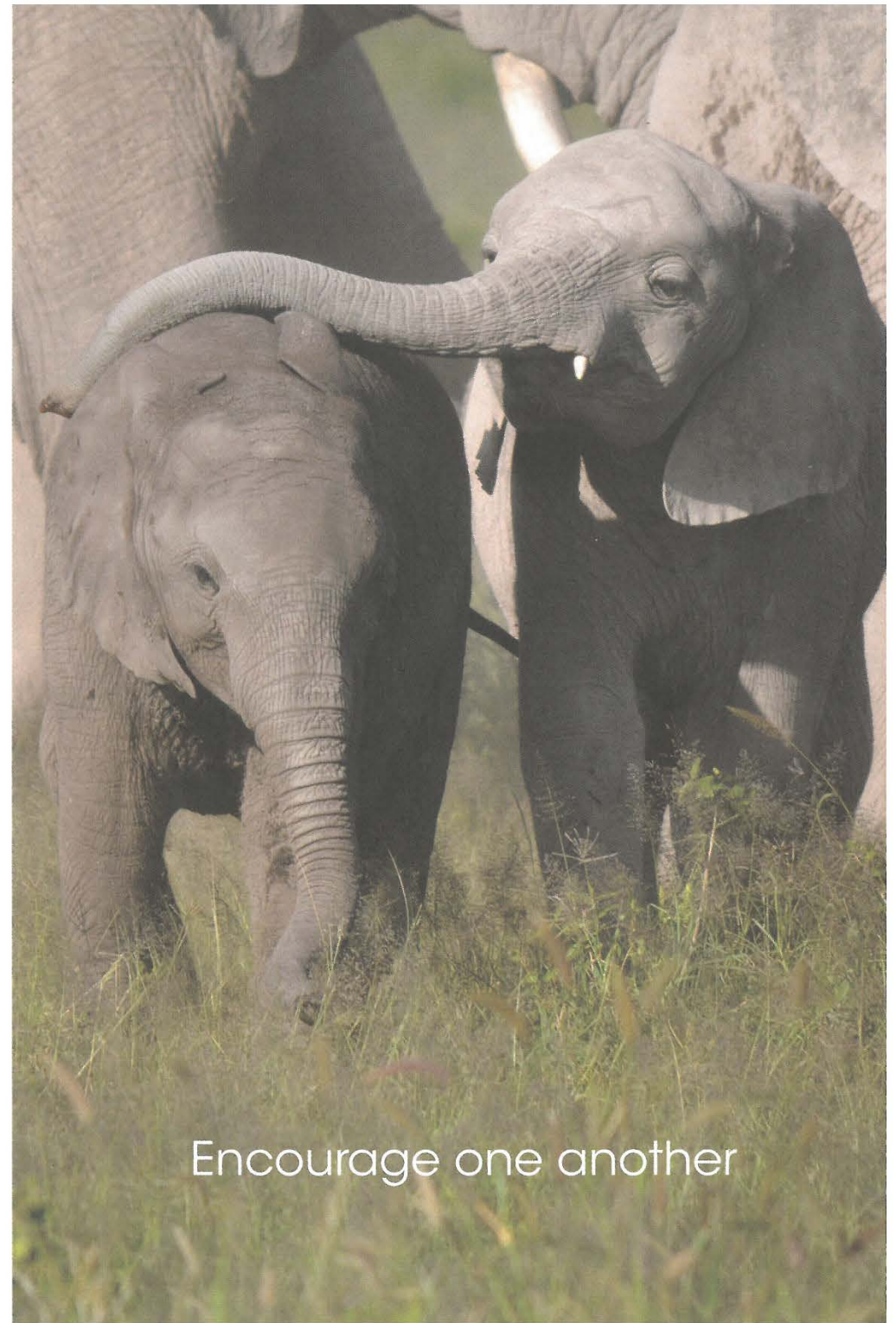
As the church, we’ve been called to encourage our brothers and sisters as we journey through life. Not only does the church provide spiritual siblings, but pastors, deacons, and others who have training and can assist us when we need help. Sometimes the difficulties we encounter require professional assistance. It is wise when we seek a faith-based counselor who can walk with us and offer insight and alternative ways of approaching life.

When someone you know is going through a hard time, listen to them and then encourage them to seek help, either within the church or with a counselor.

—Carl Baughman, executive director
Samaritan Counseling Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Text for today: “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore *encourage one another* with these words” (1 Thess. 4:13-18, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (18); Matthew 25:1-13.

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Encourage one another

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship November 5, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Three Renaissance Dances *Carson Cooman*
1. Pavane 2. Tordion 3. Allemande
Trumpet Voluntary on LOBE DEN HERREN *John Barr*

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER Jeff Carr
Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshiping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

THE TRINITY CHIME *Charles A. Jacques*

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 107:1-9, 33-37

***HYMN # 37** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

PROCLAIMING

CHERUB & CAROL CHOIR ANTHEMS (11:00)

Cherub & Carol Choirs Fishers of Men *Harry D. Clarke*
Jesus Loves Me *William B. Bradbury*
Carol Choir Lift up Your Hearts *M. Praetorius*
Guide Us, Lord *Mark Patterson*

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Josh Eye

Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions. Following the Children's Story, all children preschool through 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Agape Room.

SCRIPTURE READING 1st Thessalonians 2:9-13

ANTHEM (11:00) Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord *Robert A. Hobby*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 23:1-12

SERMON "Witness Generosity" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

***HYMN # 384** *We give thee but thine own* SCHUMANN

REFLECTIONS (8:30) ...a time for conversation.

OFFERING

Invitation
Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.
(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Meditation on SCHUMANN *John Barr*

Prayer of Dedication

***HYMN # 71** *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* HYMN TO JOY

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (11:00) Postlude *Raymond Haan*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

Today's altar flowers are provided in loving memory of Wanda Bowman on the two-year-anniversary of the day of her death, by her husband Fred and their children's families: Joyce & Marlin Eller, Anne & Pat Lintner, Carl & Laura Bowman, and Glen & Beth Bowman.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

November 5-11, 2017 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---|---------------|
| Today | 9 a.m. | Bell Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room |
| | | Children's Worship during Worship at 11 | |
| | Noon | Youth Fundraiser Lunch (Taco Bar) | Social Hall |
| | 1:00 | Council | |
| | 5:00 | Sr. Hi. Movie Night – Home of the Zepps | |
| Tues. | 7:00 | Food Pantry | Social Hall |
| Wed. | 8 a.m. | Bridgewater Area Ministers | Maple Terrace |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Office Staff Meeting | Lounge |
| | 11-1 | Bridgewater Home Auxiliary Lunch | Social Hall |
| | 2:00 | Jubilee Circle | Maple Terrace |
| | 5:15 | Cherub Choir Rehearsal | Agape Room |
| | 5:45 | Carol Choir Rehearsal | Agape Room |
| | 6:30 | YORFFs Rehearsal | Room # 35 |
| | 7:00 | Friendship Circle – Home of Vi Cox | |
| | 7:00 | JOY Circle | Seekers Room |
| Thurs. | 6:00 | Brethren Student Movement | Carter Center |
| | 6:30 | Puppets Rehearsal | Agape Room |
| | 7:30 | Sanctus Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room |
| Fri.-Sat. | | Youth at Brethren Woods | |
| Sat. | 9-1 | Alternative Christmas Fair | Social Hall |

NEXT SUNDAY– November 12, 2017 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Junior High Youth Sunday

“And Who is My Neighbor?”

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

Habitat for Humanity House Dedication – 3 p.m.

Youth Sunday Night Live – 6 p.m. – Montezuma CoB

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

Glenna Wampler – Business Manager

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Jeanie Eye – Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

All Are Welcome brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Pianist (8:30) – Kathy Shrader

Worship Leader – Claire Martindale

Head Usher – Kevin Keplinger

Decorator – Lori Lineweaver

Sound & Light Technician – Michael Overman

Deacon Caregiver – Amanda Zepp

Van Driver – 11/05 & 11/19: Wayne Angleberger
11/12 & 11/26: Melvin Wampler

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 10/29/17

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 23 11:00 – 235 Sunday School: 146

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Pledges & Envelope Giving | \$6,177.00 |
| Loose Offering | 612.00 |
| <i>Messenger</i> Subscription | 14.50 |
| Books | 80.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 100.00 |
| CROP Walk | 25.00 |
| Brethren Student Movement | 125.00 |
| Habitat House | 200.00 |
| JOY Circle | 1,563.00 |
| Clayton Towers Memorial Fund | 75.00 |
| Charlotte McKay Memorial Fund | 50.00 |

TODAY'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR TEXTS:

Fishers of Men

I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men.

I will make you fishers of men if you follow me

If you follow me, if you follow me

I will make you fishers of men if you follow me

Hear Christ calling come unto me, come unto me, come unto me,

Hear Christ calling come unto me, I will give you rest.

I will give you rest. I will give you rest.

Hear Christ calling come unto me, I will give you rest. © 1927 Hope Pub.

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Jesus Loves Me

Please refer to Hymnal # 341

Lift Up Your Hearts

Lift up your hearts oh lift them up unto the Lord God, your King

Let all give thanks, for it is good and right so to do. Public Domain

Guide Us, Lord

Guide us through these days, O, Lord; help us to seek your way,

Trusting as you lead us with love, teach us again to pray.

Help us know you more clearly, help us love you more dearly,

Help us follow you more nearly day by day; day by day.

Guide us Lord, we pray

Guide us through these days, O, Lord, help us to seek your way,

Seeking wisdom from your word, strengthen our tender faith.

When we stray and fall to sin help us find your path again,

Draw us closer in your fellowship of love.

Lead us, teach us, guide us Lord, we pray.

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TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: R.A.H., based on Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Make a joyful noise, all you lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness, and come before God's presence with a song!

Make a joyful noise! Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Know that the Lord is God, our Creator, to whom we belong;

We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and into the courts with praise.

Give thanks to God, and bless God's name!

For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting,

And whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Lord is good from age to age.

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CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

As the fall progresses toward winter, and our thoughts turn from Halloween to Thanksgiving to Advent and Christmas, our college students have a few extra things on their minds – exams, final papers, and more exams. So to show them a little extra love during this stressful time, we will once again be sending “Care Packages” to our students near and far. We are inviting you to help us fill them with lots of goodies. Some suggestions:

Microwave popcorn

Hot Chocolate Packs

Bags of individually wrapped snack size candy

Prepackaged cookies, crackers, granola bars, etc.

Snack size raisins, peanuts, etc.



Throughout the month of November there will be collection bins in the Greeting Hall for you to make contributions to this effort. We will divvy up all contributions, supplement where necessary, and then ship the packages off to the students.

If you wish, you may also contribute \$\$\$ for supplementing and mailing the packages. Donations should be marked “College Care Packages” and can be dropped in the offering plate or given to Pastor Chris no later than November 26.

If you would like to help distribute the goodies, fill the boxes, and prep for delivery, we will be doing so on Wednesday evening, November 29, in the church lounge beginning around 5 p.m. and going as long as it takes.

P.S. If your child / grandchild, etc. is currently attending a school other than Bridgewater College, we need a CURRENT mailing address to get a package to them! Please contact the church office by November 26 to ensure that we have their most up-to-date mailing address.

Thanks for your help in this ministry of care and hospitality!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Plans are being made for the Alternative Christmas Fair which will be held on Saturday, November 11, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at our church. Come and support the many organizations that will be represented by making donations to your favorite ones. Bridgewater College students are also assisting in making the Fair a reality. A few of the many worthwhile organizations to be represented include Collins Center, First Step, Habitat for Humanity, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Free Clinic, Heifer International, John Kline Homestead, New Community Project, Trees for Life, and Valley Program for Aging Services. There will also be a bake sale and lunch. Christmas is coming, so consider using contributions to these organizations as your gifts to family and loved ones!

THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT

The dedication for the Habitat for Humanity house our congregation is completing will be next Sunday, November 12, at 3 pm. Plan to join us in dedicating this home with the Eberly family at 420 Mason Street in Dayton. Parking is available in the Park View Credit Union lot across the street. Refreshments will be served.

GREETERS NEEDED

At the hospitality desk in the greeting hall is a sign-up sheet for Sunday morning greeters for the next two months. If you are willing to serve as a greeter on one or more Sundays, please sign up on the form. You can also sign-up online at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-B8H_DsbjXpwSgvsK-wPXQyMIIXZJF6uwoi5nYMleA/edit#gid=0. We are grateful to all who are willing to help in this capacity!

LOST AND FOUND

In the greeting hall are several tables containing lost and found items that have been left in the congregational office, kitchen, and coat closets. Please check if you think you may have left something here. Items still remaining after today will be cared for accordingly.

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PROJECT

BWCOB is partnering with Harrisonburg-Rockingham Social Services to provide gifts for local children and adults. Gift tags will be available in the Greeting Hall starting next Sunday, November 12.

**Church Council - Agenda
November 5, 2017, 1:00 PM
Fred Swartz, Moderator**

- **Opening**
- **Prayer** Chris Zepp & Youth
- **August 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes** *(Action)*
- **2017 Third Quarter Financial Report** *(Report)*
- **2018 Proposed Budget** *(Action)*
- **Calling and Affirming** *(Action)*
 - Executive Committee Report
 - Gifts Discernment Report
- **Plan of Organization** *(Action)*
 - *Foundation Section VII*
 - *Witness and Renewal Changes*
- **Roof Replacement Project Update** *(Action)*
- **Other Business / Announcements**
- **Adjournment**

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren Council Meeting Minutes -- August 6, 2017

The Bridgewater Church of the Brethren quarterly council meeting was called to order at 12:48 p.m. by Moderator Fred Swartz. Moderator Swartz led the group in prayer.

The minutes from the May 7, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report ending June 30, 2017 was presented by Treasurer Phil Flory. Income for the first half of the year was \$316,969.15 which is under the budgeted amount of \$328,424.00. Expenses for the same time period were \$314,053.39 that includes the \$1,000.00 origination fee on line of credit. The amount budgeted was \$328,424.00 leaving a gain of \$2,909.76. At this time the \$500,000 line of credit has not been tapped. This line of credit was opened at Farmers and Merchants Bank, Bridgewater along with the transfer of accounts from BB&T. Moderator Swartz extended appreciation to Treasurer Phil Flory and Business Manager Glenna Wampler for their accurate and thorough reports.

Plan of Organization update

- Section VII (Foundation) – Committee Chair Doris Harsh reported the committee is completing their work and will bring recommendations to the next (November 5, 2017) council meeting.
- Proposed changes to the Witness and Renewal Commission – Included in the proposed changes (see official minutes) is to rename the commission the Witness and Nurture Commission. There was a brief discussion on the proposed changes including the question does the church conduct exit interviews with members that leave the congregation. A vote on the proposed changes will be taken at the next Council meeting.

Roof Replacement Project

In lieu of Properties Commission Chair Jim Benedict's absence, Pastor Jeff Carr delivered the following report. Blueline Construction finished the design work for the roof and submitted the plans to the Town of Bridgewater. The plans were approved. The plans are now being reviewed by the Rockingham County building authorities.

Once the permits have been issued, Blueline Construction will work with Largent Roofing to schedule the roof replacement. The Properties Commission is also working to make a recommendation on the color of the metal roof. That decision should be made soon. The hope is the project should begin in the next few weeks and be finished before November.

Habitat Build Update

In lieu of Deacon Commission Chair Jan Flora's absence, Pastor Carr delivered the following report. All rough-in inspections have been passed and insulation is scheduled soon. Drywall will then be started taking approximately 10 days to complete.

Staff Member Report

In addition to Associate Pastor Chris Zepp's written report the following items were also reported.

- The Supportive Communities Network (SCN) will sponsor an event at the church in October.
- Times for the Wednesday night meals may change.
- The Puppet Ministry will be led by Mark Dowdy.
- A committee (Jeremy Driver, Josh Eye, Todd Kiracofe, and Chris Zepp) is gathering information regarding replacing the church van.
- Glenna Wampler will be retiring at the end of the year. With this in mind, the Executive Committee is working on the structure of the staff.
- Pastor Carr expressed appreciation to Pastor Zepp saying working with him has been a privilege.

Other Business and Announcements

- Katie Smith thanked the congregation for a positive experience working for the church this summer.
- Chair Steve Watson, representing the congregation, affirmed how proud and honored the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren is to have Chris Zepp as its Associate Pastor.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Jane Conner
Church Clerk

Psalm 107
Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble

³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.^[a]

⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;

⁵ hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;

⁷ he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.

⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Psalm 107:33-37 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³³ He turns rivers into a desert,
springs of water into thirsty ground,

³⁴ a fruitful land into a salty waste,
because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

³⁵ He turns a desert into pools of water,
a parched land into springs of water.

³⁶ And there he lets the hungry live,
and they establish a town to live in;

³⁷ they sow fields, and plant vineyards,
and get a fruitful yield.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁹ You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters;^[a] we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. ¹¹ As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, ¹² urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Matthew 23:1-12 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus Denounces Scribes and Pharisees

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; ³ therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. ⁴ They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,^[a] and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵ They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶ They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸ But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students.^[b] ⁹ And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰ Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.^[c] ¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.