

Volume 42 Issue 1

Creative Ministries

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# Announcements!

During the 1960s a huge revival occurred in Indonesia As word traveled around the world (comparatively slowly) a number of folks traveled to authenticate the reality of the news reports and to participate. A group of pastors from the US invited some of the leaders to visit them, to encourage them, to document the origins and history of God's outpouring and to fellowship with them.

When the leaders returned to Indonesia, there was much interest in how churches operated here. After all, the revival had happened in a largely unchurched area. Anticipation was great on the first Sunday as the leader stood up to share.

He announced the good news! "Brothers and sisters, we have been doing what the Scriptures proclaim! We come together and we sing and worship God. We proclaim His word from the Bible! We give our tithes and offerings! We greet each other and enjoy great fellowship!"

He went on, "There's just one thing we lack. Every church we visited had announcements. So today, we will add that to our service! Does anyone have an announcement?" After a moment of disappointment that they lacked something important in a worship service, there was silence. Then a man stood up and said, "I have an announcement! Jesus Christ is Lord!" As he sat down, another person stood up and proclaimed, "God forgives!" The announcements went on endlessly.

What joy! Whenever I think of that church service, I am inspired to consider what announcement(s) I might want to make. The results are quick and almost always the same.

#### God is good!

#### He loves you (and me)!

He has us in His loving hands, regardless of our circumstances! He saves, forgives and heals us!

> He knows your name, your heart, your thoughts and still, He loves you!

Those announcements are true. Despite a world swirling with bad news, the reality of God is always good news! Our prayer for you (and for us) as this seemingly endless year comes to a close is that you will discover new levels of God's love, security and peace.

# More Announcements!

Navigating the "opportunities" of this year has of course required change. So, we've long wished for time to concentrate on creating the materials for others to use. Wishes granted!

Please pray with us as we complete these projects:

God's stories! He has done so many incredible, miraculous things as we've traveled around the world! We're compiling the stories now in book form.

**You, Too, Can lead a Missions Team!** A manual for leaders for teams of any size and destination filled with the things which worked and those which didn't!

✓ Workshops Online! Much of our ministry has always been discipling and training others to minister. A major thrust this coming year will be recording our workshops and making them available on a number of online platforms, inclu ding Udemy as well as our web site.

Lucy is finding new ways to minister during this time! Some churches are using her videos during their online services for the children's segment! Meanwhile, back in the office, she is excitedly getting ready for Christmas!

We Recommend! These 4 sites are treasures of art, music, poetry, podcasts, humor, scripture and teaching on Advent. Each is unique and truly a gift to those who wish to partake.



Center for Christianity, Culture and the Arts <u>ccca@biol.edu</u>



The Rabbit Room www.rabbitroom.com



The Anselm Society anselmsociety.org



AdventWord.org

## Bless the Lord at All Times! CliffAnn Perry



In Psalm 34:1, David says, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

This fall in an effort to be more aware of making the choice to bless the Lord and have a more grateful focus, I found an app that chimes every hour on my phone. When the chime happens, I pause and either thank God for something, read a verse I have chosen for the day or simply offer a "It's been a good journey these past faw months and interesting how others around me are affect.

prayer of "I love you." It's been a good journey these past few months and interesting how others around me are affected as well. There are those who quickly join in when they know what's up.

My nephew Joseph came to help me paint my porch and once he understood what we did when the chime rang, he began to burst out with his thankfulness even before I did. On the days I forget to turn the chimes on after a meeting, Fay is quick to ask what happened to them. Once in a while we are with someone who has a worshipful heart and it becomes a moment to treasure in God's presence. Then there are the times when I get focused on something, or busy, and realize I'm irritated that the chime is ringing. Then, I have to repent.

I was created to worship and bless God, we all were. There is nothing higher or more important than doing that not just as the chime rings but also in the way we live and work and interact with others. The chime is helping me develop a heart more focused on blessing God than on my petty needs or the circumstances and complaints around me. Give it a try, just be ready to embark on a journey of learning about yourself and those around you as you do.



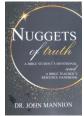




Outreach ministry has been limited at this time but we were able to do chapel for Wanchese academy in November. A few children asked Jesus to be their Savior and many more got some things right with God as we told the story of the Lost Sheep with puppets and our interns Olivia and Jaida talked about their relationships with Jesus. What a joy!



#### We Recommend, Part Two



Around 1500 Erasmus, a Dutch philosopher said, "When I have a little money, I buy books; and if I have any left, I buy food and clothes." We are certainly kindred spirits and are always searching for references that are accurate and useful for us both personally and for ministry.

**Nuggets of Truth** is an outstanding daily devotional and Bible teacher's resource handbook. The author said when chatting with us that it was exhaustively cross referenced—and that the 80 page index has to be downloaded.

It's worth the paper to print! It's indexed both topically and by verse used. It is a blessing and tremendous resource!

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## **Prayer Requests**

For wisdom and anointing as we prepare our materials to share via video and in printing.

For continued provision during this time when usual avenue of revenue are reduced. We are so grateful for your gifts for they help enable us to do what God has called us to do.

Healing and health: For our sister and missionary friend Linda Jones as she continues to battle cancer. We are very much grateful for our continuing good health

### Watch us:



We Love Lucy Amamos a Lucy

Creative Ministries is a 501c3, interdenominational Christian ministry.