



# IPC MESSENGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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VOLUME 22 • NO. 4

APRIL - MAY 2022

## THOUGHTS ON RACISM - 9

### *UNDERSTANDING OTHERS*

TERRY JOHNSON

Can we really ever understand each other? Can the majority culture ever truly understand what it is like to live as a minority in America? Some argue vehemently that the majority cannot and consequently must limit themselves to listening and not interjecting their opinions. Why? Because it is impossible for them to understand the minority experience. Only those who have lived as a minority in the United States know what it is like. It is patronizing and infuriating when the majority pretends to do so.

An especially egregious example of this insistence on non-comprehension can be found in the response of Gregory Thompson, Duke Kwon (found here: [thefrontporch.org/2021/07/sanctifying-the-status-quo-a-response-to-reverend-kevin-deyoung/](http://thefrontporch.org/2021/07/sanctifying-the-status-quo-a-response-to-reverend-kevin-deyoung/)) to Kevin DeYoung's critical review (found here: [thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/reparations-a-critical-theological-review/](http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/reparations-a-critical-theological-review/)) of their book, *Reparations*. Essentially they argued that DeYoung disagreed with them because of his "whiteness." They deliberately avoided his arguments, choosing not to interact seriously with them. Instead they leveled *ad hominem* attacks on his methodology which, without demonstrating how, when, or where, claimed he "centers whiteness," "privileges white voices," and "prioritizes the comfort of white people." Theological and biblical issues were pushed aside by them and racialized. Rather than acknowledging that the differences between them are doctrinal, biblical, or philosophical, they attributed those differences to race, skin color, and participation in the white majority culture. Rather than furthering dialogue, the implication of their response was to disqualify and silence one side of the discussion. Those who do not agree with their view of reparations are by definition either racist or blind to the racism by which they benefit.

The problem with this all-too-common view would seem obvious and is itself racist. It also proves too much. We might legitimately ask, can any two people understand each other? They seem to think that *they* understand DeYoung. Yet following the logic of their argument, no two people ever have the same experience or experience their circumstances in the same way. Ever. It follows then that no one could ever understand anyone else; certainly white, Dutch, heterosexual DeYoung can understand neither his own white supremacist culture nor the experiences of non-white minorities. "Whiteness," not doctrine, not biblical interpretation, not philosophy, but "whiteness" is the problem.

Instead of settling for this epistemological nihilism, we all should recognize that there are wonderful people who understand us, our pain, our isolation, our loneliness, our alienation, and whose understanding comforts us. This is true though they may be of another race or gender and though they may not agree with us. Sympathy and empathy are universally recognized virtues. We humans are able to enter into the pain of others. Deep insights have been offered to the world by those who have written about subjects which they themselves did not experience. Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), was greeted by Abraham Lincoln: "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war." Yet she had never visited the South. Wonderfully insightful books about World War II, the best, in my opinion, ever written, have been written by men who never experienced the war: Rick Atkinson's trilogy about the United States Army in North Africa and Europe, and Ian Toll's trilogy of the Pacific War. Both were born after the end of the war. It can be argued that their books are superior to those written by those who

*Continued on Page 2*

actually lived through and even fought in the war because those with firsthand experience of the conflict were too close to the action to evaluate it objectively. These post-war authors were not emotionally invested in a particular point of view as were its participants. This fact needs to be kept in view.

Human beings are capable of compassionate, insightful contributions to subjects of which they themselves have no first-hand experience. *Sympathy* (sym = with; pathos = suffer) is the capacity to stand alongside another in *their* suffering. *Empathy* (em = within; pathos = suffer) is the capacity to suffer internally because of the suffering of another. The alternative is the above skepticism which (following the logic of a “woke” ideology) implicitly denies that any two human beings could ever understand each other, since all human experience is unique to the individual.

Certainly we should always be “slow to speak” and “quick to hear,” particularly when hearing of the suffering of others that we have not experienced (Jas 1:19). It can be annoying beyond words to be interrupted when describing our pain by a listener who rushes to equate his previous experience with our current one, when it’s nothing like our experience! Nevertheless, we are able to understand *by analogy* the experience of others and humbly and sympathetically to interact with their experience as

well. All human relationships assume that we are able to do this truly, if imperfectly.

Those who do not belong to a *racial* minority may belong to a *religious* minority. My Jewish neighbors speak of the difficulty of rearing their children during the Christmas season. Evangelical, Bible-believing Christians more and more find themselves a despised minority in a dominant culture that is hostile to their most cherished beliefs. One may be a regional minority, living in the South yet from the West or North. I’ve heard non-Southerners say, “They (Southerners) talk about us as if we were foreigners.” One may travel overseas and live as an American in a foreign land. My typical English classmates in Bristol, England treated Americans as though we were all noisy, loud dressers, boorish, and ignorant. There was considerable prejudice to overcome.

No, those of the majority culture can never *perfectly* understand the minority experience. Yet by analogous experiences of minority status (religious, regional, national), considerable understanding can occur and meaningful dialogue result. To me, this means that we give to each other the benefit of the doubt in our racial discussions, and by extension, our biblical and theological discussions. Some may be too close to a given issue. Others may be too remote. Never should I dismiss another perspective simply because of race, class, nationality or sex. Never should I place a racial label on an opinion or conviction, such as the highly offensive “whiteness” or “blackness.” Everyone should speak with humility – “slow to speak, and quick to hear.”

## 2022 ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT



Saturday, April 16 is the date for IPC's annual Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast at Point Pleasant (441 Suncrest Blvd, 31410)! Mark your calendars and plan on joining the fellowship and fun. This is a great event to bring visiting family, neighbors, and friends. Please RSVP to help make sure we have enough bacon to go around! Any questions? Contact Josh Espinosa.



Follow this link or use the QR code to RSVP for the event: [ipcs.ga/22egghunt](https://ipcs.ga/22egghunt)

# JUST DO IT!

JANE BOATRRIGHT

In his book, *Devoted to God's Church*, Sinclair Ferguson gives us principles for serving in the church. The first principle: "Be willing to do anything that needs to be done. Just do it!" We often wonder what we can do in the church and speak of it as if it were a mystery. And because we can't figure out exactly what to do, we are hesitant to act. Ferguson leads us away from this kind of thinking, admonishing us to begin serving now by simply being willingly to do whatever needs to be done. Wherever we see a need, we can bring our hands and hearts to meet that need. When we have this perspective, abundant opportunities appear before us, and they may be seen on every pew in the church. Ferguson goes on to say, "This approach calls for humility, love for fellow believers, and a sense of

yielding to the providence of God. He will give us plenty to do!" Humility characterized the life of our Lord Jesus, and it should certainly characterize our lives. Nothing is beneath us, and we will find satisfaction in the lowliest of tasks when they are expressions of our love for the Lord and for His people. Taking Ferguson's wise advice, each one of us can, just do it!

The church nursery is one of the simple ways to serve in our church. The children probably won't remember us after they leave the nursery, and there is no way for them to repay the kindness of those who care for them. But a humble place to serve is a wonderful place to serve.

## IPC's PODCAST

The *Into the Study* podcast is published once a week in the IPC app - available in the app store or visit [ipcav.org](http://ipcav.org). It is a podcast designed for our members, to encourage them and inform them in ways that do not happen through the public pulpit and announcements.

Contact us with your questions by visiting [intothestudy.com](http://intothestudy.com) and use the online form - who knows - your question may be answered on the podcast!





# FAMILY CORNER

## APRIL

### *Psalms & Hymns of the Month*



VISIT THE INDEPENDENT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
SAVANNAH ON YOUTUBE TO  
FIND THE 2022 (YEARS 1-10)

[youtu.be/UByWvnVLozo](https://youtu.be/UByWvnVLozo)

(Year 1-10)

### PSALM 138

- 1 With all my heart my thanks I'll  
bring,  
Before the gods Thy praises sing;
- 2 I'll worship in Thy holy place  
And praise Thy name for truth and  
grace;

For Thou above Thy name adored  
Hast magnified Thy faithful word.

- 3 The day I called Thy help appeared;  
With inward strength my soul was  
cheered.

- 4 All kings of earth shall thanks accord  
When they have heard Thy words,  
O Lord;

- 5 Jehovah's ways they'll celebrate;  
The glory of the Lord is great.

- 6 Although Jehovah is most high,  
On lowly ones He bends His eye;  
But those that proud and haughty are  
He knoweth only from afar.

- 7 Through trouble though my pathway  
be,  
Thou wilt revive and comfort me.  
Thine outstretched hand Thou wilt  
oppose  
Against the wrath of all my foes.

Thy hand, O Lord, shall set me free

- 8 And perfect what concerneth me;  
Thy mercy, Lord, forever stands;  
Leave not the work of Thine own  
hands.

TUNE: HURSLEY LM (138A)  
("Sun of My Soul") or  
WESLEY LM (138B)

(Year 11-15)

### PSALM 125

Elements from *The Psalter*, 1912

- 1 Like Zion's mountain shall they be  
Who in the Lord confide,  
A mount which never can be moved  
But ever shall abide.

- 2 As all around Jerusalem  
The mountains firmly stand,  
The Lord for evermore surrounds  
The people of His hand.

- 3 Upon the land of righteous ones  
No evil rule shall press,  
Lest righteous men put forth  
their hands  
To work unrighteousness.

- 4 O Lord, to those men who  
are good  
Show Yourself good and kind,  
And likewise show Your  
goodness to  
All them of upright mind.

- 5 Yet shall the Lord drive out  
all those  
In crooked ways who dwell,  
Along with all who practice sin;  
But peace on Is-ra-el!

TUNE: WINCHESTER OLD CM  
(78B) or  
ABBEEVILLE (125)

## ABOUT THE PSALMS

### PSALM 138

The immediate occasion of the psalm is found in verse 3: answered prayer for deliverance in context of the trouble caused by wrathful enemies (v 7). This leads him to contemplate and praise the attributes of such a prayer-answering God:

- His *hesed* and faithfulness (v 28) – He rescues His people and fulfills His purpose for them (v 8)
- His universal rule (vv 4, 5) – all kings shall praise Him when they hear His word
- His regard for the haughty (v 6) (He distances Himself from them)

The concluding confidence is that of Philippians 1:6:

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

### PSALM 125

The sixth “Song of Ascents” likens the safety of the people of God to the stability of Mount Zion, the LORD surrounding His people even as the mountains surround Jerusalem. He protects them from both external enemies (vv 1, 2) and from internal (vv 3-5).

## MAY

### *Psalm & Hymns of the Month*

(Year 1-10)

### YE SERVANTS OF GOD, YOUR MASTER PROCLAIM

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
And publish abroad His wonderful name;  
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;  
And still He is nigh— His presence we have.  
The great congregation His triumph  
shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces and worship  
the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,  
All glory and pow’r and wisdom and  
might,  
All honor and blessing, with angels  
above,  
And thanks never ceasing for infinite  
love.

TUNE: LYONS 10.10.11.11.  
Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806  
Arr. in William Gardiner’s *Sacred  
Melodies*, 1815  
(#165)

(Year 11-15)

### THEE WE ADORE, ETERNAL LORD!

*Moravian Collection*, 1724

Thee we adore, eternal Lord!  
We praise thy name with one accord.  
Thy saints, who here Thy goodness see,  
Through all the world do worship Thee,  
Through all the world do worship Thee.

To thee aloud all angels cry,  
The heav’ns and all the pow’rs on high:  
Thee, holy, holy, holy King,  
Lord God of Hosts, they ever sing,  
Lord God of Hosts, they ever sing.

Apostles join the glorious throng,  
And prophets swell th’immortal song;  
Thy martyrs’ noble army raise  
Eternal anthems to Thy praise,  
Eternal anthems to Thy praise.

From day to day, O Lord, do we  
Exalt and highly honor Thee!  
Thy name we worship and adore,  
World without end, forevermore,  
World without end, forevermore.

TUNE: PARK STREET L.M.rep.  
Frederick M. A. Venua, ca. 1810; arr.  
(#19)

## Memorization Achievement

Congratulations to the following children, who completed their June-December 2021 Psalms & Hymns of the Month:

*Emory Corbitt*

*Clara Crowe*

*Matthew Crowe*

*Esther Goeser*

*Hannah Goeser*

*Emily Hazeltine*

*Margaret Milling*

*Stephen Milling*

*Turner Milling*

*Annie Shaw*

*Edie Steward*

## Upcoming Events:

April 10 - Palm Sunday  
PM Communion

April 14 - Maundy Thursday  
Lessons & Psalms Service  
6:30pm (dinner served at 5:30pm)

April 16 - Pancake Breakfast & Egg Hunt  
Point Pleasant, 441 Suncrest Blvd.  
9:00am

April 17 - Easter Sunday  
Morning Worship at 10:00am

## Note to the Church

I thank the Lord for His steadfast love and for His wondrous works to the children of men. I am grateful for your prayers and many encouragements. After surgery for an infected sinus deformation and six months of healing, the oral surgeon has now released me.

I join you, my co-heirs, in praising our God who will never unfasten us from His care.

In Christ's Love,  
Bob Ellis

## IN MEMORIAM

### Lois Randall Broadwick

Entered the Lord's presence on Saturday,  
February 12, 2022

*Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord.*  
*Revelation 14:13*

## Births

*Henry Bennett Holmes* was born to  
*Mr. & Mrs. Robert Z. Holmes*  
on February 3, 2022.

~  
*Amelia Lucile Scharer* was born to  
*Mr. & Jonathan B. Scharer (Hannah)*  
on February 16, 2022.

~  
*Benton Holmes Morgan* was born to  
*Mr. & Mrs. G. Philip Morgan (Louise)*  
on February 24, 2022.

~  
*Harper Wynn Tanner* was born to  
*Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Tanner (Andrea)*  
on March 1, 2022.

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Bruce Baxley	6 Bernard Nolan	15 Grace Jackson	21 Vivian Sullivan
1 Reg Burt	6 Susan Wright	15 John Toler	23 Nikki Allen
1 Jon Gift	7 Chris Hart	15 William Van Puffelen	24 Mary Barron
2 Jaimie Gear	8 Eric Robyn	16 Wesley McKee	24 Brett Hudson
2 Nick Greene	8 Tim Scharold	17 Jennifer Immel	25 Laura Brodmann
2 Sophia Meza	8 Bev Van Grouw	17 Stephen Milling	26 Fun Gobel
2 Jonathan Thompson	9 Patrick McLean	18 Carl Biathrow	27 Christian Heritage
3 Scott Brodmann	9 John William Oliver III	18 Dan Brown	29 Margaret Milling
3 Maggie Chester	11 Chris Ellis	18 Frankie Daniell	29 Emmy Ragen
3 Rebecca Cope	11 Todd Rodenberg	18 Anna Beth DeMott	29 Della Roach
4 Kevin Heritage	11 Emi Steward	18 Emma Grace DeMott	30 Dennis Boatright
4 Chuck Moore	11 John Wright	19 Sandra Ward	30 Josh Corbitt
5 Mary Kate Hazeltine	12 Rebecca Imre	20 Silas Dixon	30 James Ivy
5 Terry Johnson	12 Charlie Martin	20 Emily Hazeltine	
5 Hadley Oliver	13 Will Monroe	20 Kate Jackson	
6 Carla MacMillan	15 John Gross	21 Tim Ellis	

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Iliya Purtell	8 Levi Shaw	15 Judy Daniell	23 James Johnson
2 Sarah Grace Brodmann	9 Howard French	16 Esther Goeser	25 June Allen
2 Jay Helton	10 Nathanael Barham	16 Hannah Goeser	25 Rachel Lane
2 Terry Holland	10 Billie Hale	16 Hugh Helmly	26 Gwendolyn Blevins
2 Chloe Piet	10 Annie Shaw	16 Caroline Knoche	26 Marian Cronic
2 Natalie Shreve	11 Michael Brodmann	16 Audrey Savage	26 Eddie DeLoach
3 Rex Immel	11 Tristan Butler	17 Rob Kelly	26 Jonny Scharer
3 Karl Knoche	11 Luke Foster	17 Ansley Reid	26 Victoria Smith
3 Hannah Williams	12 Conner Fennell	17 Marshall Williams	27 Richard Hinely
4 Patty Brodmann	12 Max Nolan	18 Fischer DeMott	27 Selleck Hostetter
4 Greyson Corbitt	12 Rita Spitler	19 Drew DeMott	29 Emory Corbitt
4 Lynne Hollenbach	13 Hunter Boatright	19 Grant Pavlo	29 J.D. Youderian
5 Emily Lanier	13 Kelly Dunham	21 Carmen Bergman	31 Catherine Allen
5 Steven McAllister	13 Bobbie Henderson	21 Matthew Crowe	31 Caitlin Carter
7 Faye Patterson	13 Charles Riner	21 John South	31 Sarah Hazeltine
7 Juanita Vainas	14 Wyllly Bell	22 Alton Brown	31 Lucy Hitch
8 Caroline Ambos	14 Jake Helton	22 Wayne Cribbs	31 Tucker Laffitte IV
8 Seth Dixon	14 Debbie Scharold	22 Terri Fruit	31 Garry McKee
8 Claudia Rollins Nix	15 Lisa Bell	22 Craig Sutlive	

The IPC Messenger (USPS 261-200) is published bi-monthly by Independent Presbyterian Church, 207 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401. Periodical Postage paid at Savannah, Georgia 31402.  
POSTMASTER: send address changes to IPC Messenger, P.O. Box 9266, Savannah, GA 31412.

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## *Missions Conference 2022 Special Offering*

*Church Construction Projects: Quiritimayo Sunday School Room & Chulucanas Wall for the Peru Mission Church*

The Lord, through His people, has provided above and beyond what our goal was for the 2022 Special Offering Missions Project. We are thankful for the Lord's provision. Gifts above our goal will be used to assist special building projects that come to our attention. Thank you all for your generosity.

