

September, 2011

Dear Families of Gilead Bible Church,

Labor Day is Monday, September 2. Most of us think of the day as a day-off, beginning of another school year, or sign that summer is drawing to a close.



The first Labor Day parade occurred Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. It has been celebrated as a national holiday in the United States and Canada since 1894. Most historians credit Peter McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, with the original idea of a day for workers to show their solidarity. Others credit Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J. ¹

Biblically, there is no Labor Day, but the Bible does address labor or work. During the creation, the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground. The trees were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God also put the man he had formed in the garden to work it and take care of it. This reminds us that wherever God places us to labor, we are work at it well and to take care of that responsibility well. Our work includes:

- The work at our place of employment
- The work in raising our children and family
- The work among the believer in church

That means we are to avoid the commonplace error of being lazy, rather we are to imitate the ant who gathers what it needs for sustenance with no one to tell it what to do.

At creation, God knew that it was not good for the man to be alone, so God made a helper suitable for him. **God planned it so that the husband and wife would complement and encourage each other in work.** No one can do everything; that is why husband and wife each have a role. Someone has to bring home the income; someone has to raise the children and take care of the home. Unfortunately these traditional roles have been altered for the sake of one's own career advancement. May God revive the roles of husbands and wives in the next generation so all may be well at home and before God.

God Bless,

Pastor and Helen Moy

¹ excerpted from <http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/question459.htm>

二零一一年九月

親愛的基列主內一家,

九月二日星期一是美國勞工節. 我們可能會想到這是另一個假期, 又是一個新學年的開始, 又或是夏天快要結束的象徵。



第一個勞工節巡遊活動是源於一八八二年九月五日在紐約開始, 由一八九四年開始正式成為美國和加拿大全國慶祝的節日。大多數歷史學者相信是由木匠工人領袖 **Peter McGuire** 帶領和其他工會組織在這一天巡遊活動中展示工人的力量和團結精神, 也有其他學者認為是 **Matthew Maguire** 開始, 他後來亦成為新澤西洲國際機械師協會 344 工會秘書。

從聖經上去看是沒有勞工節日, 但是聖經有提及勞動或是工作。當神創造天地萬物時, 祂在東面設立一個園子。神做各樣賞心悅目和可以作食物的樹和果子從地上生長, 當中有生命樹和分辨善惡樹。神將祂所造的人安置在園中要他修理看守, 從這裏提醒了我們無論神放我們在甚麼崗位上, 我們都要盡責任將本份做好. 我們的工作包括了:

- 在職業上的工作
- 在照顧家庭和孩子的工作
- 在教會眾信徒中的工作

這意思是我們要避免處於懶惰的常見錯誤, 而是要仿效螞蟻一樣自覺地去收集它所需要的糧食。

在創造中, 神知道一人獨居是不好, 所以神為他造一個配偶幫助他。神這樣的計劃是要丈夫和妻子在共同工作中能相互相補和鼓勵, 沒有人能獨力做到所有的事, 這就是為什麼丈夫和妻子都有自己的角色。有人要負責家庭的收入, 有人要照顧家庭和兒女的成長。不幸的是人為要成全個人在事業上的發展而令至這些傳統的角色已經變質。願神復興在下一代作為丈夫和妻子的角色以至他們有良好的家庭並在神面前蒙福。

願主祝福你們

梅牧師及師母