

Call of Grace Ministries

Come unto Me. . . I will give you rest

Dennis & Cindy Mohr

14549 Stacy Lane

Marion, IL 62959

Dennis (618) 694-8199

Cindy (618) 889-7678

dennis@callofgrace.org

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“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!”

Psalm 150:6 (NKJV)

I was talking with a friend and Brother a few days ago. As we talked, he began to tell me of a time when he was in the woods. All was quiet at first, but as he was still, “The frogs began croaking. And the crickets were chirpin’”. Then he said, “Dennis, they were out there, just praisin’ God.” Even as he was talking, my mind went to the verse above.

Crickets and frogs do what crickets and frogs do. It’s the nature God gave them. And in the process of their lives, they testify to the truth of a God who creates, then both sustains and provides for what He has created. They have no choice in how they praise God, or even if they will praise God. Their very existence points to their Creator: proclaiming Him with praise!

At one point in my life, I was a testament to a Creator God whose forbearance is unmatched. Like the cricket and the frog, my existence pointed to Him bringing Him glory and praise. But not from me; *I* could not praise this God who created me, sustains me, and provides for me. Bound in sin, I could do no more than attempt to satiate the desires of my flesh, denying God with every decision. ***“. . . those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*** (Rom 8:8)

“Created in Christ Jesus. . . ”, the Apostle writes (Eph 2:10). Jesus made me a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17) when I placed my faith in Him. And the Bible tells me that I have been set free from the bondage of sin to serve the Living God! It is in this freedom that He provided that I can praise His name! Not just by what I say, but by how I live. For I am created in Christ “for good works” that God has prepared *that I might walk in them!* Like the crickets and the frogs, in what I say and do, I, “can be out there, just praisin’ God”.

What is true for me is true for you. If you are in Christ, stand in the victory He has given *you*. Live the life that is and can be yours in Jesus: a life that praises the Lord in word and deed as you perform the “good works” the Lord has for you! It is for this that you have been called and created: to be “out there, just praisin’ God”!

It is our prayer that each of you will live your life praising the Lord by fulfilling His purpose for you!

In a couple of weeks, I will be heading for New Orleans (NOLA) for the Mission to Mardi Gras. This is by far the most spiritually-intense mission in which I take part. The darkness that comes with the denial of the Lord during this time is palpable: manifesting in a celebration(?) that exalts the desires of the flesh. It is a dark place, yet within it the light of our witness shines brightly, calling all to come to repentance and faith in the Lord! This year, there are close to thirty men on the team. Men who will boldly and compassionately proclaim the Gospel of our Lord, encourage each other in the spiritual battle we will face, and pray with each other for the Lord's wisdom, grace, and strength each of us will need during our time in NOLA.

I have included prayer requests for this mission at the end of this newsletter. Please join us in prayer for this mission.

In April, Cindy and I plan to take a load of clothing, hygiene supplies, etc. to Vieux Carre Baptist Church for their ministry to the homeless in the French Quarter. More on this next month.

The Memphis in May Outreach is May 4th-7th. This mission takes place during the Beale Street Music Festival. Men, if you are called to be on this mission, please contact me.

Cindy and I are also planning a mission to coincide with the Memphis Barbecue World Championship. Tentative dates are May 18th-21st. This outreach is purely evangelistic. It is open to men and women. If you have an interest in this opportunity to share Christ, contact Cindy or myself at the phone numbers above.

Prayer Requests:

- Please stand in the gap for your Brothers and Sisters that we, as His people, would act with faith on the promise in 2 Chron 7:14.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
- Please pray for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace.

Is there something we can pray for you? If so please let us know.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are truly grateful you are a part of this ministry to the Lord. If He calls you to go on mission with us, wherever we go, or to help support a mission or any part of our ministry, please let us know. Likewise, if you or your church believe we could be of service to you as regards your evangelistic efforts, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

Dennis & Cindy

-Cindy's Bottom Line-

When we consider the greatness of the Lord, His Glory, faithfulness, compassion, mercy, the very character of God, our only response can be praise. It is our very act of worship. And for one reason only...because He is Worthy!

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. All donations to Call of Grace are used for ministry expenses. We go as God provides and your support of this ministry is a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.

Mission to Mardi Gras 2023: Feb. 16th – 21st

Please be in prayer now for the mission

Civil Authorities

- Pray God's blessing over the police and EMS services.
 - Pray for the health and safety of all civil servants.
 - Pray the Lord will prompt them to ask questions regarding our presence, that we might share Christ.
 - Pray for the medical gifting of the Paramedics and EMTs.
 - Pray that the police will act wisely in every situation.
- Pray that the Lord would convict the civic leaders of the evil that is inherent in Mardi Gras, that they might choose not to condone it regardless of economic gain.

The Crowd

- Pray for the health and safety of the people.
- Pray that the people will be receptive to the Lord's ministry to them through His ministers.
 - Pray that the people will take a tract.
 - Pray that the people will read the tract with understanding.
 - Pray that the people will respond to God's word as it is preached.
 - Pray for conviction and repentance through the Holy Spirit's ministry to them.

The One

- Pray that the Lord would protect the conversation from distractions.
- Pray that those on mission will speak as the Lord directs in the conversation.
- Pray that the Lord will overcome barriers to communication.
- Pray that the Gospel will be received with understanding when shared.
- Pray the Holy Spirit's conviction will lead to brokenness and bring them to repentance, resulting in salvation.

Those Who Go on Mission

- Pray for the wives of those who go that they will rest in the Lord's comfort and peace while the two God made one are separated.
- Pray God's protection over the family, both immediate and extended, and the households of those who go.
- Pray that we will submit to the Lord's conviction to remain a clean vessel.
- Pray that we will listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance at all times.
- Pray that we will respond in all situations with grace.
- Pray that we will be bold and compassionate in sharing the Gospel.
- Pray that we will be obedient to be a blessing in all situations.
- Pray that we will rest in the obedience of going.
- Pray for our health and safety from the time we leave until we return home.
- Pray that we will be changed by the mission to the Glory of the Lord!

Pray that it is the Lord's Time for a Great Harvest in His Field called New Orleans!