

# Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

*Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry*

May 15, 2022

*Scripture Reading: Proverbs 27: 5, 6*

## A Wonderful Savior by Duane Patton

There is a song we sometimes sing while gathered together as the Lord's people, a spiritual hymn that has resonated with my soul from the time I learned its lyrics. Consider the second verse and chorus of this magnificent song:

"A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus My Lord, He Taketh My Burden Away, He Holdeth Me Up And I Shall Not Be Moved, He Giveth Me Strength As My Day."

*Chorus:* "He Hideth My Soul In The Cleft Of The Rock, That Shadows A Dry, Thirsty Land; He Hideth My Life In The Depths Of His Love, And Covers Me There With His Hand, And Covers Me There With His Hand."

Fanny Jane Crosby (born Frances Jane Crosby, March 24, 1820), the writer of this beloved song of praise and adoration, lost her sight at the tender age of only six weeks. Although she suffered all her adult life from physical blindness, at about the age of 27 she was appointed as teacher of English grammar, rhetoric, Roman and Greek history! She was also a prolific poet! Being blind, Fanny would never write out her poems, but "completed each one in her mind" and dictated it to an amanuensis. She composed over a dozen hymns before finally committing them to paper. (<https://www.wholesomewords.org/biography/bcrosby.html>). She became a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and would go on to write such memorable hymns as "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour," "Rescue the Perishing," "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross," "The Bright Forever," "Close to Thee," "Saviour, More Than Life to Me," and "I Am Thine, O Lord."

Jesus really is a wonderful Savior! Fanny could not see with her eyes, but the vision of her heart was as clear as a cloudless spring day! She deeply believed that her burden was removed when Jesus died on the cross, making peace thereby for all who exercise faith in Him (**Ephesians 2:14-16; Acts 10:42, 43; cf., Luke 4:16-21**). This is, in part, why the prophet said our Savior's name would be called "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (**Isaiah 9:6**, KJV). Jesus is the Amazing God, incarnate, who offers real and lasting forgiveness to humankind, and Who Himself restores the "sight" of our sin-sick souls!

"One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." (John 9:25b, *ESV*)

## Seeking First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

### Services:

#### Sunday:

9 AM Bible Class

10AM Worship

6 PM Worship

#### Wednesday:

6 PM Prayer

& Bible Class

### Local Works of Faith:

Sunnybrook Children's Home

Gulf Coast Bible Camp

Local Food Pantry

Annual Youth Events

Back-Pack Buddies

The Gospel of Christ TV

(Every Sunday at 6:30 AM, Fox 25)

### Foreign Missions:

Guyana

India

Guam

### Subscribe to these on YouTube:

Vancleave Church of Christ Digital Ministries

The Mississippi Gospel Minute



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## Recent Prayer Requests & Announcements

**Elsie Ashcraft:** Very sick and has not able to keep anything down for days.

**Barbara Patton:** To have second cataract surgery this week. The first one was successful!

**Darlene Guston** (mother of Al/Sheila's niece): Suffered a stroke and in hospitalized in Laurel, MS.

**The Waltman Family:** Grieving over the loss of Jesse (father), who died in a tree climbing incident.

**Gayle Williams** (J. Rob's Son-In-Law's mother): Is sick with pneumonia and is hospitalized in critical condition. Please pray for Gayle and for her family.

**Congratulations once again to *Vancleave High School* Graduates Lawson Nabors, Anniyah Nettles, and Alayjah Nettles, and *USM* college graduates Maci Patton, and McKenzie Wages!**

*We are thankful for brothers Robin Lyons and Al Lowery for standing in for brother Duane this morning while he is serving in our Air Force this weekend!*

Others: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. ~ Psalms 34:15

*Please refer to previous Newsletter for those who need continued prayers*

Linda Kenney	Earl Kenney	Keiundra Huddleston	Cindy Stevens
Kimi Atkins	Charlie Tanner	Judy Hinton	Liz Logan

*Have requests or other announcements? Send email to [vcocministry@vancleavemschurch.org](mailto:vcocministry@vancleavemschurch.org)*

## Rightly Dividing the Word

*A weekly synopsis of every book of the Bible with a memory verse designed to increase our faith*

**Ezra:** One of three historical books dealing with the restoration of Israel from Babylonian captivity back to Jerusalem, Ezra records the decree of a Persian king named Cyrus and the events that followed (Isaiah 45:1-13; 44:28). Zerubbabel, a Jewish temple builder, successfully led the people back to their homeland in 536 B.C. Some 78 years later (ca., 458 B.C.) Ezra, a prominent Jewish priest-scribe, led efforts to correct the moral and religious failings of the nation whom God rescued out of seventy years of foreign captivity that began in 606 B.C.

*This week's memory verse:*

*"You our God have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such a deliverance as this."*

(Ezra 9:13, NKJV)



*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*