

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 4, 2024

## Don't Go Alone



“A man sprained his ankle and couldn’t travel. The party he was with had to go right on, but they left him with lots of food. He was left in isolation in a desert. All he had to do was keep quiet for three or four days. He showed up in civilization just about half crazy. His ankle was all inflamed. He said he’d rather have lost the whole leg than to have stayed in that desert another ten minutes. People can’t bear it because they are alone with their Maker out there.”  
– Albert Mygatt [1]

As much as people say they cannot stand being around people, they need people because this is how God designed them (Genesis 2:24-25; Ephesians 3:14-15). “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:7-9 NASU)

The story is told by the Persians of the great Shah Abbas, who reigned magnificently in Persia, but loved to mingle with the people in disguise. Once, dressed as a poor man, he descended the long flight of dark and damp stairs to the tiny cellar where the fireman, seated on ashes, was tending the furnace. The king sat down beside him and began to talk. At mealtime, the fireman produces some course, black bread, and a jug of water, and they eat and drink. The Shah went away but returned repeatedly, for his heart was filled with sympathy for the lonely man. He gave his sweet counsel, and the poor man opened his whole heart and loved this friend, so kind, so wise, and yet poor like himself.

At last, the emperor thought, “I will tell him who I am and see what gift he will ask.” So, he said, “You think me poor, but I am Shah Abbas, your emperor.” He expected a petition for something great, but the man sat silent. Gazing, he said, “Haven’t you understood? I can make you rich and noble, give you a city, and appoint you as a great ruler. Have you nothing to ask?” The man replied gently, “Yes, my lord, I understood. But what have you done to leave your palace and glory, sit with me in this dark place, partake in my coarse fare, and care whether my heart is glad or sorry? Even you can give nothing more precious. On others, you may bestow rich presents, but to me, you have given yourself; it only remains to ask that you never withdraw this gift to your friendship.” -A. Naismith [2]

“Two are better than one because they have a good return...” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

[1] Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers*. Garland, TX: Bible Communications, 1996, c1979

[2] [2] Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers*. Garland TX: Bible Communications, 1996, c1979

## UPCOMING Events

	<p><b>CPR TRAINING—AUGUST 24TH 9AM—12 PM</b> Have you ever wanted to be CPR certified? We have a CPR certification course coming up August 24, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Must register by August 11, 2024. Cost is \$65 per person. Receive CPR, AED, and First Aid Certification. To register, contact <b>Lulu Hayes</b> for more information on Sundays after service or at <a href="mailto:luluhayes1@gmail.com">luluhayes1@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><b>WORSHIP MINISTRY TRAINING</b> <b>AUGUST 17, 2024 8:30 AM—11 AM</b> All Worship Ministries please register for a special training on Saturday, August 17, 2024 8:30 a.m.—11 a.m. Worship ministries include Praise Teams, Choirs, the Band, Mime ministry, Praise Dance Ministries, the Production Teams, Audio Teams, Communion Team and the Drama Ministry. We hope to see all of you there so we can grow spiritually, serve others well, and execute God’s vision in the lives of our church. Register at <a href="https://bit.ly/LWFCWorshipTraining">https://bit.ly/LWFCWorshipTraining</a></p>
	<p><b>YOUTH MONTH—AUGUST 2024</b> Join us every Sunday in August for Youth Month. Come and encourage our LWFC Kidz and Legacy Youth as they minister each Sunday during both services. For more information on LWFC Kidz, contact <b>Mrs. Sylvia Edwards</b> or for information on Legacy Youth contact <b>Jordan Washington</b>.</p>
	<p><b>BACK TO SCHOOL BASH—DONATE BACKPACKS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES &amp; HAIR ACCESSORIES</b> Living Word Family, it’s almost time for the Back To School Bash on August 10th. Please donate <b>Backpacks, School Supplies And Girls Hair Accessories</b>. Bins are located in the foyer and the Children’s Wing. For more information, visit the Events Page of the Website or call the Church at <b>(281) 260-7402</b>.</p>
	<p><b>SUMMER TECH SERIES – CANVA WORKSHOP</b> <b>AUGUST 24TH 10 AM—2 PM</b> Our FREE Summer Tech Series has been amazing. We have had HTML Certification, Google Suite Training and next up is our Canva Workshop. On <b>Saturday, August 24, 2024 from 10 am—2 pm</b>. Learn how to use Canva to create graphics, flyers, invitations, videos and more! Register at or on the events page of the website. For more information on our <b>TECH SERIES</b> contact <b>Shani Smothers</b>.</p>



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

“Traits of a True Friend”  
*1 Samuel 20:30-34, 41-42*

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Visitor’s Welcome

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

**Infants—6th grade**





## Traits of a True Friend 1 Samuel 20:30-34, 41-42

### A. Loyal (vs. 30-31; Proverbs 17:17):

- Jonathan's love for David led him to protect him before his father. When his father realizes this, his anger becomes so great that he fusses at Jonathan, desiring to punish him for protecting David.
- Saul commands Jonathan to get the soldiers to search for David and to kill him.
- What David said to Jonathan has been completely exposed (1 Samuel 20:1-13, especially 12-13).

### B. Truthful (vs. 32):

- With no hesitation, Jonathan repeatedly responded to Saul, telling him he was wrong about David. Convictions even Saul, when confronted by David, would eventually have to confirm (1 Samuel 24:16-20).
- Jonathan stood for what is right (vs.12-13) and then let things fall where they must.
- Saul reacted to Jonathan's response by taking his spear and, in much anger, throwing it towards Jonathan with every intent to wound him or kill him.
- Because Jonathan's father threw the spear to kill, he was now convinced that Saul was continuously going to do whatever it took to kill David.
- Saul was not just going to do his best to kill David; he was completely committed to doing every possible thing to kill David.
- Jonathan got up from the table with the intent to continuously work to execute the plan he and David put in place and strategically organized (20:18-29).
- When Jonathan left the table, he was intensely angry. He seems angry because his father had no reason to kill David, and because of his trust in his father, he is deeply disappointed in Saul's decision.
- Jonathan's disappointment is completely vividly portrayed in his outrage and mental anguish when he leaves the table not eating anything.
- David accomplished a lot. He did this because of his love for God and his people and to show respect for Saul's leadership (1 Samuel 17; 18:1-3; 23-24). Saul's reaction to all that David did humiliated David, and brought him much shame and disgrace; because Jonathan loved David (1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:1-17)

### C. Respectful (vs. 41-42):

- David threw himself on Jonathan with no plans to stop. He knew he was safe with Jonathan because Jonathan did not give him up to his father. David knew how much it cost Jonathan to protect him.
- David viewed Jonathan as above him and someone whose leadership he must honor.
- They knew this was the last time they would see each other. As a result, they displayed a very strong display of distress and sorrow, David more than Jonathan.
- Jonathan bid David peace and said there would be no strife between them.
- Notice that David did not enter the city as Jonathan did. David can trust Jonathan because he proved to be a true friend.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**URBAN AGRICULTURE**  
**BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH**  
START YOUR SUMMER GARDENING PROJECT

JOIN US & LEARN AGRICULTURE BASICS  
FROM TRAINED PROFESSIONALS  
DURING THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

**AUGUST 10TH 10 AM -2PM**  
\*ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND\*

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT DR. CLARENCE BUNCH AT [CLBUNCH@PVAMU.EDU](mailto:CLBUNCH@PVAMU.EDU)

**ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**

**AUGUST 10 10 AM -2PM**

LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 6601 ANTOINE DR.  
-GAMES - FOOD - MUSIC - BACKPACKS -  
SCHOOL SUPPLIES- GIVEAWAYS & MORE-

REGISTER TO ATTEND AT  
<https://bit.ly/LWFCBack2School2024>

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** The family of Lee White, and Gloria Franklin & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Joyce Denman, and Diana Doyle.

# TRAITS OF A TRUE Friend

## 1 Samuel 20:30-34; 41-42