

# SS. Edward & Lucy News

SS. Edward and Lucy Parish is a Catholic community in Eastern Geauga County

SEPTEMBER 2015

## KEEP OUR EYES ON JESUS

by Mike Hollowell

*(I would like to dedicate this to JoAnn & Ron Arambasick and Bill and Clair O'Brien, who have tirelessly walked by faith with their eyes on Jesus. I pray that God will give us all the straight to follow their example to do God's will and to protect the most valuable gift He has given us all, LIFE!)*

On August 4 I attended morning Mass where the Gospel reading for that day was Matthew 14:22-36. Fr. Burkley brought to our attention the fact that Peter began to sink into the sea when he took his eyes off of Jesus. The wind distracted Peter causing him to lose focus on the one who was his strength, hope and truth.

Unfortunately, we are all like Peter. We too are drowning in the sea of confusion found within the lies of Satan, the great deceiver. We too have taken our eyes off God's truth that has been implanted in our hearts. We too have failed to stand up against the horrific evils that surround us. We have become too complacent, allowing evil to continue as long as it does not directly affect me.

So I ask you, ARE WE DROWNING IN THE SEA LIKE PETER? Let's take a short litmus test to see if we are walking on water or if we are gasping for the air of life!

1. Over the last 42 years 58 MILLION babies have been murdered, enough to fill 185 Arlington Cemeteries. During this time, what have we done to save the lives of these innocent, beautifully created chil-

dren of God? Where is our outrage? Are we walking on water or are we drowning like Peter and gasping for air?

2. Try this. Planned Parenthood (PP) is now scavenging through the remains of the murdered babies and are selling their body parts for profit. This is worse than a buzzard picking through the remains of road kill or the horror that occurred in Nazi Germany during WWII. Where is our outrage? Are we walking on water or are we drowning like Peter and gasping for air?

3. And it gets worst! Our local school boards (Cardinal, Berkshire and Newbury) are allowing PP, the group that murder babies for profit, into our schools to teach our children sex education and to impute their moral relativism and worldly values into the minds of our impressionable children. Are we willing to sacrifice our children and our fellow church members over to PP? Where is our outrage? Are we walking on water or are we drowning like Peter and gasping for air?

4. You won't believe this one! Cleveland Clinic and University Hospital are now training OBGYN doctors on how to slaughter innocent and defenseless babies. They train the interns at PRETERM, the main location in Cleveland where babies are murdered. I thought their sole purpose was to value and save human lives. There seems to be some confusion in their mission. On one hand they are saving lives and on the other hand destroying life for profit. Where is our outrage? Are we walking on water or are we drowning like Peter and gasping for air?

5. Not another! Family Planning Association on Northeast Ohio (FPANEO) has an office in South Russell. Did you know that they are providing our teens, as early as 12 years old and **WITHOUT PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OR CONSENT**, with contraceptive devices and abortifacients, covering up their sexually transmitted diseases (STD), and directing our kids to abortion shops like PRETERM and PP should they become pregnant? Where is our outrage? Are we walking on water or are we drowning like Peter and gasping for air?

6. And last but not least. The Sacrament of Marriage and the family, which was created by our precious God to be a covenant between God, one man and one woman, now has been redefined by our all-wise legal system to include any combination of humans minus God. Our enlightened world is now trying to tell us that sodomy is OK and morally acceptable and is not a sin. Where is our outrage? Are we walking on water or are we drowning like Peter and gasping for air?

Let us stop gasping for air and let's start breathing again. Frustrated, YES, hopeless and helpless, NO! If you are outraged by the above examples, I would like to invite you to become an active member of H.E.L.P. (Saints **H**elen, **E**dward & **L**ucy **P**ro-Life). Our mission is protect life from the moment of fertilization to the time of natural death, along with the Sacrament of Marriage and the family.

How do we do this? We at HELP pray to God for forgiveness and intervention to eradicate evil, educate others about evil, and take

active steps to prevent and expose evil to others with the light of God's truth. Please visit our website at [www.prolifehelp.org](http://www.prolifehelp.org) (via internet explorer) where you will find our complete mission statement and a whole lot more. Our next meeting is at St. Helen on 9/19/15 at 8AM where we attend Mass and meet afterwards. Or please contact Mike Hollowell at 440-693-4094 or at [michaelhollowell@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelhollowell@hotmail.com) should you have any questions or need additional information. On behalf of HELP, let us all once again walk on water!

*Editors Note: In the August 21, 2015 edition of The Plain Dealer, Kevin Kevin O'Brien wrote an article titled "No one with a conscience can abide Planned Parenthood's bloody work". In the article he discusses the seven undercover videos by the Center for Medical Progress that are surfacing showing the slaughtering and butchering of babies for profit. You should view the videos, available at [www.centerformedical-progress.org](http://www.centerformedical-progress.org) to understand how horrific PP actions are, and to understand who is getting your tax money and what they are doing with it.*

## **DEAR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS**

by Marcia Mikolaj

*One person that I have learned many lessons from in the past, and who also continues to amaze and inspire me, is my brother John. He travels to Nepal, a land-locked and very poor country in South Asia, each year to do missionary work. (Christians only make up about 1.4% of the Nepalese people). He also provides them a way to make safe drinking water, primarily in rural areas. This year, John cut his annual Nepal trip short earlier than expected due to the passing of a dear family member. Shortly after his return home*

*though, the big earthquakes in Nepal began. So John returned to Nepal with additional water treatment equipment because the Nepal water situation would be even worse than normal. These are excerpts from his letters to family, friends and neighbors back home during this recent period of time:*

May 23

Travel to Nepal, and processing through the end of travel at the Kathmandu International Airport was a breeze. All equipment I shipped from the US arrived intact, and near associates I've met are all managing well (albeit some as homeless people after the earthquakes rendered their homes uninhabitable). I was not successful in having necessary equipment that is locally procured available to me at arrival, however. We are still working through logistics obstacles for some equipment contracted through local suppliers in Kathmandu. Please pray that we recognize and adjust to God's timing and orchestration.

Nepal's "earthquake" was not a single event, but has been ongoing for a month. 2 quakes exceeded 7.0 on the Richter scale, a handful exceeded 6.0, and hundreds more are between 4.0 and 6.0. For the most part, people are used to them and don't stop what they are doing for the 6.0 and lower events that happen several times daily. But you can see them focusing on identifying the origin of large rumble noises (like commercial jets taking off) when they occur so that they can take prompt action to get themselves and loved ones to the relative safety of open areas. And you can see the restrained fear in their eyes when they are in the process of identifying sounds as non- or earthquake-related. Please pray that Nepalese people would quickly come to know the peace of God.

Enough for now - much love,

May 29

Sounds tell the story of Nepal in the earthquake aftermath. 6 AM is when most people are stirring, and the clatter of cooking pots signals cleanup from last night's dinner followed shortly by piping hot morning chia (milk tea).

6 AM the morning after my arrival I heard only muted voices and the "clink, clink, clink" of women laborers sorting through piles of light-weight ceramic brick debris blocking narrow roadways through ancient Manamaiju. They tossed "usable" bricks in one pile and waste in another. A few other laborers with very tired looking wheelbarrows, or with traditional woven baskets suspended from their foreheads on hunched-over backs quietly carried away the waste and dump it over the nearest hillside. It was as if no one wanted to wake their emotionally exhausted neighbors who were sleeping outdoors nearby under tarps.

Some houses were still standing, but few people slept in them, afraid they might be trapped by another series of earthquakes during the night. Few people slept the full night through. The tremors that continue are barely noticeable to a newcomer like me, but for those whose recent experience was the collapse of their world, every sound or "bump" is cause for extreme concern, is cause for calling out for the safety of loved ones, and is cause for moving away from confined spaces between buildings.

The infrequent sound of helicopters in the air above Kathmandu before the earthquakes a month ago now is heard several times an hour, sometimes for medical reasons and sometimes for military logistics. But the sound of traffic is increasing from almost nothing a week ago to "holiday light" traffic now. Almost half the population of Kathmandu left the city to the calmer countryside homes of their relatives in the plains closer to India, but refugees from the badly damaged hillside villages have

finally been making their way to the city where there is hope of government resources. Those that remain in their hillside homes face shortages of almost everything.

This weekend I will be traveling to 2 hillside villages to install higher capacity water units to help remaining villagers compensate for the reduction in safety of their damaged water supplies. Water for hillside villages does not come from wells, but from spring sources or surface runoff farther uphill. When landslides (of which there have been many) damage springs or the pipelines transporting water from them to the villages, people revert to using the nearest available water source.

Nepal's disaster management plan for detection and remediation of waterborne disease outbreaks depends on inpatient admitting data from district health centers. But 60-90% of the health centers are non-functional in about 20% of the country where the quakes did the most damage; consequently, prevention of disease is probably a better option. ...Please pray for effective training for those that will operate the equipment for the benefit of their communities, and that the communities will quickly recognize the benefit of "water medicine" before sickness occurs rather than afterward.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the Nepalese people.

Jun 8

Finished placing the 7th of 10 water units this morning, and 2 more (God willing) are scheduled for tomorrow. Aftershocks are still occurring, but low magnitude and only every couple of days. The people are "digging out", taking advantage of unseasonably dry (and consequently HOT) weather to make unstable buildings that are still standing less of a hazard. The dry weather IS a further threat to food security for the coming year though. Rice paddies that

were planted last month in anticipation of rain this month are beginning to look a little distressed. But the continuing dry weather is allowing aid distribution in some of the more distant rural hillside areas that have seen the greatest effect of the earthquakes, and is also allowing some internal migration of affected communities to less impacted areas.

We know the story. A traveler meets with misfortune while on the way. A highly esteemed fellow citizen witnesses the consequences of our friend's misfortune, but hurries along on her way to avoid being late to an important gathering of well-heeled peers. Shortly thereafter another citizen, this one a highly credentialed legal consultant, passes by on an important, carefully orchestrated tour of speaking engagements. His advisers convince him that any upset to their schedule could spell disaster for their mission, so he too continues on his way.

Finally, a foreign businesswoman happens by. She notes our friend's distress and the fact that professional first-responders still have not appeared on the scene. In her compassion, she pulls over to the side of the road, renders what little first aid she can, and transports our friend to a medical clinic she notices in the next town. She stays with him at the clinic and helps fill out admissions paperwork while he is being treated, then pays the bill when they discharge him. She takes him to a nondescript, but clean, hotel in the same town and arranges with the proprietor to provide healthy (albeit plain) meals for our friend for the next several days while he rests and heals. She places the estimated charges for our friend's stay on her debit card, and continues on her way.

Today's water unit placement was in a developing hillside village. A foreigner to that village, who lives with his wife, baby girl, and extended family in a tarp-covered bamboo-pole-framed tent in a field because the building where their rented room

was located collapsed in the 1st earthquake, took charge of the unit. They had relocated not long ago to their new village from an area even more affected by the Nepal's quakes, and so despite their present circumstances, they are thankful.

They have few friends in their new place, but having suffered themselves, they cannot bear to see others in distress. They wanted a water unit so that others in their village - perhaps whose children suffered frequently from waterborne disease like their daughter - might have safe water to drink. And their tent is near the neighborhood spring where people spend MUCH time waiting for the trickle of water to fill their water jugs. Pray that, while they wait, this foreign family is surrounded by ears and spirits eager to hear the story of Jesus and the living water He offers. Pray that we all, as foreigners away from our proper home in God's Kingdom, recognize and respond to opportunities to share God's grace in the simple love of our fellow human beings.

Thanks for resourcing this lived-out story of the good Samaritan in Nepal.

With much gratefulness and thanksgiving to God for you,

John

Jun 10

....Well I clearly had nothing to do with monsoon timing, but I have been profited by the delay. They haven't really started yet - mostly scattered thunder and occasional showers that don't really make a dent in either the temperature or the dust. It is early AM and I can't sleep; bags are mostly packed except for what I need for the pre-departure bath that won't last the taxi ride to the airport. Rocky is outside barking/guarding us - he has been earning his keep while folks have been sleeping outside buildings.

Jun 12

....Didn't kiss Rocky, since he gets his snacks from the refuse pile by the goat butcher's place. But I did scratch his ears and eyebrows, which he seems to enjoy. In Philly now, and glad to be "home". Thanks for your prayers!

August 10 & 11

....There are normally lots of natural challenges to normal life in Nepal. Nepal is not developed, and so there are very few constructed dams or water management devices installed along the 7 major north-south rivers that are the outlet for the country's Himalayan watersheds. Even most of the country's hydroelectric plants are run-of-river plants without big upstream dams or costly headworks. So when it rains, all the water gets funneled into the river gorges and rushes pell-mell downstream to empty out into the Ganges River Basin. Consequently, flooding and

erosion and people getting swept away and flu and diarrhea is "normal" in the rainy season. And malaria and dengue fever and typhoid and diarrhea is "normal" in the dry season. Every year, people expect others to die from what is termed "seasonal diseases" - things that have pretty much been eradicated here with good diets and public vaccine programs and public sanitation and water treatment....

....There's good news in all this though (at least I see it as good). About 15 years ago, another natural disaster occurred - a landslide that affected a big part of one of the earthquake-affected districts. Government relocation of endangered communities resulted in the spread of Christianity from the hillsides to some of the tropical plains areas, and people in these new areas are better off today as a result. I know, because several of the Pastors with whom I am significantly involved in helping them help their communities came

out of the relocation, and they have a real heart for their new neighbors (though they weren't very well-received at the start). So I'm hopeful that God will do a similar thing through all the mess in people's lives caused by the earthquakes and their aftermath....

....What's needed in Nepal? Shelter. Water and food for at least one planting cycle in the hillsides, especially for people whose homes collapsed on their seeds for this planting cycle, plus seeds for the next cycle. Road restoration to get aid and recovery materials to communities and to get their products to market. Recovery of local sanitation and water infrastructures, along with laborers to do the work. And prayer for God's continuing grace.

Love,  
John

*Rocky is one of the many street dogs living in Kathmandu, Nepal and introduced himself to John last year.*

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St. Edward Church  
P.O. Box 709  
16150 Center St.  
Middlefield, Ohio 44080  
St. Lucy Mission  
P.O. Box 98  
16280 High Street  
Middlefield, Ohio 44062