



# THE ANTIOCHAN

Church Extension Ministries of the Bible Fellowship Church

April 12, 2019



## Matthew 26:4 - “...they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him.”

If we read our passage and did not know Jesus and that He is the Rose of Sharon, the gentle and meek Shepherd of His flock, and the kind compassionate merciful Savior, we would think that He was on the FBI's top ten most wanted. We would think that he was a person who committed a heinous crime. However, the criminal is not Jesus but rather the criminals were the chief priests and elders of the people.

**No one is more misunderstood than our Savior.**

Throughout the world, Christians face oppression and persecution for the name of Jesus. In reality, the persecution that Christians face is not targeted only at the Christian but at Jesus; *how can we kill Jesus?* There are those who today plot to destroy Jesus and His church. Many times this plotting is very subtle and it even looks like a worthy cause.

- The tolerance movement that writes off sin.
- The abortion movement that denies the viability of the baby in the womb and now even outside the womb at birth.
- Even the liberal church that denies Biblical truth.

All of this and more are plots to kill Jesus and His church.

However, praise be to God that we have our Lord's word that even the gates of Hell and the Devil will not prevail against the Lord and His church.

It is not likely that anyone reading this devotional today has someone plotting against him or her to kill them. Nevertheless, as Christians, we are the church and the plots against the church are fierce and couched in what may seem to be acceptable causes.

**Be alert and be ready to take a stand for the Lord.**

The days are evil but the days are in the hands of the Lord and one day soon we will see the Lord victorious and bringing all things under His glorious reign.

*Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!*

*by David Gundrum  
Director of Church Extension Ministries*

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## Salvation Through GriefShare at Forks Township Mission Church!



Here is a blessed story from Pam Smith of an individual who “needed help” and came to know the Lord at the Forks Township Mission Church.

Pam Smith and her husband, Dean, are members of Cedar Crest BFC and are members of the core group that assisted with launching Forks Community Church. They are GriefShare facilitators.

**“This winter/spring season Forks Community Church is hosting a 13 week GriefShare group. As we plan and advertise, we pray that God will send those who he wants to benefit from this Bible based, specialized program. The 13 week course is open to newcomers each week and is marketed as a faith-based support group.**

As the weeks are going by, we are able to, through guided discussions and facilitation, discern the spiritual temperature of the members. Not all who come have placed their faith in Christ as Savior. As the videos are heard and discussions ensue, Biblical and practical encouragement is

presented. Scriptures are read, spiritual matters are pondered, and personal matters of the heart are laid bare.

**Halfway through the 13 week course, a newcomer walked through our doors saying, "I need help!"**

She lost a sibling and is dealing with other hardships as well. As we share our losses and how we are "dealing with it", our testimony is also shared. We speak of a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, who gives us strength, hope, purpose, and encouragement to continue to move forward in life. Our newcomer came back a second week. She admitted she did not understand this workbook and the Scriptures were foreign to her.

**Then she said, "You keep talking about this personal relationship with God. What IS that? I WANT that, I have NO peace!"**

With our eyes wide and smiles on our faces, we invited her to stay longer with us after class and we would be GLAD to explain it to her. So, she stayed.

**We were able to use the GriefShare "God, What's Going On?" article in her workbook to walk her through God's plan of salvation. As she came to the suggested prayer, she said, "Can I say this right now?"**

As she finished the prayer, her body language expressed a release of anxiety. We explained that this was a new relationship that needs nurturing, not a religion.

Today, was my first discipleship mentoring session with her. She was eager to set up our meeting, and invited me to her home. As we ended our time in the Scriptures, she said, "Wow, I learned something already!" She now has an ESV Bible app on her phone and has quickly learned how it works. We are meeting every Monday for discipleship training.

Partner with the Forks Community Church

DYK?

***"...while nearly three in four Americans say they are Christians, Barna reports that only 55 percent attended a church service in the last six months. Other studies show that only 23 to 25 percent of us attend three Sundays out of eight. ..."***

[Jim Denison](#) | Denison Forum on Truth and Culture | Friday, April 5, 2019

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## Please Praise and Pray for the Following...

1. **Praise the Lord** for the salvation of the person who attended GriefShare at Forks!
2. **Praise the Lord** for Pam Smith giving her time to disciple the new convert at Forks!
3. **Praise the Lord** for the joy of sharing Christ and seeing the Lord save His people!
4. **Praise the Lord** for the churches that are interested in being part of a multiplication movement!
5. **Pray for the Lord to provide a church planter** for Woolwich Township, NJ!
6. **Pray for Mark Morrison** restarting the Living Rock Church in Elverson! **He needs people to commit to visiting and serving with him for a period!!!**
7. **Pray for the Lord** to bless our efforts to plant in Topton, PA! Pray for the Lord to guide us!
8. **Pray for Plants** looking for better meeting places: Naples, Lower Providence, Forks, Milford, Upper Macungie and South Allentown
9. **Pray for your planters in need of financial support:** Elliot Ramos, Juan Carlos Morales, Phil Ruiz, Joshua Dupiche, Jason Filbert, Brad Boyer, John Hanner, Mark Morrison, Mentor-Dick Taylor and Diego Rodriguez!
10. **Pray for the health needs of the Church Extension team.**
  - Pray for Barry Parsons's wife, Sharon, with knee problems.
  - Pray for Carlos Rodriguez's sister, Lulu recuperating from cancer surgery.
  - Pray for CE Board member Al Roberts going through cancer treatments.
  - Pray for Jason Filbert's parents both having physical needs and son Elijah.
  - Pray for Tim and Tori Zuck's son Adam and his needs at this time.
  - Pray for healing in Scott Wright's foot and ankle.
  - Pray for Laurie Kuhns our Administrative Assistant with health needs.

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## Upcoming Speaking Opportunities

### PRAY FOR DIRECTOR GUNDRUM'S UPCOMING SPEAKING ASSIGNMENTS

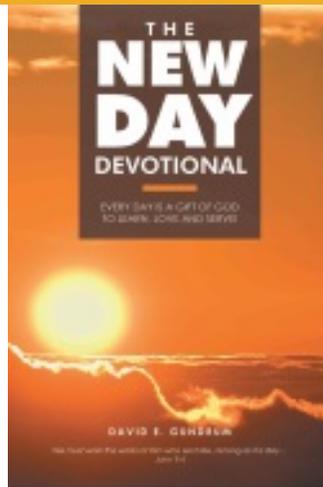
- April 14 – Elverson Mission Church – AM Service
- May 12 – Townsend, DE – AM Service
- May 19 – Chestertown, MD – AM Service

- June 2 – Chestertown, MD – Ref Ordination
- June 9 – Harleysville, PA BFC – Missions Day
- June 23 – Kutztown, PA BFC – AM Service

Spring and Summer 2019 dates are available for Director Gundrum and Staff to share at your church

*If you would like to have Director David Gundrum or Assistants Ray Bertolet and Elliot Ramos come and share the vision and mission of Church Extension Ministries, please call 610-769-4337 or email [office@churchplanting.org](mailto:office@churchplanting.org).*

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Be encouraged and challenged for each New Day

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