

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

August 2026

God's "Crazy" Evangelist

*You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have
loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my
glory may sing your praise and not be silent – Ps. 30:11*

In Acts chapter 3:1-10, we read of the time when Peter and John went to the temple in Jerusalem at the hour of prayer and encountered a lame beggar, who sat at the temple gate called Beautiful, to ask alms of those entering the temple. Peter, looking at the man, told him, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And taking the beggar by the hand, Peter raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And the beggar "began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God."

Clearly, the beggar, who had been lame from birth, was overjoyed by God's miraculous healing of his body. And the people who witnessed this miracle "were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened." This, of course, is the expected response to the wonderful works of God: joy, wonder and amazement. But this does not always happen. Sometimes, people respond to the unbounded joy of one whom God has miraculously transformed, not with joy and wonder, but incredulity. This was the case for John Sung, one of China's greatest evangelists.

John Sung was born in 1901, the son of a Methodist minister in southeast China. When he was nine, he began assisting his father in his ministry and by the time he entered his teenage years, he gave himself completely to evangelism and academic study.

In 1919 Sung came to America to escape the political climate of China, which put restrictions on his academic pursuits. Once in America, he studied physics and chemistry at Ohio Wesleyan University and then at Ohio State University, where he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry in just twenty-one months. He next attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City. This was not a wise decision. Union Seminary was not a bastion of orthodoxy, but had embraced the liberalism of the day and Sung felt his faith in Jesus wavering.

In February of 1927, drifting ever further from the Christian faith, John Sung attended an evangelistic service at a local Baptist church, where the gospel was communicated with conviction and passion. By his word, God spoke to Sung's heart and fanned the cooling embers of his faith into a blazing fire for Jesus. Sung was man transformed. No longer wavering in his commitment to Christ, he was once more zealous for the gospel. Filled with love for Jesus, he ran throughout the seminary campus, leaping for joy and singing the praises of his Savior.

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But not everyone at the seminary regarded John Sung's renewed faith in a positive light. Previously, he had been a quiet and studious student. Now he was running around and jumping for joy, telling everyone what God had done for him. The president of the seminary believed Sung had lost his mind and committed him to a mental institution. Six months later, it was only due to the intervention of the Chinese consul and a professor at Ohio Wesleyan University that he was released from the mental institution on the condition he would return to China.

Back in China, John Sung's passion was to preach the joy of the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone he could. And for the next fifteen years he was an effective evangelist and powerful preacher whom God used to bring thousands of lost souls, in China and Southeast Asia, to faith in Christ. Unfortunately, likely due to his strenuous preaching schedule, his health began to deteriorate and in 1940 he was diagnosed with cancer and tuberculosis.

Over the next three years, Sung underwent several surgeries, still preaching the gospel whenever possible. In June of 1944, he was no longer strong enough to preach, so his days were spent reading the Bible, singing, and praying with family and friends. On August 16, John Sung told his wife, God was calling him home and he would soon die. Soon afterward, he fell into a coma. However, the next day he recovered enough to sing verses of three hymns: "Sweet By and By," "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross," and "Jesus is All the World to Me." His last words to his wife were "Don't be afraid! The Lord Jesus is at the door. What is there to fear?"

John Sung entered glory on August 18, 1944, at the age of forty-two. Thus, ended the life of a man thought to be insane, simply because he was overjoyed by the transforming power of the gospel!

Verse to Remember

This week's Verse to Remember is presented as a cryptogram. See if you can decode the message before looking up the verse in the Bible.

Clues: Y=T, D=I

YKTPY DX YJZ VQKR FDYJ
OVV CQTK JZOKY, OXR RQ
XQY KZVC QX CQTK QFX
D X P D L J Y. — Proverbs 3:5 (NRSV)

Praying for our Nation...

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

"First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way."

(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)



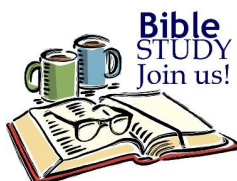
Blessed
is the NATION
whose
GOD
is the LORD.
Psalm 33:12

The Lord's Supper

will be
observed on August 16 at the
morning worship service.

Everyone is
encouraged to be in prayer and
repentance in preparation to partake
in this holy sacrament

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me,
and I will listen to you."*
Jeremiah 29: 12



**Please Join us every Wednesday
Time: 10:30**

**Where: Fellowship Hall
Rev. Jim Gorski will be teaching from the book
"Survey of the Old Testament"
By
Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.**



Ladies
ministry

Dear Sisters in Christ,
We have now celebrated our 100th anniversary of Grace Pres. many wonderful memories and many Prayer requests and a lot of answered prayers. The women of Grace meet on the second Tuesday Of the month for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. We would love to have you join us. We are studying the book of Hebrews. We have learned a lot and have had many prayers lifted up to God In our time together. Please come join us on the second Tuesday, everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please call Marsha Allison.

Pennies for Missions

Just a reminder that the WIC is still collecting pennies for our missionaries! If you have any spare change that you've been looking to get rid of, feel free to drop it in the container in the Foyer or in the Sunday School Rooms.

The money will be used to help the missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.

Calendar of Activities for the Month

WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, August 11 at 10:00am
Session Meeting: Sunday, August 16 at 12pm
Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am



Men of the Covenant

*"As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another."
Proverbs 27: 17*

Just a reminder!...

Men of the Covenant will be in recess for the summer months, but will resume meeting in the month of September.



The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday August 16 ,at 12:00 p.m. If you have something you would like the Session to discuss, please let Pastor Jim, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, or Cleve Chandler know.





$$1+2=3$$

ABC

$$5-3=2$$

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	6	7	8
9	10	11 10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting	12 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	13	14	15
16 Communion Session Meeting	17	18	19 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	27	28	29
30	31					

*The Steadfast Love
of the LORD never ceases; his
mercies never come to an end;
they are new
every morning; great is your
faithfulness. "The LORD is my
portion,"
says my soul, "therefore
I will hope in him."
Lamentations 3:22-24*

Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service

Grace Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in America
9526 Joor Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

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**A Prayer of Moses, the Man of
God.**

**Lord, you have been our
dwelling place in all
generations.**

**Before the mountains were
brought forth, or ever you had
formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting
you are God.**

**Psalms 90:1-2
ESV**

REJOICE ALWAYS;
PRAY
WITHOUT CEASING;
IN EVERYTHING
GIVE THANKS;
FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL
FOR YOU
IN CHRIST JESUS.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18