



EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/MARCH 2014

Psalm 51:1-10

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. [1] Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

WASH ME THOROUGHLY FROM MY INIQUITY AND CLEANSE ME FROM MY SIN

[3] For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. [5] Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. [6] Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. [7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. [8] Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. [9] Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. [10] Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.



Whiter than Snow

Last night the total snowfall in Kalamazoo for this winter surpassed one hundred inches. This is about thirty more inches than we typically receive by the beginning of March.

Many, including my neighbor, are sick of the snow and just want it to go away. Normally I'd be one of them. But this year as I've awakened morning after morning to freshly fallen snow, I've been reminded of

God's invitation to rebellious, sin-laden Judah: "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

With each inch of freshly fallen snow, I'm reminded of God's mercy and grace to sinful man as he calls us to repentance.



TEACHING TIP. Understanding that apart from Christ we are sinners in need of salvation is paramount to understanding the blessings and the grace available in Christ Jesus. Until our students understand only God is good, they will believe the lie that man is good.



TEACHING TIP. Review games reinforce the lesson and measure your students' understanding. Try this blindfold game. Place items related to the lesson in a bag. Have the blindfolded student pick an item and feel it to see if he/she can identify it and share how it applies to the lesson.



TEACHING TIP. Can't settle on a theme for your VBS? Numerous curriculums were on display at our recent training from Cokesbury.com, GuardianConstructionVBS.com, and WackyWorldofWater.org. Check them out!

Like King David needed Nathan, and the people of Judah needed Isaiah, sometimes we need someone to call us to repentance.

OneCry, a movement of believers who are urgently crying out to God to revive the church and transform the culture, issued this Declaration of Spiritual Emergency.

With heavy hearts, we recognize that the church in America is in a state of spiritual emergency. Like the churches warned in Revelation, we have become lukewarm and compromised, and the light of our witness has grown dim.

We confess that despite access to more resources and biblical teaching than any other group of believers in history, we are not characterized by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. And we acknowledge our lack of widespread impact for Christ on our lost and disintegrating culture.

But God is waking us from our slumber and mobilizing us to pray earnestly for revival. Together, we desire to travel the narrow road of brokenness, humility, and repentance.

In desperation for God, we cry out for the extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit in our day. We believe that true revival is the only hope to reverse our spiritual recession and enable us once again to display the beauty of Jesus Christ and His gospel throughout the world.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Lontina Struggs

ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U highlights and honors one of our faithful volunteers.

Because we believe that only Christ can save, heal, and revive, we pledge to:

TURN – in humble repentance from every sin God reveals to us

PRAY – with urgency for spiritual recovery and awakening

UNITE – with other believers in spreading the hope of Christ-centered revival

As you awaken to the next snowfall, will you pray for revival in our land or ask the Lord, like the psalmist, in humble repentance, “Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Lonita serves with the staff of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Greater Detroit and as faculty for our semi-annual training conferences. Lonita, thank you for equipping many to “Weave the Gospel Into the Bible Story” and to “Explore Learning the Fun Way” through review games. We are so grateful for your faithful service and heart for the gospel.

FROM THE EDITOR

We’re all sinners— that’s the bad news. But the gospel, when means good news is, “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

Though His salvation, God cleanses us whiter than snow. “For our sake [God] made [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Rejoicing with U,

Kimberly von Oeyen
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SAVE THE DATE

The Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference is scheduled for October 18. Save the date in your calendar and watch for details and registration information this summer!

PERMISSIONS

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