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Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

November 1, 2009

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;
Father John Cmur; Deacon Kenneth E. Ellis and
Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,
Cantors

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area. We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's simple feast of St. Demetrius the Great Martyr. The customary greeting is "Christ is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ We invited our children to come attired today as biblical characters or saints of the Church. Father will meet them during the Jesus School classes and attempt to identify their characters. Prizes will be awarded.

+++ We sincerely express our deepest gratitude to the good and generous souls who came this past week to prepare for and make the Pirohi yesterday as well as those who secured orders and distributed them to make it a success. We invoke upon all and their loved ones the choicest grace of our Lord for continued good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ Next Sunday is the solemn feast of SS. Michael & Gabriel, the Archangels and all bodiless powers. Please be certain you are with us in prayer and praise.

+++ *Order blanks and information concerning the forthcoming Candy Sale for the forthcoming feast of the Nativity of our Lord are available in the vestibule. Please take yours and order early. The deadline this year is the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving. Please cooperate and make it a success for our parish needs.*

+++ We are in need of packing boxes for the removal of the attic and hall contents to our new location. Please bring them in as soon as possible. We thank those who have already been supplying us with these needed boxes. We will soon announce when men and women should come to assist us in packing as well as removing the onion-dome from the roof before the weather becomes prohibitively inclement.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received this past week-end: Tithe Offering, \$1,000.00; Candles, \$500.00; Food Coupons, \$200.00; Kitchen, \$100.00; October & November Bulletin, \$100.00; Christian Fellowship, \$100.00 for a total of \$2,000.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered their God-given treasure for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 41 adults and 15 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Pani Lucas, +Paul Szmajda, Debra Szmajda, Eleni Pallas, Kent Pasquino and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of \$1,000.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals \$██████████. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look forward to receiving additional and increased pledges from all our devoted parishioners.

+++ Please check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the worship of our God.

+++ Be certain your child attends the spiritual formation classes held each Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. We make a serious attempt to share the love of our Lord with all.

+++ Please be certain to see **Helen Karpiak** or a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$██████████ on this project to date!

+++ *We have not had a Ten Week Club lately because distributing and selling the tickets by one person has become difficult. We ask all to consider supporting this project with added enthusiasm and give Marilyn Korba a needed helping hand buying more than one ticket and selling some to friends and interested parties. If you have any ideas how we can once again make a success of this source of income, please share them with Marilyn and lend a helping hand. One person cannot do it alone. Marilyn will be able to sell 50 tickets at her place of work. The remaining fifty should be absorbed, bought or sold by the remainder of our parishioners. Please cooperate to make this project a success.*

+++ We invite those who pledged support for the Building Fund when building is about to begin, to consider redeeming their pledges as we are preparing to apply to Millstone Township for the variance and Building Permit.

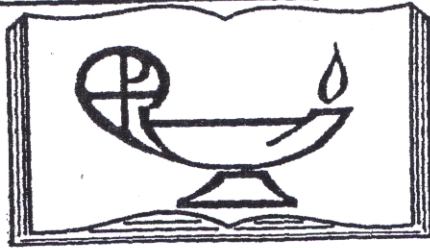
+++ We thank the good souls who this past week moved much from the hall and vestibule to the new location in Millstone Township. God bless you faithful souls!

+++ We acknowledge with gratitude the repair work done on the entrance door by Paul Pallas. We pray the Lord continue to bless him and loved ones with good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ All are asked to advise their friends and potential customers that the Thanksgiving Bake Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14. We pray it will be a huge success because of orders secured by adding our efforts to God's sustaining grace.

+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!

LORD



TEACH
US

The Majestic God

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord, my God, you are very great; you are clothed with honor and majesty. who is covered with light as with a garment; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain; who lays the beams of his chambers in the waters, who makes the clouds his chariot; who walks upon the wings of the wind; who makes his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire Psalms 104: 1 – 4.

The Lord is king, in splendor robed; robed is the Lord and girt about with strength; and he has made the world firm, not to be moved. Your throne stands firm from old, from eternity you are, O Lord. The floods lift up, O Lord, the floods lift up their voice; the floods lift up their tumult. More powerful than the roar of many waters, more powerful than the breakers of the sea, more powerful on high is the Lord. Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed, holiness befits your house, O Lord, for length of days Psalms 93: 1 – 5.

God of vengeance, Lord, God of vengeance, show yourself. Rise up, judge of the earth; render their deserts to the proud. How long, O Lord, shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked glory, mouthing insolent speeches, boasting, all the evil doers? Your people, O Lord, they trample on, your inheritance they afflict. Widow and stranger they slay, the fatherless they murder, and then they say, "The Lord sees not; the God of Jacob perceives not." Understand, you senseless ones among the people, and you fools, then will you be wise? Shall he who shaped the ear not hear? Or he who formed the eye not see? Shall he who instructs nations not chastise, he who teaches men knowledge, not know? The Lord knows the thoughts of men, that they are vain Psalms 94: 1 – 11.

Glorious are you, more majestic than the everlasting mountains Psalms 76: 4.

Taking Your Picture

...Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart...

Luke 9: 47.

Do you remember when you had your first picture taken? It was a memorable day indeed visiting with the photographer. My recollection the evening before when my father took me to the neighborhood barber for an extra special haircut that would hopefully display and frame me to my best advantage. The next day my bristly hair was carefully greased up with some sort of lard-like pomade until it laid slick and shiny on my head. What a sight! Dressed in my Sunday pants and clean white shirt with a properly fixed tie, I sat with the family for a formal portrait in the family living room as we awaited the arrival of the photographer who then made home visits to set up all his equipment.

Then came the proofs which faded out when exposed and the task of deciding on the best one. Now as we look at the old faded album, memories return and we learn some lessons from old photographs. They show just the outside and then only when we were all dressed upon in our Sunday clothes. How careful we were to look our very best!

There is another more important photographer, however, who takes pictures not of the outside, not the superficial exterior, but of the inside, the very depth of our soul. The photographer is the Holy Spirit and the camera God's revelation to us in Scripture and the Tradition of the Church. The pictures it shows of the inside are not so flattering as might have been the contrived and the overly prepared-for pictures we took of the outside of ourselves. Today no one is as attractive or handsome as their earlier pictures might depict them. The photographer can do tricks, marvelous tricks, especially for some of us homely subjects. But our heavenly Father takes "candid camera" shots when we are off guard, at work, at play, or at school and recreation. These pictures show our real selves, for what we are inside is the only true picture the only reality picture necessary for our Creator to observe and view.

Have we ever looked at God's photograph of the human heart? We see it described in his revelation to us. "There is no just man, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one in search of God. All have taken the wrong course, all alike have become worthless; not one of them acts uprightly, no, not one. Their throats are open tombs; they use their tongues to deceive; the venom of asps lies behind their lips. Their mouths are full of curses and bitterness, How swiftly run their feet to shed blood, ruin and misery strew their curse. The path of peace is unknown to them; the fear of God is not before their eyes" Romans 3: 11 – 18; "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God' Such are the corrupt; they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of men to see if there be one who is wise and seeks God. All alike have gone astray; they have become perverse; there is no one who does good, not even one. Will all these evil-doers never learn, they who eat up my people just as they eat bread? They have not called upon the name of the Lord, then they shall be in great fear for God is with the just generation. You would confound the plans of the afflicted, but the Lord is his refuge" Psalms 14: 1 – 6.

It is only when God is with us, when we live a life "in Christ" 2 Corinthians 1: 21, that the image of Christ is reflected on our soul, enters our heart and the pictures taken by God reveal the face of him, the gracious Lord, the blessed Saviour who overcomes our frail susceptibilities with our eager effort to conform to his will. Then our Creator does not see us so much as the vital image of the Lord because "...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" Galatians 2: 20.

When you look at yourself in the mirror is it only your old self you see, your purely physical self or is it the distinct image of a Christian?

Our heavenly Father reads our thoughts and sees our hearts and his gaze discerns our inner parts. How vile are we, how lost in degrading sin, until Christ himself is born within. Our heavenly Father reads more than lips, more than outer appearances; He reads hearts!



Whom shall we trust?

*For this child I prayed; and the Lord granted my request;
now I in turn give him to the Lord
1 Samuel 1: 27, 28.*

The busy mother of four children, ages six to fourteen, was relieved to have a neighbor man frequently entertain and amuse her children. The man lived alone and was very friendly and liked children and related well to them. Even though he was known to be somewhat strange, even psychotic perhaps and at times heard voices, he was not considered harmful because everyone knew him and was accustomed to his almost innocent presence, so he was not considered harmful.

On one occasion, he took the children fishing at a nearby river. After a while two of the children returned home. When mother inquired of them about the other two, they told her they thought the others went home earlier. After investigating, it was determined the neighbor man had thrown them into the river.

Of course, the small community was shocked. Many questioned why the mother trusted this man. Naturally, some may consider the mother irresponsible, but how many parents turn their children over to the influence and oversight of those who are not in fact trustworthy? How many children are placed before the television set to keep them entertained and occupied? How many are abandoned to the actual evil influence of the box? Devastating influences are programming the minds of children in a subtle way. While it may not be a question of physical death, spiritual death is occurring without question, so we tolerate and encourage such parental behavior.

Many of today's children are turned over to babysitters and day care centers, public school systems, unsupervised social activities and unwholesome literature. Who is providing an example for the precious lives of our children? What are the possibilities for positive influences on the soul of our children?

There are parents who seem to think their children are in good hands without considering the myriad dangers in our society today.

Let us bring our children to the Lord that He might bless and protect them. It is not how much we trust, but the worthiness of the object of our trust that brings security.

California Oranges and Salvation

Taste and see how good is the Lord; blessed is the man that trusts in him
Psalms 34:8.

How many people there are that take advantage of placing an order for California oranges! Having tasted them before, they are eager for their spirited taste. These oranges are picked off the tree and shipped directly which makes them unusually good and juicy as well as nourishing. They are a deep orange inside instead of pale yellow like the ones often bought in local stores, having been harvested and picked almost green and ripened on their own separated from the branch.

One man tells of having been notified they could be picked up at a particular place, so off he went in happy anticipation of having a chance to taste their sweetness once again. After they were loaded into his station wagon, he picked a nice one to relieve the longing of his taste buds as he drove. Wow! They were just as good and juicy as the year before. It was almost difficult not to make a mess in the car with all the juice squirting out and escaping its limitations within the peel from these luscious oranges.

When he stopped at a station to fill up with gas, he was still so impressed with the goodness of his treasure that he offered one to the man fueling his vehicle across the pump from him. He said oranges usually were not his specialty in taste, but thanks anyway. The generous and thoughtful man was disappointed he could not share something so good with him.

After leaving the gas station, he thought about the incident and it dawned on him how intent he had been to share the superior product. And he then realized that he should have been even more zealous to share God's plan of salvation in his earthly Body, the Orthodox Church.

Why can't be so intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with a lost world? The man began to feel ashamed to think how often we fail to offer the salutary Gospel to those we meet. It is an extraordinary product if we can reduce it to that. How glorious the response of the believing, devoted and faithful soul to being nourished individually and personally on the Body and Blood of the Saviour! What an awesome privilege! It should impel us to share the reality "Taste and see how good is the Lord!" Psalms 34: 8. May we who are regular communicants be affirmed in diligence in his service. "Be as eager for milk as new-born babies...now that you have tasted that the Lord is good" 1 Peter 2: 2.

Watch What You Sow!

We can never be too careful
Of the seed our hands shall
sow;

Love from love is sure to ripen,
Hate from hate is sure to grow.

Seeds of good or ill we scatter
Heedlessly along our way;
But a glad or grievous fruitage
Waits us at the harvest day.



The Power of Love

...love is strong...Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it...

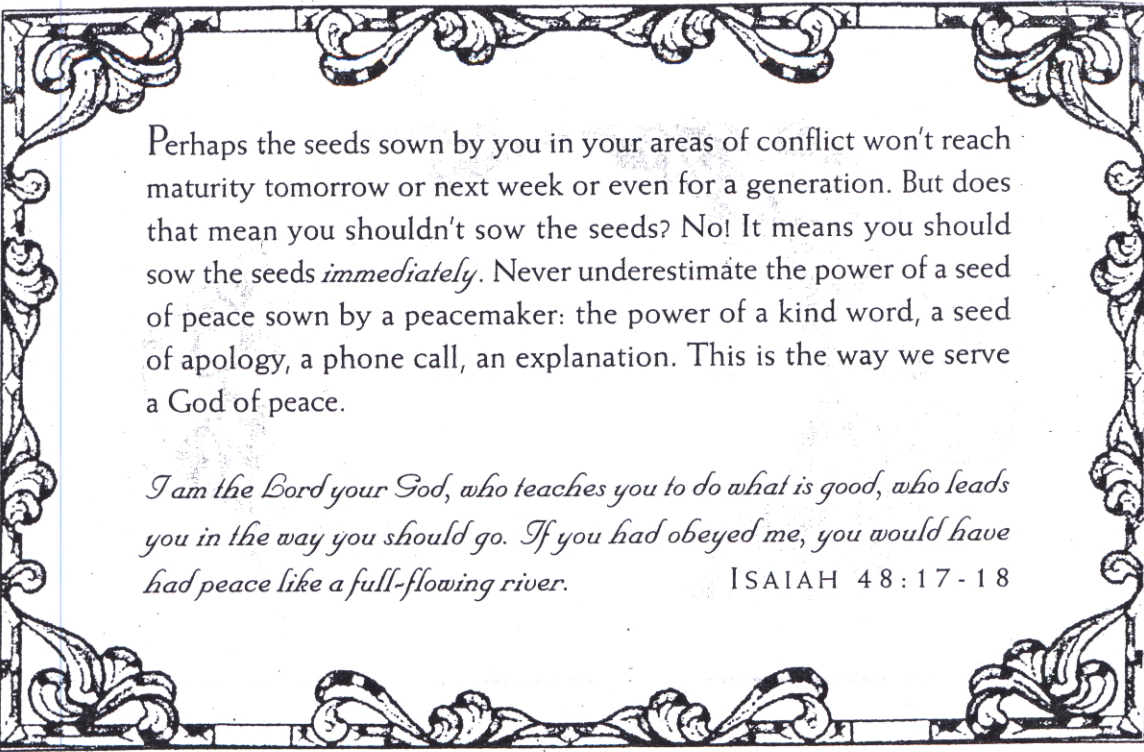
Song of Solomon 8: 6, 7.

Rock and stone is strong, but iron cleaves to it. Iron is strong but fire melts it. Fire is strong, but water quenches it. Water is strong, but clouds bear it away. Clouds are strong, but the winds drive and direct them. Winds are strong, but man has found ways of resisting them. Man is strong, but fear casts him down and makes him helpless. Fear is strong, but God's love casts out fear, therefore we can easily conclude love is strongest because it is the final victor and is eternal!

Some decades ago, a missionary priest returned after spending some years of service and was confronted by the question, "What conditions did you find at your mission station in the wilds of New Guinea?" "Find! I found something that looked more hopeless than if I had been sent into the jungle to encounter and minister to a herd of tigers." "What do you mean?" "Why those people were so degraded that they seemed utterly devoid of a moral sense. If a mother was carrying her little baby and the child began to cry uncontrollably, she would throw it into the ditch and let it die because it was too troublesome. If a man saw his father break his leg he would leave him on the roadside to suffer. They had no compassion whatsoever and certainly because no hospitals were available, their behavior was reinforced. They had absolutely no sense of compassion and did not know what it meant." "Well, what did you do for people like that? Did you preach to them?" "Preach?" That would have done little good. I saw that I would first have to live a life of authentic Christian love before them; therefore when I saw the baby abandoned, I picked it up and comforted it and cared for it; when I saw a man with a broken leg, I assisted in getting him to hospital station miles and miles away. When people were in distress, I took them in and pitied them and cared for them, trying to meet their needs. I lived that way for sometime and then the natives themselves began to come to me and say, 'What does what you are doing mean? What are you doing this for?' Then I had the opportunity to preach the reason for my actions. I preached the gospel of Jesus Christ as the foundation of my life."

"Did you succeed?" "Yes, by God's grace, I did. When I came home on furlough, I left behind a small, but thriving church."

Godly compassion and affection is potent force! Be certain follower of Christ, that your life, too, is a symphony of love and compassion and helpfulness. Love cannot be wasted; wherever it is bestowed and gifted, it always brings rich returns.



Perhaps the seeds sown by you in your areas of conflict won't reach maturity tomorrow or next week or even for a generation. But does that mean you shouldn't sow the seeds? No! It means you should sow the seeds *immediately*. Never underestimate the power of a seed of peace sown by a peacemaker: the power of a kind word, a seed of apology, a phone call, an explanation. This is the way we serve a God of peace.

I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to do what is good, who leads you in the way you should go. If you had obeyed me, you would have had peace like a full-flowing river.

ISAIAH 48:17-18

A Christian, in his surroundings should encourage everyone to be better, instead of being the one who stoops to be like everyone else.

My dear brothers and sisters. I love you and want to see you. You bring me joy and make me proud of you, so stand strong in the Lord as I have told you Philippians 4: 1.



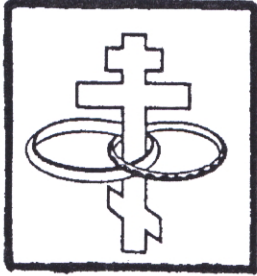
Birthday
Wishes!

We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing His divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we can gather together and offer thanks to Him for yet another year of life blessed by His most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during the month

November 16 Frank Pashos
November 26 Debra L. Szmaida
November 27 Eleanor Korba

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless them for

Many and Blessed Years



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month of November. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

November 3 Anna & William Zacharyczuk

November 5 Miguel & Maria Garcia

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

Many and Blessed Years

TWO PHYSICIANS AND SERVANTS OF CHRIST

ONE OF THE CONCERNS IN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY of our day is the unique relationship between doctor and patient. There has been a consistent need voiced by people for a more personal contact. People want to be treated as persons, not as numbers.

In the lives of two brothers of the 4th century, COSMAS & DAMIAN, we find that unique quality of personal concern and care, of empathy, so desired today. They were physicians, but they were also dedicated, pious Christians. Perhaps it was precisely this combination of medicine and faith that produced these remarkable saints of the early Church. They were termed "wonderworkers" for the marvelous feats of help and healing of the rich and poor; they were called "unmercenaries" since they accepted no payment for their ministry; and they were listed as "martyrs" because they died rather than deny their faith in Jesus Christ when brought before rulers of the old Roman Empire during persecutions by Diocletian. (There are others bearing the same names among the lists of Saints in the Church).

These days, when such a cry is heard for social service, for the cause of the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and the sick, what a joy it is to honor these brothers who were filled with love for Christ and people, and who offered their skills, their care, and ultimately their lives in Christian service.