

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

God's Paradise Restoration Plan: Part III Abraham Walked Before God

*“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; **walk before me and be thou perfect.** And I will make my covenant :between me and thee and will multiply thee exceedingly.” (Genesis 17:1-2)*

WALK BEFORE ME

Walking before God is walking with God! It requires an obedience to God's Will. Abram left his home country and went out not knowing exactly where God was leading him. When we walk with God and live in the presence of God, we learn to have faith in God. We learn to trust God! We do not need to fear the direction we are going or the visible circumstances we face. God is faithful and God will guide us. We need only to listen and allow God to direct us, instead of trusting our own wisdom.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

BE THOU PERFECT

The word “*perfect*” does not mean that Abram was perfect or that in and of himself he would achieve perfection. God's word for “*perfect*” is not about “keeping a list of rules”. This is about surrender! Surrendering our will, our wants, and our desires to God. This is about our relationship with God and our willing obedience to God.

Today, we cannot live lives of moral purity apart from first accepting Christ's finished work on the Cross. We become spiritually complete when we accept the gift of salvation God freely extends to us through Christ. After salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells within us, giving us the power to live out a life of holiness.

God called Abram to a personal relationship with Himself. He wanted Abraham to live in His very presence. God invited Abram to a closeness, a nearness...a friendship. A friendship with God is a life lived courageously by faith, open to growth and spiritual maturation through God grace. A friend of God agrees to live the adventure that is our lives. WOW!!!! Living this adventure, we acknowledge that there are things God knows, that we don't...and somehow, we find a certain comfort in trusting our *not knowing* to *God's knowing*. WOW! WOW! WOW!

ABRAHAM'S RESPONSE

"And Abram fell on his face..." (Genesis 17:3a)

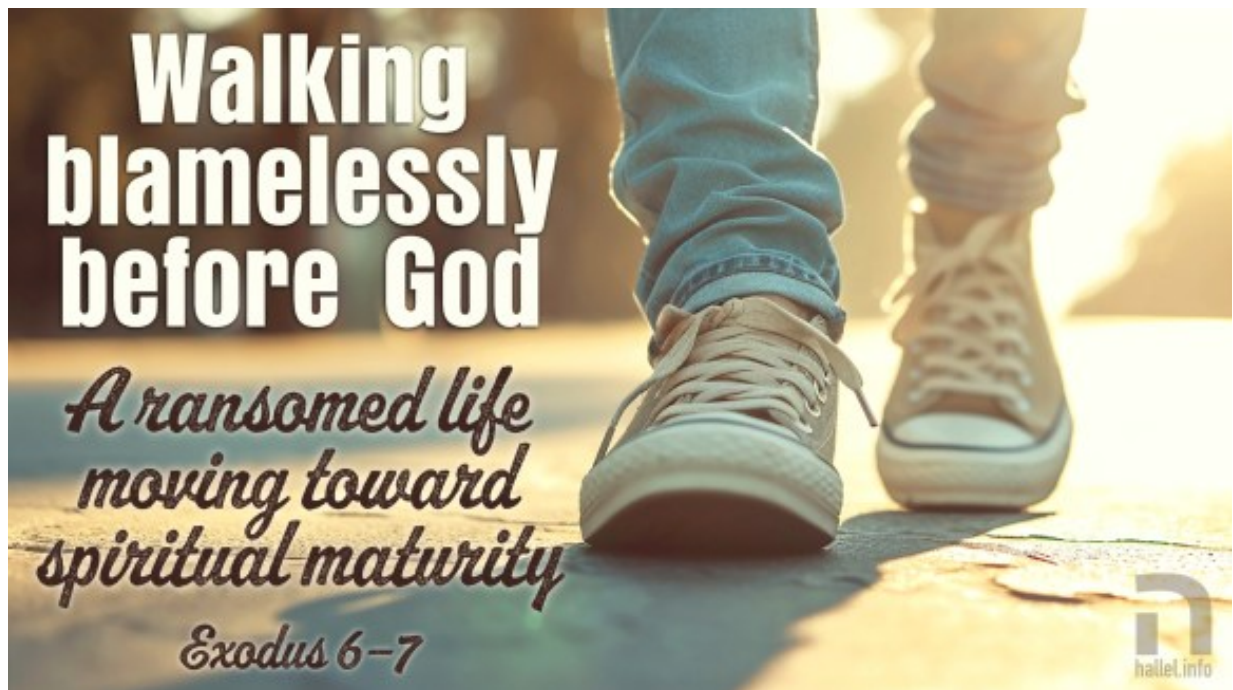
Abram fell on his face in an act of reverence, surrender, and worship! When a person falls on their face before God, they are in a weakened state. They are vulnerable. They are not in a defensive position. There is an acknowledgement of who God is. Have you yielded your life to the God in complete and unhindered obedience as an act of worship. Amazing things happen when we do. Circumstances change and the future begins to look brighter than we could ever imagine. For Abram, he received **a new name** (Abraham) and the promise of an abundant future! **Abraham was blessed by God to be a blessing to the world!**

"No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations." (Genesis 17:5)

THE INVITATION

Today is our invitation, our opportunity to walk with God. Today is our time to begin again this amazing journey we call life **amazed** and **awe-struck**, **surrendered**, and **hope-full**. Today is our day to accept the blessings of God, so that we can bless others. Can you imagine yourself, hand in hand with God, walking along, every single day, not really looking at what is ahead, but looking up at God...smiling...peaceful...expecting...excited? **Today is that day!**

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to November, the month we celebrate Thanksgiving!

We here at Harrisena have a lot to be thankful for. We have a congregation that is always working hard to make our church a place to come and worship together and to support our community in many Christian ways.

We can be thankful for a **hard-working Budget Committee and especially the Finance group** – who presented us with a workable budget. We can also be thankful for a congregation who showed support of our church by voting to accept the budget. Now our work begins as we work together to make sure our church has a successful year.

We can be **thankful for the Christian Co-op Homeschool group and Oneida Community Church** – their use of Robinson Hall has given us an opportunity to provide a place where the members of our community can come, learn, and worship together.

I personally am thankful for the Harrisena family. You supported Chuck and I throughout his illness this past year. Harrisena has always been a place where we have felt welcome and loved.

I hope you will take some time during this Thanksgiving season to stop and thank of all the things you and your family are thankful for. *God bless you all and have a Happy Thanksgiving!*

Susan Ogden,
Administrator/President



OUTREACH COMMITTEE - November

We continue to send cards monthly to those on the long-term list so they know we continue to keep them in prayer. We have also visited several friends and members who are either homebound or in a nursing facility.

Shirley Harney and Joanne Beck



STEWARDSHIP LETTER- November 2024

Dear Harrisena Family and Friends,

Stewardship season is upon us at Harrisena Community Church. A time to reflect on the importance of our Church, both to ourselves and to the community. This is the time we decide how to support our Church so it may continue into the future.

This past year has seen so many exciting happenings. We are now hosting a Christian homeschooled group by providing them classrooms on Thursdays and Fridays. In addition, we are blessed to provide Robinson Hall to Oneida Church for their Sunday services and Bible Study. Harrisena also continues to welcome AA and Lake George Garden Club to use our facilities.

This year has also seen an enormous amount of work done on the campus to improve and maintain our buildings and grounds. There is much more that will need to be done in the not- too- distant future.

Recently, a CPA did a review of our finances. **His professional opinion gave us much hope. He told us that our finances will only take us through another 8 years 10 months.** He also told us that he said this same thing to his own church over 40 years ago. His church continues through the grace of God and the continued support of the members and friends. Harrisena will continue, too! Harrisena supports global and local charities. Harrisena feeds our bodies and souls. Harrisena enhances our spiritual lives.

GOD IS BLESSING HARRISENA AND WE ARE EQUIPPED TO BLESS THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD!

Here is a list of pledged and non-pledged amounts from 2024 as of September:

0-\$50	11
\$51-\$100	5
\$101-\$200	4
\$201-\$500	4
\$500-\$1000	8
\$1001-\$2000	4
\$2001-\$3000	5
\$3001-\$4000	3
Over \$4000	1

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Finance Committee would like you to see in which category you fall and move up a category. There are **many other ways we can challenge ourselves to help our Church**: bring a friend to church; help with our many fundraisers; join a committee; share your talents; consider tithing (10% of income); think about remembering Harrisena in your estate plans; contribute from your Required Minimum Distribution and get a tax break.

Everyone is special in God's eyes and we need you!

Faithfully,

Ken [Zacharias -kpzach@roadrunner.com--](mailto:kpzach@roadrunner.com)

Bonnie [Nadig -nadig@aol.com](mailto:nadig@aol.com)

HARRISENA'S 2025 BUDGET

We have created the 2025 budget by reviewing what has been spent this past year to date and comparing it to previous years to come up with the best estimate for each category.

This proposed 2025 budget has been discussed and generated with the Finance Committee, the Trustees and Council, all of whom approved of it.

Salaries for our secretary and organist have not changed in years, but they continue to serve us faithfully.

Our pastor has not asked for a raise since she began her tenure at Harrisena, nor is one included in this proposed budget.

This budget leaves us with the smallest deficit in years. This is partly due to the donations we are receiving from the home-school co-op and Oneida Church. Our fundraisers have been very successful. We have been able to use our capital funds CD money for much (not all) of our projects on the buildings. Our Memorial donations were also a big factor this year. Our new furnace in the Ed Building will save us money since we no longer will need oil.

Committee folks and officers pay for many expenses out of their own pockets, as well as, the continued support of our members and friends.

We are grateful for all you do!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM 2024

**Harrisena Community Church
1616 Ridge Road
Queensbury, NY 12804**

With a grateful heart for God's boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian Stewardship, I make this commitment for Harrisena Church and the ministry of the congregation.

MY/OUR commitment is:

WEEKLY \$ _____ **MONTHLY \$** _____ **ANNUALLY \$** _____ **OTHER \$** _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ This is a first-time pledge

_____ I am also interested in pledging time and skills

_____ This represents an increase in pledge over last year

***Do you wish to have Pledge Envelopes?** Yes _____ NO _____

MISSION REPORT

Your **Mission's Committee** wants to thank you for your many donations of pairs of shoes. This was very helpful to the Christian Homeschool Co-op Group to make their goal.

We have a new Mission's project for the coming month. **We will be supporting a small fishing community in Aripeka, Florida.** This community is only about five miles from Pat & Ken Zacharias's winter home, and was heavily damaged by Hurricane Helen. Pat, Ken and Rev. Natalie have spoken to the minister of the Aripeka Baptist Church. We will be sending your mission donations to them to help with their re-building.

Thank you as always for your continuing donations of food and personal items; we will be delivering the **donations to Family Services before Thanksgiving.**

*Your Mission Committee,
Susan Ogden, Mary Alice Clickner, Pat Zacharias*

NOVEMBER IS GRATITUDE MONTH @ HCC



GRATITUDE is when the soul says thank you!

Gratitude, derived from the Latin word 'gratia,' means gratefulness or thankfulness. **Gratitude** is a simple yet powerful practice that can transform our lives. Developing a heartfelt appreciation for what we already have can significantly alter our mental and physical wellbeing. Implementing a gratitude practice has the ability to reshape our brains, uplift our moods, and improve our overall quality of life.

The Bible tells us, "*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

happiness and contentment. This isn't just a temporary boost. Regular expression of gratitude may lead to long-term improvements in our overall mood and emotional state.

2. Regulating stress hormones

Expressing gratitude may also play a critical role in managing the body's stress response. When we focus on positive emotions associated with gratitude, our brain may reduce the production of stress hormones like [cortisol](#). This may help to calm the [nervous system](#), which could reduce feelings of anxiety or promote a [sense of wellbeing](#).

3. Restructuring cognitive processes

Beyond the biochemical effects, gratitude can encourage the [restructuring of our cognitive processes](#). It can help to promote a shift in our mindset from negative to positive thinking, by focusing more on the [good in our lives](#). It's a shift that may even create lasting changes in how we perceive and interact with the world around us. By regularly practicing gratitude, we can help train our brains to be more attuned to positivity.

4. Enhancing neural connectivity

Each expression of gratitude may [reinforce neural pathways](#) associated with positive emotions. Over time, these pathways can become stronger, making feelings of gratitude and happiness more accessible and frequent.

5. Improving brain function in critical areas

Studies using fMRI scans (scans of the brain that show how it functions) have shown that gratitude may [activate several critical areas of the brain](#), including the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for decision-making, emotional regulation, and empathy. This activation may bring immediate feelings of contentment and could also contribute to the long-term improvement of cognitive functions associated with these areas of the brain.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - November

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

A Time to Give Thanks

Everyone knows that giving thanks is a polite and respectful thing to do. When we are shown a kindness, we say, *"Thank you."* **Giving thanks is something our ancestors have done throughout the ages ACROSS cultural, geographical, and religious boundaries.**

Yet, giving thanks doesn't come naturally for us, does it? It is so easy to get caught up in the asking and enjoying, we often overlook the opportunity to give thanks.

Thanksgiving Day is a special time for us to intentionally give thanks for the countless blessings in our lives. It's a time for us to share our gratitude in the

presence of family, friends, and God. And we all feel better for having expressed thanks. Perhaps moving forward, we could resolve to practice this “attitude of gratitude” on a more regular basis.

Some food for thought:

“Gratitude to benefactors is a well-recognized virtue, to express it in some form or other, however imperfectly, is a duty to ourselves as well as to those who have helped us.” Frederick Douglas

Looking for Biblical inspiration? Here are a few scriptures to keep in mind:

1 Chronicles 16:34: *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

Psalms 107:8-9: *Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*

Hebrews 12:28-29: *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*

Christ the King Sunday: A Grand Finale

Did you know that our church year is coming to an END on Thanksgiving Sunday, which also happens to be Christ the King Sunday? The coming season of Advent marks the START of our church year, when we look forward to the arrival of Baby Jesus. Throughout the church year, we follow Jesus from cradle to cross, bearing witness to his miracles and ministry. Ultimately, he ascends to his seat at the right hand of the Father as Christ the KING; “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords!*” It’s the grandest finale of all!

Looking for a way to SERVE God?

We can always use help!

- Reading Scripture*
- Ushering/Greeting
- Providing flowers
- Walking the "Light of Christ" to and from the altar
- Serving Communion
- Leading the congregation in song
- Sharing special music

Christine Burke has graciously offered to help anyone with a desire to approach the lectern with CONFIDENCE and SKILL. We would love to hear God's word spoken with YOUR voice!

Sign-up sheets are located in Robinson Hall at the Education Building.

2024-25 Worship Committee Members: *Melissa Ferrie-Healy and Diane Henderson. Doris O'Rourke: Flowers.*

We are here to worship and serve together!

TIME TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS!!

I would like to ORDER ____ Poinsettia(s) at \$15 each. Please list as follows:

IN MEMORY of _____
_____ OR

IN HONOR of _____

Name _____

Phone # _____/Cell # _____

Please make all checks payable to *HARRISENA FLOWER FUND*,
c/o Harrisena Community Church, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804

ALL Orders must be into the office by Monday, December 16!!



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION REPORT

Submitted by Doris

The **Women's Association** will meet on **WEDNESDAYS, at NOON.**

We have changed the day and week of the month for our future meetings and some of us need a reminder! In December we will be hosting the Annual Christmas Communion brunch on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7.** We begin at 10 A.M. with a social time, followed by a buffet, and close with our *Candlelight Communion Service*. Guests are welcomed and encouraged! More detailed information is underway.

Harrisena Community Church

Website: harrisena.org

UNDER CONSTRUCTION! ALL COMMITTEES send your goals and objectives to the church office and pictures. Remember to take pictures of your ministry at HCC. We are on our way!!!



**COMING
SOON**

STORY TIME AND SING A LONG with Mrs. Claus!

Featuring Noreen Szmul as Mrs. Claus!



***BRING YOUR KIDS FOR A WONDERFUL TIME
WITH
MRS. CLAUS!***

WHEN: December 6th, 13th, and 20th!

WHERE: HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH (Robinson Hall)

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 1 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: Kingdom Co-op	3 2 5:30 am Prayer

3 5:30 am Prayer Worship @9:30	4 5:30 am Prayer	5 5:30 am Prayer; 9- Oneida Bible Study; 1- Conversatio n	6 5:30 am Prayer Bible Study 10 am ZOOM AA @7:30	7 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: Kingdom Co- op	8 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: Kingdom Co- op	9 5:30 am Prayer
10 5:30 am Prayer Worship @ 9:30 –	11 5:30 am Prayer	12 5:30 am Prayer; 9- Oneida Bible Study; 1- Conversatio n Council 	13 5:30 am Prayer Bible Study 10 am ZOOM 12-Women's Assoc. AA @7:30	14 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: Kingdom Co- op	15 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: Kingdom Co- op	16 5:30 am Prayer
17 5:30 am Prayer Worship @9:30	18 5:30 am Prayer	19 5:30 am Prayer; 9- Oneida Bible Study; 1- Conversatio n	20 5:30 am Prayer; LGCC Bible Study 10 am ZOOM AA @7:30	21 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: Kingdom Co- op	22 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: Kingdom Co- op	23 5:30 am Prayer
24 5:30 am Prayer Worship @ 9:30	25 5:30 am Prayer	26 5:30 am Prayer; 9- Oneida Bible Study; 1- Conversatio n	27 5:30 am Prayer; Bible Study 10 am ZOOM AA @7:30	28 5:30 am Prayer Thanksgivi ng Day	29 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: Kingdom Co- op	30 5:30 am Prayer

**Our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE will continue at 9:30 AM on Facebook Live and by
Conference CALL-IN at: 1) Dial+1 (313) 209-8800;
2) Enter Conference ID 796-8500 and press the pound key.**

November Birthdays:

7) Laura Avent, Kristen Shahay-Mootz; 11) Carl Avent, Peter Pepe; 12) Sydney Parry; 20) Danielle Brown, Rachel Straut, Lynn Bishop; 23) Jeffrey Cartier,

Patrick Resse; 24) Timothy Gusek; 29) Kristi Helffrich-Chen.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – November 2024

Please remember the following members and friends who need our prayers of love and encouragement.

In Facilities

Cindy Farbaniec – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga

Manu Malkani – Fort Hudson Health Center

Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village

At Home

Laura Avent – member of Harrisena

Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon

Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon

Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena

Randy Huber – Husband of Cindy Huber

Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton

Teagan Klingenburg – Student of Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber

Ann Malkani – Neighbor of Joanne Beck

Robert Marshall – Friend of the Straut family

Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile

Gay Smith – Member of Harrisena

Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville

Fran Tucker – Mother of Robert Tucker

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Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends who lost Loved Ones this past month:

Timothy Engwer, friend of Christine Burke



Members and Friends in the Military

*Please **update the status of anyone you know on this list as soon as information is available.***

Andrew Bigelow (*Army*), son of Karen Bigelow—serving stateside

Derek Dumas—stateside

Joseph Hubbard (*Army*) – stateside

Corey Ledgerwood (*Army*) -serving in Afghanistan

Wes McQueen, nephew of Dodi/Rev. Robinson- serving stateside

Tony Mitchell (*USAF*) - serving in Afghanistan.

Griffith Parry (*Army*), nephew of Grif Parry – serving in Germany

James Pearson (*USAF*)

Phillip Riccio (*Army*), son of Phyllis Riccio -serving stateside

Brian Schneider (*Army*) – serving in Afghanistan

Daniel Urband (*USAF*), grandson of Alice Urband—serving stateside

Mark Wilson (*Army Spcl Forces/Reserves*), husband of Andrea—serving stateside

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

