



A House of Prayer  
for All Nations

# The Ram's Horn

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## THE SHEPHERD'S CORNER

# Hallelujah, He Is Risen!

## Transitions

By Pastor Rick Brown

As we transition from winter to spring, we see new growth appearing on the horizon. Green grass, flowers blooming, trees budding and other landscapes are beginning to come to life. The days of winter are behind and spring is here. A transition of seasons in the year 2011 has begun.

In the same way, a transition out of the winter doldrums of life into the spring of life needs to take place in each of us.

John the Baptist declared in John 3:30 to his disciples that—He (meaning Jesus) must become greater; I must become less. John was ready to step aside and let Jesus take over not only his ministry, but his life. John knew that allowing Jesus to take over his life meant going deeper with him—a transition was taking place.

Our transition begins when we allow Jesus to take us deeper into His life. For many of us, it means leaving the shallow end of the pool and going into the deep end unsure of what we might find there. However, we go there, sometimes with fear and trepidation, because we have complete trust in God.

As a seed germinates in the ground and transitions into a beautiful flower, bright green grass and/or other beautiful landscape, this transition is able to occur based on the soil it is in. The roots of the seed need to go deep to get the nutrients in order to produce the wonderful results.

So, what does this mean for us? Matt 13:19 speaks about the sower and the seed. Three

questions arise in that section that we as seeds need to answer as we transition from a seed to a true flower of Christ.

1. *Seed that is planted in shallow soil sprung up quickly among the rocks but quickly died because it had no root.* Are you the seed that is planted in very shallow soil; but because you have no root, your transition does not last and you go back to your old ways? Your transition never got started.
2. *Seed that was planted by the thorns was choked by the worries of this life now and in the future.* Here you have established some root and are starting to grow, but you are faced with many decisions that have stunted your growth and prevented the transition. You spiritually die before you are able to produce fruit. Are you the person who has failed to trust God with the circumstances in your life? Remember Proverbs 3:6-7 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."
3. *Seed that was planted in good soil was able to reap sixty to one-hundred fold.* Are you planted in the Word of God—the good soil of the Lord? Psalm 1:1-3 says, "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,<sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night."<sup>3</sup> That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."

This is the type of transition God is looking for in each of us. He wants us to acknowledge that we need more and more of Him and less and less of us—in order to produce fruit in the lives of

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## News from the Nations

**Revive Israel, Tikkun, Asher & Betty Intrater** – Several members of our team were on the road in other nations, teaching, preaching and sharing the gospel. As they traveled, we watched events unfold in the Middle East that have resulted in kings and kingdoms being shaken and even overthrown. None of this is coincidental; God is in control. He is shaping all of history in preparation for His coming Kingdom. As we look at the shaking of nations, we pray for an awakening of hearts to God in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya, Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Israel.

**Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rockville, MD** – *We rejoice in this mother's testimony.* I first came to the center for a pregnancy test, working full time, raising a teenager and having marital problems with my husband. The counselor was very welcoming, showing me great compassion. When my pregnancy test came back positive, I was upset and kept saying, "What am I going to do?" My counselor suggested that I have a sonogram. The sonogram revealed that I was five months pregnant. I could clearly see my baby's head, eyes, and one of his hands. The nurse at the Center talked with me about prenatal care, community resources, how to break the news to my family, and she prayed with me. Four months later, my son Luke was born. *Luke is alive today because his mother chose life after seeing his unborn form on the sonogram machine.*

**Young Life, Montgomery County** – Imagine a river filled with more than one million fish—a wild, rushing river cutting a deep path across the country and around the world. Then imagine some 34,000 men and women wading neck-deep into that river, each with a fly rod and

a net. The picture I am painting is a reflection of Young Life. We have the privilege of wading into kids' lives for a brief moment before they become adults, but the impact often lasts forever. Thank you for helping to create an eternal sea change through Young Life.

**Branch Ministries, Botswana, Rob and Mary Grindley** – When the director's house on the Orphan Project is finished, we apply for opening the facility. By God's grace the dream which has been in our hearts for so long is only now some months away. To say we are thrilled that you are in our corner, praying for us and helping us, is an understatement.

**Living Grace Christian School** – Pray for the staff and students as the students take achievement tests on April 12-14. Several students will participate in the ACSI Chess Tournament on April 15<sup>th</sup>. This month we are focusing on the character trait of "Encourage One Another."

**Wycliffe Bible Translators, Matt and Rosemary Ulrich, Paraguay** – Matt and his helpers Mike and Nels finished the third check of revised John in Maka, and now they are preparing the Maka New Testament for publication. PTL!

**Living Grace Ministries, Thurlow and Lynda Switzer** – Please pray for us as we continue ministry with the Spirit-filled Family Life and Parenting series at Or HaOlam, at Northgate, and at Crossroads Valley Chapel. Pray also for April 8-9 when we will minister to the pastoral couples in the Global Community Network of churches in Pennsylvania with Apostle Dale Martin and his wife Loretta.

*Pray Also for:*

**Adwoa Yeboah-Marfo, Marfo Children's Village, Ghana**

**Evangelistic Ministries International Crossroads Valley Chapel, Fred., MD - Or Ha Olam, Light of the World Congregation**

**Jesus Is Alive Ministries** with Apostle William Tetey, Lome, Togo

**Stanley and Karen Redwood, Jamaica**

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### On the Loose

In John Masefield's play *The Trial of Jesus*, Pilate's wife, Procula, asks one of the guards about the crucifixion. He tells her about Christ on the cross and says, "Jesus' body has been buried, but I don't think he is dead." "Then where is he?" Procula asks. The soldier replies, "Let loose in the world, lady, where neither Roman nor Jew can stop his truth."



## Save These Dates

July 11-15 & 17, Son Surf Beach Bash  
**Vacation Bible School**,  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm, **Spring Ladies Tea**

May 14<sup>th</sup>, **LGM Men's Advance**

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, **Kids Sunday**

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, **All Nations**

**Worship Service and Picnic Lunch**

## Middle School Discipleship Club

will meet on

Friday, April 15th, 7:30 pm

At Pastor Dan and Silvia's home

Ron and Kahlia Davis are the assistant leaders.

## Camp Courage Is Now Accepting Registrations for this Summer's Sessions

Encourage your child to be a champion this summer! God told Joshua, a mighty champion, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." The mission of Camp Courage is to help instill this attitude of courage in your child.

Five sessions are scheduled as follows:

*All-Around Program, June 20-24*

*All-Around Program, June 27-July 1*

*Soccer Program, July 18-22, 9 am – noon*

*Chess Program, July 18-22, 12:30 – 3:30 pm*

*Adventure Nature Program, July 25-29*

To register, pick up one of the red brochures in the church foyer. You can also register online at [northgatecc.org](http://northgatecc.org)—look for the Camp Courage link on the right side of the home page.



## Northgate Community Church

*Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!*

### Worship Schedule

Sundays, 9:45 am - Congregational Prayer  
Sundays, 10:00 am – Worship Service

Midweek Flock Home Groups

*We are always ready to serve you –  
Pastors Dan, Rick, Thurlow,  
and Elder Vance*

## FLOCK HOME GROUPS

### Germantown

Thursdays, 7:30 pm

Rick & Sue Brown

### Germantown

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm

Thurlow & Lynda Switzer

At Betty Money's

### Rockville/Silver Spring

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Devroy & Ruth

McFarlane

### Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, McRory Area; Alfred

and Jacky Johnson

### Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm,

Shawn & Mindy Swander,

Assistant Leaders Tim & Deborah Switzer

### Middle School Discipleship Club

For all 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders, Fri., Apt 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30

pm; Dan and Silvia Switzer,

Assistant leaders Ron and Kahlia Davis

Sisters of Faith

The Sisters of Faith are looking forward to the May Tea on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Men Under God

The men's breakfast meets at the

Gaithersburg Hilton on Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 8:00 am.

April Birthdays

Joshua Lyman, Apr 1

Luke Swander, Apr 1

Lourdes Reynolds, Apr 1

Olive Branch, Apr 3

Addie Rose Kauzlarich, Apr 4

Lisa Toman, Apr 5

Micah Kauzlarich, Apr 7

Elfreda Raven, Apr 8

Paula Greenberg, Apr 12

Ron Davis, Apr 15

Kareem Edwards, Apr 16

Jessi Reynolds, Apr 20

Marcus Walker, Apr 23

Herb Sutter, Apr 27

April Anniversaries

Shawn & Mindy Swander, Apr 5

*(Our apologies--last month we incorrectly listed Shawn and Mindy's anniversary as March 5. Their wedding anniversary is April 5<sup>th</sup>.)*

Praise and Prayer Requests

1. Pray for continuing grace and strength to Gwen in her rehabilitation
  2. Rick Brown – healing
  3. Cheryl Toms - undergoing chemo therapy
  4. Praise - Benga Alabi's job at Dulles Airport
  5. Lourdes Reynolds's niece's baby Richard, microcephaly -- his life will be a testimony of God's love and power to the glory of Jesus.
  6. Karen O'Connor – provision and protection
  7. Pray for our nation's leaders
  8. Northgate pastors, elders, and families
  9. Dan Doody's son-in-law Dave – healing from cancer and a blood clot in his leg; grace and strength for family
  10. Madeline Cooksey – strength and healing
- Virginia Page, a faithful member of Northgate for many years, passed into the presence of the Lord on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please remember her daughter Karen and her grand-daughters Danielle and Kylene in your prayers.*

**Check out this blog spot: Living Grace Ministries** and leaders in friendship with LGM, under the editorship of Pastor Jon Switzer of Crossroads Valley Chapel in Frederick, MD, set up this blog spot: [www.logsforthefire.blogspot.com](http://www.logsforthefire.blogspot.com).



## Adventure in Family Life and Parenting Series

Apostle Pastor Thurlow Switzer and his wife Lynda will minister at Northgate on the Biblical principles of grace-filled, spirit-led Christian Family Life and Christian parenting on the following Sunday mornings and weekday evenings:

Sunday, April 10, 10 AM	Monday, April 11, 7:30 PM
Sunday, May 8, 10 AM	Monday, May 9, 7:30 PM

*(Nursery will be provided on Sundays and week-day evenings.)*

## Who Is My Neighbor?

Peter Lovenheim was dismayed by the isolation he felt in suburban Rochester, New York. After a murder occurred down the street, he realized none of the neighbors seemed to know or care about one another. The mailman told Lovenheim most people would rather give mis-delivered mail back to him than walk it over to the person next door. An elderly woman said she'd once fallen on the street and had to crawl home because no one came to help.

That prompted Lovenheim to engage in a bold experiment: He asked to spend a night at each of his neighbor's homes. Lovenheim documented the result in the book, *In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time*.

As Lovenheim and his neighbors got to know one another, they learned that a single mom was being treated for breast cancer. They took her to appointments, brought her groceries, met her daughter at the bus stop after school and even installed a light over a dark staircase. By searching for community, Lovenheim and his new friends helped create it.

## Lost and Found

Jurgen Moltmann had a secular upbringing in Germany. In 1944, he was drafted into Hitler's army and sent into battle. After American soldiers captured Moltmann, a chaplain gave him a small Bible containing the New Testament and the Psalms.

Jesus walked off the pages and into the young man's heart. "I didn't find Christ," Moltmann said. "He found me." The gospel was such life-giving good news that when the war ended, Moltmann became a Christian theologian, teaching in both German and American seminaries.

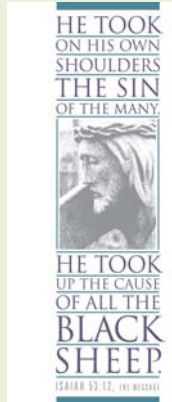
Moltmann calls Easter "God's protest against death" and "the beginning of laughter for the redeemed."

*The Newsletter, April 2011*

## Spring Cleaning

Sweep over me, Lord  
And brush out my sin!  
Replace it with faith,  
And live here within.  
Amen.

By Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*



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others. This transition occurs when the Word of God becomes preeminent in our lives and we follow his direction. This is what is meant by having a good soil heart.

God is ready to begin the transition in your life with His wonderful seed. Are you ready to give Him the good soil heart where He can plant the seed?

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### Trusting the Unseen

A gardener planted two peony bulbs side by side. In a few weeks, as expected, the first one poked a single stem through the ground. The other would soon follow, the gardener thought. But it didn't. Many more weeks went by with no sign of life.

Then one day, to his surprise, not one but five leaf points poked through the soil at once. When the peony bloomed, its flowers were more beautiful and numerous than those of the first bulb.

John Piper said, "In every situation God is doing a thousand things that we cannot see and do not know." When God seems to have forgotten you and hope fails, don't despair. God is at work, and someday you will see.

The Newsletter, April 2011



### April 2011

					1	2 MUG Bkfst 8:00 am
3 Worship, 10 am	4	5	6 Flock Group Leadership Equipping, 7:30 pm	7	8	9
10 Worship, 10 am <i>Family Life Series</i>	11 <i>Christian Parenting Series 7:30 pm</i>	12	13 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	14	15 Middle School Discipleship Club 7:30 pm	16 <i>All Church Spring Clean-Up 8 am – 12 noon</i>
17 Worship, 10 am <i>Palm Sunday</i>	18 <i>Passover Begins at Sunset</i>	19	20 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	21	22 <i>Good Friday Candlelight Communion Worship, 7:30 pm</i>	23
24 Pathway Classes, 9 am Worship, 10 am <i>Resurrection Sunday</i>	25	26	27 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	28	29	30

**Northgate Community Church - Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!**