

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 44, Issue 10

October, 2021

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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October is already here, and we have a couple of things happening at church this month. We will be starting Operation Christmas Child in October, this is a chance for you to give a child Christmas who may have never experienced a Christmas gift before. Soon, Jamie will be getting us information about the dos and don'ts of packing a Christmas box. It also means it is time for me to look up where my box went last year. Last year's boxes went to Benin and Colombia, both are my first repeat countries. I have had packages sent to both countries Benin in 2019, and Colombia in 2016, so our family total is still at 11 countries. We have been tracking our boxes since 2014 and 2019, which is the year our boxes went to 4 different countries. How fun it is to look at and study a little about a place where you have made a small impact that could have an everlasting result.

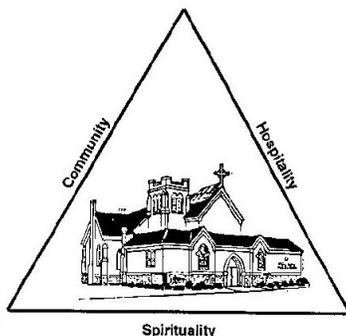
The other event in October is Trunk or Treat here at the church, in conjunction with handing out hot chocolate. The Mission team will hand out hot chocolate and coffee on October 28th here at the church for the trick or treaters and their parents. I want to invite you to come set up in our parking lot and hand out candy to the kids of Elida. Bring enough candy for 250-300 kiddos, and build relationships with our neighbors. This event is not a members-only event. Your friends and relatives can come, decorate their vehicles, and hand out candy to the kids. I hope you will join us as we find out who our neighbors are and show them the Love of Christ.

If you are anything like me, sometimes you feel overwhelmed, that is normal, but thankfully we believe in God who helps us through those difficult times. Starting on October 10th, I will be sharing with you a series of sermons about how God calls us to Catch Our Breath. When we are exhausted, when we are afraid, when we have doubt, when we grieve, in our loneliness, and during a time of loss, we can count on God to be with us and help us through all those situations. I hope you will join me for this series, in person or online, so we can look at how God helps us through and helps us Catch Our Breath.

Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



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October 3
'Coins for Communion'
to benefit Family Promise



Food Pantry Sunday
October 17

Donations are taken to the
Five Loaves Food Pantry
At The Church at Allentown

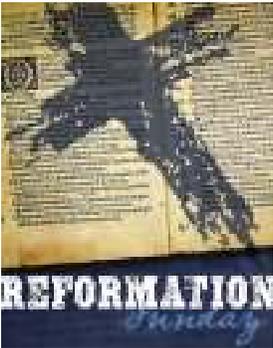
Your faithfulness to this mission is appreciated!

October 3
District Charge Conference
6:00 PM

At Immanuel UMC
Sunnydale St., Elida



October 31
Reformation Sunday



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Christian Symbol

Newsletter
 deadline:
 the **20th**
 of each month

RAINBOW

The Rainbow represents God's pardon and his promises. It also symbolizes his reconciliation to faithful Christians. After the Flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never destroy the earth that way again (Genesis 9:12-16). A rainbow can also represent the throne of Christ, as well as his glory and final judgment



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Secretary	Gail Fessler
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child

A small shoe box can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Guides for how to pack a shoebox may be picked up in the church sanctuary or online at samaritanaspurse.org. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child. Remember to pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoebox gift. Please include a donation of \$9.00 per box to cover international shipping and other costs.



Shoe Box collection will begin on October 17.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Join Us In Mission to Our Neighborhood

**October 28
Trick or Treat in Elida
5 to 7 PM**

We will once again be giving out hot chocolate, coffee and pencils to trick-or-treaters and parents. We will need volunteers to help get the drinks ready and to serve. If you would like to be part of this, there is a sign-up sheet at the media desk, or call the church office.

**Trunk or Treat
October 28 from 5-7 PM**

Trunk or Treat is in the St. Paul's East parking lot. We are looking for people who do not have trick-or-treaters coming to their homes to come and open their trunks and pass out goodies. Candy donations are needed. Please pray about participating in this fun adventure. If interested there is a sign-up sheet at the media desk or call the office.

Thank you in advance for your help!



Prayer

The Lion of Judah

By Corinne Piper

In the ways things happen, I started reviewing Intimate Intercessor by *Trisha McCary Rhodes*, for this month's thoughts, and the chapter I am reading refers to the start of the war in Afghanistan, the same month we ended the war in Afghanistan, twenty years later. While I am NOT opening this up for a political discussion, one idea arose from both times: What constitutes victory? What were/are our aims for the war? This is also a valid question for our intercessory prayers.

War is a way of life in many parts of the world. Death, destruction, and persecution are daily experiences of many. Yet, it is in these parts of the world that the Christian faith is growing fastest. Perhaps these Christians see the real evil and the faith that Christ has the last word over what evil makes "belief" a reality. In these parts of the world, Jesus may be, love, but he is also the warrior, and God of the Psalms, who strikes down enemies. He is real enough to argue with God in other Psalms and yet, bow to His will. These Christians have a clear idea of what victory in Jesus is.

What constitutes "victory" in prayer? We pray for specific needs for people, but did we "win" the prayer when the needs are met, or are met differently, than we prayed for. If not, why keep doing this? I must admit, this is often my question. If God is going to answer the prayer the way He wants, why should I pray?

Some say that we are in a war with Satan and evil. Others say the battles are within our own spirits and thoughts. Either way, we need to take a stand. We need to declare our aims and stand up for our goals. Fortunately, we do not have to feel alone. We have a champion to lead the way: Jesus Christ. We often talk about Jesus and His loving, gentle, and even non-violent responses to the situations he faced in life on earth. We don't talk as much about Jesus as THE LION OF JUDAH, the OVERCOMER of EVIL, the KING! This Jesus appeared to John on the Isle of Patmos with "eyes piercing flames of fire, mouth wielding a two-edged sword, face shining so brightly that the sun looks dim by comparison" (Intimate Intercessions, p. 112). The Triune God has a banner of love, but He wages a war against sin of all forms.

We may not know what to pray, or how to pray, or when to pray, or if to pray, but we do know that we have a magnificent leader in the Lion of Judah, and He will use us, and our prayers, to enable those for whom we are praying resist the very real power of evil and sin, and come to Him who is Love, personified.

Join me on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., in the Prayer Room (aka The Bride's Room) at the top of the west stairs by the front entrance. We pray by naming those on our prayer list, so you will not be asked to pray aloud or alone.



Hymn History

Shall We Gather at the River?

“Then Sings My Soul” Book 1, By Robert J. Morgan

1864

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb” Revelation 22:1

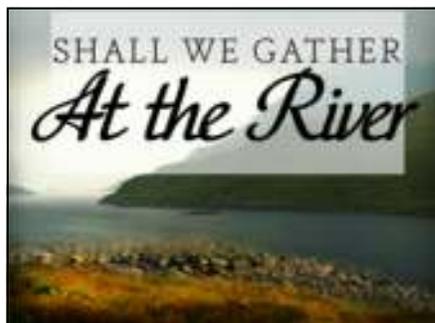
Often called the “Good Doctor,” Robert Lowry was a cheerful man with a big beard and quick mind. He pastored Baptist churches in the Eastern U.S. during the mid 1800s. One friend said, “Very few men had greater ability in painting pictures from imagination. He could thrill an audience with his vivid descriptions, inspiring them with the same thoughts that inspired him.”

But he was best remembered for his hymns. Even in childhood he had composed tunes, and as he became acquainted with leaders in American hymnology—many of them based in New York—he realized he could reach more people through his songs than through sermons.

He set many of Fanny Crosby’s hymns to music, including the classic, “All the Way My Savior Leads Me.” And he wrote both words and music to the popular gospel song: “What can wash away my sins? / Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

The doctors best known hymn is “Shall We Gather at the River?” Though often used at baptisms, it’s actually a song about heaven. It came to Lowry on a mid-summer’s day in New York, when, in the sweltering heat, he began musing about the cool, crystal river that flows through the city of God as described in Revelation 22.

One afternoon in July, 1864, when I was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church, Brooklyn, the weather was oppressively hot, and I was lying on a lounge in the state of physical exhaustion. I felt almost incapable of bodily exertion, and my imagination began to take itself wings. Visions of the future passed before me with startling vividness. The imagery of the apocalypse took the form of a tableau. Brightest of all were the throne, the heavenly river, and the gathering of the saints. My soul began to take new life from the celestial outlook. I began to wonder why The hymn writers had said so much about the “river of death” and so little about the “pure water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb.” As I mused, the words began to construct themselves. They came first as a question of Christian inquiry, “Shall we gather?” Then they broke out in a chorus, Yes, we’ll gather.” On this question and answer the hymn developed itself. The music came with the hymn.



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
August 29, 2021	55
September 5, 2021	53
September 12, 2021	56
September 19, 2021	47
September 26, 2021	62

Financial Giving
 Weekly Need for
 Unified Ministry Budget
 \$3,879.00

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
August 29, 2021	\$1,981.00	\$455.00
September 5, 2021	\$4,000.00	\$170.00
September 12, 2021	\$2,662.00	\$603.00
September 19, 2021	\$1,333.00	\$90.00
September 26, 2021	\$2,548.00	\$415.00

Sunday School Attendance	
August 29, 2021	4
September 5, 2021	3
September 12, 2021	4
September 19, 2021	0
September 26, 2021	5

The Ad. Council Committee continues to review the policy as it relates to COVID:

We will not be mandating masks unless it is a mandate from the health department or state government; If you wish to wear a mask during church service we encourage you to do so, and if you decide not to wear a mask we also support that decision.

If you do test positive for COVID and you have been to church, we are asking that you contact us so we can implement the plan to close the church for two weeks.

Flower Calendar	
October 3, 2021	Don & Maedene Holmes
October 10, 2021	Ted Lennox
October 17, 2021	Scott & Gail Fessler
October 24, 2021	Larry & Shirley Moser
October 31, 2021	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Friday 10/1

Psalm 69, 73, 2 Kings 1:2-17
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:11-16

Saturday 10/2

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
2 Kings 2:1-18
1 Corinthians 4:1-7
Matthew 5:17-20

Sunday 10/3

Psalm 34, 93, 96
2 Kings 4:8-37
Acts 9:10-31, Luke 3:7-18

Monday 10/4

Psalm 79, 80, 2 Kings 5:1-19
1 Corinthians 4:8-21
Matthew 5:21-26

Tuesday 10/5

Psalm 78, 2 Kings 5:19-27
1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Matthew 5:27-37

Wednesday 10/6

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
2 Kings 6:1-23
1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8
Matthew 5:38-48

Thursday 10/7

Psalm 83, 85, 86, 2 Kings 9:1-16
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Friday 10/8

Psalm 88, 91, 92, 2 Kings 9:17-37
1 Corinthians 7:1-9
Matthew 6:7-15

Saturday 10/9

Psalm 87, 90, 136
2 Kings 11:1-20a
1 Corinthians 7:10-24
Matthew 6:19-24

Sunday 10/10

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
2 Kings 17:1-18
Acts 9:36-43, Luke 5:1-11

Monday 10/11

Psalm 89, 2 Kings 17:24-41
1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Matthew 6:25-34

Tuesday 10/12

Psalm 95, 100
2 Chronicles 29:1-3
1 Corinthians 7:32-40
Matthew 7:1-12

Wednesday 10/13

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
2 Kings 18:9-25
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Matthew 7:13-21

Thursday 10/14

Psalm 105, 2 Kings 18:28-37
1 Corinthians 9:1-15
Matthew 7:22-29

Friday 10/15

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
2 Kings 19:1-20
1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Matthew 8:1-17

Saturday 10/16

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
2 Kings 19:21-36
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Matthew 8:18-27

Sunday 10/17

Psalm 118, 145, 2 Kings 20:1-21
Acts 12:1-17, Luke 7:11-17

Monday 10/18

Psalm 106, 2 Kings 21:1-18
1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1
Matthew 8:28-34

Tuesday 10/19

Psalm 120, 127, 2 Kings 22:1-13
1 Corinthians 11:2, 17-22
Matthew 9:1-8

Wednesday 10/20

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129,
130, 2 Kings 22:14-23:3
1 Corinthians 11:23-34
Matthew 9:9-17

Thursday 10/21

Psalm 133, 134, 135
2 Kings 23:4-25
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Mathew 9:18-26

Friday 10/22

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
2 Kings 23:36-24:17
1 Corinthians 12:12-26
Matthew 9:27-34

Saturday 10/23

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Jeremiah 35:1-19
1 Corinthians 12:27-13:3
Matthew 9:35-10:4

Sunday 10/24

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Micah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Matthew 15:21-28

Monday 10/25

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Micah 7:1-7
Acts 26:1-23, Luke 8:26-39

Tuesday 10/26

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Jonah 1:1-17a
Acts 26:24-27:8, Luke 8:40-56

Wednesday 10/27

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Jonah 1:17-2:10
Acts 27:9-26, Luke 9:1-17

Thursday 10/28

Psalm 18, Jonah 3:1-4:11
Acts 27:27-44, Luke 9:18-27

Friday 10/29

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Acts 28:1-16
Luke 9:28-36

Saturday 10/30

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Acts 28: 17-31, Luke 9:37-50

Sunday 10/31

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Matthew 16:13-20

Kits Mission

School and Health kits!

Thank you to Bev Nesbitt for leading this missions project.

The kits were assembled on Tuesday, September 7.

Thank you to those who assembled kits: Lynda Evans, Maedene Holmes, Deb Hurd, Carole Grapner, Norm Grigsby, Myrna Metzger, and Martha Vazquez.

The Kits collected in 2020 (that we stored here) were combined with the kits collected this year, and delivered to the drop off site at Spencerville UMC, which was delivered on to the Festival of Sharing held on September 18.

2020 Total Kits Donated :

School Kits = 87
Health Kits = 69

2021 Total Kits Donated:

School Kits = 71
Health Kits = 59

Thank you, to ALL who donated kits!!



Community Missions



On behalf of the children who receive weekend food through Meals 'til Monday, thank you for your recent donation (\$136.23 from coins-for-communion). Because you give, over 400 local elementary students are having their hunger need addressed.

Meals 'til Monday Board of Directors.

Thank you for your generous support of the Sunnydale House, to help bring the Gospel to Elida Students. (\$1,485 donation from Missions and coins-for-communion).

ACTS Character Academy, LLC



Porch built for Tom and Patty Bradford on W. Wayne St.



Blessing of the Quilts

Sunday, September 12

These blessed children's quilts were taken to local fire departments; Bath, Lima, Perry and Shawnee. Fifteen quilts to each department to comfort injured or sick children being transported to the hospital. Two Quilts were given to the Dare Officer at Elida Elementary.



Thank You!

Dear Ms Moser:

I just read your letter explaining why and how you make the quilts. As I am wiping away tears, I cannot thank you and your church enough for your generosity. As you know, we deal with many people who are struggling. This may be the first new blanket the child has ever had; it may be the only thing that is truly his.

You are doing work for God. I hope this letter finds you and your knitting circle well. May God bless you and all your helping hands.

Sincerely,
 Andy Hefner
 Chief, Lima Fire Department

Ms. Moser,

I was moved by the letter you wrote carrying on your mother's legacy while touching other lives in a moment of need. Chief Hadding dropped the quilts off at our station and told me about what all of you wonderful ladies are doing to produce these quilts. We need more people in this world like you and the ladies of the church that think of others in need. These blessed quilts will give comfort to the kids we transport.

I wanted to thank you from all of us at Shawnee Fire Department for your wonderful kind donation. May God Bless all of you and your families.

Respectfully,
 Todd Truesdale,
 Chief,
 Shawnee Township Fire Department

Connecting With ...

How many Men does it take to change a light bulb?

Thank You!



Thank you to the group of men that spent an evening switching the Sanctuary light fixtures over to be compatible with led bulbs to be more energy efficient.

Cody Scannell running cross Country in the Elida Invitational.

Dan Banks, grew up in our church and the son of the late Harry and Dorothy Banks, dotted the I at the Ohio State University football game on September 18, and also dotted the I with the Alumni band on, September 25. Dan is a Head Golf Professional at Signature of Solon Country Club, The Ohio State University, Brook Park, Ohio. Congratulations Dan!!



The People of St. Paul's

Our Sympathy to Ruth Hardy and Family on the death of her Daughter-in-law, April Hardy, who passed on September 17. cards may reach Ruth at, 112 Weger Ave., Elida, OH 45807.

With Deepest Sympathy

**Happy Birthday!!
102**

**To Evelyn Sarber
on October 16.**

Birthday cards may be sent to:
361 Red Wing Ct.
Cridersville, OH 45806



Time to Hit Delete?

If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda that God did not put there. Let us submit the list to him and ask him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy.

—Elisabeth Eliot



Remember in Prayer

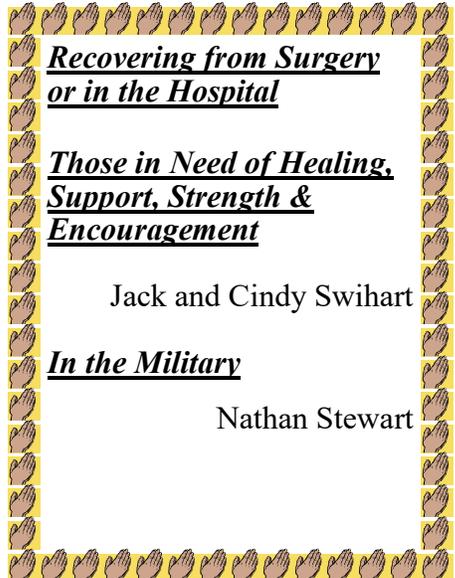
Recovering from Surgery
or in the Hospital

Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement

Jack and Cindy Swihart

In the Military

Nathan Stewart



Thought for the Month:

It's better to be an optimist who is sometimes wrong than a pessimist who is always right.

—Mark Twain

St. Paul's Vision Statement:

Is for the Elida community to be led to Christ through words and deeds enabling youth to have purpose, families to be nurtured and supported, and senior citizens to feel valued.

Our Biblical Purpose Statement:

Elida St. Paul's United Methodist Church exists as God's people embracing His grace through humble service to all.

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Harvest Potatoes

By Sue Theodore

Ingredients		Instructions
1 (32 oz.)	Hash browns, frozen	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix margarine, soup, sour cream, and salt. Stir in cheese and onion. Add frozen potatoes and mix well. Pour into greased 13x9 baking dish. Bake for 45 minutes, or until hot and bubbly. * This recipe is easily doubled to serve a large crowd.
1 can	Cream of Chicken soup	
1 cup	Sour cream	
2 cup	Cheddar cheese, shredded	
1/2 cup	Margarine, melted	
1 tsp.	Salt	
1 med.	Onion, diced	

Peanut Butter Honey Brownies

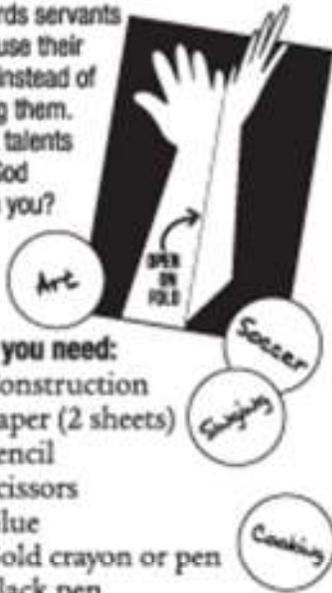
By Mary Grigsby

Ingredients		Instructions
3/4 cup	Peanut butter, creamy	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9 inch pan. In small bowl, combine honey and peanut butter until smooth. Set aside.
1/2 cup	Honey	
1 (15.5 oz.)	Brownie mix, chocolate chunk	In large bowl, combine brownie mix, 1/3 cup oleo, water, and egg. Beat 50 strokes. Spread half of batter into pan. Score batter into 16 squares. Place a scant teaspoon of honey mixture onto each square. Carefully spread remaining batter over top and bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Cool for 45 minutes. Spread remaining honey mixture over baked brownies. In small pan, combine chocolate chips and butter until melted and smooth. Spoon over honey mixture. Cool another 45 minutes and refrigerate.
1/3 cup	Oleo (margarine), melted	
3 Tbl.	Water	
1	Egg	
3/4 cup	Chocolate chips, semi-sweet	
3 Tbl.	Oleo, softened	

KIDZ KORNER

FULL OF TALENT

In Matthew 25:14-30, the master rewards servants who use their gifts instead of hiding them. What talents has God given you?



What you need:

- Construction paper (2 sheets)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Gold crayon or pen
- Black pen

What you do:

1. Fold one sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Trace your hand and lower arm so your arm touches the folded edge. Cut out the arm and hand, keeping the folded edge uncut.
2. Glue the folded hand to the other sheet of paper.
3. In gold, draw five coins in the hand. In black, write the skills and gifts God has given you.
4. Open the fold and draw 10 gold coins in the two open hands. In black, write how you can use your skills and gifts to help others and honor God.



MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

5 x 3 =	6 x 6 =
7 x 4 =	9 x 3 =
4 x 6 =	3 x 8 =
2 x 10 =	10 x 4 =
9 x 5 =	11 x 8 =

KEY		
A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____.

Come and share your master's happiness!"

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

Answer: 15, 28, 24, 20, 45, 36, 27, 24, 40, 88; many things

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Going to Extremes

When a herd of elephants ventured into a town in eastern India, people chased them away. But soon they learned that a baby elephant had fallen into a 30-foot well and been left behind. Workers had to use three backhoes to free the calf, breaking down the brick well and digging a sloping trench for the youngster to walk out on.

Righting a wrong — and even saving a life — may require extreme measures. A structure holding someone captive may need to be torn down. And in many cases, it's better to allow the trapped one as much independence and agency as possible. Rather than hoisting the elephant out vertically, which might have been dangerous and traumatic, helpers made a path so it could take part in attaining its freedom.

God often works like this, restoring and equipping us to partner with him. How can we assist others while granting them the dignity of being part of the solution?

—Heidi Hyland Man