

The Desert Shall Rejoice

A young woman named Hannah* living in a large Mideastern city during the Covid pandemic wrote to friends in the United States, “Each evening after the Arabic call to prayer from local minarets, mosque leaders across the nation begin to pray, crying out to Allah, asking him to have mercy and heal the sick in this nation and in the world . . . I often go to my window where I see neighbors at their windows, standing with their hands open to heaven to pray. As the situation gets worse, desperation is growing and even some who would not normally turn to God are looking to him for help . . . we’ve been asking God to move in power to draw the nations of the world to Jesus.”

Even before the crisis began Hannah and her team sensed God inviting them into a season of prayer and fasting, asking Him for His strategies to see their country’s 83 million people reached with the gospel and disciplined. As a result, they were given new opportunities, boldness and joy as they went out into the streets and God led them to spiritually-hungry people. On the evening of their 40th day of fasting, a lockdown began. But God had equipped them with media skills. They brainstormed and created Facebook ads and a chatbot that would address the atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, and they were encouraged as they found their efforts shared and read by hundreds of people. “This is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD . . . we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Isaiah 25:9).

Hannah concluded, “We see God at work and we know this is only the beginning of all He will do . . . May He use this time to awaken hearts to His goodness and to draw many to Jesus . . . We pray that we would be filled with the Spirit and with peace at all times and in all of our interactions with others.” To this day the desire of their hearts continues.

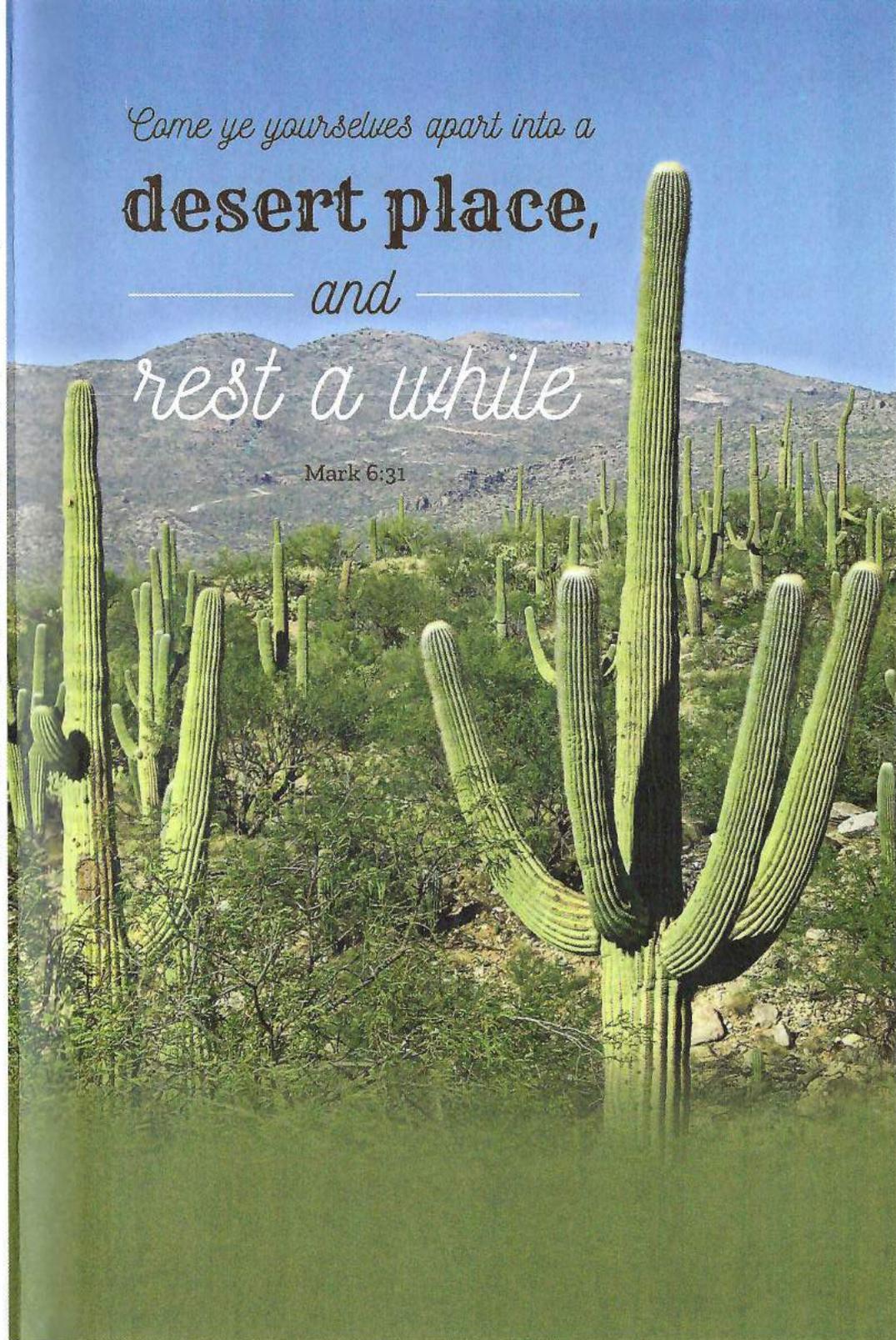
Karen Horsley

**Name changed to protect identity*

Come ye yourselves apart into a
desert place,
and
rest a while

Mark 6:31

Saguaro cactus in Arizona ©duckycards, courtesy iStock · Printed in USA



Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

July 25, 2021

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope Part 2

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn # 499 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

Welcome and Announcements

Ron Marks

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #512 Jesus is All the World to Me

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Sermon

Scripture: Mark 5:17-20

Mark 6: 53-56

John 4:40-42

James 5:16-18

"Talking Power"

Pastor Don Mauldin

Hymn of Benediction

Don't forget to Shine, Shine, Shine!

Covenant News

Ask Ron about our new hearing enhancements.

Don't miss a word of the sermon!

Covenant's ministry for July is the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. They are a non-profit organization who distributes donated food and basic essentials to 190+ non-profit agencies in North Central Florida.

**For every \$1 donated,
Bread of the Mighty Food Bank
can provide up to 10 meals.**

Welcome Mauldin Family!

Don's phone number is 352-262-5349 if you need him.

Words of Wisdom

It is not so much what happens to you or me that counts in life, but how we react to that which happens to us that makes the difference in living.

Never trust your tongue when your heart is bitter. Hush until you heal.