
HOPE HEADLINES

A PUBLICATION OF HOPE MENNONITE CHURCH

Volume 36 Number 5

May 2021



You are what you hear: God's everlasting love that draws us faithfully along.
(A meditation on Jeremiah 31:3)

*The LORD appeared to me from afar,
"I have loved you with an everlasting love.
Therefore, I draw you faithfully along."*

What if these words from the LORD were permanent and vocal residents in our hearts, words like an "earworm," a repeated loop, a ballad that plays in our minds over and over ... words that remind us all the time of God's true feelings for us, and what our true identity is? Imagine!

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No easy task to silence negative messages or even neutral messages in a noisy world!

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May God grant **us** the grace to hear this voice of *everlasting love*, let it name **us**, and *draw us faithfully along*.

~~Pastor Dave



Let's Talk About Race

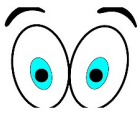
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- May 2-Marcus
- May 9-Connie
- May 16-Lowell
- May 23-Lowell
- May 30-Marcus

Scripture Reader:

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Mower:

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Packing up and saying good-bye

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- Pray, first of all, that a worse disaster would be averted. As it is, up to 14,000 people have been killed and a million more have been displaced by the conflict between Ukraine and Russia that started in 2014. Many world figures are involved. Pray for wisdom and restraint for Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskiy and for Russian president Vladimir Putin, as well as the presidents of NATO countries, especially Turkey and the United States.
- Pray for the protection, wisdom, and faithfulness of pastors and priests, and all those who minister to human need in the border regions, especially the military chaplains. Pray that they will be able to bring comfort;
- Pray that the faculty at Odessa Theological Seminary, especially the rector, Alexander Geichenko, and all other theological schools would have the necessary wisdom, sensitivity, and resources to continue their work. Pray for the students, especially the prospective cross-cultural missionaries, whose plans are affected by threats of war and the pandemic;
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The Middle of Nowhere

CPTnet, May 10, 2005

The ability to feel
the pain of another
is central
to any kind
of peacemaking work.
But
this compassion

is fraught
with peril.
A person
can experience
a feeling of
being overwhelmed.
Or
a feeling of
rage
and a desire for revenge.
Or
a desire to
move away
from the pain
Or
a sense of
of numbness that can
deaden
the ability to feel
anything at all.
How do I
resist
the welling up of rage
towards perpetrators
of violence?
How do I
keep from
disconnecting from
or
becoming numb
to the pain?
After eight months with CPT,
I am
no clearer than
I was when
I began.
In fact
I have to struggle
harder and harder
each day against
my desire
to move away
or become
numb.
Simply staying with
the pain of others
doesn't seem to
create any
healing or transformation.

Yet
there seems to
be no other
first step into
the realm of
compassion than to
not step away.
"Becoming intimate with the
queasy feeling of being in the
middle of nowhere
makes our hearts more
tender. When we are brave
enough to stay in the
nowhere place then
compassion arises
spontaneously."
(Pema Chodron, *The Places that Scare You*)

Spiritual teachers say
the middle of nowhere
is the only authentic place to be.
Not staking out
any ground for myself
creates the possibility
of standing
with anyone.
The constant challenge is
is to recognize
my true
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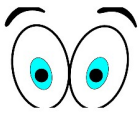
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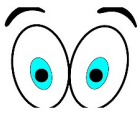
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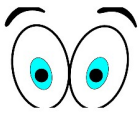
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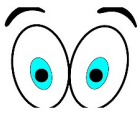
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