

# THE WAY

NEWSLETTER

A C C C H U R C H

VOL. 1 ISS. 3

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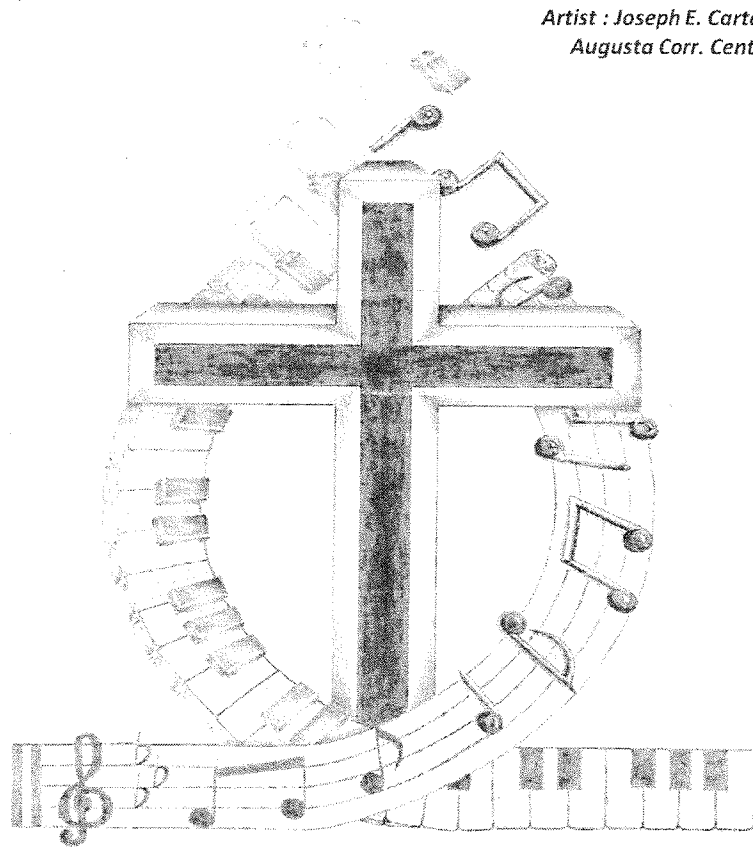
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Artist : Joseph E. Carter,  
Augusta Corr. Center



## WANTED

If God has blessed you with the creative gift of DRAWING, POETRY WRITING, or if you have a RED HOT TESTIMONY that can be expressed in a few lines and you would like your work to be included in a future newsletter, please write Chaplain Wagner.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health is more than a buzz word used in social media circles. Depression is a serious issue. The feeling of loneliness is a driving force behind depression. Christians are not immune to these feelings. The Church at A.C.C. is a loving, mending, training, and sending community. You don't have to fight these feelings alone. Join us at church and allow us the opportunity to love on you and pray with you. Also, fill out an Inmate Request Form and send it to the Mental Health Department expressing your desire to speak with someone concerning your feelings. Chaplain Wagner is also available for counseling appointments. See you soon.



January is traditionally the month where new years resolutions are initiated. When we set goals we want to accomplish within the year. March is the last month of the first quarter and our first landmark where we check in with the goals we set. By the time December comes in we want to be so close to achieving the goal it seems impossible to fail. When the proverbial pot of gold is within our grasp. Maybe that's why March ushers in images of Leprechauns and rainbows with big fat pots of gold at the end. Subliminally, it serves as a reminder to keep you focused on your goal.

So permit me to pitch a question in your direction. What goals have you set for yourself this year? What goal are you passionately pursuing? What is the pot of gold at the end of your rainbow? Now before you spit out a quick answer I want you to search deep within yourself for a moment. What about your spiritual goals? Fast one day a week? Read the Bible through in a year? Spend more time in prayer developing a more intimate relationship with your Creator? How about going overboard to share the love of God with someone everyday? These are all admirable. But what if pleasing your Heavenly Father is your goal? Here is my suggestion. Hear and obey what He tells you. It's that simple. Don't put off tomorrow what you can do today. Make today count toward achieving your goals.



Q	P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	Q
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A	K	S	I	M	E	O	N	L	N	A
P	W	E	L	E	H	C	A	R	E	P
L	Z	I	L	P	A	H	A	Y	B	H
I	J	O	S	E	P	H	Y	V	U	T
B	T	F	V	G	C	G	I	K	E	A
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E	F	S	O	A	V	H	A	D	U	J
Q	I	B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N	P

***Jacob's Sons and Their Mothers***

- Zilpah = Gad, Asher
- Bilpah = Dan, Naphtali
- Leah = Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
- Rachel = Joseph, Benjamin

**Be Made WHOLE**

When the woman with the "Issue of Blood" pressed through the crowd making her way to Jesus, it was after she had suffered 12 years with her condition. It was after she had spent all of her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any of them. Finally, she went against tradition pushing in the direction of her faith. It was this same faith that caused Jesus to say these words to her, "Your Faith has made you whole." When this woman turned to Jesus she was in need of more than a blood clot. To stop blood flow would not have made her whole. Yes, her health condition was the root of her problem but after 12 years she needed her finances restored and her social circle restored as well. "Your faith has made you whole," spoke to every need she had and set in motion total restoration in her life. This scripture reminds me of our loving Heavenly Father. When we reach out in faith, we receive more than we ask or think, (Eph. 3:20) because it's His power working in us. What is your issue? Turn to Him in Faith and be made WHOLE today.

# SPOTLIGHT ON

**Welcome to Spotlight On** – A highlight of a selected Protestant Service each month. A service will be selected for sharing with the Augusta Correction Center (ACC) community. Selections will be randomly chosen for each edition. This month's feature is from January 29, 2023.

**Worship and Praise** –led by Chaplain Jason Wagner, Joseph Carter and Farad Johnson with participation from the congregation. The tempo of the worship music rose and filled the room, charging the atmosphere after each song, and blanketed the church with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Chaplain Wagner introduced a new song – "I'm Waiting. Other songs included "Have Your Way In This Place," "How Great Is Our God," "Graves In The Garden," "You Keep On Getting Better, Glory Come Down," and "I Sing Praises." **Spoken praises** included the following:

"May your light abound in us, Dear God. Father, have your way in our lives. We behold you, Lord, on the cross as our sins washed away. Thank you for separating us from our sins. If there is anything in our hearts, God, that needs to be separated from us, please wash it away – and cleanse us!" – Chaplain Wagner.

"Yesterday during my devotion, I felt the Holy Spirit come over me. He told me that my praise and obedience is my worship. So, no matter what comes over me, I will continue to praise God, be obedient to Him, and worship Him." – Farad Johnson

**Message of the Night:** Presented by Chaplain Jason Wagner, Augusta Correction Center. Key Points are highlighted below:

It's good to seek the Lord together in our hearts. Tonight, we will talk about the temptations of Jesus from the Book of Matthew, Chapter 4. The title of my message – actually, I usually don't title my sermons, I just start preaching – But, the Holy Spirit brought this title to my mind and heart: Satisfied with Sonship. Let's read the designated scripture, Mathew 4: 1-11. The word of the Lord says: Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He (Jesus) had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he (Satan) said, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He (Jesus) answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

The devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you' and 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your feet against a stone.'" Jesus said to him (Satan), "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" Again, the devil took Him (Jesus) up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he (Satan) said to Him (Jesus), "All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him (Satan), "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left (Jesus), and behold the angels came and ministered to Him.

The first thing to draw our minds to is the parallel between Jesus and the Life of Israel. The number 40 draws down many parallel, but one in particular we will note: Moses and the 40 days he spent on the mountain. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, fasting – and now He is hungry. I can just hear Him saying, "I have now fasted for forty days – now I want to eat!"

**Spotlight On** (continued on page 5)

## **SPOTLIGHT ON** (Continued from Page 4)

Then came the Tempter (Satan) who tried to use Jesus' hunger against Him. Satan said, "If you are the Son of God, feed yourself." I hear a dig in that statement – what did Jesus just hear God say when He came up from the water after His baptism – "This is my 'Beloved Son!'" Now, Satan comes along and digs right into what the Father spoke. Satan is going to do the same thing to us. If we hear from the God, Satan is going to attack us, too, by twisting God's word spoken to us.

But, Jesus is "Satisfied With Sonship." How does Jesus respond to Satan's first temptation – "Man shall not live by bread alone. Satan must have said you don't have to be happy with being hungry in the desert, feed yourself. But Jesus said, "I am satisfied."

Then, Satan whisked Jesus away to the top of the holy temple and says, "throw yourself down" ... So that God's angels can save you as God promised. Satan twists the scripture – everything God does good, Satan will try to twist it! However, Jesus responded and fights back with scripture, "It is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God."

In the next and final temptation, Satan says, 'If you are the Son of God, reveal yourself. Sieze your kingdom now – worship me. You don't have to wait for God's timing. Satan felt there must be a shortcut to gain reign over the kingdom. But Jesus knew God's plan – and He had come to the earth to die on the cross to pay for our sins – and He was satisfied with sonship. Jesus showed us how to walk with the Lord. He didn't grapple or struggle with His purpose and role. He was the Son of God. So, He rebuked, resisted, and battled with Satan. Jesus responded back with scripture, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord Thy God, and Him only shall thou serve."

Satan attempts to get Jesus to sin and worship him (Satan) focused on three themes: (1) His (Jesus') sonship (create something and eat it); (2) His power (tell God to prove He will do what He said He would do); and (3) His kingdom (don't wait, take it now). But Jesus is already King. He doesn't have to grasp for that power – He knows He already has it. Jesus is satisfied with being the son. He show us how to face all the enemy's temptation and hold on to our sonship.

Romans 8:14 states, "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God. " God wants us to be His sons. Jesus shows us how to live in God's Spirit. But, the enemy will offer you another path. Just think – Jesus chose sonship – I see the same path for us – the path of sonship and it may include some trials, tribulations, and sufferings.

The Apostle Paul presents that suffering does not compare with the glory that will be revealed when Jesus returns. Paul has given us a vision of the coming kingdom. So when we suffer – follow the path that Jesus set before us – focus on sonship – and when we get though it, we will say it was worth it. We have to accept the perceptihion that we have a North Star. We know where we are headed. If we don't follow the path, then we will turn and go in another direction – we will try to take shortcuts. This is our journey -- to follow the path that Jesus showed us.

**Closing Prayer:** "We see Jesus, like us, tempted in every way. But, He walked as a Son. Father, you have given us the spirit of Jesus, so that we, too, can become Sons. We want to hold on to you, Lord. Your Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to prepare Him for His journey (battles). Lord, prepare us as well. Refine us as Sons, as you did Jesus. Lead these brothers in the way you want them to go – so they can become sons. You are our strength – our North Star." Chaplain Wagner

Thank you for having me tonight. Something is happening at Augusta right now. The Lord is doing good things. I would like to give a plug for the ACC Church Newsletter – THE WAY! We want to tell the story of what God is doing here – what is happening (spiritually) at Augusta .

**Closing song:** "Jesus is Lord" – led by Chaplain Wagner, Joseph Carter, Miguel Rosales-Torres and joined by the congregation.

# REVIVAL

*The Act of Being Revised or Restored.*

Over the past few months, many of us in the Augusta Corrections Center (ACC) church have been speaking and praying for a revival to occur here at ACC. But, let's think about what that means. What are we asking God to do?

In a spiritual context, revival means a spiritual renewal, a reconnection to God, a new spiritual bonding with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Is that what we are asking for? If so, then we have some work to do – we have to put in some effort as a follow up to our prayer request – for our revival. The LIFE Bible (NLT version), in the commentary for Nehemiah 2:17-18, states, "Spiritual renewal often begins with one person's vision. Nehemiah had a vision and he shared it with enthusiasm, inspiring Jerusalem leaders to rebuild the walls. We often underestimate people and don't challenge them with our dreams for God's work in the world. When God plants an idea in your mind to accomplish something for Him, share with others and trust the Holy Spirit to impress them with similar thoughts. Don't regard yourself as the only one through whom God is working. Often God uses one person to express a vision and others to turn it into reality. When you encourage and inspire others, you put teamwork into action to accomplish God's goals." Well, ACC Church (Team), God is at work right now on this compound. He has given us the vision of a total revival at Augusta Correction Center – and the revival is already happening – RIGHT NOW! And Church – You are part of His on-going revival – Right Here at Augusta – Right Now; even as you read this message. You may say, how can that be – after all the things I have done; the things that brought me here in the first place? What about the things I am still struggling with today? How can I be part of God's plan for a revival at Augusta? Here's how – God will use any and every body to accomplish His Divine Plan – and the on-going revival here at Augusta is part of God's Plan. Let's look at it with our spiritual eyes: if you reading this article in the church newsletter – the Holy Spirit drew you to the newsletter. If you are attending church regularly, God's Holy Spirit drew you to the church. If you are reading your bible daily, reading daily devotionals, praying and meditating daily, God's Holy Spirit is leading you to do that. If you have confessed your sins and are repenting for your transgressions - You didn't do that alone – the Father drew you back to Him, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and His Holy Spirit. You see, you have already been revived. Psalm 69:32 (ESV) states, "***When the humble see (their God at work) they will be glad; you who seek God, 'Let your hearts revive.'***" ***That's God's word! In Isaiah 57:15 (NLT), God also said these words, "The high and lofty One (God) who lives in eternity, the Holy One says this: I live in the high place and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I will restore the crushed of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts."*** How did God revive us – through His Love, Mercy and Grace. (REVIVAL Continued on page 7)

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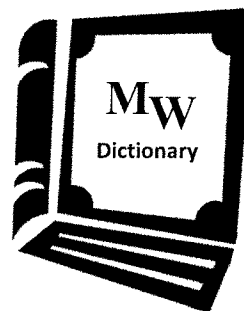
## Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

### Revive :

- To restore to consciousness of life
- To become active, flourishing again
- To live again
- To restore from a depressed, inactive state

### Revival :

- The act or instance of reviving
- Renewed attention to or interest in something
- Restoration of force, validity, or effect



Raise the Praise is a three day community sponsored event scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>.

The theme of the event is, "Be Still and Know...?" (Fill in the blank with what He wants you to know.) It will be held at a community center in a traditionally impoverished neighborhood. Various Ministers and worship teams will be featured each session. Our own Chaplain Wagner will be there on Saturday at 10AM bringing an anointedly powerful Word from the throne room of God. Then on Saturday at 3PM with his guitar leading the congregants into the presence of our Heavenly Father during worship. This event was planned with the community in mind. Hispanic worship team, English worship teams, anointed Preachers, both men and women. People from every ethnic background represented locally will be in attendance. We are believing that the community will be tremendously blessed as God pours out His Spirit at this event. We are supporting our brothers that will be attending the Kairos event in believing that they will experience God in a profound way. Life long lasting impact will be the result. They will be enriched by the overwhelming love of God from the outside volunteer team.



**THURSDAY, MARCH 23 @ 7PM**

REV. DR. BLAKEWOOD

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24 @ 7PM**

PASTOR DANA WADE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25 @ 10AM**

CHAPLAIN JASON WAGNER

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25 @ 3PM**

PASTOR ELAINE ROSE

**491 BROAD STREET HARRISONBURG, VA**

We, the Church of ACC, are asking you, our brothers, to join us in prayer for both, the **Kairos 3Day Walk** and **Raise the Praise** events.

THERE'S NO GREATER LOVE THAN THE LOVE OF JESUS. *There's no love that's wiser, that's stronger, that lasts longer, that's more willing or thrilling.* **There's no love more beautiful, more bountiful, more bold, more basic and unbiased.** There's not love more caring, more sharing, more daring to risk all in danger for sinner and stranger. **There's no love more gracious, more giving, more living, more sacred, more selfless, more soul satisfying, more pure and undying.** **There's no love more verifiable, more valuable, more validating, more victorious, more glorious.** There's no love more precious, more costly, more kingly. *There's no more love that's greater, that's more wonderful, more wild, more passionate, more powerful than the love of JESUS*

**(REVIVAL Continued from page 5)**

It wasn't anything we did – it was all Him – and His Love for us. What do we need to do now? Just open our spiritual eyes and hearts, and reflect on your relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Then ask yourself – when did I feel the renewal of my personal relationship with God? What is new in my spirit right now? Am I living according to the path that Jesus set for me after His temptations in the wilderness? Am I listening to that small, still voice that is whispering in my ear, telling me that God loves me every day, every hour, every second? Are you instantaneously bursting out loud with praise for Him, singing spiritual songs out loud or softly, or just in your mind? If so, then the revival is alive in you – right now.

Let's share some expressions of on-going revival from members of the ACC Church:

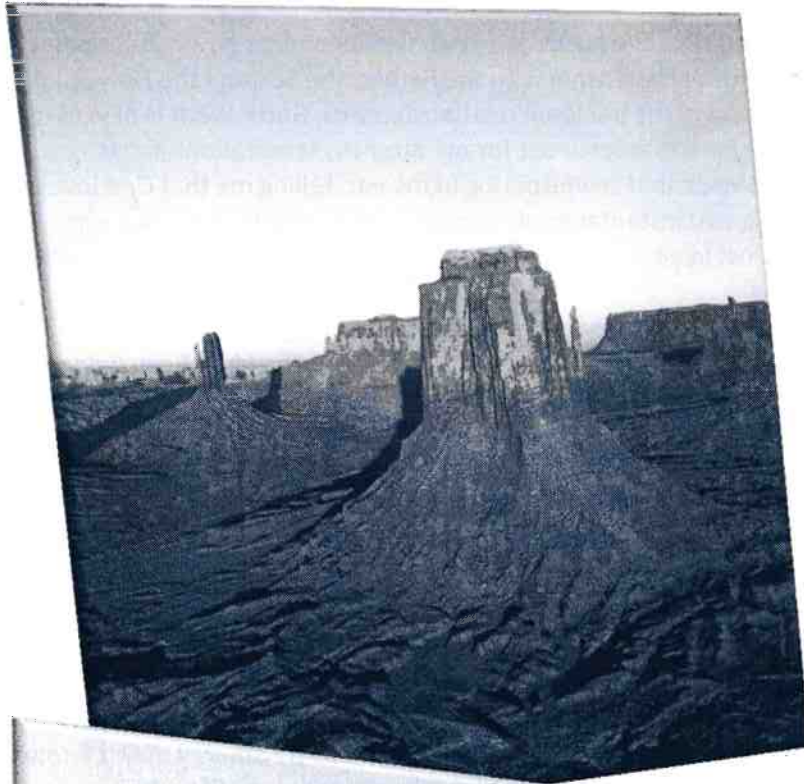
***"When God set me down and opened my eyes – He showed me that, in my past life, I had been living totally in the world – living by the 'lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.' (1 John 2:16). God told me 'I am setting you down, taking away all that I have given you – all of your distractions – and reminding you that you are mine – Now, you can hear Me, focus on Me, love Me, and obey Me! Know that I love you, I have always loved you ... and I have revived you.'"***

***"I have experienced a greater understanding of the Heavenly Father's love for me. I knew in my heart that Jesus loves me but I didn't really have the connection with my Heavenly Father. Now I can see why family is important so important to God throughout the Bible. He has been longing for a relationship with us as His sons and daughters. We have allowed Jesus to be our Savior and big brother. We have even accepted the Holy Spirit as our Helper. But, I didn't grow up with my father in the home with my Mother and me, so when it comes to God, I didn't know how to relate to Him as a Father. I didn't know how to receive the love of a father. The revelation of God the Father was absent in my life. Now I am experiencing a greater level of intimacy with the Father in prayer time and worship like I have never had before. I would not trade this relationship for anything in the world."***

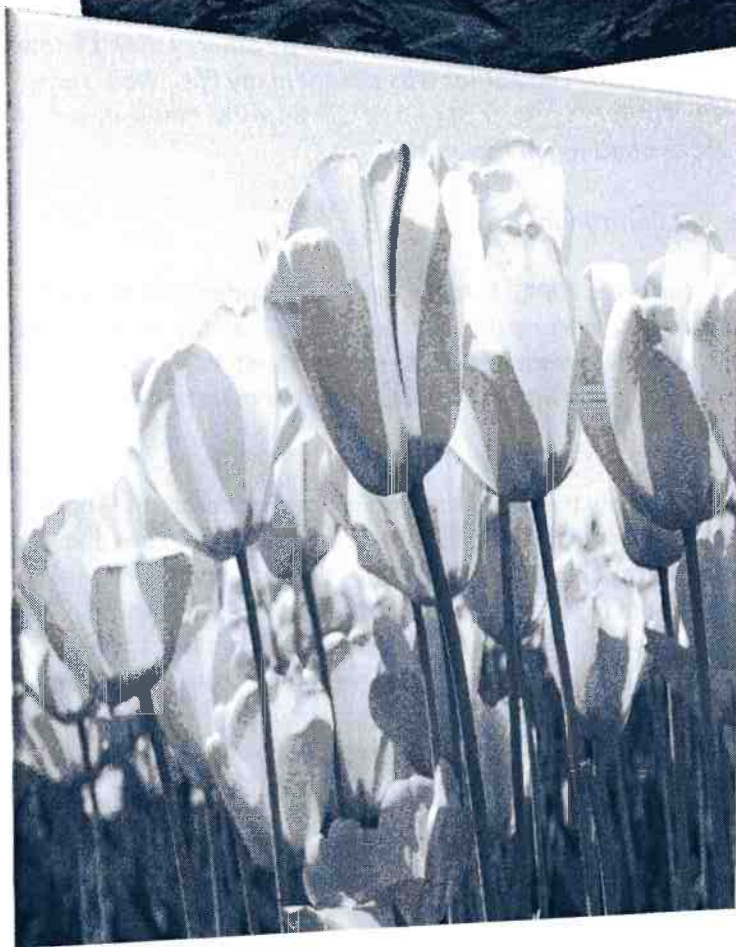
***"Revival to me is about freedom in the inside ... 2 Corinthians 3:17."***

***"Forgiveness was my revival experience and it started in 2004. I was in a jail cell, loaded with sin and unforgiveness in my heart. All I could hear was my Mom's and my Aunt Viola's voices: My Mom telling me I needed to believe in God and have faith that He's in your heart. So I asked God: Who are you and where are you? Please forgive me of all my sins and come into my heart, because I'm lost. And ... He found me in a jail cell right where I was."***

ACC can become another great revival. We must follow the path that God is opening before us – open our hearts to the revival right here at Augusta. We must trust in God; believe in His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, obeying in every way, down the path that Jesus set before us – loving God the Father and allowing Him to love us. In Romans 8:38-39, God promises, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Hold these two verses deeply in your hearts and minds. Claim them (for yourselves) so you will never doubt God's love and care for you, especially when you are facing great adversity. That ... is the beginning of your revival – and the revival at ACC.



***Does your world feel  
like a desert?  
Dry and Barren?  
Lonely?***



***When the season of  
God's rain comes to  
your life the seeds that  
were planted in your  
wilderness season will  
burst forth with life  
seemingly overnight.***

**I hear the sound of the abundance of rain coming to ACC and your life.**