



From  
Pastor Hal

Many of you are aware I went to Wilson Immediate Care to be seen for a chronic cough last Friday. All I wanted was an x-ray. But healthcare facilities are very cautious in their treatment of patients these days. I had to take a Covid test first. URGH! Not one, but two tests!! A rapid test and a 3-day test. My heart rejoiced when the rapid test came back negative. I can resume a normal schedule. Hallelujah! That meant I could preach Sunday and minister safely to everyone in the church. Or so I thought!

Sunday, while I was preaching the morning message, the immediate care facility called. They left a message. It wasn't good news. My three-day test (supposedly a more accurate test) came back positive for Covid-19. That wasn't the news I wanted to hear. Of course, like Job, I lifted up my eyes to the Lord and ask why. Reminding myself that "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.." Psalms 37:23.

Please allow me to share something personal. What did God show me during this change of circumstances? The Lord's gentle reminder to a preacher who needed it.

1) PASTOR HAL IS NOT IN CHARGE!! The Lord is in charge. And the verse I mentioned in the psalm doesn't end with the word "Lord." The verse reads "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way." Psalm 37:23. When a person willingly follows God's plans (e.g. David, Esther, Paul, etc.); God delights in their way! And it allows God to do some wonderful things in our lives.

2) Do you remember what we prayed at the end of our Sunday morning message? What did we ask God to do? We prayed the Lord would empty us of ourselves (our fleshly desire) and fill us with the Holy Spirit of God. To transform us!! We asked the Lord to allow us to do something for His glory, not our good. I didn't like it when God said to "Be Still". Yet, if this is His plan for me; I will "Be Still and Know that He is God!!" And hopefully, prayerfully, bring Him glory through this trial. The Lord is in the business of guiding His children. I learned, even a good man's "STOPS" are ordered by the Lord!!

I realize there were some problems watching the service online this past week. We apologize for any inconvenience. Hopefully, the issue has been resolved and the service will be better to watch this coming Sunday. Thank-you for your understanding.

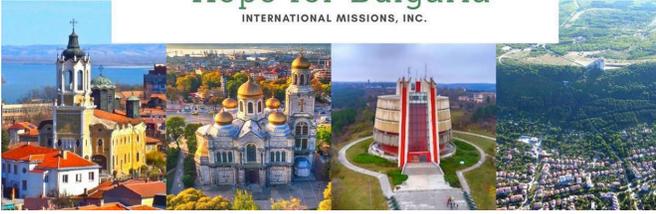
Our condolences to the Stroud family in the loss of Crystal's dad. We would also like to express our condolences to the Batchelor family in the loss of Don's brother.

A business meeting is scheduled for January 27th. But there's a problem. We will not be able to meet as a church family until February 7th. To solve the dilemma, let's move our business meeting to February 7th. We will have a brief meeting following the morning service. Moving the meeting to February will allow more people to participate. This meeting is to distribute the final 2020 budget report and to celebrate God's goodness to White Oak last year. Please mark your calendars! And call the church if you have any questions. Of course, you can still drop your ballot off at the office if you are not comfortable attending church.

Love in Christ,

Rev. Hal W. Jones III  
Pastor Hal  
Galatians 2:20

*In-person Sunday Morning Worship  
will return on February 7th.*



## *Who is Setting Your Pace?*

Once upon a time Jayne and I ran our first 5k. We were warned by veteran racers to watch our pace. First time runners feel the rush of adrenalin at the sound of the start gun (literally a cannon for us). That rush can enhance your race time, or it can be your downfall. This veteran runner was not a prophet, but he predicted exactly what would happen to me. I heard that cannon fire, felt the adrenaline rush, and ran my fastest mile ever. Unfortunately, I was running a 5K not a mile. My pace was all wrong, and I faded near the end.

We read in Matthew 11:28-30 where Jesus says, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

A yoke is a farming implement fitted on a team of oxen. The apparatus connects the animals allowing them to pull a heavy load walking at the same pace. When you consider that description, it seems that being in a yoke would be difficult and cumbersome!

Jesus invites us to take up His yoke, and we will find rest for our souls. But, how can a yoke be restful? It is restful when you are yoked to Christ! If I am yoked to the One who is gentle and humble my pace will be different. The words of Jesus are an invitation to come and be inseparably linked to Him, going where He goes and going at His pace. Jesus leads and sets the pace. Being yoked to Jesus means He bears the weight and He directs our paths. When I acknowledge this and match my pace to His, then my soul finds the rest it so desperately needs.

Jayne and I have been used to a busy life of ministry and/or mayhem. So this has been a different season for us as we wait for our next step. We struggle because of the delays. We struggle because the pace is not what we want. I struggle trying to set the pace of the team under this yoke. As I try to figure out the details, or stress over deadlines, or panic over a pandemic, I take over and try to lead the team. That is when I grow tired and weary. When I try to set the pace, this pushes against the yoke and resists my Lord. It's only when I yield to His leading and His pace that I find peace and rest. So pray for us in this season as we wait for news of our visas. May we take His yoke, learn of Him, and find rest for our souls.

Ken & Jayne Cash, Your Missionaries to Bulgaria

## **Schedule of Services**

### **Sunday**

#### **On-Line**

Our Sunday Morning Online Service will begin at 10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Online Service will begin at 6 PM

### **Wednesday**

7 PM - Prayer, Praise & Bible Study - ONLINE

Teens with Moises Online

7 PM - December 9th Prayer, Business Meeting at church

***Every WOH Service can be seen on:***

Facebook - Hal Jones page

White Oak Hill Facebook page

White Oak Hill YouTube