

Worry? Not Us!

Over the past year, the Karns congregation has experienced such growth (from baptisms and those placing membership) that we may reach one hundred additional members by the year's end. There is a genuine spirit of love for one another, everyone is willing to work, and members are cooperating with each other. Furthermore, plans are being made to expand the auditorium, add classrooms, enlarge the fellowship area, and provide more parking.

We are truly blessed to live in a country where we still have freedom to worship God as we choose and freely express our views. We also have the right to work to create a better life for our families and improve our community. However, in the best of times some (few, many, or most) are concerned about the "what ifs" that could threaten the congregation or even take away our freedom to worship. There are those who are concerned about the direction of the country, the immorality in our culture, and a growing hostility by the public and government toward Christians and the Lord's church.

The message in chapter 4 of Paul's letter to the Philippians is clear. Christians are to be united, joyful and in prayer. *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus* (Phil. 4:6,7).

In a recent issue of the Gospel Advocate, Cecil May, Jr. wrote an article titled, "Getting Ready for 2020." He stated that the ills of our country will not be cured at the ballot box and corrupt hearts are unlikely to be changed by political activism. We need to come to grips with the fact that we really are sojourners and pilgrims in the world (I Pet. 2.11). If the country is changed for the better, it will be by God's word and the example of faithful Christians.

Paul had been jailed in Philippi. Ten years later, he wrote to the Philippian Christians from a Roman jail and encouraged them to be optimistic and not anxious. If Paul could be positive under those conditions, clearly we – members of the Karns congregation – should be united and optimistic about the future.

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For the elders,
Don Denton