



CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE CANYON

Dear Christ's Church of the Canyon Family,

Many of you may have heard that Tanya Bartlett passed away last Saturday. Tanya's families mourn the loss of their wife, daughter, aunt, sister-in-law, friend, and follower of Jesus. Tanya succumbed to a short illness with her husband Tim at her side. Tanya led our Children's Program here at Christ's Church of the Canyon for almost 5 years. Tim helped with our Youth Program as well. The Bartlett's are very much loved here at our church. Please continue to pray for their families for God's strength and comfort as we all mourn their loss.

The church at Philadelphia mentioned in Revelation 3: 7-13 is tired. They've been fighting the good fight, persevering, and doing as best they can considering the circumstances and their situation. COVID has touched a lot of people and families some permanently. Our country is tired and exhausted. It's been almost a year of COVID and Tanya's death was another blow. Are we hopeless? Are we ready to give up? Are we in the same position that the church at Philadelphia found themselves in almost 2,000 years ago? Jesus says in Revelation 3: 11, "***I am coming quickly, hold fast to what you have...***" He knows the Philadelphians are sick and tired of people persecuting them. Their perseverance and patience were quickly evaporating. And, maybe just maybe they were in the middle of the Christmas season? But they were keeping on. One of the highest rewards of patience and endurance in one trial is the grace that God gives us to bear in another trial.

The message of Christmas is hope. Hope in the midst of uncertainty. Hope in the midst of sickness. Hope in the midst of persecution. And, even hope in the midst of death. "***Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I will keep you from the hour of testing...***", Jesus says in Revelation 3:10. People can say what they want about those who follow Jesus Christ. But, they can't say we don't persevere. We keep going even when we feel like giving up.

Upcoming

Sunday, December 20 - Services outside on the basketball court, 9AM and 11AM.

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve sermon on line

Sunday, December 27– Last services outside on the basketball court, 9AM and 11AM

Noe'l and I wish you the best Christmas ever! May you be blessed and filled with hope this Christmas season.

Pastor Wayne and Noe'l