

“BAD THINGS”

“Pray for those who do bad things to you and who make it hard for you. Then you may be sons of your Father Who is in heaven. His sun shines on bad people and on good people.”

Matthew 5:44,45 New Life Version

I’ve been reading “In The Presence of My Enemies”, the story of American missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham and their years on the run in the jungles of the southern Philippines as captives held for ransom by Muslim jihadists. Terror, lack of food and water, chained to trees all night, health problems, debilitating intestinal viruses, constant exhaustion, beheadings, frequent gun battles with the Philippine army— how would they respond? The following passage from Gracia’s book is so inspiring.



“You know,” Martin said to me one day, “here in the mountains I’ve seen hatred; I’ve seen bitterness; I’ve seen greed; I’ve seen covetousness; I’ve seen wrongdoing.” I nodded my head vigorously, thinking back to incidents I had observed as well.

But then he surprised me. He hadn’t been talking about Abu Sayyaf as I had assumed.

“I’ve seen each of these things in myself. The Lord has been showing me how incredibly sinful I am.” He then proceeded to go back through the list.

“Hatred? At times I have hated these guys so strongly. When we were getting cheated out of food, I’d sit and think, *Wow, I wish I had a big pot of rice, and they were the ones chained to a tree. I’d sit there and eat it all in front of them.*

“At other times, when one of them

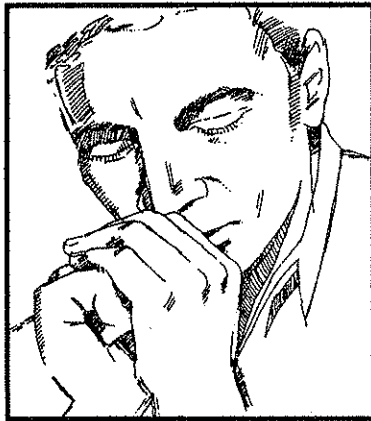
pulled out a ‘personal’ snack from their stash and ate it, I coveted it rather than being happy for that person.”

He kept going through the list. We talked about how our hearts were wicked, and how we had rationalized that by saying we were the ones being wronged and so our feelings were only “natural.”

“But Jesus said to love your enemies . . . do good to those who hate you . . . pray for those who despitefully use you,” Martin continued. “He said we were to be the servants of all — and

he didn’t add any exception clause like, ‘except for terrorists, whom you have every right to hate.’

“Let’s just ask the Lord to work out some contentment in our hearts and teach us what he wants us to learn.”



*Lord help us to pray for those
who do bad things to us,
Pastor Mason*



Ladies'

Fall Retreat

Great meals prepared by—
Penn-York Camp

Fun • Fellowship • Ministry • Worship

The Ladies' Fall Retreat will be held on October 8 & 9 at Penn-York Camp in Ulysses, PA. The retreat will begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, however, if you would like to spend some extra time enjoying "God's Country" you may arrive anytime after 1:00 p.m. Departure time is approx. 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Janet Hankinson will be sharing God's Word with us entitled "The Power of Invitation". Janet lives in Rome, NY with her husband, Tom. She attends the Calvary Gospel Church and works with Pastor George and Barbara Dodd.

The cost is \$40.00. Make checks payable to "Women's Fellowship" and give to Mary Deer by Sunday, September 26. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer soon.

**Come see what the Lord will do
in your life!**

Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study will resume Wednesday, September 8th. We will meet for lunch to reconnect after the summer break, then begin the study the following week. "A Woman's Influential Relationships" is eight weeks long. We will meet in the kitchen, or occasionally in the Pavilion, at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday mornings. We finish between 11:30 and 12:00. Contact Sarah Kornhaus for details. 593-2324 or kornhaus@verizon.net.

Operation Christmas Child

the power of a simple gift

When they open their shoe box gifts, the harsh world around them fades and their hearts fill with wonder and joy as they see the treasures within. Yet the impact of Operation Christmas Child goes far beyond smiles and laughter. These simple gifts become Gospel opportunities, opening hurting hearts to experience the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

from Franklin Graham

When we collected the first shoe boxes in 1993, we could not have imagined the amazing ways God would still be using Operation Christmas Child 17 years later. More than 77 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced the joy of receiving these simple treasures. Best of all, these gifts continue to provide opportunities to introduce young people to the Savior, Jesus Christ. This year, we are excited to launch a new, expanded follow-up discipleship program, called *The Greatest Journey*. The 12-lesson series will initially be offered by our ministry partners in Latin America, and then be made available in dozens more countries around the world during the next few years. Please pray that the Lord will multiply His blessings upon this program so that many more children will commit their hearts to Jesus



and say: "For You are my hope, O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth" (Psalms 71:5, NKJV).

Our kick-off for Operation Christmas Child will be starting soon so with summer clearance and back-to-school sales, now is a great time to be stocking up on items to fill your shoe boxes!

Up Coming Events . . .

- Oct. 8 & 9** .. Ladies' Fall Retreat
- Oct. 31** Fall Fun Night
- Nov. 6** Men's Breakfast &
Fall Clean-Up Day
- Dec. 6** Ladies' Christmas
Brunch