

## **Meditation** ~ Respect

Writing is not necessarily my strong point, but, with Chrissy to help me get my words on paper, I pray that what God has laid on my heart about respect is conveyed. According to Miriam Webster's Dictionary, the definition of honor is "high respect." In the Bible, honor and respect are referred to many times as we are taught to love, and live, like Jesus. In I Peter 2:17, we are reminded, "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the King." Jesus doesn't demand respect, but He does command it in respect to living according to His word. Many of us are overcome with honor and respect for Him because He has given so freely to us. As Christians, we should live the same way even though we haven't earned respect. We should be living our lives in a way that demonstrates to the world that we do not give Satan the opportunity to sow seeds of discord and disrespect in our lives. If we live a life of dishonor, we are disrespecting our Heavenly Father. Respect goes both ways. People want respect, but they aren't ready to give it. With my job as a state police officer, I am always willing to give respect until the other person makes it time to go the other route. This challenges me to always remember that the devil is always trying to pull us down, distract us and keep us from living our lives as Jesus desires. For example, lesus does not only respect some people and show favoritism to them. Just as He is, we should be respectful of all

people, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10: 34-35). For me, I find it difficult to understand why Christians, who are to be spreading the Word of God, sometimes walk a life that does not demonstrate respect. Sometimes it seems that some people do not even want to be bothered with taking the high road and showing respect. We should honor God's command to respect others. In Ephesians 5:33, we read that "...the wife must respect her husband." Then in I Peter 3:7, we read, "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect." We are also called to respect people because of their position. After Goliath's death, Saul was determined to kill David. David had at least two opportunities to kill Saul. And, as humans, most of us would say he had the right to kill him. However, when the second opportunity arose, David said, "The Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed" (I Samuel 26:11). God wants us to respect others because of their position in our lives.

One recent example that has given everyone, especially Christians, an opportunity to walk according to His word, is the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people, including Christians, have different beliefs and opinions regarding the reality of the pandemic; to vaccinate or not vaccinate:

#### **Summer 2021**

GMTD #86 Men's: September 2-5, 2021

Rector: Glen Nix Send-off: Thurs., Sept. 2nd • 6:30 p.m.

Serenade: Sat., Sept. 4th • 6:30 p.m. Arrive at 5:30 p.m.

Closing: Sun., Sept. 5th • 5:00 p.m.

GMTD #86 Women's: September 9-12, 2021

Rector: Eileen Payne

Send-off: Thurs., Sept. 9th • 6:30 p.m.

Serenade: Sat., Sept. 11th • 6:30 p.m. Arrive at 5:30 p.m.

Closing: Sun., Sept. 12th • 5:00 p.m.

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social distancing; mask mandates and different ways it has been addressed by those in leadership of our local, state and national government. This is a perfect opportunity for Christians to demonstrate respect to others. We don't always agree on all topics, but we must use scripture as our guide and keep the faith. As we work to keep our families close, and a priority, may we always remember that God wants us to have an attitude of respect and honor. We can be aware of other's faults, and there may be times when we need to discuss problems or confront sin, yet we must remain mindful of maintaining an attitude of respect for everybody. But we are human and that can be so hard! How do we actually do that in our everyday lives?

Doug Britton is a Bible-based Marriage and Family Therapist, and he shares some basic steps for displaying respect as Christian men and women:

- 1) Show respect because God commands it
- 2) Respect others because of their position
- 3) Acknowledge that others have weaknesses (I love a reminder he has of: "Replace irritation with grace")
- 4) Look for things you can respect
- 5) Respect others as children of God
- 6) Respect others as made in the image of God
- 7) Honor others because God loves them
- 8) Respect others' desire to be good people
- 9) Honor others for their potential

May we all be challenged to live a life of honor and respect!

De Colores, Chris Owenby GMTD 68

### Secretariat

## Spotlight:

# **Weekend Couple**



Chris and I have been honored to serve as the Weekend Couple on the Secretariat. We live in Alto, Georgia, and, in October, will celebrate our 10th anniversary. We have a daughter, Emily, and a 7- month-old granddaughter, Jada Grace. She is the light of our lives and keeps us on our toes! We certainly enjoy the joy they bring to our home. Chris also has a daughter, Shandie, who is currently stationed in Cuba. She, and her husband, are both Captains in the United Army and are calling Virginia home for the time being.

As the Weekend Couple, we are responsible for several tasks. We provide training for Head Storeroom and Head Dorm during team meetings. We also provide all supplies for the storeroom. From toilet paper to ink pens, we do our best to make sure the team, and candidates, have everything they need for a successful weekend. We shop (hello Amazon and Sam's Club!) for the items and deliver them to camp at set-up. While there we also provide a meal as a way to welcome the team to the camp and provide nourishment while preparing for the weekend. On Sunday, we use the Camp of Colors check off sheet to make sure the camp is being returned in the same, or better, condition it was before the weekend. After closing up camp after a set of weekends, we use inventory checklists completed by Head Storeroom to begin preparing for purchasing supplies for the next set of weekends.

It is often said, but GMTD #68 absolutely changed our lives! God used that experience in so many personal ways for both of us! The GMTD community is special to us and has opened the door to so many wonderful relationships and dear friends. We have both been blessed to serve on numerous weekends through GMTD and GMVN. So when we were asked to serve as the Weekend Couple, we didn't hesitate to accept the invitation

We humbly thank you for the opportunity to serve each of you. It has been an honor.

De Colores,

Chris and Chrissy Owenby, GMTD #68

\* Note ~ Chris & Chrissy rolled off the Secretariat in June. We thank them for their service!



### **Meditation** ~ Exodus 5-6

Have you ever just complained and had a pity party before God? I was reading a passage of scripture one day and it totally reaffirmed to me how we should truly trust God – even with the details – which is what He wants. It reminded me about God as the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe and God as my Heavenly Father – all at the same time.

-Exodus 5 & 6 - NLT

Moses was complaining and God took the opportunity to remind Moses of who he was conversing with.

In Exodus chapter 5, God told Moses to go and speak with Pharaoh and tell him to "let My people go." Moses and Aaron went to have a chat with Pharaoh and it didn't go well.

-Exodus 5:22

Then Moses went back to the Lord and protested, "Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send me? 23 Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!"

- -God's response to Moses happens in chapter 6 of Exodus:
- 2 And God said to Moses, "I am Yahweh—'the Lord.' 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai-God Almighty'-but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them. 4 And I reaffirmed my covenant with them. Under its terms, I promised to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners. 5 You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them. 6 "Therefore, say to the people of Israel: 'I am the Lord. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. 7 I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. 8 I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the Lord!"

Exodus 6 – v2 & v5 Focus:

v2: "God told Moses "I am Yahweh-the Lord."

God was accomplishing two things in His response to Moses. I)
He was saying I am running the show and I'm the One in charge.
2) He revealed Himself as Yahweh – the Lord, which is different than how He revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That lends itself to Moses and the children of Israel knowing God in a more

personal way. God became Savior and Redeemer to them and freed them from bondage. He was saying I am Lord over the situation and I am Lord to you. He will be personally invested and personally involved in our lives as much as we allow Him to be.

- v5: "You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them." This verse has three awesome thoughts to me.
- I) v5a: "You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people." He hears you when you pray! It is CERTAIN. He said "you can be sure." If He hasn't answered yet, it's not because He didn't hear you or is ignoring you It's in His time and according to His plan. Psalm 34: 17) "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;" 18) "he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
- 2) v5b: You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians.

He fully knows the situation and what's going on. He knows the score and He is as involved in the details of our lives as we let Him be. Proverbs 15:3 says The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

3) v5c: "You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them." He fully knows His commitment. Nothing is forgotten – You are not forgotten. Any promises God makes will come to pass!

He always has a plan... Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." 2 Peter 3:9 "God is not slack concerning His promises as some men count slackness, but is faithful."

Childlike Trust

A frantic mother called her pastor one day. She was experiencing a bad case of "nerves" as so many people do. He thought he heard a child's voice while she was speaking, so he asked, "Is your child as upset and worried as you are?" "No, of course not," she replied "But why not?" persisted the pastor "I suppose she puts her trust in me and lets me do the worrying," she answered "Then make a transference and, just as your child puts her trust in you, put your trust in God." — Unknown

As His child, you can trust Him – He is THE LORD...eternally, personally, and faithfully!

-Decolores, Gary Knight, GMTD #47

## In Memory Of....

Mr. David Michael Akin, age 57, of Dawsonville, passed away Sunday, June 27, 2021. Mike attended GMTD # 67.

Mr. Akin was born on October 16, 1963 and is preceded in death by his mother, Della Akin. Mr. Akin worked in the Commercial Heating and Air Industry and was a loving husband, father, son, friend, and child of God.

Survivors include his wife, Pamela Akin; sons, Jeremiah Akin and Cyden Pulley; daughter, Patiance Bunn; step-sons, Chris Key and Cory Key; grandchildren, Eli Akin and Addalyne Akin; father, Donald Akin; brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Rhonda Akin; sister, Donna Zimmer; and several nieces and nephews.

#### Don't forget to Sponsor!

THERE ARE GMTD AND GMVN WEEKENDS COMING UP NEXT MONTH!! CONTACT STEPHEN & BETH DACUS AT 678-469-1035 TO SPONSOR SOMEONE FOR A GMTD WEEKEND, OR JAMIE & GWEN WETHERTON AT GWENWETHERTON@GMAIL.COM TO SPONSOR A TEEN FOR VIDA NUEVA WEEKENDS

# Georgia Mountains Vida Nueva

Vida Nueva is a weekend retreat for young men and women ages 15-20. Vida Nueva is Spanish for "New Life" and like the Tres Dias, VN weekends are intended as an encounter with Jesus Christ. The weekends are similar to the structure of a Tres Dias weekend with certain changes to make it more relevant for teens. VN weekends begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday evening. The cost to sponsor someone on a VN weekend is \$80 and is \$100 for team members. If you have a teenager that you would like to sponsor, you can download an application at the web-site www.gmvn.net. A group of teens who have made a Vida Nueva weekend recently put together a video to tell what VN has meant to them. The video can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DNV99f2Hko. Georgia Mountains VN currently holds two sets of weekends a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The next set of weekends are September 16-19, 2021 for the Young Women and September 23-26, 2021 for the Young Men.

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# UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO!

If your address, phone number or e-mail has changed, please notify GMTD Database Manager, Greg Purcell at gregcpurcell@gmail.com

The database is confidential and for GMTD use only to contact sponsors, team members, rector nominees, secretariat nominees, and for general GMTD purposes.

#### **PESCADORE'S PROGRESS**

Subscribe to the Pescadore's Progress at <a href="www.gmtd.org">www.gmtd.org</a>. To receive your Pescadore's Progress in the U.S. mail, please send your name, address and weekend attended to:

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