

TRUE VINE TIMES

My Commitment As a Christian

End of the Journey

Many of us who know **Lori Reiner** have admired her never ending commitment to praying and holding up those in need to the Lord. This week she sent out an email concerning her good friend, **Jim Kackely**, who was in hospice care. Lori shared Jim's health struggle with our Missional Transformational small group and others, over 3 years ago. Jim died this week and as Lori put it, "Jim is at home with our Lord". I couldn't help thinking how this is the completion of a journey for Jim Kackley, his family and Lori as well. Certainly there is grief and hurt for this family's loss, but this is not the end. We have the promise of eternal life for all who know and serve God. We will someday rejoice with our heavenly Father in Heaven and will be reunited with all those we love. It is beyond anything we can imagine! Until that time, we will each continue on our journey here on earth. Let us continue to hold each other up in love, and continue to work and live for Christ until we reach our journey's end. Please remember to keep Lori in prayer, as well as the Kackley family.

~John 3:16

I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me—my banner will be clear!

~Written by a young African pastor who died as a martyr for the gospel. (Many thanks to Esther Mast for the contribution of this piece)

Update on Clayton Albrecht

Clayton was discharged from the hospital today after a stay of 7 days. It was determined that he has an ulcer, which will be managed through medications and diet. Clayton’s dog Buddy was very happy to see him. Clayton should be ready to go for opening day of deer hunting. Clayton and Marcia thank everyone for all the prayers offered on his behalf.

“Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart”
~ by Henry Smith

This classic praise song from the mid-80s has a simple yet timeless message. Song-writer Henry Smith grew up playing secular rock and living for himself, but God got a hold of his heart and dramatically saved him. His faith grew strong, but unfortunately, his eyes grew weak. Henry eventually lost his sight because of a degenerative eye disease, but he never charged God and was always thankful. He wrote “Give Thanks” as an expression of his eternal gratefulness to God for the gift of salvation.

CHURCH COUNCIL
TUESDAY NOV. 24th

Patience Ohanma

I spoke with Patience this evening over the phone and she was very happy to hear from me.



She stated that Ify is in Oishei Children's Hospital due to severe leg pain. She remains encouraged, acknowledging the Lord as her strength. Patience reported that a Bone Marrow Transplant for Ify is scheduled for January 22nd. They remain very hopeful. Michael is working and hoping to return to college in the Spring. Patience expressed her thankfulness for being able to attend service via Zoom. I told her we would keep the prayers going strong for them, which she really appreciates.



