



Contemplating Spring... What Brings Life?

by Alana Bergey

Inadequacy. It is a word no one wants to hear, and certainly no one enjoys accepting of themselves. We do not like to be lacking in any area or be forced to acknowledge that we cannot do something ourselves. However, as I have been reading through Isaiah, I was struck by a section in chapter 26: "We have not brought salvation to the earth, and the people of the world have not come to life" (Isaiah 26:18-19). This verse plainly addresses our, humanity's, inability to save ourselves. No matter how hard we struggle or work, we will not bring salvation to the earth. This is hard for me to accept. When I see a challenge, I want to muscle my way through it. I don't want to ask for help; no one needs to know of my hurts or pains. But Isaiah writes this to remind ourselves that we cannot do this on our own. Where there is death, it will remain dead. When we are overburdened, we cannot loose ourselves of the weights and pains upon us. There is no respite available in our humanity.

This dark reminder is reminiscent of Jesus' own words to us: "In this world there will be trouble" (John 16:33a). When we are left to the devices of evil and our sinful nature, we will be hurt, rejected, and essentially left void of vitality.

But GOD. Isaiah writes, "But your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise" (26:19a). Isaiah screams over and over in his book of promises that while we will encounter things that will be burdensome, that is not the end of the story. God promises life and renewal. He has allowed evil to ensue temporarily, but he certainly is not absent and he certainly will not leave it a mess. He promises goodness and security in Him, so let us look to Him for just that. The verse goes on: "Let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead" (26:19b). We will not only be given life, but joy with it. We will not remain in the lifeless dust, or in an eternal winter that lacks hope of escape, but in the promising dew of spring.

Let us stop looking to ourselves or the world for our comfort and look to the One who has promised comfort and rebirth all along. Christ desires to lead us through our trials and be our perfect, more-than-adequate Provider and Guide. Let our prayers be centered on **God**, rather than our own inadequacies. The rest of Jesus' words in the book of John speak of the same assurance: "Take heart! I have overcome the world" (16:33b). He is our sure salvation.

Thank you, Jesus. Let spring come!

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(John 16:33)

March 2022



WOMEN'S MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT: Encouraging women to connect in deeper, genuine relationships both with each other and with Jesus Christ.



Making Connections

Meet our Brides!



Julia Bergey & Quang Dang

Quang and I met (in Vietnam) through a mutual American friend. After that friend went back to the US we still hung out together a lot and became really good friends. Quang became a Christian during the summer of 2020, and soon after that we started dating. I have enjoyed seeing Quang's faith grow during our relationship, and how God has been working in his life. Quang works at an IT company, and besides studying Vietnamese, I just started a new job at a small restaurant.

Originally we were planning on getting married in February, hoping that my parents could come to the wedding by that point, but the Vietnamese government kept pushing back the date of opening the borders, and we were concerned after the lunar new year with many people traveling all over the country and parties, that the Covid restrictions would become tighter. So in the beginning of January this year we decided to change the date last minute to January 22, before the lunar new year. We had so many great friends helping us out as we tried to plan a wedding in 3 weeks! Although it was difficult being so far from family on such a big day, we were able to set up a live stream so people from all over could watch, and that helped me feel more connected. But the wedding left me feeling so blessed and my heart was full. I was surrounded virtually by friends and family around the world, and physically by good friends, my new Vietnamese family, and a loving church family.

Lincoln Bergey & Jill Bolton

We started dating freshman year of college (2018) while going to school down at Liberty University. Both of us loved our experience at Liberty, accomplishing many things in the classroom and on the field, along with finding lifelong friends and making countless memories! We enjoy being outside, hanging out with friends and family, and trying new foods! As for now, we are planning to stay in this area as Lincoln works for Bergey's Truck Center in Pennsauken, New Jersey, and Jill is working for her family at their store, Bolton's Farm Market.

After being together for 3 years, Lincoln proposed in the fall of 2021 on a friend's farm in the hills of Virginia! Our wedding date is October 2, 2022, so we are knee deep in wedding planning, and even though it is stressful, we are enjoying every step!





Get Involved!

Ladies BUNCO NIGHT



Wednesday, March 9
6:30 pm

No skill needed, just a fun game night and great fellowship!

Please **SIGN UP** by **March 7th** at the Women's Ministry table in the foyer or email

franconiawomen@gmail.com

SMALL GROUPS

connect | encourage | grow

On **March 20**, there will be an informal meeting at church

for those interested in possibly joining a small group. Women's Ministry encourages any ladies interested in a small group to attend. Depending on interest expressed, there is an opportunity to form ladies' small groups or mixed gender small groups. (See church newsletter for more details.)

Save the Date:

Ladies' Spring Tea

May 21

Speaker Deb Rotelle



Do you enjoy fresh air, exercise, and good conversation? Come join us for a

Walk in the Park

at Franconia Park
Tuesday, March 22
6:30 pm

All are welcome; walk however long you like!



Mommy & Me

March 17
11:00 am



Moms and Preschoolers meet in the church library for story time and a craft!



Succulent Craft

with Patti Landis
Thursday, March 31
7:00 pm

Scrapbook Crop

Saturday, March 26
If interested, contact
Janet Derstine
(215-723-7413)

Stay tuned for a

Spring Ladies' Bible study

starting up in the next month.



March 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	9 Ladies BUNCO NIGHT 6:30pm	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Mommy & Me 11am	18	19
20 SMALL GROUPS connect encourage grow meeting	21	22 Walk in the Park 6:30pm	23	24	25	26 Scrapbook Crop
27	28	29	30	31 Succulent Craft 7pm		

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