

# TRUTH & RIGHT

*the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ*

 **WELLSBURG**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



[www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com](http://www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com)

**Volume 17 Issue 2**

**January 9, 2022**

## **NO CHANCE ENCOUNTERS**

What started out with an incorrect phone number is now a [friendship](#) that has lasted 20 years. One day in the early 2000s, Gladys Hankerson of Delray Beach, Florida, was trying to call her sister in Maryland, [according to CNN affiliate WPBF](#). Her sister's area code was 410, but Hankerson kept dialing 401 instead. Mike Moffitt in Rhode Island picked up. Hankerson apologized for mistakenly dialing his number and hung up immediately, but she continued to call multiple times. "It continually happened where she accidentally dialed the wrong number, but it eventually switched to just calling to say hi." Moffitt told CNN. One day, Moffitt decided to stop her from hanging up the phone so quickly and talk with her. "I was like, 'Hey, if you're going

to keep calling, let's chat,'" Moffitt said. Moffitt worked in a call center at the time and said being on the phone didn't bother him. He explained to CNN that talking to Hankerson was like a breath of fresh air compared to his usual calls. It just so happened that that period in Hankerson's life was a difficult one -- she was divorced and had just lost her son. "During that time, I was downhearted, and he (Mike) felt my sympathy and everything -- lifted me up," Hankerson told WPBF.

Around the same time, Moffitt had lost his grandparents, and Hankerson filled that void for him just like he filled the void for her. Fast forward 20 years and their friendship is thriving. Moffitt said the two have stayed in contact, talking every few months or so, but they had never met in person.

That was until last week's Thanksgiving holiday, when Moffitt and his family were visiting Florida and decided to surprise Hankerson at her home in Delray Beach. "The reason we ended up meeting was because a drawbridge was up," Moffitt said. "We waited 10-15 minutes at a drawbridge, and eventually decided to keep going. That's when I realized we were 2 miles away from Gladys' house." After grabbing some flowers, Moffitt knocked on Hankerson's door and was welcomed with open arms. "I walked in and said, 'Gladys, it's Mike from Rhode Island!' and she said, 'Oh, my friend Mike! I'm blessed,' and threw her arms up," Moffitt said. Hankerson gave Moffitt a tour of her house, introduced him to her family and the two caught up like they would on the phone. After all this time, Hankerson told WPBF, Moffitt seems like a family member. "I wish more people could be like that, you know," she said. "That would be so nice. The world would be better, too -- people would be better." When Jesus began a conversation with a woman at a well, according to her, it might as well have been a "wrong number." "A woman from Samaria came to draw water.

Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)" In this instance, Jesus presses on, refusing to hang up on the connection, but in similar fashion ends up developing a rich meaningful relationship with the woman that changes her life forever. As I thought about the message from the above story, how wonderful life would be if more of us would take the time to take chances on following up with connections we could make with so many more people in the world if we just allowed for the time it takes for them to develop. Everything moves so fast it seems the common phrase we utter to explain why it doesn't happen as much is "I'm too busy." In fact, we have become entirely so busy that we have often justified ignoring the intention of Jesus to train us to become "fishers of men" (Mt. 4:19). "Look carefully then how you walk. not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time. because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Eph. 5:15-17. All one needs to do is refer themselves to the "Lord's

Prayer" and you can easily understand what the will of the Lord is very easily, as it is spelled right out. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," Mt. 6:9-10. The Kingdom. That's His will. His will is for us to be as single-minded in obsessive mission based devotion as He is in our every day life here on earth. His will is for everyone to have a chance to be saved. "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. That is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and me, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time," 1 Tim. 2:1-6. Let us make the most of our time, taking the time with as many as possible, chance encounters that were unintentional and all, for the sake of making the most of being fishers of men for Christ. "At the same time, pray also for

us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person," Col. 4:3-6. "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear," Mt. 13:3-9

– Daniel Ruegg

# People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



## *Hezekiah's Tunnel*

The most dependable water source for the city of Jerusalem during the Israelite settlement was the Gihon Spring. However, its location outside the city walls was problematic. During an attack or siege, the inhabitants were cut off from their vital water source. In 1867, explorer Charles Warren discovered a vertical shaft cut through bedrock allowing the people of Jerusalem to reach the waters of the Gihon Spring from behind the city walls. This shaft was probably built originally by the Jebusites and may be how David's soldiers captured the city from them (2 Sam. 5:6-8). A new water system employing part of the earlier one was built by Hezekiah near the end of the eighth century BC due to an Assyrian military threat. Hezekiah's tunnel sloped gently away from the Gihon Spring to allow water to flow from it to the Pool of Siloam inside the city walls. Hezekiah's tunnel was cut by two teams digging toward each other from opposite ends. It was not chiseled in a straight line but was serpentine due to frequent shifts in terrain. The two teams made adjustments as they drew near each other and heard the picks of the other team. An inscription twenty feet from the Siloam Pool has been discovered that describes the meeting of the two cutting teams. According to 2 Chronicles 32:2-4 and 2 Kings 20:20, this tunnel was dug during the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah to prepare Jerusalem for the imminent attack of the Assyrian king, Sennacherib. In the Bible, Hezekiah redirected the water through old and newly dug Jerusalem tunnels. 2 Kings 20:20: "As for the other events of Hezekiah's reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city...". 2 Chronicles 32:30: "It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Gihon spring and channeled the water down to the west side of the City of David."

