

THE SHRIVNAUTHS

Proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ



Carrying the Light

and turning this upside-down world right-side up



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“For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ

Dear Friends and Co-Investors in the City of the Great King,

March 2017

We have seen an increase in our church this year compared to last year at this time. There were 302 professions of faith with 10 baptized in the months from January to February. The church is packed on Sunday mornings. The place can hold around 200 jam-packed. The weekend of Valentine’s Day we had “Sweet, Sweet Sunday”- a bus ministry promotion where everyone got a bagful of sweets and candies. I believe we had the biggest crowd ever in the history of our church. There were 370 here for the Sunday morning service. It was hot. The electrical power was out because of a city-wide blackout. This went on the whole time we had Sunday school and church. I don’t know how we all fit, but considering the big crowd and the electrical blackout, everything went amazingly smooth. I’ll tell you what, it was the prayers of God’s people that made that happen. We had prayed much before the big day. Fourteen people got saved that day in church and it is an amen to God’s glory.

Now a bit of sad news – in the beginning of this year Living Water Baptist Church closed its doors. This is one of the five churches that we started. The pastor whom we had trained called it quits after two and a half years. He did a fantastic job while he was there. In the end, he said that he did not feel called of God to be a pastor. We had no one to take the church. The good news is that he is in our church and is doing fine. He helps me in Sunday school among other duties. Since Living Water Baptist Church was not incredibly far away, we now run buses to pick up most of those people and bring them here. Many of those folks have now joined our church.

In the early to mid-1980’s I was enlisted in the U.S. Navy. I was fresh out of high school in New York City. Stationed onboard an air craft carrier, the USS John F. Kennedy, I was determined to do right and live for God. God answered my prayers and sent a wonderful, outgoing shipmate to me. His name is Patrick Russell. After the Navy he became a missionary in Africa where he has been for over 24 years. Brother Pat introduced me to a man who would become one of our lifelong heroes in the faith. That man was Bill Bradley. He was a retired Navy veteran. He ran a Christian servicemen center to reach the military, primarily those who were stationed onboard U.S. Navy ships in Norfolk Naval Base. “Pop Bradley,” as he became known to us, was one of those rare Christians who comes along once in a lifetime. He grounded us in the faith, spent long hours into the night teaching us the Bible, and then drove us back on base to get onboard our ships where we were homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. He and his family prayed, sacrificed and loved us Navy guys. They fed us home-cooked meals - a welcome break from Navy chow. They took us to church and trained us to be soul winners. They counseled us and never gave up on us. We were their “boys.” Pop and his wife taught us by their fine example how to date right and marry right. I can attest that after 27 years of marriage to a wonderful gal, my life is blessed because of Pop’s advice. Pop graduated to Heaven on February 19 this year. He was 78. I traveled all the way from the mission field in South America, and Patrick from Africa, to attend his funeral. Many of his “boys” from across the U.S. also came to his funeral. Some are pastors and some are laymen. It was wonderful to see some whom I have not seen in 30 years. Below is a short message I wrote to Mom Bradley on Pop’s graduation to Heaven:

I am saddened to hear of Pop’s home going. I have heard Pop exegete the Bible on so many wonderful subjects. One of my favorites was a time when he taught on Epaphroditus - Phil. 2:24-30. To me, he was my Epaphroditus all along from the day I first met him in the fall of 1982. I have never forgotten that; I never will. I am indebted to both of you for your love, investments, and belief in us - your “boys.” I will miss my Epaphroditus. I have lost a great prayer warrior, a wonderful friend and a dear Pop. I am thankful that Pop has finally reached safe harbor - Ps. 107:30-31. No more tempests - Acts. 27:4,7. Sailing is smooth. The Captain is onboard and now Pop can meet Him face to face - Heb. 2:10.

May God continue to bless and strengthen you in this part of the journey of the race.

Forever, One of your boys, Noel, Col. 3:23

Thank you for praying, caring and sharing with us your love, friendship and finances. May the Lord bless you greatly with His grace, mercy and strength.

In Christ Jesus the Anchor holds,

Noel Shrivnauth

The Shrivnauth family
Noel, Charlene, Rydal, Gretel, Elsie and Nolan

for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.” Romans 9:3