

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1997 Pleasant Ridge Road

State Road, N.C. 28676

Address Service Requested



«Name»

«Address»

«City» «State» «Zip»

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The Horizon

This past week the youth went on a hiking trip to Grandfather Mountain. The trail we hiked was probably one of the most difficult trails I have ever been on. The park office told us to allow five hours to hike the three miles. That to me was laughable because even with a large pack on my back, I usually average around 2mph. We should have been able to hike three miles easy. BUT... When you are hiking on a nice trail you can just roll on but this trail was three miles of boulders. We spent the entire time, climbing ladders, clinging to cables, hopping from one rock to another, and lumbering down steep hills. Truth be told, it took us six hours to travers not quite three miles and we were TIRED! (Of course we celebrated with hot doughnuts to replace any calories we may have lost) It was a fun trip and one I would do again in a heart beat but one that made me step back and consider what happened. What took so long?

It's easy enough to understand that when the road is not flat it will take more time to travel on or it will require more energy to keep up. Also you have to look at what was your purpose? Were we trying to hike this trail under a certain time? No, we were just having fun. Next you have to consider if you are in shape? Were we in shape? The students sure seemed to be moving faster than the adults were. Finally, fear plays a roll in how long it takes you to finish. You can run a lot faster on flat ground than you can crawl on a ridge. At one point on this trail we stood in the shade of the trees at the bottom of a ladder. We climbed up this ladder into the sunlight. Once at the top of this ladder we stepped over to the bottom of another ladder and then ascended it. Once at the top of this ladder we stepped over to the base of a third ladder. It was as I was feeling the bowing of this third ladder than I began to feel the height and the danger of where I was. No longer was I in the shade and safety of the trees but I was towering over the trees on the side of a cliff. Once I summited the third ladder I found myself clinging to a cable on a ledge high above everything. We skirted around the ledge and were able to crawl over a boulder and reach the summit of the mountain. We sat down and surveyed the grander or stupidity of what we had just done. Typically, you do not bound up ladders and fly around cabled ledges at supersonic speeds. So, this too, slowed us down.

Once I was home, I began to consider all of this and look for spiritual implications. Where I landed was a simple place. Not all of life is to be experienced at the speed of light. On the contrary, life is experienced at many different speeds. Sometimes it crawls and sometimes it flies. Our circumstances play a large roll in how fast time moves.

But at the end of the day, if we don't take time to turn around and see the beauty of where God has taken us, then we cannot appreciate the climb. Take some time this week to simply turn toward the horizon and gaze at the Son. Praise Him because without Him we would be lost in all the trees, boulders and ledges.

I'm praying for yall!

jason

Eph. 5:1



God's Blessings May 31, 2020

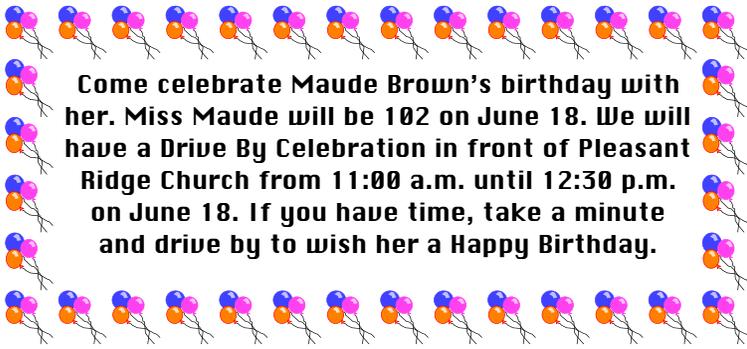
Budget Needs:	\$6,796.32
Budget Receipt:	\$6,651.00

God's Blessings June 7, 2020

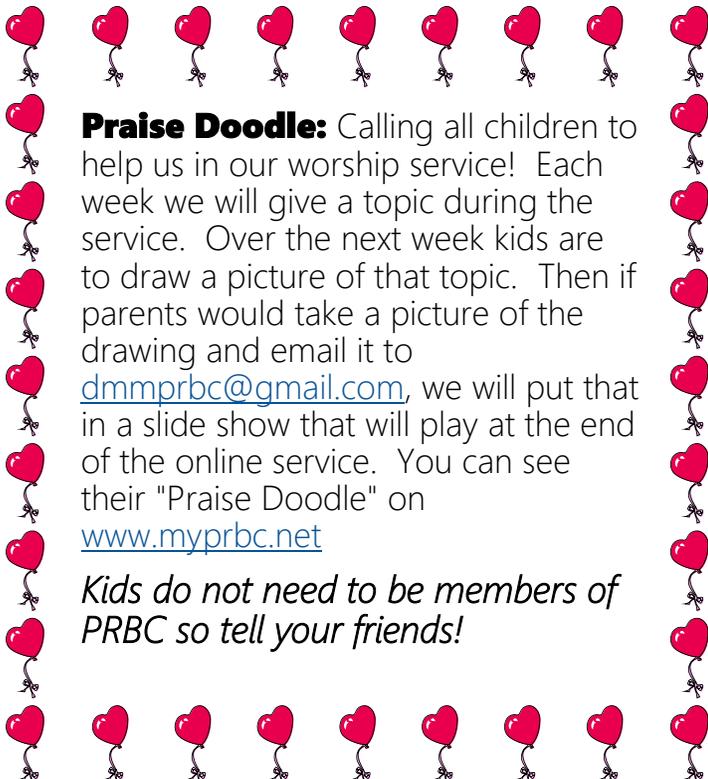
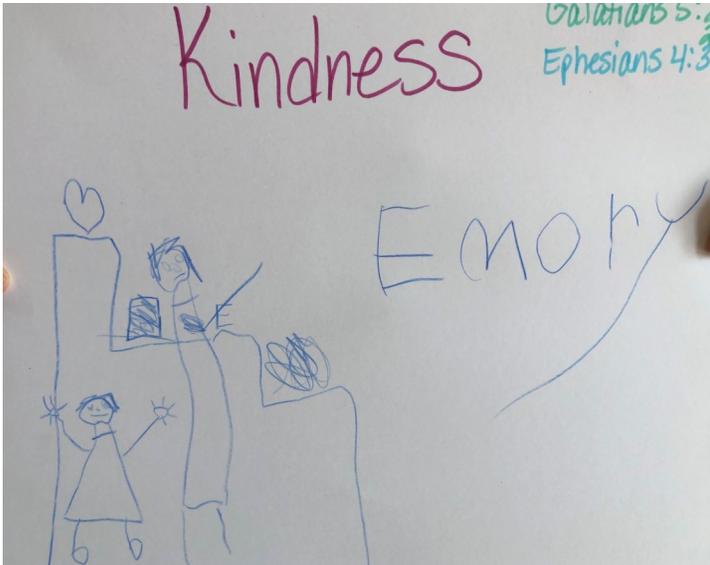
Budget Needs:	\$6,796.32
Budget Receipt:	\$13,825.00

God's Blessings June 14, 2020

Budget Needs:	\$6,796.32
Budget Receipt:	\$7,763.00
Baptist Men:	\$200.00



Come celebrate Maude Brown's birthday with her. Miss Maude will be 102 on June 18. We will have a Drive By Celebration in front of Pleasant Ridge Church from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on June 18. If you have time, take a minute and drive by to wish her a Happy Birthday.



Praise Doodle: Calling all children to help us in our worship service! Each week we will give a topic during the service. Over the next week kids are to draw a picture of that topic. Then if parents would take a picture of the drawing and email it to dmmprbc@gmail.com, we will put that in a slide show that will play at the end of the online service. You can see their "Praise Doodle" on www.myprbc.net

Kids do not need to be members of PRBC so tell your friends!

OPT-IN FOR TITHING ENVELOPES 2021

To reduce waste, please let me know if you want to use PRBC Tithing Envelopes in 2021. There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule or call the office or email Deaston@myprbc.net.

THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP IS OCTOBER 5, 2020. THANK YOU!

Question: "What did Jesus mean when He said, 'Take up your cross and follow Me' (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23)?"

Answer: Let's begin with what Jesus didn't mean. Many people interpret "cross" as some burden they must carry in their lives: a strained relationship, a thankless job, a physical illness. With self-pitying pride, they say, "That's my cross I have to carry." Such an interpretation is not what Jesus meant when He said, "Take up your cross and follow Me."

When Jesus carried His cross up Golgotha to be crucified, no one was thinking of the cross as symbolic of a burden to carry. To a person in the first-century, the cross meant one thing and one thing only: death by the most painful and humiliating means human beings could develop.

Therefore, "Take up your cross and follow Me" means being willing to die in order to follow Jesus. This is called "dying to self." It's a call to absolute surrender. After each time Jesus commanded cross bearing, He said, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" (Luke 9:24-25). Although the call is tough, the reward is matchless.

Wherever Jesus went, He drew crowds. Although these multitudes often followed Him as Messiah, their view of who the Messiah really was "and what He would do" was distorted. They thought the Christ would usher in the restored kingdom. They believed He would free them from the oppressive rule of their Roman occupiers. Even Christ's own inner circle of disciples thought the kingdom was coming soon (Luke 19:11). When Jesus began teaching that He was going to die at the hands of the Jewish leaders and their Gentile overlords (Luke 9:22), His popularity sank. Many of the shocked followers rejected Him. Truly, they were not able to put to death their own ideas, plans, and desires, and exchange them for His.

Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly; our true commitment to Him is revealed during trials. Jesus assured us that trials will come to His followers (John 16:33). Discipleship demands sacrifice, and Jesus never hid that cost.

In Luke 9:57-62, three people seemed willing to follow Jesus. When Jesus questioned them further, their commitment was half-hearted at best. They failed to count the cost of following Him. None was willing to take up his cross and crucify upon it his own interests.

Therefore, Jesus appeared to dissuade them. How different from the typical Gospel presentation! How many people would respond to an altar call that went, "Come follow Jesus, and you may face the loss of friends, family, reputation, career, and possibly even your life"? The number of false converts would likely decrease! Such a call is what Jesus meant when He said, "Take up your cross and follow Me."