

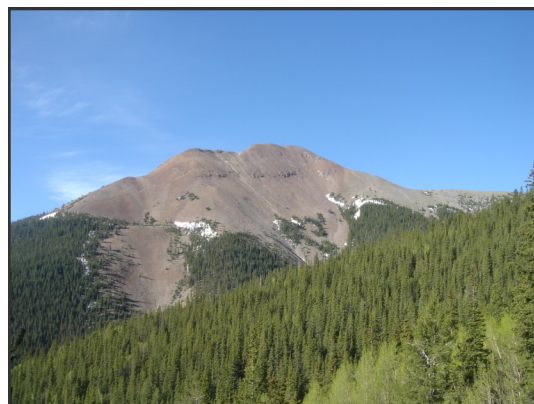


THE REMINDER

Looking Over Jordan

This Summer, many people have been striving for new heights with Jesus.

Progressive sanctification means progress, good positive helpful progress closer to Christ and further from sin. The Bible tells us to strive to go up on the mountaintop with the Lord. This can be literal, but more often it is figurative. The Bible says in Psalm 125:1-2 “Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.”



BIRTHDAY

Craig Davis	2 ND
Merle Ellis	6 TH
Barry Layton	6 TH
Peggy Robertson	17 TH

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY



- Income: \$8694
- Expense: \$7200

Your gifts are truly appreciated!

Alex literally went up on a mountain just this July. He was with his Scout Troop 368 (Scouting America, formerly known as the Boy Scouts of America). They travelled out to the western US to Colorado and New Mexico. They were on the Philmont Scout Reservation for a High Adventure excursion. One of the climactic moments of that trip was ascending to Baldy Mountain, the highest peak in the Cimarron Mountain Range in New Mexico. As they hiked along the way, they could see Baldy in the distance. Each day they grew closer to the distant mountain. And then on July 21 they arrived at the base after many days hiking. Early the next morning the group arose at started out several hours before sunrise. Later that morning they arrived at the peak. This peak of Old Baldy was something they had seen for days, and with every step they took they were getting closer to their goal of arriving at the summit, and finally they were there! Alex said it was cold up there, he guessed about 30 degrees! They enjoyed time up at the top, seeing the vista of the Scout Reservation below stretching out into the distance. Alex said that the weather up on the summit would worsen around midday, so after a time they began their descent back to the base.

Mt Zion is a small mountain compared to Baldy or Mt. Mitchell. But the Lord has a plan, as Isaiah 2:2 says “Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to

Looking Over Jordan

it. And many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;'"

Jesus went up to the mount of Olives to pray to His loving Heavenly Father, away from the clamor of His busy ministry. No wonder we think mountains are closer to God. They do take us out of our usual element, for not many of us live up on a mountain peak. It is something special to break the routine and ascend up on to a mountain like Alex and the Scouts did.

Mountains should remind us of the eternal unchanging foundation of God, with their steadfast unmovable strength and power. Unmovable foundation and enduring presence. God's power and faithfulness, with His constant Divine Presence in our lives. Psalm 95:4-5 says "In whose hand are the depths of the earth, the peaks of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for it was He who made it, and His hands formed the dry land."

Mountains also remind us of God's peace and justice. The mountaintop experience contrasts with the trouble of the everyday world. This can be a spiritual journey to holy ground, like Moses in the wilderness. Remember, Mt Sinai was the place where God gave His law to Israel. God's divine justice is meant for all people. Mountains are the highest points all around, and tower over anything we build or accomplish on the slopes and valleys below.

Our experience with the mountains can bring us more faith, as we join with the Psalmist and say, "I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)

Happy because of Jesus,

Pastor James



Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing.

Prayer is an expression of faith in God's power, fueled by a desire for more of him.

God has established prayer as the means by which we receive his supernatural help. And without supernatural help, we cannot live a life worthy of the gospel. Everything that distinguishes Christians from the world in a Christ-exalting way is a work of God's supernatural grace. And God has ordained that this grace flows to us through prayer. That's why prayer must be central, not peripheral, in our lives and families and ministries.

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

The intense prayer of the righteous is very powerful." James 5:16

PBA

Shubal Stearns Offering

Our local association:

- promotes church planting;
- is committed to helping local churches grow in their mission for Christ;
- seeks to demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways.

(Such as: Serving & loving Burmese immigrant families; International Fellowship which ministers to college students; GC Jail Ministry; Glenwood community children's weekly ministry; and the Piedmont Serve Program.)

All this is done in God-glorifying ways and with a desire to see people come to know Jesus!

This month, please consider giving a gift to assist with these ministries, and as always, your prayers are greatly appreciated!