



# Your NAWE Companion

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## Perfect in All of Your Ways

Heather Crisp, Covington, GA

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Isaiah 55:8-9

Recently, Tommy and I found ourselves praying for God's direction for our ministry. In September, the two of us started having church in our house. We wanted to study 1st Thessalonians while being quiet before God. We were asking God whether He wanted a house church or for us to find a church in our area. We asked God to show us His plan before we finished 1st Thessalonians.

As the last few grains of sand were about to make their way through the hourglass, we found ourselves crying out for God to give us crystal clarity. During this quiet time, we continued to be passionate about the idea of a house church; however, we still could not see God's direction.

While it may have appeared that God was being silent, He was preparing the way. A friend of mine found herself going through a divorce. This took her by surprise as well as their ten year old son. I invited them to have church with us one Sunday morning. She smiled and said they would love to.

That following week I told Tommy I was thinking about asking them back. He said that would be great. Once again they were glad to join us. At this point Tommy and I started to see God's answer clearly. They have been with us for about three months now. We finished 1st Thessalonians and have now started the Gospel of John.

I have never considered myself as one who puts God in a box. God is bigger than any box and there are no limits to His power. To paint a picture of what this church looks like to me: it contains mature believers who are willing to do whatever God asks, who are wanting to thrive, and to refresh the hearts of the saints that no longer attend a worship service.

### "MY WAYS...your ways...!"

This is what it looks like to God. "I am sending you a woman who is broken and whose chaos you will not understand. She needs to be listened to, guided, and given much love. She will bring you a young boy that you will identify with, having had experienced many of the same things in your youth. They will make you grow, encourage you, and give you much joy."

Whatever situation you find yourself in, know this: GOD IS WORKING! Be patient and know that His plan will far surpass your plan. This is one of our many God Adventures! This experience is stretching us in ways we never imagined. Thank you, Jesus, for being Perfect in All of Your Ways!

April—May 2018



### Praise & Prayer

Praise the Lord for a wonderful time of fellowship at the Ministers' & Wives' Retreat.

Grand Prairie Church (Stuttgart, AR) recently called Vernon Wease to come serve as their associate pastor. Let's thank the Lord for providing for this need. Let's also be praying for Vernon and the church as they make this transition.

Continue to pray for Cheryl Elder (Conyers, GA) and her family upon the recent death of her father, Jim Jenkins.

Keep praying for Phyllis Snipes' mother, along with Phyllis and Lance. She seems to have recovered somewhat from a recent stroke, but is still suffering from dementia.

## Association News

### Ministers' & Wives' Retreat

Donnie Morgan, Lexington, GA

Spring break. Those two words can call up past memories of good times and feelings of anticipation for plans of future fun. This past week Mitzi and I spent our spring break at Amicalola Falls State Park near Dahlonega, Georgia. We were well pleased with the facilities and activities available at the park. We cherished our time together away from the daily grind back at home. We also enjoyed the company of dear friends at the Ministers' and Wives' Retreat at the park. Everyone there at the retreat spent time catching up with each other about our families and ministries. We did this during meals together, prayer time together, and free time together. After all, who better understands the lives of pastors and wives than those who are currently or have been pastors and wives?

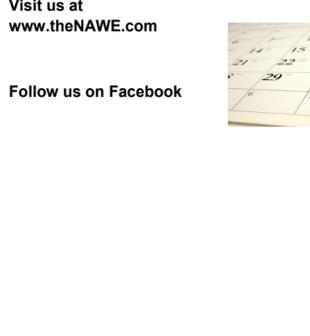
To say we were all encouraged and blessed to have this time together is an understatement. It was a great couple of days. We all spent time praying for each other's families and our respective churches/ministries. We took time to also pray for those who were not able to be with us.

We had the privilege of making some new friends. Dr. John Hucks and his wife Sara came from Orangeburg, South Carolina to be with us. John works at Southern Methodist College and Sara is a teacher in a local school. John brought several messages to us about God's gifting of grace to all. He shared from 1 Corinthians 15:10 that says "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain". God's grace is gifted to all, and those who accept this gift are blessed by this grace throughout their Christian life. These were very timely messages that were well received.

There was even time for the Ministerial Relations Committee to meet with two candidates who have finished the course of study and are one step closer to ordination within the NAWE. The future is promising for the NAWE, its pastors, its churches, and its individual members.

As we all parted ways on Thursday morning I thought how short the time together seemed to be and how I looked forward to the next time we can see each other again. So until we meet again I offer this thought from the Apostle Paul found in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. "We give thanks to God for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father".

God's blessings on you all.



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### Calendar

July 10-12, 2018: Annual Meeting at Highland Manor & Conference Center in Townsend, TN