

## **Use What You Have for Christ**

Scripture: Jeremiah 10:6 - 7 & 12 – 13 and Acts 9:36 - 43

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Honoring Barry McNews

How many of you have been to the Niagara Falls? If you have been at the might Falls, how many of you have ridden on the ship - 'The Maid of the Mist'? It is a must do! This ship leaves the American side on the Niagara River and heads upstream towards the Falls. This can be a scare trip or it can be a funny trip or somewhere in between.

They give a plastic poncho for the trip. The poncho is there to keep you dry or at least to try to keep you dry. My poncho, last time I was there, was blue and I did not wear the hood at first. On my poncho was imprinted 'Maid of the Mist'.

With my poncho on and my camera out, we started our journey to the Falls. The ship 'The Maid of the Mist' streams slowly toward the Falls. The closer you get to the Falls, the louder the Falls become. The closer you get to the Falls, the more mist pours onto the deck of the ship. The water crashes against the ship. The spray of the Falls pours onto the deck. It sprayed all over me and covered my blue poncho with water and it began to stick to my skin. Once I got closer to the Falls, I decided to put the hood up so that my hair did not get soaked. The water was cold and the air was thick with moister.

The 'Maid of the Mist' slowly trudged forward. It seemed to get dangerously close to the base of the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls. I can remember my wife Sherri asking me if we would go under the Falls. I smiled and said - 'I hope so!' But the captain steered the ship to safety and stalled between the Canadian and American waterfalls. Boy, when the engine turned off on 'The Maid of Mist' it got a little scary! I could not hear the engine stop, but I could tell the ship not moving! Scary!

The view from in between the two Falls took my breath away and I began to laugh. The power and might of the sight from between the two Falls was awesome! The water crashed against the rocks, sending fine droplets of water into the sky. The noise was of the Falls made me deaf to all others noises. And in that moment, the awesome power of God came upon my being like the mist on my poncho. The awesome power God seemed to drip off of my poncho and great big smile came upon my face.

The Falls displayed the strength of God! The water received its power form God. The power covered me in the form of mist. The power reminded me that I need to reflect God's strength because I, too, am 'made of the mist'. The power of the Falls reminded me that I am made by the power of God.

The Falls displayed the strength of God for the water received its power form God. The power covers us. The power reminds us that we need to reflect God's strength because we, too, am 'made of the mist'. The power of the Falls reminds us that we are made by the power of God.

In Jeremiah 10:12 it says *'It is He who made the earth by his power, and who established the world by his wisdom and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.'*

Today, we will recognize the great power of our God in the person we honor today. Let us celebrate God's strength like we are on 'The Maid of the Mist' and we have stopped in between the Falls. Let us feel the power displayed in our Camp & Conference program here at Bethany Beach. This power has blessed our region and our church. This power reminds us that we are truly blessed to have a wonderful leadership here.

In 2001 the ‘Sewing Hall of Fame’ was established to recognize people that have made a lasting impact on the home sewing industry with unique and innovative contribution through sewing education and product development.

The Sewing Hall of Fame is a 21<sup>st</sup> century invention but had it been around during the first century in Israel, a women named Tabitha might had been a lock for induction. Tabitha was a believer in Jesus and a seamstress who spent a lot of time sewing for the poor widows in her community. After she became ill and died, disciples sent for Peter to see if God would work a miracle through him.

When Peter arrived, weeping widows showed Peter the robes and other clothing that Tabitha had made for them. These cloths were evidence of her always doing good for the poor in the city.

By God’s power and through Peter, Tabitha was restored to life!

God calls and equips each one of us to use our skills to meet the needs that are present in our community and world. Let us release our skills into the service of Jesus Christ. Let us see how God can use our acts of love to stitch hearts and lives together.

God has called one amongst us today to the ministry of Tabitha. God called and equipped Barry McNews to use his skills to meet the needs of all the youth and adults who have come to this Camp and Conference Center. Let us celebrate this release his skills in service of Jesus Christ. Let us see how God used his leadership and his acts of love to stitch hearts and lives together here at this camp.

When near the Falls, I could not hear anything but the power of the water. Today let us celebrate Barry McNews for his leadership of our camp and conference. Barry is ‘Made’ of the Mist of a love for Jesus Christ and he has shown that for many years here.

(Sharing of a tribute to Barry)

Will Barry McNews please stand. Let us applaud him for his leadership at the Camp and Conference Center.

(Do Blessing for Barry McNews)