

CRABTREE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



THE VALLEY ECHO

July 13, 2020

Please mail all correspondence to: P.O. Box 30954, Raleigh, NC 27622
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Church Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm (closed on Friday)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



In the 1800's there lived a man, a German, named Friedrich Nietzsche who said, "God is dead." His belief and his declaration created quite a stir among theologians around the world. It might come as a surprise to you that there were some theologians who might not have been so bold as to agree with Nietzsche but nevertheless doubted that God was personal. Nietzsche, for the most part remained an obscure professor of philosophy until after his death. I remember when I was in seminary in the early 1960's that the thinking of Nietzsche had made a splash on the world scene and the "God is Dead" theory was a hot topic in theological classes.

The fact that the "God is dead" theory was discussed does not preclude that our professors were in agreement. Mine were not. Nor did I have any professors teaching that there was no personal God. My professors did, however, believe that as future ministers we would certainly encounter atheistic beliefs and all sorts of weird thoughts about God.

Perhaps there has never really been a time in history when there were not doubters. Doubting that God exists, doubting that God became flesh and dwelt among us as the Bible states, doubting that God has anything personal to do with mankind. Doubting that Jesus was the Son of God or that he died on a cross to save us from our sins.

Frances Schaeffer, writing in his classic book, "How Should We Then Live?" said, "If God is dead, then everything for which God gives an answer and meaning is dead." History records that Nietzsche lost his physical health to venereal disease. But he literally spent the last 11 years of his life insane and confined to a mental institution. His unbelief and failure to find answers to life's deepest questions drove him crazy. What a tragedy.

Ironically, Nietzsche spent his summers and did much of his work between 1881 to 1888, in the beautiful Village of Sils Maria in the Swiss Engadin on the lovely peninsula of Chaste' surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery in the world according to Schaeffer. In such surroundings he was unmoved by the words of David in Psalm 24, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell in it." And he most certainly overlooked Psalm 53:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God"

The end of a man like Nietzsche is tragic indeed. If you were to go to his beloved summer village today, you would find inscribed on a plaque sealed to a great rock the cry of his hopelessness – a passage he wrote before insanity claimed his mind explaining the profound pain of his heart, a belief he wanted but never found. His message of the dark midnight that claimed his soul ended with the words, "all pleasure seeks eternity – a deep and profound eternity." How sad!

The soul cries out for a personal God, a living, infinite-personal God. It is such a pity, such a tragedy that anyone looking at God's creation, seeing his handiwork in the heavens and on earth could even deny the existence of God much less declare that God is dead. Ponder the words of John 1:14 and believe: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

In His Love, Charles



SHARE THE SONSHINE
 Week of July 12-18 Louise Shore
 Spring Arbor of Cary Room 115
 1705 Kildaire Farm Rd
 Cary, NC 27511

Share the Sonshine is an outreach ministry. We can all be a part of this ministry by praying for these individuals, sending cards, making phone calls or a visit.



Nominations for Deacons

Please pray about your nominations for Deacon. You may nominate 4 people. Please refer to the forms mailed or emailed to you last week. Please note the following corrections to the deacon nomination letter: Yilong Wang is eligible and Barbara Best is not eligible.

If you have not received your Deacon nomination and Nominating committee forms and ballots by mail or email, please contact the church office. Your nominations are due into the church office by July 19.



- Soup
- Diced tomatoes
- Vegetables: Peas, Green beans, corn, potatoes
- Canned beans
- Fruit (cans, cups)
- Fruit juice
- Snacks, Pudding cups
- Apple sauce
- Peanut butter
- Jelly and Jam
- Bottled water
- “Shelf stable” cartons of milk

DISASTER RELIEF

HYGIENE KITS FOR DISASTER RELIEF

We have set aside the month of July to collect hygiene kits for disaster relief in partnership with Church World Services. **For those who are unable to go to the store** and purchase items for the kits, we have good news. Iva Snyder has volunteered to do the shopping, prepare the kits and deliver them to the church. Cost of each kit is \$10 each. You can send a check payable to CVBC designated for Hygiene Kit and indicate how many kits you want to provide. You can find the list of items and more information about this organization on their website. <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/hygiene-kits/>



Nature is the Art of God

Special thanks to Iva Snyder for planting the lovely summer flowers in the planters at the entry to our church. The flowers are an uplifting greeting to everyone who comes to the church. We regret that safety precautions limit our visiting the church in our usual ways, but we appreciate the beauty of the flowers from a distance. Iva, we are very grateful for your talent and commitment to CVBC.



Dear Church Family,

Rev. Allard and I have discussed our financial situation. Even though we will not be voting as normal at the end of July regarding our finances, we want to keep you abreast of our current status. Members will receive a current YTD statement with their newsletters. For our members who receive the newsletter by email, you will be sent a separate email with the statement.

We do appreciate your continued support of tithes and offerings to the House of Our Lord! What a blessing.

May God watch over us during this serious virus and bring us back together safely.

Blessings & Love,
 Frances Viano, Chairman, Finance Comm.

Church office information:

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