

# Westgate Witness



## November 2023

2235 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 -- 717-394-1071



## Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

### Be Humble Lest Ye Stumble

**Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what the does the Lord requires of you but to do justly, to love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God"**

**Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."**

How often must we learn this basic truth "**Be humble or you'll stumble.**" Though the message is very simple and basic, many of us choose to keep learning it over and over again. George Washington Carver, the scientist who developed hundreds of useful products from the peanut said: "**When I was young, I said to God, 'God, tell me the mystery of the universe.'** But God answered, '**That knowledge is reserved for me alone.'** So, I said, '**God, tell me the mystery of the peanut.'** Then God said, '**Well, George, that's more nearly your size.'** And He told me." And Michel de Montaigne was quoted "**On the highest throne in the world, we still sit on our own bottom.**"

Learning to be humble is of paramount importance in most spiritual traditions, and humility can help you develop more fully and enjoy richer relationships with others, as well as creating opportunities to earn respect. Nonetheless as the old Country song says "**It's hard to be**

**humble, when you're perfect in every way."** It's a fact that while living in a society that encourages competition and individuality, that true humility is a rare virtue. Yet humility is considered very important in our relationship with both God and people.

Jesus was very direct with the Scribes and Pharisees of his day. Although they were the religious role models, in truth they were also people who battled with enormous levels of pride. They were the spiritual superstars, the paragons of piety, God's own Dream Team. Nothing made them happier than the honor at banquets and best seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the marketplace. They sat on the seat of the great prophet Moses, dressed as wise teachers of the law, with broad phylacteries and long fringes—the religious bling of the first century. I can imagine them stroking their beards and beaming with pride when people called them "**rabbi.**" Matthew 23:1-7

They were flying high and completely out of touch. And Jesus needed to bring them down. "**Do whatever they teach, "he says, "but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach."** Vs. 2-3. They talk the talk but don't walk the walk. Jesus observes..." **They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others... but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them.**" Vs 4. As exceptional men, they believed it's their duty to offer the gift of moral clarity. But as for the practice of charity? That is someone else's problem.

Clarity, without charity, equaled hypocrisy! But in its place Jesus recommended humility. "**You are not to be called rabbi for you have one teacher, and you are all students," "Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah."** Vs. 8-10. Then Jesus surprises everyone with a statement that turns the entire social structure upside down, sending the arrogant down to the boiler room and the humble to the finest suite. "**The greatest among you will be your servant," he predicts. "All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted"** vs. 11-12. This is a wake up call... trading places... a grand reversal of fortune. I guess you could call it the "**height of the humility... and the lowliness of pride.**" But long before Jesus addressed it Micah prophesied it..."**And what the does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God"**

Pastor Robert Zimmerman



"The only thing more boring than a board meeting is the board's minutes of the last board meeting."

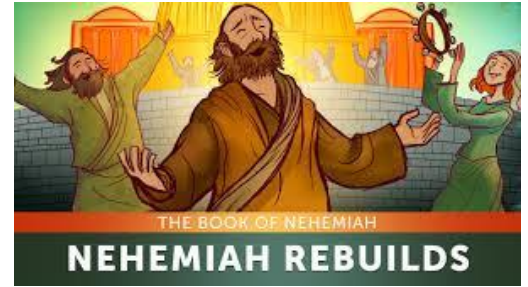
Next Board Meeting is scheduled for  
Monday, December 4th @ 6:30 PM



## Women's Bible Study – Join us Tuesdays at 9:30 AM

*There will be NO Bible Study on November 21st.*

Join us for coffee, fellowship, study, and prayer. We are working through Nehemiah - discovering how the lessons from this Old Testament story are still so very relevant for our world today. We have candid discussions, play fun games, and support one another as we study God's Word.



### Adult Sunday School resumes at 9:30.

On Sunday November 5 and November 12<sup>th</sup>

Stephen Appleby will be leading as we finish up the series entitled 'Love in Chaos' by Bob Goff. At the completion of this we will dive into presentations and discussions dealing with some of the current cultural challenges. Using the book '**Well Versed - Biblical Answers to Today's Toughest Questions**' by James L. Garlow as a guide along with pertinent video's exploring such topics as:

- **Religion in the Public Square** - Purpose of Government, the First Amendment, and Political Correctness
- **Family and Life Issues** - Marriage, School Choice, Abortion, Sexual Orientation, and Healthcare
- **Economics** - Capitalism vs. Socialism, Taxes, Debt, Welfare, and Minimum Wage
- **Law and Society** - Judiciary, Hate Crimes, Social Justice, and Racism
- **Foreign Policy and World Issues** - National Defense, Immigration, Israel, the Environment, Islam, and Terrorism
- **Political Participation** - Media and Civil Disobedience

**FACT:** Green bean casserole was invented by a Campbell Soup employee.

Campbell's test kitchen supervisor [Dorcas Reilly](#) was responsible for developing recipes for the backs of soup cans in the 1950s. Her most successful dish—green bean bake, or green bean casserole as it later came to be known—featured condensed cream of mushroom as one of its six ingredients. Home cooks are still making her original recipe 60 years later.



## The New Axis of Evil Are We Ready to Defend our Civilization?

by **R. Albert Mohler Jr.**

Albert Mohler is president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce College and editor of WORLD Magazine Opinions

The 20th century knew more than its share of evil powers, but something new, ominous, and world-shaping came into view in 1936 when Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany declared a “Rome-Berlin Axis,” united in opposition to the rest of Europe. The combination of Hitler’s Germany and Mussolini’s Italy into a fascist alliance represented a clear and present danger to civilized Europe and, by extension, to the United States as well. Their “Pact of Steel” in 1939 formalized the threat even as global war loomed. Very soon, Imperial Japan would join the Axis powers as an ally, and as a direct threat to the United States and its allies. It would be a battle unto death.

Decades later, President George W. Bush identified a new “Axis of Evil” including Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. Now, as Ukraine fights against a Russian invasion and Israel fights against a massive attack by the Islamic terrorist organization Hamas, the picture coming into view reveals a new axis of evil that poses a civilizational challenge that the United States and its allies cannot ignore. The new axis powers pose an existential threat to Western civilization, and they have declared themselves to be our enemies. Worse, they are joining in combined action. Once again, an axis threat looms.

The new axis of evil includes Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. All four nations pose a direct threat to the West. Each is working to subvert the world order. All four are autocracies or dictatorships who see the United States and our allies as decadent, weak, rich, and temporary. All four are deeply rooted in history and driven by an aggressive ideology.

Vladimir Putin’s Russia is a vast criminal enterprise armed with a massive nuclear arsenal and modern strategic weapons. Though his ideology is presented as a reconstitution of imperial Russia under the tsars, in reality today’s Russia is a political cover for gangster enterprises led by massively wealthy oligarchs who all work for the new criminal tsar, Putin. Putin’s basic worldview comes from his experience as an officer with the dreaded Soviet KGB, but Putin is not a dedicated communist. He is the world’s most powerful mob boss. His design is to destabilize the West, regain territory, and remake the world order on his own terms. Putin’s invasion of Ukraine is part of a far larger plan, which is what has driven nations like Finland into the NATO orbit.

Xi Jinping’s China is an ideologically communist regime that now has ambitions that far outstrip anything imagined by Mao Zedong, who led the communist revolution that took power in 1949 and engineered the Cultural Revolution and other actions that led to the deaths of millions. Under Xi and the modern Chinese Communist Party, China has emerged as an empire determined to rule the world, or at least reshape the entire world to its interest. Its vast Belt and Road initiative, its designs to gain deep-water naval bases in the western hemisphere, its open aggression in the Pacific, its claims to territory and sea lanes,

and its direct threats to Taiwan are backed up with a belligerence and open agenda of political destabilization that tests the United States and its allies virtually every day.

These four powers are increasingly aligned against American interests and, in the case of both Iran and North Korea, the ruling powers want to see the United States destroyed.

Iran is probably the axis power with greatest intent to destroy Israel, destabilize the world order, and undermine the United States. It works by subversion and through countless proxies, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Driven by a radical Islamic ideology wedded to the use of terror as an extension of state power, the Shia ayatollahs of Iran see the United States as the Great Satan, and they have waged a jihad against America and American allies since 1979. Iran is a medieval theocracy animated by murderous passion and unrestrained by international norms. U.S and European intelligence agencies can trace Iran directly to the most dangerous terrorist groups and to the genocidal Hamas attack on Israel launched Oct. 7.

North Korea, often referred to as the “Hermit Kingdom,” is the homicidal fiefdom of the Kim family dynasty. It combines ruthlessness and paranoia and the world’s most deadly cult of personality. Kim Jong Un, the third-generation “supreme leader” of North Korea, maintains power by terror and the threat of death, most often directed against its own citizens. Western intelligence sources are convinced that Kim had several enemies, including his own uncle, executed by anti-aircraft guns. Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Kim seeks to subvert Western interests and counts on the protection of both Russia and China. North Korea is also armed with nuclear missiles, and some of the regime’s rockets are believed capable of striking the western United States.

These four powers are increasingly aligned against American interests and, in the case of both Iran and North Korea, the ruling powers want to see the United States destroyed. Iran is determined to see Israel erased from the map. These four nations are also involved in collusion and mutual support. Just days ago, Vladimir Putin went to visit China and to meet with Xi Jinping, affirming their solidarity. Iran is supporting terrorist organizations and selling armed drones to Russia to be used against Ukraine. North Korea is a pariah state determined to cause problems all over the world and driven by paranoid ideology and worship of a dictator.

Once again, we are about to find out if freedom-loving nations can muster the determination to defend those freedoms against rogue regimes. Freedom, human dignity, and constitutional government have enemies, and thus we have enemies. Far too many politicians and world leaders refuse to acknowledge the reality. We now live in a very dangerous world, facing enemies who plot our destruction. Denial is deadly. This will not be a short-term challenge and every one of these threats is daunting. The new Axis of Evil represents an unavoidable civilizational challenge, and we are about to find out just how determined we are that our civilization shall exist for our own children.



## Just For Fun

I no longer see my wife and kids and it's all because of gambling... I won the lottery and moved to Hawaii.

My son was chewing on electrical cords, so I had to ground him. He's doing better currently and conducting himself properly.

Today I had the nastiest, slowest, rudest cashier I've ever had. I guess it's my fault for using the self-checkout.

My grief counselor died today. He was so good I don't even care.

Did you know the first French fries weren't cooked in France? They were cooked in Greece.

If money doesn't grow on trees, then why do banks have branches?

My wife says she has 14 reasons why she could leave me including my obsession with tennis. I said that's 15 love.

Got home to find that my kids were on eBay all day. If they're still there tomorrow, I'll lower the price.

My kids refuse to eat leftover tacos for dinner. So, my wife said to throw them out. I did, now I have no idea what to do with the tacos.

I was so confused last night because my printer was playing music. Turns out my paper was just jamming.

I recently joined Jehovah Witnesses. I can see it opening a lot of doors for me.

I had a great childhood. Dad used to roll me down the hills in tires. Those were "Good Years".



### **AB Men's Breakfast**



Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am. We will meet at the Family Fare Restaurant, 5921 Main St., East Petersburg PA 17520 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.

## ANGEL TREE PROJECT



For the fifth year, ABW has chosen Water Street Mission to receive the monies collected by your Angel Tree donations.

It seems impossible, but Water Street Mission can provide a hot, wholesome, home-cooked meal for a person facing hunger or homelessness for just \$2.96.

Water Street will serve thousands of nourishing meals during the holiday season.

Your donation can be the turning point in the life of someone who is looking for hope, helping them find the support they need to overcome health issues, addiction, joblessness and other major life challenges.

Gifts may be given in cash or by check. Make your check out to Westgate and designate in the lower left corner that it is for Water Street.

Gift envelopes will be in the church bulletins the end of November/beginning of December.

**Thank you so much for your generous support of the Angel Tree Project!**



God Uses a Gift and a Letter to Change Lives  
**Please have boxes returned no later the November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**GIFT IDEAS:** Toy cars, school supplies, socks, jewelry, sunglasses, hairbrushes, stuffed animals, dolls, jump ropes.

### **DO NOT INCLUDE**

Candy, toothpaste, scary or war related items, liquids, lotions, medications, breakable items.

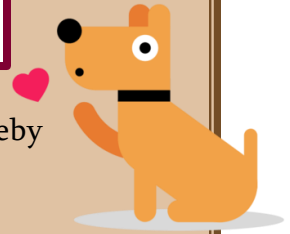
**For more information visit**  
**<https://www.samaritanspurse.org>**



# Birthdays & Anniversaries- November



11/6 Kaiden Vital  
 11/15 Hannah Tebie  
 11/22 Richard Adams



11/7/1981 Stephen & Connie Appleby  
 11/20/1965 Ron & Gloria Austin  
 11/27/2010 Rich & Laura Schramm



## Treasurer's Report

October 2023	\$10,785.00
Budget Income	\$10,341.00
Non-budget income	\$444.00



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His love endures forever.

Psalm 107:1



**November 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Remember to set your clocks back!**