



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

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Our Mission: Bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis, and provide a transitional housing program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

Understanding God’s Perspective



Why does God allow us to go through hard times? Christians assume that if they’re following the Lord, He should protect them from problems. But Jesus never promised His disciples lives of ease and comfort. On the contrary, He told them to expect tribulation (John 16:33). After all, Christ Himself wasn’t exempt from afflictions. He was called “a man of sorrows” (Isa. 53:3).

Trials have been the common experience of mankind throughout history. By looking back on such situations from God’s perspective, we can gain insight that will help us respond wisely in the future. The Lord uses hardships to achieve something good in our lives, but whether we experience these benefits depends upon our response.

Develop The Right Attitude

What is your behavior when experiencing difficulty or pain? Do you grumble and complain or indulge in self-pity? Or do you get angry and blame others for your troubles? All these reactions lead to despair and misery, but James 1:2-6 presents a totally different perspective about suffering: “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials” (vs. 2).

Determine The Source

Have you ever noticed that troubles come in all shapes and sizes? They also tend to pop up unexpectedly, and sometimes one right after another. In fact, you may feel as if you’re dealing with an entire range of difficulties.

Knowing how a trial began can help you understand the wise way to react. Since our problems originate from different sources, we need to adapt our responses accordingly. Each time you encounter difficulty, ask the Lord to help you determine the cause and the proper response.

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Here are some common sources of hardship:

- Self
- Others
- Satan

Understand God's Purposes

Meaningless suffering is exhausting and demoralizing, but if we understand that there is a purpose and a benefit to our troubles, we can endure just about anything. The reason James could rejoice in trials was because he knew God was achieving something good. Though we may not know His specific purpose for each individual challenge or obstacle, Scripture reveals His overall goals.

- The testing of your faith.
- Produces endurance.
- That you may be perfect and complete.
- Lacking in nothing.

Cooperate With God's Goals

Although all of these benefits are available to you, they are not automatically yours. But by following James's commands in the few verses, we open ourselves up to God's promised blessings -- all the tools we need to live victoriously in Him. So, consider trials an occasion for you, and let endurance produce the fruit, because then your suffering will be profitable. If you lack wisdom in responding to trials, the Lord invites you to ask Him for it and in faith expect to receive it (James 1:5-6).

Blessings,
Mel

Thanksgiving in July Preparations are in Progress

Sponsors Needed

Our annual food collection drive and fundraiser to support our hunger ministries needs sponsors. We encourage churches and area businesses to participate. There is no fee for sponsorship. Sponsors are asked to host a collection box during the month of July. Sponsor logos will be featured prominently on collection boxes, in our newsletter, and on social media. All proceeds from the food drive will remain in the Quad Cities area.

Volunteers Needed

We need runners this year. Runners will drop off collection boxes at our sponsor locations, pick up donations from those sites, and deliver donations to our pantries. This volunteer opportunity is a limited commitment, and your efforts will contribute immensely to those in need in our area.

For more information, contact **Betsy Vanausdeln** at **563-332-5002** or by email at **bvanausdeln@cuqca.org**.



2023 Delegate Assembly

On Thursday, April 27th, we held our 62nd Delegate Assembly at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. Pastor Janine Johnson welcomed our attendees. Rev. Chris Shumpert opened and closed the meeting in prayer. Rev. Damon Colvin provided a financial update. Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes gave an update on our ministries. Our board members were sworn in. We also recognized some of our volunteers and retiring board member, Doug Cropper.

Thank you, Zion Lutheran Church and Pastor Janine for hosting. Thank you to everyone who attended. We are grateful to our supporters for helping us continue to carry out our mission.



Meal Site Reopening



Our meal site at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East Moline is reopening soon. We're thrilled to be able to serve meals to those on the Illinois side of the river, again.

We need community groups and churches to commit to serving meals and assisting at this site.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Betsy Vanausdeln at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org or by phone at 563-332-5002.



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**Mail or drop off your gift:
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2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205
Bettendorf, IA 52722**

Thank You!

Donate, keep up-to-date, and check out daily reflections by following us on Facebook at:



www.facebook.com/ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea



Birdies for Charity

Chip in to support Churches United of the Quad City Area by donating to us through Birdies for Charity. The 2023 Birdies for Charity program has officially kicked-off and you can donate today at: <https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate>

Our bird # is 572.

Once again, participating charities are guaranteed a 5% bonus on their collected pledges.

The John Deere Classic is July 5 - July 9. All pledges are due by July 7.

