

WELCOME TO  
HISTORIC PORTLAND  
FOUNDED 1811

# SPRINGS OF LIFE

*John & Ruth Ann Payne*

Greetings fellow partners in the gospel of Christ,

In the first part of this year the Lord called me (Ruth Ann) to a time of coming away and spending time with Him. I did not take on any new commitments, nor start any new projects. It was a time of deepening intimacy with the Lord, focusing on identity as a child of God, and just being with Him. It showed me just how busy I stay. This season planted a longing to continue to carve away as much time as possible for 1:1 time with the Lord, while simultaneously confirming that the things we are involved in the neighborhood are things God has called us to do at this time.

Also, while deciding what to do for Lent, I sensed the Lord asking me to be silent. I had so many things that I thought I could give up, and had reasons for why they would be good. However, I am so thankful that I was able to let go of me and what I thought I should do for God in order to just listen to what He asked of me. My silence has allowed space for God to speak and for me to listen expectantly. Even the silence was beautiful; for even in the silence, God was there.

## *Looking Ahead*

God is calling us to focus on prayer walks this year. There are a few types of prayer walks we plan on doing this Spring and Summer. Please keep us in your prayers as we step out in faith on these walks.

Pray that we will:

- be led by the Holy Spirit
- join God in what His heart is for our neighborhood
- be safe
- be sustained and empowered by God's grace
- be able to share Jesus with those we encounter



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# The Tree of Life

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I want to share a poetry/prose piece that was birthed from my time with the Lord as I awoke on Palm Sunday.

## The Tree of Life

By: Ruth Ann Payne

The Tree of Life is the tree of truth.

Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE.

Eat from this Tree;

the fruit of the Spirit grows upon its branches in abundance.

Fix your eyes upon this Tree.

Rest in the shadow of this Tree.

Live in the shelter of this Tree.

Don't be deceived by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Knowledge may look desirable,

but its way ends in death.

Figuring things out really comes from self-reliance.

Beware of self-reliance,

because its way ends in death.

Self-reliance is denying one's need for God.

It is prideful, striving to be like God;

and these ways end in death.

Man's ways may seem appealing, and man's reason may look right;

but their ways end in death.

Don't be deceived by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,

for the wages of sin is death, but The GIFT of GOD is ETERNAL LIFE.

Don't rest under the shadow of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Neither eat of its fruit;

for it produces anxiety, fear, discontentment, self-deception, shame,

criticism, comparison, jealousy, pride, lust, perversion, and ultimately death.

Choose, instead, to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life and LIVE under its

protection enjoying the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control in all its abundance.

-John and Ruth Ann Payne

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## Support

Thank you for partnering with *Springs of Life* to see His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven! Thank you for your gifts and prayers.

Reach me by email at [ruthann.p@cornerstoneinternational.org](mailto:ruthann.p@cornerstoneinternational.org)

To stand with *Springs of Life* financially, you can give online at [cornerstoneinternational.org/payne](http://cornerstoneinternational.org/payne). To give by mail, make checks out to Cornerstone International, memo *Springs of Life*, and mail using the enclosed envelope.

  
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international

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800-859-4578  
po box 192 • willmore, ky • 40390  
[cornerstoneinternational.org](http://cornerstoneinternational.org)