

Precious Promises

Penned by Dorothy Streeter, Volga, August 2021

*Our Lord Jesus once told of "the pearl of great price" -
For that gift of salvation, only faith will suffice!
The Bible contains many "nuggets" of "gold",
Many of the chapters "rare jewels" do hold!
Precious promises, that I claim as mine -
What is truer than His love divine?*

*Precious promises, that bring hope and peace,
Offered freely—His love will never cease.
He pledged that "His own He would never forsake",
And those who believe, He to heaven would take!
Oh my friend, read every enlightening page -
He's with us always to the end of the age!*

*He's called the "tender" Shepherd of the sheep,
And His divine promises are "for keeps",
So if you are a seeker, and truly wise,
Resolve to be faithful, to obtain paradise!
Jesus stated "My peace I give unto you!"
And holding to that promises will carry you through!*

*His heart of compassion is easily known,
For He said "I will never leave you alone,"
He sends angels to comfort and be our guide
Have you ever sensed one right there by your side!
We need His mercy every day that we live,
How often we err, but He says "I forgive"!*

*To the greatest hope of all we say "Amen",
It is: Though I go away, I will come again!
The joy of the promise we may never forget,
When the clouds part to reveal Him on Mount Olivet!
Oh, just think of all that is offered to you -
Mansions so bright, and your dreams come true!*

*From the "storehouse" of His love, we receive God's treasure,
And truly, our gratitude should be without measure,
Of all His promises, we may constantly avail,
Sing praise to our Redeemer, whose love never fails.
If you desire to traverse those streets of gold,
Then to His precious promises must hold!*

Highlights of Last Month

- We had three guest pastors this month: September 5—Leroy Mathieu; September 12 and 19; retired RCA Pastor Irwin Van Leeuwen; September 26—retired CRC pastor Duane Smith
- Celebrated Sunday School Kick Off with a special litany for Christian Education as well as presented Bibles to 3rd graders; Tayley Knapp, Danika Nielsen, Eli Sapp and Ryan Vandermeer
- FRC began its ministry again to Dakota Sun on the second Sunday—COVID had previously shut the doors to that ministry
- Celebrated 50 years of God's faithfulness with Faith Reformed Church in Brookings by worshipping with them at the morning service and/or fellowshiping with them at a noon meal at the Swiftel Center. A plant arrangement was given to the church in recognition of this milestone.
- Kurt Turner, a Gideon's representative spoke of the work of the Gideon's organization
- Hosted a community blood drive in the parking lot with 17 total donations which will help 51 local patients and their families

The Gospel According to Football

1. *The Thrill of the Game*: The One who wrote the playbook for our lives desires joy, meaning and abundance. "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for good and not for evil to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)
2. *The Challenge of the Yard Markers*: In spite of God's plans for us to enjoy His presence, His holy character demands that we live up to His perfect standards. Sadly, even though we can see the goal line, we never can move beyond the line of scrimmage. Sin sacks our best efforts and tackles us in our tracks. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
3. *It's Fourth and Goal*: Even though we can't reach the end zone on our own, God provided a substitute. Jesus entered the game on our behalf and, taking the ball into His own hands, crossed the goal line and scored our victory. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)
4. *Extra Point*: When we trust Christ, God forgives our sin and picks up the penalty flags we so obviously deserved. Choosing to be our redeemer instead of our referee, He gives us abundant life this side of the grave and eternal life beyond. What a bonus! "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Cor. 2:9)