

Courtesy

by Pastor Rich Peterson

I originally wrote the following piece for our Senior Adult Luncheon in November 2016, but one of our members suggested that I re-post it in light of the election year we have just been through (and according to news reports even this afternoon, January 6, 2021 may still be going through).

Now that the most "interesting" election in recent memory has come to an end and we await the workings of our new President-elect, some words of advice and a prayer:

First, if your candidate won, please don't gloat. If your candidate lost, please don't despair. **As we move forward let us pray and work for the unity of our great nation.**

Second, this prayer from the pen of William Barclay regarding *courtesy*.

Help us, O God, always to live in courtesy towards everyone whom we meet.

Help us

*Never to speak an angry, an impatient, a boorish, an impolite or a discourteous word;
Never to make people feel a nuisance;
Never to do things so grudgingly and so unwillingly
that it is worse than not doing them well at all;
Never to give anything in such a way that the gift becomes an insult;
Never to treat people in such a way that it embarrasses them, or makes them feel small,
or humiliates them.*

Help us

*Always to be kind;
Always to make people feel that they are welcome and that we care;
Always to think of the feelings of others as much as we would wish them to think of
ours;
Always to respect and never to laugh at the things which are important and sacred to
someone else.*

Help us to walk looking unto Jesus, and to make him the pattern of our lives.

Human Trafficking Summit

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, so it's a good time to educate yourself on this important topic!

January 14, 2021

845AM-4:00PM

The Ohio Attorney General's 2021 Human Trafficking Summit has gone virtual!

For just \$10 you can join the Summit by going to the following link:

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims/Human-Trafficking-Summit>

Brief Summary of Mean Street Ministry for 2020

Mean Street Ministry (BVC Mission Partner since 2020) cares for the broken where they live by going to Lakewood and Denver's poorest and most destitute areas with the love of Jesus!

*"In March we were deemed "essential" by our governor. The staff and Board of Directors talked at length at what we should do. The decision was made to stay open as long as we had food for our cafe and food bank. Honestly, we had about 2 weeks' worth of food. But God giggled, in my opinion, and has blessed us beyond belief. In a nut shell: before COVID, we received an average of 10,000 lbs. of food per month, now we average well over 30,000lbs; our non-perishable donations were always able to go right into the food bank shelves, now we have a room full of back stock (thank you New Life in Christ Church for use of that space); we've only had 1 case of COVID and no one was infected; thanks to some incredible volunteers, our security system is in final stages of completion; also thanks to New Life in Christ Church, amazing volunteers and donors, the 2 shower rooms in the gym are near completion; we have expanded our cafe into the gym and have enough hot food for all; our clothing bank has gone from a small rack in the hallway to a much larger one in the gym; **in 2019 we recorded around 60 people who came to Christ, in 2020 we know of over 90!** Sadly, we were unable to have either our Picnic in the Park or our Christmas on Colfax large event. But we were able to treat the gang to BBQ at the facility several times this summer and our caroling and toy distribution on Colfax was truly a blessed event".*

Thank you for your part,

Mandie Gallagher
President of the Board
Mean Street Ministry

Bear Valley Church Quilters 2020

This special ministry quilted over 54 quilts for various charities this past year!!!

If you would like to be a part of making a difference through this ministry, please email Bobbi Joseph at

allen_bobbi1967@q.com.