



Promise Valley
An Abiding Life-Giving Presence
for Jesus in South Buffalo

Being people transformed by our own life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ, we promise, as equipped by the Holy Spirit, to abide alongside and be present throughout the lives of our neighbors. Loving in word and deed, doing good for the glory of God and teaching disciples of Christ to observe all that He has commanded.

- Our Promise



Pastor John Brown & Caila
Married June 11, 2016



Farmer Aaron Belleville & Charissa
Expecting Fall 2017!

Pray For Our Staff

PROMISE VALLEY PRAYER CARD

Regarding	When	Pray for
Resident Director	May	New Staff Member
Resident Interns	June	New Interns
Executive Director & Pastor	All the time	John Brown
Farm Manager	All the time	Aaron Belleville
Renovation Coordinators	ASAP	Volunteer to direct renovations

Ways the Gospel Gets Out

PROMISE VALLEY PRAYER CARD

Regarding	When	Pray for
Children's Program	Sept-June	JAM Club with Steps Ministries
Mentoring	Ongoing	Youth respond to Gospel
Caz Basketball	Sept - April	Youth at Caz Church, The Well & Trinity Lutheran
Farm Shares	May - Oct	12 families connected
Farm: Neighborshare	May - Oct	Reduce costs for 6 families

Promoting Our Vision

PROMISE VALLEY PRAYER CARD

Regarding	When	Pray for
Budget Raised	Ongoing	\$55,000 this year
City Country Fair	August 13	Community Event
Urban Farm Bike Tour	June 25	Community Event
Worship at the Farm	July 22	Worship & Prayer Event
Volunteers	Ongoing	10 regular volunteers
Supporters	Ongoing	65 supporters in total

Maximizing Our Property

PROMISE VALLEY PRAYER CARD

Regarding	When	Pray for
Fence	July/Aug	Fence around perimeter
Ministry Center	Ongoing	Renovate ministry center
Farm Kitchen	TBD	Kitchen for produce cleaning & food prep
Vehicle	Summer	Truck for Farm work





EXIT

Man kneeling and working on a wooden crate.

Man standing and observing the work.

Man standing and observing the work.

Two completed wooden crates on the floor.

Power tools (drill and sander) on the floor.



The Good Life

Luke 8:4-15

Luke 8:4-15

And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Luke 8:4-15

And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Luke 8:4-15

The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.

Luke 8:4-15

And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

“The Good Life”

...the function of man is to live a certain kind of life, and this activity implies a rational principle, and the function of a good man is the good and noble performance of these, and if any action is well performed it is performed in accord with the appropriate excellence: if this is the case, then happiness turns out to be an activity of the soul in accordance with virtue.

-Aristotle ([Nicomachean Ethics](#), 1098a13)

The Good Life ...

Begins with the
Gospel

- God's Word - Hear It
and Follow It!
- An Active
Obedience



Hearing the Word

Hearing the Word - An Active Obedience

Luke 8:18: Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

Hearing the Word

Hearing the Word - An Active Obedience

Luke 8:21: But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.

Hearing the Word

Hearing the Word - An Active Obedience

James 1:25: But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

The Good Life ...

Flourishes in Good
Heart

- God's Word - Hold onto it!
- An Active Discernment



The Honest & Good Heart

- Holding Fast - An active discernment

1 Thessalonians 5:21: but test everything; hold fast what is good.

Romans 12:9: Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

The Honest & Good Heart

- Honest - Pure/Genuine/Sincere (kalos)

give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? Luke 14:34

The Honest & Good Heart

- Good - Upright, Excellent (agathos)

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good?
No one is good except God alone. Luke 18:19

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the
Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the
council, a good and righteous man, Luke 23:50

The Good Life ...

Bears Good Fruit

- God's Work - Wait for it!
- A Reactive Consequence



The Gospel Bearing Fruit

Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:5-8

Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9-10

A Prayer For Strength to Hold On

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Colossians 1:11-12

A Good Life

is given freely by God to
those who will receive His
Words and sincerely follow
after them.



A Torn Life

happens when many cares,
riches & pleasures distract
from following the Words of
God completely



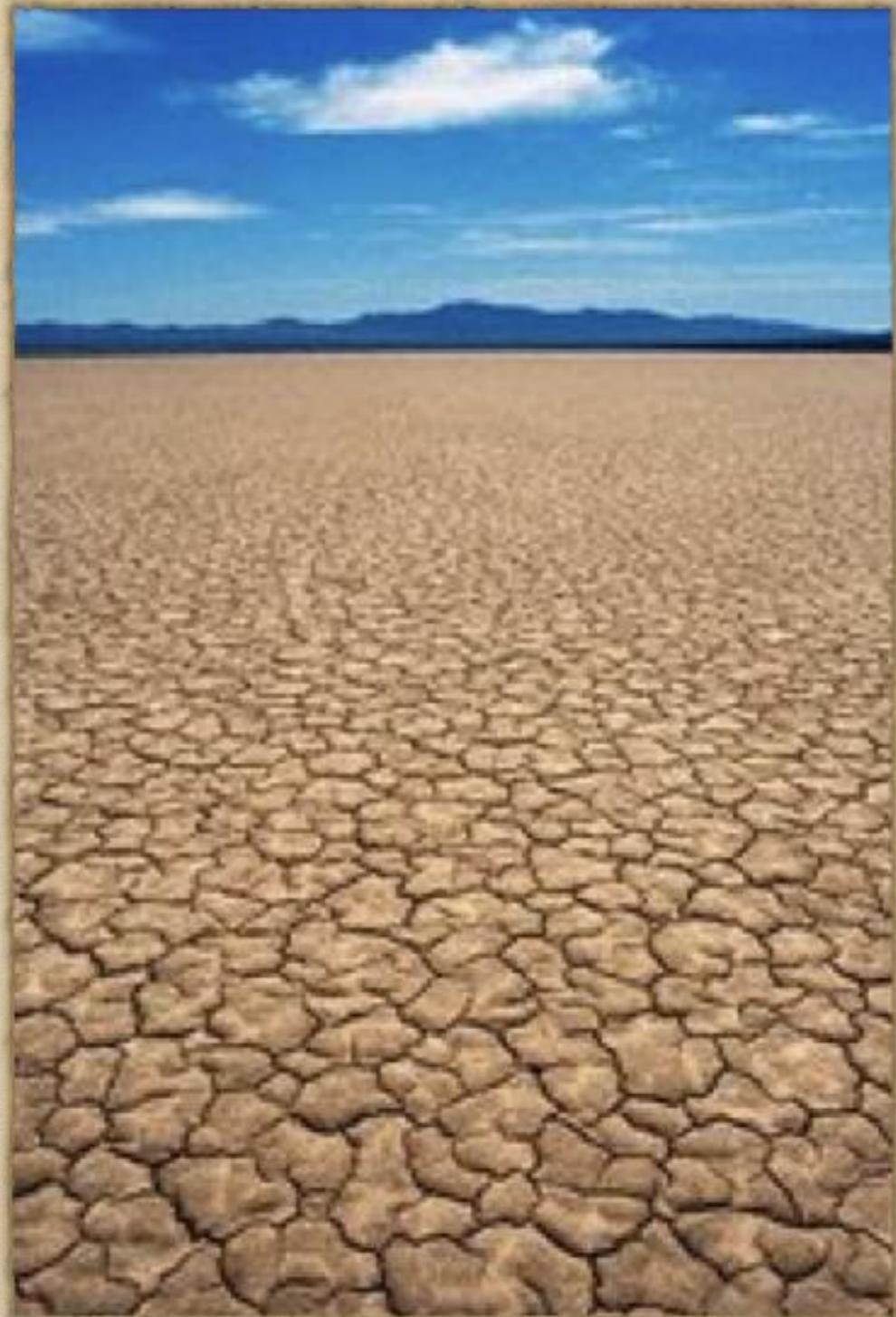
A Dry Life

is the result of falling away
from (not holding onto) the
Words of God



A Barren Life

continues when the Words
of Life do not reach the
heart.



Galatians 5:9-24

- Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The Good Life...

- Begins with the Gospel- Hear & Follow!
- Flourishes in a good heart - Hold Onto It!
- Bears Good Fruit - Wait for it!

A Prayer For Strength to Hold On

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Colossians 1:11-12