

## Thoughts From a Pastor

*"O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol, you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit."*  
- Psalm 30:2-3

A near death experience has a way of focusing our attention and reassessing our priorities. Such is the experience of individuals in times of extreme danger. In a sense, the pandemic has made this a universal experience for us all. How can we benefit from it as a church?

We can gain a renewed appreciation for the privilege of being together. For a time we could not gather at all. Many were prevented from coming to the church for a long time. Some have not been able to attend church for over a year. Let us pray together that every single person who was able to attend church in March 2020 will return to church in the next few months. And may all of us realize what a privilege it is to come together to worship God, to hear God's word, to pray, to give, and to encourage one another face to face.

Many people after a harrowing experience say, "God must have something for me to do yet." That is true! All of us should be in prayer that the Lord would show us what He wants us to do for Him. Every Christian has spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving others. Where do you fit in? As we come together again there is a growing need for people to serve the Lord in our church as children's workers in Sunday school, Kids' Club, Children's Church, VBS, nursery and youth group. We need ushers, greeters, and security team members. We plan to restart the choir and public school outreaches in the fall. Step forward and do something that will count for eternity! Let us make our lives count for the Lord.

Finally, let us show the Lord we are grateful for His mercies. This begins in silence, in the quiet places of our hearts. May it be known to Him through our devotion to Him in praying, our desire to know Him more through His Word and our loyalty to Him in all

## Summer 2021

As warm weather and sunshine starts to become more prevalent I become excited for all that the summer might hold!

We start off the summer season with a Spring Fling at the Merrick Farm on May 31st. Don't worry, the french fries and fire truck will both make an appearance! Bring a yard game to play with friends or to make new friends. The creek will be perfect for creek walking so make sure to pack an extra set of clothing for any water adventurers. There won't be any pumpkin carving contests, but come prepared for a baking contest. Sign up in either foyer.

Throughout the summer Pastor Sandy and Diego will be planning events for Rock Of Grace Youth. Talk to Pastor Sandy to be added to the email list for event details!

During the summer join us on Wednesday nights for **Picnic 4:42** beginning June 9th. We will be having a "picnic" from 6-7pm in the fellowship hall with a program of worship, word and prayer to follow. More details to come!

Vacation Bible School will be July 19-23! More details are to come. Volunteers will be needed.

If you are looking for ways to serve this summer check the list on the reverse side for local ministries. If you have any ministries to add please email: [info@gracebfcreading.org](mailto:info@gracebfcreading.org)!

## Memorial Day Picnic

May 31st | 1:00 PM

Merrick Farm



## Thoughts From a Pastor continued

of life. May God see in us sacrificial giving to His cause in the world, and consecrated witness to Jesus, who has given all for us. May we look back on the "pandemic year" someday as the time when God tested, purified, and strengthened Grace Bible Fellowship Church and all of its members.

~ Pastor Grossman

## Book Review

### BOOKED

by Karen Swallow Prior

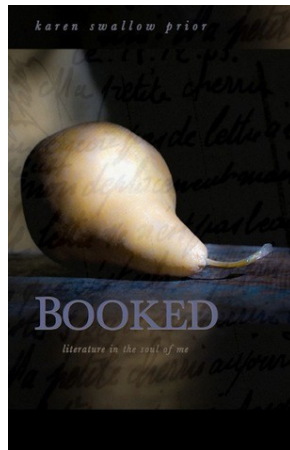
The author, who taught English at Liberty University for 21 years, examines the meaning behind Classical literature as vastly different from E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* and Dickens' *Great Expectations*, and many works in-between, to come to conclusions about her childhood and youth on her journey to adulthood. Her words are both encouraging and eye opening.

*Booked* is a book for lovers of books to embrace as they take a path through the writings of the ages. Your life will be enriched by her insight.

This memoir contains some adult references as the author challenges her Christian upbringing through her reading of all types of literature as she struggles to find maturity and, ultimately, her faith. Through great personal honesty, she finds the wisdom she didn't realize she sought.

Prior, Ph. D., is Research Professor of English and Christianity and Culture at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

~ Bev. Myers



## Events

### May

- 15 Victory Valley Open House
- 22 Victory Valley Spring Cleaning Work Day
- 23 Rock of Grace Youth Group Graduation Luncheon (for families of graduates and Grace & La Roca Youth)
- 26 Final Day of school year Wednesday Night programs
- 31 Spring Fling (Memorial Day Picnic) | Merrick Farm

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Operation Christmas Child**

[Samaritanspurse.org](http://Samaritanspurse.org)

May Needs: Hygiene Items

(Talk to Beckie Merrick for more information.)

**Hope Rescue Mission** | [hopeforreading.org](http://hopeforreading.org)

**Life's Choices** | [lifeschoicessupport.org](http://lifeschoicessupport.org)

**Mercy Crisis Pregnancy Center**

[mercypregnancycenter.org](http://mercypregnancycenter.org)

**Victory Valley** | [victoryvalleycamp.org](http://victoryvalleycamp.org)

**Pinebrook Bible Conference** | [pinebrook.org](http://pinebrook.org)

## Victory Valley 2021

Victory Valley Camp is looking for staff for this coming summer!

- Leadership Team (college age or older):
- Outpost Coordinator (plan/run tent camping program and supervise/mentor staff)
- Girls Head Counselor (supervise/mentor female counselors)
- Girls Junior Staff Coordinator (supervise/mentor female high school staff)
- Boys Head Counselor (supervise/mentor male counselors)
- Horsemanship Specialist (18+) - take care of horses, teach three activity classes per day, supervise high school assistants
- Counselors (high school graduates and older) - live in cabins/tents with campers, lead them in activities, teach Bible lessons
- Nurses – licensed nurses who can serve for a week

If you have any questions or are aware of volunteers, contact Jonathan King at [director@victoryvalleycamp.org](mailto:director@victoryvalleycamp.org)