

## HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 5/15/2023

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

***ONE AT ONE*** – *Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, May 16, you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, pray for women throughout the world. Ask that all women might be treated with dignity and respect as GOD intended. Ask that they might be shielded from abuse and discrimination. Thank GOD for the gift of the women in your life who bring joy and assistance to you.*

---

One of the things I enjoy is the meaning of the names we encounter in the Bible. Especially in the first part of the Old Testament, the names of people help you to remember the circumstances of their births or their origins. Or they can tell us about the purpose of their life. Or a name can say something about how the individual will live or something about their traits. Or a name can help us to remember the person's story. Here are some examples:

Adam is a play on the Hebrew word "adhama" meaning "earth" or "dirt." Adham or Adam was made from the soil. "From dust you came and to dust you shall return."

Eve, the first woman and mother, means "living" or "source of life."

Isaac means "laughter." When his parents, Abraham and Sarah, were told by GOD that they would become parents at ages 100 and 90 respectively, Sarah laughed.

Esau, one of the twin sons of Isaac, means "hairy" and "red." When Esau was born, he was covered with red hair.

Jacob's name can mean either "grasps at the heel," or "he who supplants." Jacob was the second of Isaac's twins and when his brother emerged from the womb, Jacob was holding on to Esau's foot, trying to pull him back into the womb so that he could be born first and receive the birthright of the oldest son. Later he tricked or supplanted his brother's claim to the birthright and obtained it for himself.

Israel is the name that GOD gave to Jacob after Jacob wrestled with GOD all night refusing to let go. Israel means "wrestles with GOD" and is a good descriptor of the history of the nation of Israel.

Leah and Rachel were the two daughters of Laban. Laban was a herdsman, so his daughters were named "cow eyes" and "sheep eyes."

Moses can mean "drawn out" or "saved from water." As a baby, Moses was placed in a basket by his mother and floated him down the river. She hoped to save him from an infanticide that Pharaoh had ordered. Ironically, Pharaoh's daughter found the basket and saved Moses from the water by drawing him out of the river and he grew up in Pharaoh's palace.

Peter means "rock," and is the nickname that JESUS gave to Simon, saying that his confession of JESUS as the CHRIST or SAVIOR was the rock upon which JESUS church would be built. When JESUS came to the disciples' boat by walking on the water, Simon Peter answered JESUS' call to

get out of the boat and, for a time, walked on the water. But when he took his eyes off of JESUS, Peter sank like a rock.

Barnabas, the nickname of Joseph who mentored Paul and helped to start many new churches, means “son of encouragement.”

JESUS’ name means “GOD saves.” A name the prophets said HE would be called is IMMANUEL and means “GOD with us.”

As followers of CHRIST, we all share the name Christian. To those outside the church, Christians aren’t always considered to be kind of people JESUS calls us to be. The actions of some Christians, their judgmental words or unloving behavior toward some has affected the opinion of those who don’t know Christians well. It is important that we remember that our words and actions reflect on how other Christians are perceived. Of greater importance, the things that we say and do will influence how those who do not know our LORD may think about HIM and what HE teaches and stand for.

In CHRIST'S love,  
Pastor Jeffrey