



Your NAWE Companion

'N AWE

Keep Shining Your Light

Tony Elder, Conyers, GA

Our oldest grandson recently went on a school field trip to Callaway Gardens. Among other activities, they visited the butterfly house. I understand that this structure is home to thousands of those beautiful creatures, including some exotic and tropical species. This wasn't my grandson's first trip to that location. His family had visited there when he wasn't much more than a toddler. On that occasion my daughter was pointing out all the colorful, delicate butterflies flittering around, trying to get her son to appreciate the wonder of this unique environment. As she extolled the beauty of God's creatures, one of them lit softly on the ground near my grandson. Before my daughter could intervene, he stomped on it. She quickly grabbed him up, rebuked him, and hoped no one had witnessed his transgression. I guess to a toddler, a bug was a bug, no matter how colorful its appearance.

While my grandson acted on that occasion out of youthful innocence and ignorance, there are many with more sinister or selfish motives who purposefully stomp on that which is beautiful in the world. It might be the glorious wonder of new life conceived in a human womb. It might be the beauty of marriage and family as God intended it to be. It might be the good deeds or generous spirit of someone who helped another person. It might be the heroic acts of those today or of notable people in history. There are those who make it their mission to dig up dirt on those individuals, to attribute wrong motives to them, to pervert God-given values, and even twist the meaning of scripture in order to rid the world of what they don't like. Maybe they do it because its existence and presence makes their own conduct and character look bad in comparison. Or as Jesus explained in terms of light and darkness, "Everyone practicing evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed" (John 3:20). Instead they try to snuff out the light or stomp on the butterfly.

The greatest example of this is what happened to Jesus Himself. He was beautiful – not in terms of His physical appearance – Isaiah prophesied that "when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2). Yet Jesus was beautiful in character and spirit. His life was the most glorious display of purity and holiness the world had ever witnessed. Yet He was stomped on. There were times when Jesus did the marvelous and miraculous deed of healing people who were sick, only to have others condemn Him because of the day on which He did it. There were other times when Jesus would do good and help people, but have his actions attributed to the devil. In spite of His great teachings, His unsullied character, and His miraculous acts of kindness, the world stomped on Jesus all the way to the cross.

Yet stomping on Jesus didn't get rid of Him. It only planted a seed in the ground which rose, grew, and bore much fruit. The darkness couldn't overshadow His light. And I believe beauty and light will continue to prevail regardless of the measures some people may take to try to stop it.

So keep shining your light, even if others attempt to put it out. Continue to let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you. Some people won't like it and will try to stomp on it. But it's something that can't be overcome or extinguished, no matter how hard some may try.

June—July 2018



Praise & Prayer

Rejoicing with Bingham Memorial Church in North Carolina as they have called a new pastor.

Thankful for the new house church ministry started by Tommy & Heather Crisp in Covington GA. Be praying for "Thrive Ministry".

Pray for our churches, camps, VBS, and other summer ministries.

Be praying for our upcoming Annual Meeting. Let's pray for our speaker, for true revival, as well as for God's direction for our association.

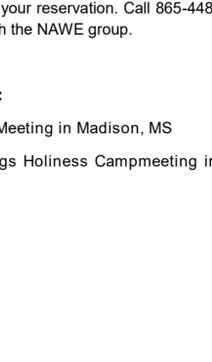
Annual Meeting

Greetings from Our Speaker

Hubert Harriman

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with great anticipation that I look forward to participating in the meetings of the NAWE in Townsend, TN in July. My mind and heart have been prayerfully and joyfully harmonizing and working with God's Spirit in preparation for our time together. And I'm confident, and blessed, in knowing that all who plan to be present are of the same mind and heart. We all know that it is in that spirit that God meets with His people. Thus, we have much to look forward to.

As an MK (missionary kid) I was born and raised in a culture (Bolivia) where greetings were of utmost importance. No letter or conversation was ever entered into without first a clear, and often lengthy show of interest in the person addressed, before ever getting to the reason for such letter or conversation. To do otherwise was simply rude and uncaring. The letters of the New Testament were written in a very similar culture. What was said in the greeting revealed the heart of the writer. With few exceptions, the letters begin with the greeting "Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ". Powerful! What a tremendous expression of the right kind of interest and care in the recipients of said letter! Interestingly, the Apostle Paul, when writing to Timothy, deviates from this common greeting by adding the word "mercy"—"Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." Perhaps because he is a young minister, or a minister at all, or perhaps because of Paul's special love for Timothy, mercy is poured into his expression of deep care for his life. What I have learned, from my experience in ministry, is that our greatest need is "grace, mercy and peace". May God grant us all three, in great measure, in these days together.



Calendar



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

There is still time to make your reservation. Call 865-448-2211 & tell them you're with the NAWE group.

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www.theNAWE.com

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Additional Opportunities:

June 21-23: AIM Annual Meeting in Madison, MS

July 12-22: Indian Springs Holiness Campmeeting in Flowilla, GA