

Awaiting Jesus with Dogged Anticipation

Thirty-one years ago this March, I was blessed to become the father of a sweet little girl. Over the years, Mary has grown into a beautiful young woman and wife. She and her husband recently moved from Texas and now live near Richmond, VA.

Mary and Scotty are the proud parents of two pit bulls named Luna and Jax. These dogs provide hours of companionship and joy as well as work and responsibility. They also secure the home during the day when their owners are working.

While still near Dallas, Mary and Scotty installed some inexpensive cameras allowing them to eavesdrop on their pooches. As expected, most of their checks revealed two dogs lazily chilling out.

The difference came in the evening. While many other vehicles passed in front of their home, Luna and Jax remained relaxed and unconcerned. As Scotty and Mary's VW Atlas approached, however, both dogs went into high gear. They jumped up and excitedly waited at the door anticipating the opportunity to greet their masters and enjoy some good lavish loving.



Their neighborhood was busy. There were hundreds of apartments and hundreds of cars to go with them. Many city sounds competed for ear attention.

Somehow, Jax and Luna could discriminate between all the vehicles to identify the one that toted their loved ones. The embedded sound of their owners' approaching car became the highlight of their day.

It's great to be anticipated, cherished, and loved that much, and it's a blessing to have a person or pet that we can show our affection to in return. God has wired us to both give and receive this most precious gift called love.

As I reflected on this, it not only made me smile, it reminded me of how Christians should relate to Jesus. We ought to be so in tune with Him that we can detect His voice over all competing voices in our world. He told us that His sheep know His voice, listen to it, and follow Him.

The other aspect is the joyful anticipation of spending time in His presence. Sharing moments with our Master should be the highlight of our day! Although we may get

distracted by other responsibilities, what a privilege to curl up in His lap and enjoy His love.

Thankfully, He can be with us at all times in all places, but there are those special occasions when we can sense His closeness. May we be so sensitive to His Spirit that we ignore all other background noises and enjoy precious time with Him.

This same expectancy should characterize our anticipation of Jesus' return. The New Testament writers look forward to the great joy believers will experience at His appearing. The eagerness that caused John to write in Revelation 22:20, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus," ought to be ours as well!

In the meantime, may we attune our hearts to Jesus that we might enjoy every moment we can. Happy Birthday Mary and Blessings to all.

George Bowers – CBC Executive Board member

Weekly Prayer Request

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:10-12

Let us praise God for His awesome and mighty power and thank Him for providing us with powerful tools to stand firm in our faith as we face spiritual struggles. Pray that we never forget or doubt that our Heavenly Father is fully in control and capable of fighting our battles no matter how big or small and help us to stand strong and be as faithful and fearless as David who took five little stones and trusted God to conquer the Giant in his life.

Please pray for the following CBC congregations and pastors.

Hazelton Congregation in Bruceton Mills, WV and Pastor Michael Bernard
Jackson Park Congregation in Jonesborough, TN and Pastor Jeremy Dykes

New Members in February!

Praise God for new life in the Covenant Brethren Church body of Christ! Please pray for your new brothers and sisters in Christ in their new walk with the Lord and His church.

Antioch Covenant Brethren Church, in Woodstock, VA, welcomed ten members on February 5th including three by baptism Ellie Howard, Noah Howard, and Keira Zerkel. Seven were received by transfer including Greg Byrd, Jane Byrd, Andy Wakeman, Lori Wakeman, Ronnie Simpson, Mary Simpson, and Chris Zerkel. Jess Zerkel also rededicated herself to the Lord in that service.

When your congregation experiences new growth, please share that information with us. We want to rejoice in what the Lord is doing and encourage one another as we labor in the harvest fields. Send information on new members to Christy Cosner at christy.cosner@covenantbrethren.org.