

THE PASTOR’S PEN

Peace at my age

What is peace? It is the absence of commotion. It is the quietness during the loud times. It is something valuable that we all need in our lives. The older we get the more we value the times of peace that come to our lives.

The absence of commotion is one of the greatest times of our lives. My wife and I love to camp and the majority of these trips we find ourselves in a place where there is little to no cell service and that is how we enjoy it. We like to be cut off from the constant ability to be reached and just enjoy our peace.

A few years ago, we took our son, his wife, our grandchildren, and a nephew camping with us. We were in a remote area where cell service was extremely limited. The area was absolutely beautiful with many outdoor amenities to enjoy and we all participated in those things and had a great time. In the evening is when those with us could not seem to take advantage of the lack of mobile communication or data.

Almost hourly our phones are buzzing or some type of notification is popping up. A lot of the time it becomes a distraction to whatever we are trying to do or to accomplish. I am thankful for the ease of access especially in critical times to be able to be reached but sometimes it will take away the peace of the moment that you are trying to enjoy.

Just as those campers that tagged along with us wanted to

have some type of communication or access to life outside of the campsite I was relishing in the fact of no signal on my device. The understanding of the peace that you desire as your progress through age has not sent them the memo as of yet. Some day they will get to that point.

Jesus told us, “My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you,” in John 14:27. There is a difference in the peace of God and the peace of this life. The peace of this life can be altered, interrupted, manifested, and taken away. The peace of God is there during the midst of the storms and troubles of life and does not change. That is the peace that I long after day after day. That is the peace at my age that I seek for.

The peace of this world has to be scheduled, secluded, planned for, and dictated by our lives. We have to make sure that we leave notification with someone of our intentions so that we are not reported as missing persons or have a welfare check by the police department sent to our doors.

We have to physically take a break and step into this momentary peace to be able to enjoy it.

The peace of the Lord is not scheduled, it is not dictated by outside influence, and it is not interrupted by the things of this life. When we have the peace of the Lord it does not matter if we are sitting in the middle of an EF5 tornado we still will not be moved in our



peace. We are able to rest assured that regardless of what comes to our lives we have this connection with Christ that is so great that His calmness subdues us even in those moments that should cause us to flee.

In a world that is full of chaos, noise, confusion, hate, evil, and instant access, peace at my age means more than any financial gain I could ever find. To have this peace of God that stills me and quiets me in the times when the flesh should be worried or afraid is the peace at my age I have always longed for. Maybe you realize today that is missing in your life and you feel the urge to crumble from the noise, may I compel you to seek for that peace that can not be shaken, crumbled, broken, or silenced that can only be found in Christ?

No matter your age you need the peace of God to encompass you daily. Life is loud. Life is large. Life is a hassle. The older you grow you will understand the value of peace at my age.

Pastor Steven Temple is the Pastor of The Church on the Hill in Rose Hill, VA. You can reach Pastor Steven at pastor.steven.temple@gmail.com

Classifieds & Legals

MEMORANDUM

TO: Engineering Consulting Firms
FROM: Boone Bowling Mayor City of Middlesboro
DATE: August 20, 2025
SUBJECT: Request for Statement of Qualifications

The City of Middlesboro is accepting Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from engineering firms for the Middlesboro Pedestrian Bridge project. A single firm will be selected to provide engineering services.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK
The project will include all engineering services including, but not limited to, planning, design, and construction related to the project.

DETERMINATION
A selection committee appointed by the Owner will consider “Statements of Qualifications”. In order to be considered, SOQs must be received prior to 2 p.m. Thursday, August 28, 2025, at Middlesboro City Hall at 221 North 21 st Street, Middlesboro, KY, 40965. Submittals should be sealed and labeled “Statement of Qualifications for the MIDDLESBORO PROJECT. Four (4) copies of the “Statement of Qualifications” are to be submitted. Determination will be made following deadline. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all “Statements of Qualifications”. “Statements of Qualifications” will be evaluated and ranked on the basis of the following considerations:
1) Overall qualifications of the firm.
2) Experience on similar projects.
3) Experience and availability of qualified personnel.
4) A list of references that may be contacted concerning previous performance on similar projects and familiarity with local factors.

All Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and awarded points on the basis of the following criteria:
1) Qualifications of the Firm 0-25
2) Experience on Similar Projects 0-25
3) Key Personnel Experience 0-25
4) References/Familiarity 0-25
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE 100
Statements of Qualifications should include the following minimum information:
1) Identification of specific personnel to be assigned to this project, including resumes of those persons indicating their experience on previous projects of this nature.
2) Identification of the firm’s experience in similar projects and overall experience in bridge/roadway design and experience in ARC funding requirements.
3) A list of references of prior clients of similar projects, and familiarity with local factors, and the ability to work with local officials.
Questions concerning the RFQ should be addressed to Boone Bowling at PO Box 756, Middlesboro, KY, 40965, or at phone number 606-248-5670.
Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated on the afternoon of August 26, 2025 on the basis of submitted written materials only; therefore, it is not necessary that a representative of the firm attend the evaluation meeting. After the close of evaluations, the Owner will contact the highest-ranking firm and enter into negotiations with that firm. If the Owner is unable to negotiate satisfactory agreements, the second-ranked firm will be contacted. Once a firm has been selected, all unsuccessful firms will be promptly notified. The City of Middlesboro reserves the right to reject any and all responses and negotiate with any firm of their choice and are not responsible or liable for any costs incurred. The Owner and consulting firm selected will adhere to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 3 of Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and other federal and state laws and regulations.
No persons shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the implementation of this project on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicapped status. The City of Middlesboro is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
All Statements of Qualifications should be addressed to:
City of Middlesboro, Att’n: Boone Bowling - Mayor, 221 North 21 st Street, Middlesboro, KY, 40965.

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PURSUANT TO SECTION 424.120 AND 242.340 of Kentucky Revised Statutes, Notice to Creditors, Administration has been granted by the District Court of Bell County upon the following estate:

Donna How,
Deceased 4/23/2025
Middlesbor, KY 40965

Kenneth How,
Executor
Hon Christopher F Douglas
Pineville, Ky 40977

All persons having claims against the above estate(s) are notified to present same to the fiduciary verified according to law, no later than Feb 6th, 2025. Colby Slusher, Clerk Bell Circuit and District Courts

PURSUANT TO SECTION 424.120 AND 242.340 of Kentucky Revised Statutes, Notice to Creditors, Administration has been granted by the District Court of Bell County upon the following estate:

Marlin Griffin,
Deceased 7/02/2025
873 Upland Church Rd
Hulen, KY 40845

Laura Lee,
Marlene Hoskins
Co-Administrix
114 Corbin Circle
Corbin, Ky 40701

All persons having claims against the above estate(s) are notified to present same to the fiduciary verified according to law, no later than Feb 6th, 2025. Colby Slusher, Clerk Bell Circuit and District Courts

NOTICE:

2002 CHEVY TAHOE

VIN:

1GNEK13Z22J317153

Owner:

Jeffrey Wayne Benfield

Vehicle will be sold on

August 28, 2025 to pay for

towing and storage:

Lein holder:

Eastern Credit Union

Anderson Towing

416 1/2 Dansbury Ave.

Middlesboro, Ky 40965

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