



An Open Letter to the Suffering Christian

Dear friend,

What words can I say to you when your life is hard and you are hurting? If we were face to face, I probably wouldn't start with words at all. I would want you to talk when you are able. I want to know you, what you are going through, what it is like for you, and how you are doing. Simply being present and conveying that tears, heartache, and confusion are valid would probably be more helpful. Many wise Christians have commented that Job's counselors did well until they opened their mouths (Job 2:11-13), and I certainly don't think there is some magic word that will make everything better.

But when it comes time to say something, I might say this: Jesus is a most sympathetic friend, fellow sufferer, and Savior. He has walked a hard road. He has felt his own anguish and crushing pain (Isaiah 53). He understands. He is compassionate toward you. By the comfort of his presence and sympathy, he intends to draw you out and draw you to Himself.

Be honest. Don't take any shortcuts. Let each day's trouble be sufficient for that day.

I encourage you to go to him and speak to him. There is something about our ability to find words to express what we're experiencing that makes a genuine difference. A wise Christian of many centuries ago said, "To open one's heart

to one's friend—it doubles our joys and cuts our griefs in half." I have found this to be true. Sharing a joy really does double the joy. And of course, sharing heartache never takes it all away — but there's something about speaking to someone who truly cares about you that soothes your wounds. You are not alone.

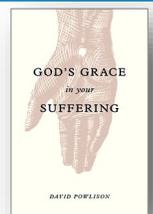
The psalms, which are so full of heartache and so full of faith, often start with simply giving voice to the experience of suffering. As they do, it's significant to notice that they don't simply cry out in a scream of pain. They cry out to God who hears, who cares, who draws near, who helps. We can speak to our God. May you cry out to our God. He calls you his friend. He deeply cares for you. He is your Savior. Trust Him. He has walked down this road before you. He promises to walk with you in this.

And I might say one more thing. Suffering must be walked through one step at a time. Be honest. Don't take any shortcuts. Let each day's trouble be sufficient for that day. Seek your Father. If you seek him, you will find him.

by David Powlison

God's Grace in Your Suffering

Exploring the biblical truths found in each stanza of the classic hymn "How Firm a Foundation," David Powlison invites us to see God's perspective on and purpose for our suffering.



Where is Everyone?



Summer is always a time of coming and going, and many Sundays our auditorium looks a little TOO empty! Last Sunday, a large group was ministering in Arizona on the annual TIME Team mission trip. This week, approximately 40 of us are at Camp Manatawny! Please pray for our ministry there this week, as well as the health and safety of all of the campers. There **will be over 100 campers in attendance this week!** We also ask your prayers for our NEW directors for JH1 week, **Rebekah Lazar and Elizabeth Lazar**, and their assistant director, **Ed Cerquoni!** In two weeks, another group will head up to camp for Elementary 1 week, directed by **Manny Vander Vennen**. Please pray for Manny, his staff, and the campers, as they continue to prepare for their week, August 4-11. **Thank you to all our members who support camp with their time, talents, and finances.**

Our Mission

Meet others where they are and together be transformed into the image of Christ.

From Daniel's Den

The Circle of Life

While I took a brief five day break and headed south to North Carolina for a mini family reunion, and Katherine headed north to help Ben and Rachel with their newest addition (Anna Kate), our church family suffered three losses (see page four). And, the physical struggle with rehab for Kareem Rutledge, Jr., Je'Ani Lyles, and Linda Prenger continues, unabated. Life is "messy," as Derrick Busch would say.

What do we have to keep us centered? Life is chaotic! Unpredictable! Uncertain! Confusing!

We have JESUS! **Jesus is supreme!** He is the Creator, and He is over all things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities. He is the head of His body, the church. He is the "firstborn" of all creation (Colossians 1:15-18).

We have JESUS! **Jesus is the sustainer!** In Him all things "hold together" (Colossians 1:17). When He quits holding things together, we are done! Finished! The end! Kind of like marriage... Jesus is "for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer," through all of the messes, Jesus sustains. He keeps us all together!

Jobs come and go! Health comes and goes! Houses and cars come and go! Birth, sickness, disabilities, accidents, and death come and go! Messes come and go! What keeps us grounded? Maybe I should say, **Who** keeps us grounded?

We can be grounded only when Jesus reigns **supreme** and we see Him as our **sustainer**. In the circle of life, where will your anchor be? Jesus is the only reliable anchor in summer or winter... in prosperity or in need... in life or in death.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the church! (Colossians 1:15-23)

Join Me in Trusting Him in Every Season, *Dan*



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"

We can be grounded only when Jesus reigns **supreme** and we see Him as our **sustainer**.



Steve Pierre-Jacques
Deacon:
Audio/Visual and
Information Technology

Our goal is to ensure that members, visitors, and shut-ins are able to clearly hear the word of God.

Romans 10:17: "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." This verse resonates with me as it is an anchor to the work that we do in the audio/visual booth. Whether it is reducing feedback in our audio feed, adjusting the mics for a crisp sound or installing sound panels to reduce echoes, our goal is to ensure that members, visitors, and shut-ins are able to clearly hear the word of God.

I do believe that being able to hear the word of God strengthens and nourishes the faith of the believer, just as it grows and cultivates the faith of the non-believer. Those of us who work in the audio booth are humbled to serve in this ministry and we pray that God will use it to His Glory.

The acoustic panels recently installed in the auditorium with the generous help and ingenuity of Manny Vander Vennen, and a team of 12 volunteers (names not listed because I don't want to overlook anyone), are part of our effort to reduce the echoing and maximize the audience's ability to hear the message clearly and to also improve the sound quality of audio recordings and videos. We pray that this endeavor has or will help our members, visitors, and listeners in their quest to hear God's message.

-Steve

A Servant Speaks

A Ministry of Sound



New Births!



Marlon and Javon Willis were baptized here on Sunday morning at the conclusion of our worship service. These two brothers have been studying for some time over the phone with their uncle in Nevada. At the time they made this important decision, their uncle reached out to our church to arrange an opportunity to be immersed into Christ. Carl Steiner graciously picked them up, along with their sister, Tina, to come here on Sunday morning. According to Tina, they have taken their Bible studies and this commitment very seriously, and she expressed how proud of them that she is! The young men both hope to spend more time here with us at Pitman Road.

The angels in heaven are rejoicing, and we rejoice with them! Congratulations Marlon and Javon. Welcome to the family of God!

Informational Meeting on Women's Roles

Over the last 3 months our Christian sisters have filled several public roles that are new for our fellowship. Your elders and ministerial staff want you to be aware that we have scheduled an informational meeting to share our vision for this changing role. If you would like to know more about this new direction, you are invited to attend.

This meeting will begin at **11:45 am NEXT Sunday, July 29**. It should conclude no later than **12:45 pm**. Several of your elders and ministers will present our plan for the way forward. This will not be an open forum, but your leadership will present those things that you can expect to see, and expect not to see, as we share a path forward. -On behalf of the elders, **Mike Broyles**

The money for the bus trip to the Museum of the Bible is due by August 5.



The cost is \$70 for adults and \$60 for children (ages 4-12). Checks should be made out to the Pitman Road Church of Christ. The date of the show is September 15. Cost includes bus, museum admission, and dinner at The Golden Corral. Please contact Brian Holden for additional information. (H) 856-881-6792 (C) 856-759-2542 e-mail: bcholden94@hotmail.com

Giving for June

June GOAL	\$39,472.00
Total June Contribution	\$40,670.00
Fiscal YTD GOAL	\$513,136.00
Fiscal YTD Contribution thru June (Fiscal Year End)	\$506,733.00

Fiscal Year In Review

Bored by numbers? My wife is one of those people. On the other hand, I love numbers. If I had not entered full-time ministry, I would have entered a career in accounting or business.

Our church's fiscal year runs July 1-June 30. So, we just ended our fiscal year. We are currently finalizing the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. As any organization works up a new budget, they first review their previous year's budget. So how did we do last year?

Our budget for last year called for a total contribution of \$513,136. We were just a bit under that, but our actual per capita giving increased, and that number does not include the special donations that many of us made for mission trips, our capital fund, and other causes. We paid all of our bills on time, and we continue to support God's work both here and around the world.

Our new budget will be presented on Sunday, August 5, God willing. For now, I am happy to minister to and work with a dedicated body of Christians that gave over a half million dollars over the last twelve months to help expand God's kingdom here on earth! Continue to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33)! God loves a cheerful giver. **-Dan**

Hands and Feet of Jesus!



Welcome back to our TIME Team. We commend you for your service to the Navajo Nation in Window Rock, AZ. From heavy construction work to a VBS program for children, this team did it all! Pictured from left: **Toria Davis, Leah Clements, Corey Peoples, Cassidy Davis, Brianna Peoples, Trent Spencer, Clay Olley, Chuck Olley, Luke Olley, Tim Davis, Melody Davis, Donovan Spencer, and Troy Spencer.**

Our Schedule

Sunday

9:00 am Bible Classes
10:00 am Worship

Wednesday

7:00 pm Bible Classes

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Last Week

Bible Class	102
Worship	187
LIFE Groups	NA
Wednesday	50

This Week's Prayer Requests

Je'Ani Lyles continues to make great progress! Cards can be sent to: Bloomberg 10 South, 1800 Orlean St., Baltimore, MD 21287
Kareem Rutledge, Jr. was taken to Jefferson Hospital during the week. He had been unable to keep food down for several days and was being treated for a UTI.

Linda Prenger is recovering at Rachel Stetser's home. She had a follow up with the surgeon early last week. Good news: she was recovering nicely with no infection. Bad news: there are still cancerous cells present in the under eye area. She will have to undergo both radiation and chemo treatment. Please pray for her complete healing and emotional wellbeing. **Visitors are not appropriate at this time. You can send cards to Linda at Rachel's address in the directory.**

Larry Kellum has been approved and cleared for an experimental drug treatment for MDS, and received a grant to cover the cost. He will begin treatment soon.

Brian Mansdoerfer, surgery recovery, torn pectoral muscle.

Roseann Savastano, meningitis caused by Lyme's disease.

Diane Perales cataract surgery recovery, again on July 26.

Dwight Thompson, treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma. He tolerated the last chemo treatment much better.

Jayne Schofield, prayers for several serious health issues.

Mike Lazar recovering from shoulder surgery.

Sandy Sheehan, retesting liver enzymes.

Lea Ann Kellum, ruptured tendon in her foot.

Stephanie DeStefano, diverticulitis.

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Dwight Thompson..... 609-561-8561-home, 609-287-0109-cell
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Elder on Call for July and August: Garth Hutchinson

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Judi Campbell
Kids For Christ	Summer Break
Jr. Worship	Summer Break
Greeters: Front Entrance	Corny & Phyllis Walker
Greeters: Back Entrance	Larry & Lea Ann Kellum
Information Center	Mary Lea Thompson
Ushers	Terry Rhymes & Pat Monteleone
Shepherd's Call	John Peoples
Song Leader	Garth Hutchinson
Communion	TBA

Please rejoice with us, Pitman family!
Our granddaughter, **Olivia**, daughter of **Teresa and Matt Sussman**, was baptized this past Sunday afternoon in Panama City, Florida.

-Larry and Fran Point

goodnews

Extending Sympathy

Several of our families lost loved ones this past week. Please remember them in your prayers.

We extend our sympathy to **Charlie and Doryann Seitz** and their family on the sudden passing of Charlie's daughter, **Marie Seitz**. Sadly, this is the third loss of a child for Charlie. Please pray for Charlie and Doryann as they deal with such unimaginable loss. Funeral services were held this past Thursday in Millville. Cards can be sent to the Seitz's address listed in the directory.

We extend our sympathy to **Jayne and Steve DePrince** and their family on the unexpected passing of Jayne's mother, **Mary Mishoe**. Mary attended worship here with her family when her health allowed. She experienced a period of illness, but seemed to be rebounding. She is now resting in the arms of Jesus. Funeral services were here at the building this past Thursday. Cards can be sent to the DePrinces' address listed in the directory.

We extend our sympathy to **Phyllis Walker, Kat Lindsay, Bert Kellum, their spouses, and the entire Williams clan** on the passing of their beloved aunt, **Rosetta Williams**. Aunt Rose went on to her reward after an extended period of declining health. She was the last remaining member of the family in that generation. Funeral services were held here yesterday. Cards can be sent to the families at their addresses listed in the directory.



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