

# The Agapian

April 2012

## The Glory of Troubles

Note  
from the  
pastor



It's very easy to view troubles as an intrusion in your life. Who needs them? But the Scriptures indicate that troubles can play an important role in the plan of God. A suggestion of that is contained in 2 Corinthians 4:17 where Paul writes, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all," (NIV). In this passage Paul is talking about light and momentary troubles in relation to such grave issues as aging and death. Those are not the kind of troubles that most of us would describe as being light and momentary, but Paul does.

The reason Paul can do this is that he sees everything in relation to eternity, in comparison to which our , Three Score and Ten, does seem short. With his eyes on the eternal future, Paul can view troubles in a positive, not a negative light. They are causing glory to be stored up for us. How can this be? I understand what Paul is getting at as follows.

The "eternal glory" for us that Paul alludes to, the crowns that are being prepared for us, in other terminology, are made from our troubles. If you think about it, you can see how it might be

so. Why do we admire people like Corrie ten Boom? We admire them because they overcame terrible times of trouble and trial—in Corrie's case a Nazi Concentration Camp. Had Corrie never been imprisoned there is a good chance most of us would never have heard of her. But because she went through such troubles and did not give up in despair, but overcame them all through faith, she is not only known, but admired. The same circumstances surround other well known Christian persons like Maria von Trapp and Joni Eareckson Tada. They proved themselves through their faith, to be "overcomers" in times of great trial, and thus they are the recipients of great respect.

Now project this whole thought into eternity and you can imagine the glory that is awaiting those who have endured great trials and tribulations in this world faithfully to the end. In comparison to that coming weight of glory, certainly the troubles of this world, looking back on them, will seem, as Paul put it, "light and momentary." In Revelation 4:21 we read , "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne."

*Think about it!*

*Pastor Jeff*

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# Agape Seniors March Meeting



## Fun for Seniors

Approximately 20 Agape Seniors met Tuesday, March 6, at noon for lunch. They wore hats for a chance to win a prize, with Marilu Brunson being the winner for the best hat (and St. Pat's outfit!!!) After lunch Conrad Getz presented a video on attracting bluebirds to your back yard. Due to the death of our Senior's beloved

leader, Juanita Warner, and the desire to continue with monthly Senior's meetings, volunteers from the Seniors group will be asked to plan each monthly meeting.

Agape Seniors will meet Tuesday, April 3 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Meat and drinks are provided—please bring a dish to share. The program will be a film titled "Living in the Wilderness of Life". All seniors are invited. Call Betty Barkley with questions, 637-8553.

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## Vacation Bible School



VBS – "In the Beginning, God Created. . . PLANTS" will be the theme of this year's VBS which will again be held with a Mondays/ Tuesdays schedule. Following the successful format of the past few years, we will focus on speakers, projects, crafts, songs, stories, snacks, and activities based on plants in the Bible.

Join us to brainstorm on **THURSDAY, APRIL 5 at 4:00** (prior to

Love Feast) when we'll begin to work out ideas for the 4 night event. We will be planning for speakers/groups to present to the adults and activities/lessons for the children. This is an ALL-CHURCH event with potential to reach many boys, girls, and adults in our community. We hope all Agapians consider how to help promote and help make this a major outreach of the church to share our "story" with the community.

When I opened the card that Chuck gave me last Sunday that was from all of you I was once again overcome with emotion. Thank you so much for your gift of support. But more than anything, I know as I leave to serve the Osceola congregation that the love and prayers of the Agape congregation go with me. I will truly miss all of you. So rather than goodbye I'll just say "till we meet again." God blessings to all of you.  
— *Jerry Brenneman*

*Agape Juniors meeting at Five Guys on April 16!*



## How about burgers and fries?

Agape Juniors will meet at Five Guys in the Northcrest shopping center at 6:45 on April 16. Sign up in the Narthex.

# Celebration Corner—60 Years of Marriage and Counting!



Mary Jo and Gene Wort, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be celebrating 60 years of marriage. The year of 1952 found the spring to be a scorcher and on that day of May 2, at the Pine Creek

Church of the Brethren in North Liberty, Indiana, the young couple said their vows. The wife of Brother Curtis made a cake with wonderful buttercream icing. Unfortunately, the air was so hot that the icing on the cake began to melt. Quickly, the day was saved by placing a paper plate under one of the layers of the cake to reinforce it and then turned the cake around. No one noticed, even Mary Hauptert who attended the wedding at a very young age. The wedding reception went off without a hitch.

A while before the wedding Gene bought a new Chevy. It was light blue and had a turn signal that only could be placed on the car by a special order. Wow, what a nice way to start a marriage! He hid the car in his father's garage. It was a big surprise for Mary Jo and all to see. Their honeymoon consisted of two days.

Mary Jo and Gene are both graduates of Manchester College. They did not start dating until the night of their Baccalaureate. They lived about 80 miles apart and so their courtship was once a week, when they would go to Lake James and “dance the night away” to the local bands at Bledsoe's Beach.

In 1951 Gene was drafted and became a part of the Army CIC (Counter Intelligence Core). Mary Jo, at the time, was teaching music at North Liberty. After their marriage in 1952, Mary Jo joined Gene in Albany, New York and started teaching music. As the music teacher, she traveled to eighteen different one-room schools in

the surrounding mountains. After Gene's discharge in 1953, they moved back to Auburn, Indiana.

Gene went back to school at Ball State and received a Master's degree. He taught 5 years for the Butler school corporation and then became the principal at Hometown Elementary School. (He gave Becky Morris her first teaching job.) He was the principal for 13 years and then decided to go back into the classroom until 1989 when he retired. He really enjoyed his career as an educator and loved those wonderful 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Mary Jo taught in the Auburn schools until Joene came along in 1956 and then Craig in 1959. She was a stay-at-home mom for 11 years and then went back to school and received a Master's degree in Elementary Education. She eventually started teaching at Green Center Elementary School and Garrett Schools. She taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade and loved it. She retired in 1987 after 24 1/2 years.

When asked what advice they would give for having a long and happy marriage.....

Mary Jo said. “Love, Honor, and Oh Be Quiet!”

Gene said, “Yes, Dear!”

Humor was always a part of their marriage. They agreed that it is very important to laugh and not get so worked up over things.

Seriously, they feel that they have been very blessed in their marriage, even with all the hard times that they have experienced. They appreciate Agape from the beginnings at the House Church to now, the close friendships over the years, and all the blessings they have found in music and their retirement.

Agape wishes them a wonderful 60<sup>th</sup> celebration.

## Congratulations!

The Agape church family is very proud of Ashley Race, who is graduating from Ivy Tech Community College with a four-year business degree. Congratulations, Ashley! Best of luck for her journey going forward.



Go to [freerice.com](http://freerice.com) and match vocabulary words and meanings. If you get it right, you get a harder question. If you get it wrong, you get an easier question. For each answer you get right, 10 grains of rice is donated to the [United Nations World Food Program](http://UnitedNationsWorldFoodProgram.org).



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*Sent to our friends at:*

Continuing the Work of Jesus --  
Peacefully. Simply. Together.

## Progressive Dinner — April 21



"Over the river and through the woods" to Agapians homes we go. . . .!! Plans to visit and share parts of a meal in various homes is coming soon. You will have an opportunity to volunteer to host a salad/appetizer or main entree portion of the meal in your home OR just bring something and enjoy a host home. Dessert will be at the church

when everyone will join together for fellowship.

Wendy Imhoff is in charge, so look for details and sign up sheets soon. Oh, the guest list is usually a surprise to the hosts, you only know how many are coming - what fun!! Save the date - sign up soon - enjoy a "night out" and great food with Agape friends!

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## Sunday School News

Thanks to all who make Agape Sunday School happen. Beth Green and Charlotte Schafer are sharing responsibility for the "right-side" Sunday School adult class. On April 22, Char will begin teaching "Calm, My anxious Heart..." by Linda Dillow which is a book teaching one to learn how to be content! The "left-side" Sunday School class is previewing materials and hopefully there can be shared leadership in that group, also. Pastor Jeff wrapped up the "Seekers" class on March 11. Vicki Welch, Diana Spurgeon, and Wendy Imhoff along with helpers Joan Sievers and Deb Wetzel will be working with the children for the spring quarter. Becky Morris will pick up the youth class where we left off in January with the 'Gather ROUND lessons.