

Sunday Field Services

Domestic Mission Field Activity
West Avenue Church of Christ

June 10, 2018

morning_news.jpg

This booklet was typeset using L^AT_EX2e 2017 and other software on a computer running a Linux distribution called Xubuntu. To learn more about Xubuntu and other such free computer software, visit <http://www.xubuntu.org> for more information.

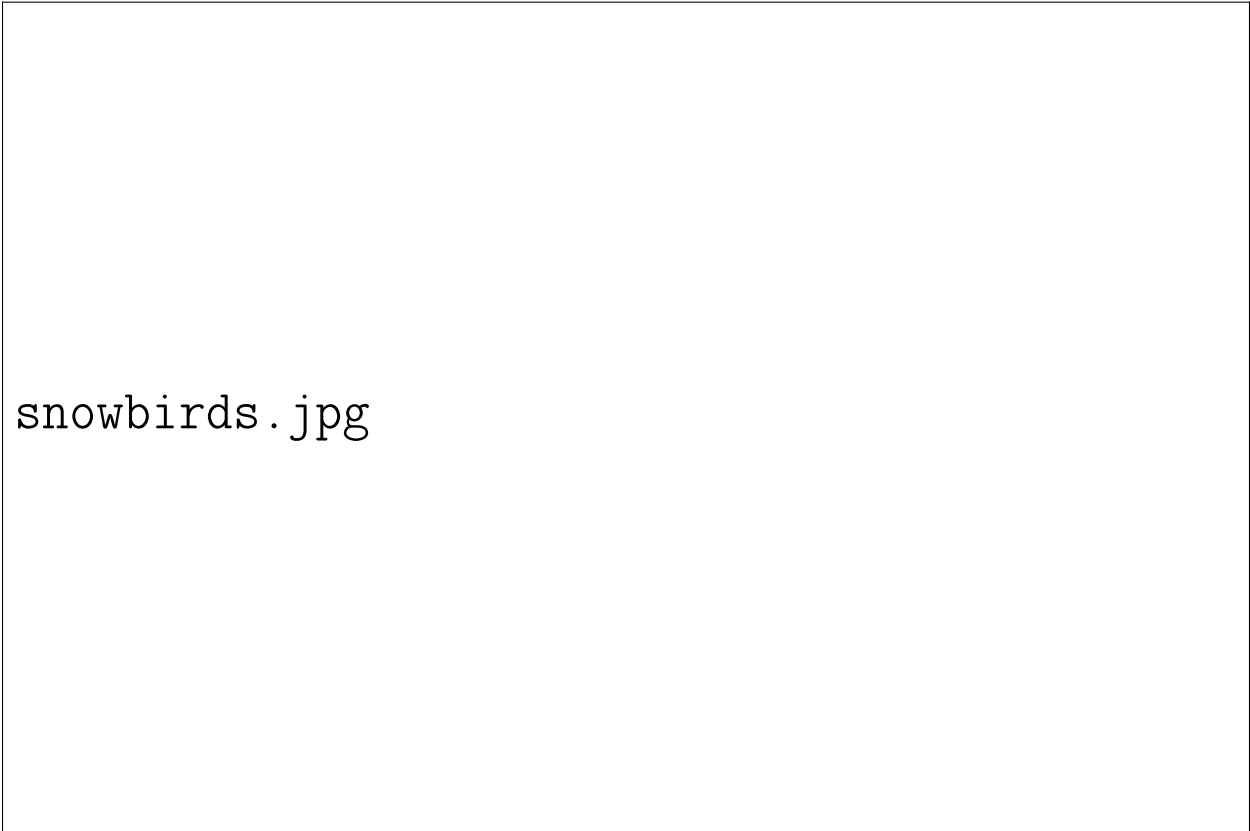
Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Used by Permission HCSB©1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 Holman Bible Publishers. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

West Avenue Church of Christ takes advantage of services from Christian Copyright Licensing International. For the songs reproduced herein as well as other copyrighted works, our license number is shown.

This work uses many photographs made available by the Defense Media Activity through its Defense Video Imagery Distribution System. These are generally considered to be public domain works. Appropriate credit will be given with each photograph.

The cartoon on the title page is taken from the webcomic xkcd produced by Randall Munroe. You can find it on the web at <https://xkcd.com> and this particular cartoon, entitled "Morning News", can be found at <https://xkcd.com/1996/>. It is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 2.5 license which can be read at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.5/>.

This Week's Current Event's Picture



snowbirds.jpg

U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Maxwell Daigle/Released

Photo 1: The Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds demonstration team performs a stunt during the 2018 Thunder of Niagara International Air Show at Niagara Air Reserve Station, New York, June 8, 2018. The Snowbirds, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, and the U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor demonstration team, in addition to other acts and displays, highlighted the air show.

The Men Serving

Assisting Stephen Michael Kellat

Assisting Michael John Kellat

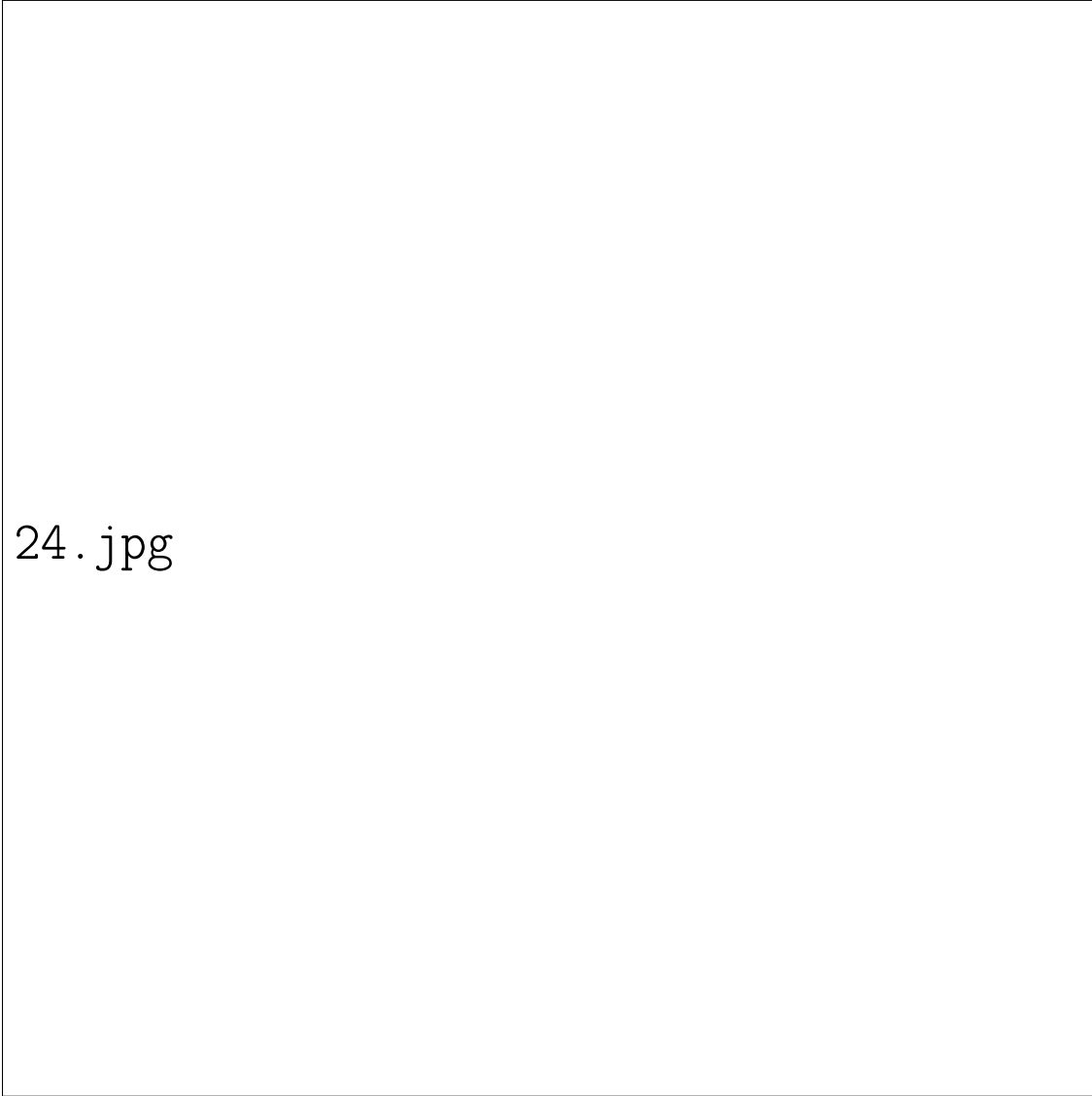
Services Today

- Doxology 66
- The Steadfast Love of the Lord 123
- Blessed Be the Name of the Lord 24
- **Opening Prayer**
- Awesome God 38
- I Sing Praises 97
- The First Lord's Day 372
- Restore My Soul 567
- **Communion**
- **Sermon** Off to Cyprus
- **Closing Song** What a Friend We Have in Jesus 800
- **Closing Prayer**

66.jpg

Plate I: CCLI 1299261

123.jpg



24.jpg

Plate III: CCLI 1299261

38.jpg

Plate IV: CCLI 1299261

97.jpg

Plate V: CCLI 1299261

372.jpg

Plate VI: CCLI 1299261

567.jpg

Plate VII: CCLI 1299261

Reading for Communion

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 in the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way, after supper He also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Let us pray...

The Lesson

This week we read from Acts 13:1-13 (HCSB):

In the church that was at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

As they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to." Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.

Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they came down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. Arriving in Salamis, they proclaimed God's message in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their assistant. When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and desired to hear God's message. But Elymas the sorcerer (this is the meaning of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Then Saul—also called Paul—filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at the sorcerer and said, "You son of the Devil, full of all deceit and all fraud, enemy of all righteousness! Won't you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord? Now, look! The Lord's hand is against you. You are going to be blind, and will not see the sun for a time." Suddenly a mist and darkness fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Then the proconsul, seeing what happened, believed and was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and went back to Jerusalem.

Today-Antioch-Cyprus.jpg

Photo 2: Map showing what a modern-day flight from Antioch to Cyprus would require

This is Paul's first missionary journey as we start out across the Mediterranean Sea. This is also the second time we encounter a sorcerer in the book of Acts. It doesn't really turn out well for the sorcerer whenever we meet one.

Cyprus is in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea due west of Israel and south of Turkey. In modern days it is a disputed land with Greece and Turkey both claiming control of portions of the island. In the days of Paul, the question of control was far simpler. Rome was in charge.

Barnabas, John, and Paul were taking part in this first trip. They worked in the Jewish synagogues on this trip. Their evangelization of the Jews was seemingly successful during this trip as there is no mention of shifting their efforts over to the Gentiles. There is no mention in the text if the proconsul was a gentile or not. References outside the biblical text would lead one to assume that the proconsul was more likely than not a gentile.

The text in this case is short. It is only 13 verses. The key lesson is that the message of God can and will be backed up. The tricks of the sorcerer were met by the power of God with the sorcerer being blinded. This harkens back to the power struggle between the followers of Ba'al and God as seen in 1 Kings 18:20-40 with Elijah doing the Lord's work on Mount Carmel. That passage states:

So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel. Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him. But if Baal, follow him." But the people didn't answer him a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only remaining prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. Let two bulls be given to us. They are to choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of Yahweh. The God who answers with fire, He is God."

All the people answered, "That sounds good."

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Since you are so numerous, choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then call on the name of your god but don't light the fire."

So they took the bull that he gave them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "Baal, answer us!" But there was no sound; no one answered. Then they danced, hobbling around the altar they had

made.

At noon Elijah mocked them. He said, "Shout loudly, for he's a god! Maybe he's thinking it over; maybe he has wandered away; or maybe he's on the road. Perhaps he's sleeping and will wake up!" They shouted loudly, and cut themselves with knives and spears, according to their custom, until blood gushed over them. All afternoon they kept on raving until the offering of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound; no one answered, no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near me." So all the people approached him. Then he repaired the Lord's altar that had been torn down: Elijah took 12 stones—according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel will be your name"—and he built an altar with the stones in the name of Yahweh. Then he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold about four gallons. Next, he arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood. He said, "Fill four water pots with water and pour it on the offering to be burned and on the wood." Then he said, "A second time!" and they did it a second time. And then he said, "A

third time!" and they did it a third time. So the water ran all around the altar; he even filled the trench with water.

At the time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached the altar and said, "Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that at Your word I have done all these things. Answer me, Lord! Answer me so that this people will know that You, Yahweh, are God and that You have turned their hearts back."

Then Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell face-down and said, "Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!"

Then Elijah ordered them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let even one of them escape." So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and slaughtered them there.

In contrast between the two situations, the prophets of Ba'al were slaughtered while the sorcerer in Cyprus was *merely* blinded. When you share the Word, do not do so lightly. Act

with the Holy Spirit at your side. There was an age of miracles to help ensure people understood. Miracles may still occur today but they're likely to have a very different nature than what we've seen in the text.

Do we get led by charlatans of the imperial court? Are we led instead by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? We have to examine our lives.

800.jpg

Plate VIII: CCLI 1299261

About Us

West Avenue Church of Christ is located at 5901 West Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio. The located preacher is Michael Williams. Our leaders are Elmer Ford and Hays Wood. We meet Sundays at 10:30 AM for worship with bible study earlier at 9:30 AM.

The Domestic Mission Field Activity is an effort for outreach by the congregation. The Activity undertakes a variety of works as appropriate. We are implementing a video narrowcast channel for the congregation online at <http://tinyurl.com/WABBC>. A function/capability review continues.