



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

November 10

Our Next Gospel Meeting

October 6-11

Weekly Bible Studies

TBD on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

September 6

Address and Contact

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Christ

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“YOUR GOD WILL BE MY GOD”

Orpah returned to her own people at Naomi’s urging. (Ruth 1:11-15) Ruth showed her love for Naomi by remaining a daughter. As we noted in the previous article, she responded to Naomi’s effort to send her away by pleading, *“Do not urge me to leave you or return from following you.”* (1:16)

From there Ruth offered some of the strongest words of love, loyalty, and faith we will ever read. Her familiar declaration goes like this: *“For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”* (1:16b-17)

We have already discussed the loyalty and love Ruth showed Naomi. It is remarkable, inspiring, and worthy of imitation. In this article, I wish to focus upon the spiritual depth evident within her words. The Jewish sages claim that Orpah and Ruth converted to Judaism when they married Mahlon and Chilion. Perhaps, yet the biblical text does not say. We know that Ruth, as a Moabitess (1:4), came from a people that worshipped Chemosh, *“the abomination of Moab.”* (Numbers 21:29; 1 Kings 11:7)

Though Chemosh may have been her past, Adonai (the word she uses for God in verse 17) was her future. In fact, 16b-17 is a declaration of complete and total conversion. Ruth no longer considers herself a Moabite. She is taking

Members Needing Our Prayers

Julie Patton, Deremia Osbourne, Ralph Fox, Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Gary Brown, Janett Brundige, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Micah Genton, Doris Baker, Stuart Goodpasture, Jodi Harrison, Bob Brundige, Charlie Ford, Rose Curtis, Josh McKibben, Phyllis Harmon, Maurice Baker, Jeff Padgett, John Thompson, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Patty Hill, Janice Parsons, Mark Nickles, Paul and Marrian Lyda

To Our Guests

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upon herself not just Hebrew ways, but the ways of the God of Israel. This is an amazing declaration and transformation!

I believe Ruth's decision also speaks to the example of Naomi. For years Ruth had observed her faith and commitment to God. Though hurting and filled with questions, Naomi never abandoned that faith. Ruth had been observing, noting, and learning from her. The seeds that were quietly being planted broke through in Ruth's promise to Naomi and to God. Her oath, "May the Lord (Adonia) do so to me and more also..." (17b) shows her deep commitment to Israel's God.

This reminds us of the power of a godly example, especially though periods of pain. Faith is easy in times of plenty and peace. It is more difficult in times of loss and grief. Yet it is in such times that faith tends to shine brightest. I have no doubt that Ruth, who was mourning her own loss, was influenced by Naomi's commitment to God. What a powerful example she set!

Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
Adam Litmer	Marcus Lake	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	

