



Your NAWE Companion

'N AWE

Revisit the Sermon on the Mount

Jeffery Nason, Covington, TN

At times it seems like our country is beyond help. We have an irreconcilable political divide. There seems to be such an unshamed acceptance for things the Bible clearly states are sinful. And the church in America seems to be off chasing the next trend and trying its best to not appear different from the world. What are we to do? How do we bring healing to a broken society?

When things today seem hopeless it always helps me to think about the society in which Jesus was born. It was by no means a perfect society. The horrors of that age are almost beyond my imagination. Babies could be abandoned, disease was rampant, the government was oppressive, and the political and racial divides unsurmountable. The immorality of the culture was shocking (an excellent book covering the details of this is Everett Ferguson's *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*). But into this evil world Jesus came, "the light shines in the darkness..."

Lately I have been drawn to the Sermon on the Mount. I often read where people say the commands given there are humanly impossible to keep. I do agree with this in part, but I am so glad that God has promised us help. The Holy Spirit fills us and enables us to do the impossible. Many criticize the Bible because in their opinion, it did not address the social evils of the day. They also think that we are somehow smarter today than the early Christians but it is important to note that the early Christians transformed society. Christians began to take in the abandoned babies. Christians would help those who were dying from plagues. They would firmly stand against immorality and the list goes on and on.

The Bible addresses the sinful heart of man. When Jesus begins to dwell in our hearts, then we can be guided by Him. Social reform is only really possible when the Kingdom of God is established in the hearts of people. I think it is time for Christians to revisit the Sermon on the Mount and this time come with the great desire to obey it. Jesus describes His followers as salt and light. We are change agents, but useless if we lose our saltiness. I think there is hope for this world but I do not think things will get better until those who say they follow Jesus really desire to act like Him. Where do we begin? I think a good place is "blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven".

February—March 2020



Praise & Prayer

Praise the Lord that **Ruby**, the grandchild of Dwayne Dickerson (Danielsville, GA), is doing much better.

Thankful that **Phyllis Dickerson (Danielsville, GA)** came through her recent surgery well in which she had an electronic pain control device implanted in her spine. Please pray for her as she recovers.

Continue to pray for those among us who are dealing with the care of elderly parents.

Continue in **Prayer & Fasting on Wednesdays** for our nation, its leaders, and revival in the Church.

Association News

AIM Southeast Men's Retreat

This year's retreat will be held **April 14-16 at Cheaha State Park** in Alabama. Our guest speaker will be **Patty David**, an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church and founder of The Wesleyan Resistance (www.wesleyanresistance.com). (See our last newsletter for more complete biographical information.)

Our accommodations for this retreat will be a little different from recent ones. Everyone will still have their own private rooms and baths, but we will all be staying in the lodge. Our meeting room will be in that building too. This will enable us to have more opportunity for informal times of fellowship before and after our scheduled meetings. There are also kitchen facilities in the building. So if you don't want to take the short drive down the road to the restaurant for a meal, you can bring something to prepare at the lodge.

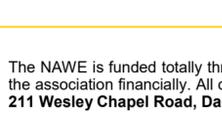
Therefore you do **not** need to call Cheaha Park to make your reservation. You just need to let Tony Elder know if you are planning to attend, preferably no later than March 15. Then you should come prepared to reimburse the NAWE for the cost of your room. The total cost for the two nights is only \$150 per room. (There are a couple of rooms with bunk beds that will accommodate families with kids.) Each person is responsible for the cost of their meals and any other expenses.

All ministers, wives, and their families are encouraged to attend, along with the members of the NAWE Executive Committee which usually meets at this time. Let's look forward to a great time of fellowship, inspiration, building each other up in the faith, and relaxation.

Calendar

April 14-16: Ministers' & Wives' Retreat

July 14-16: Annual Meeting at Pigeon Forge, TN. Our guest speaker will be Rob Pocal from Wesley Biblical Seminary.



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(Have you checked out our recently revised and updated website yet?)

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The NAWE is funded totally through **voluntary giving**. Thanks for all you do in supporting the association financially. All donations should be sent to our treasurer: **Donnie Morgan, 211 Wesley Chapel Road, Danielsville, GA 30633.**