MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2020

Flexible and Responsive

by Dr. Jody Bowser, Senior Pastor



"Thank you for remaining engaged these past six months, and for leaning in as we move forward into the future that God has for us."

I am asked to give a report at our monthly Board of Administration meetings. I think of it as a mini "state of the church" update every thirty days or so. I'll often begin by expressing "kudos" (words of appreciation) for staff members or other people in our church family who have gone over-and-above in their service to the Lord. I will then highlight the various strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that we face as a church.

In my report this past month, I found that all of my thoughts and comments were basically boiling down to one of two things: flexibility and responsiveness. How do we continue to respond to a world that is so rapidly changing and so filled with such enormous needs?

As you all know, a week hasn't gone by since mid-March that we haven't had to face new challenges. I can't tell you how many times our staff would make a decision, only to have to revise and change that decision just several hours later. A great example of this is our Saturday evening parking lot service. Back in June we had a regathering plan in place, making some of our indoor services "masks required" and other services "masks optional." But just days before beginning to implement this plan, there was a statewide mandate that made this plan unworkable. What should we do? On Thursday afternoon of

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that week, the decision was made to offer the Saturday service—just two days later! That was a couple of months ago and I am so pleased to say that that service has been a great joy and blessing. Thank you for your flexibility these past months—and thank you in advance for remaining that way in the weeks and months to come!

I would say that a larger question, though, is how do we RESPOND to the great needs of our changing world? This pandemic has caused enormous upheaval and struggle. The most obvious struggle, of course, is the sickness and suffering that the virus causes. Our prayers continue to be with those infected by COVID. Our prayers also continue to be with those battling this virus on the front-lines—first responders and those serving in the medical field and care-giving professions. Thank you for your generous gifts that enabled us to bless those at our local hospital with meals early in the pandemic. It was a wonderful way to "tell" those on the front lines that they were appreciated and being prayed for.

This past month, our Board of Administration made the decision to reach out and bless six churches here in Franklin County with a financial gift of \$12,500 each. This decision came out of much prayer and discussion—knowing that for some churches these past six months have brought about a terrific financial hardship. Thank you for your faithful and sacrificial giving—and I want you to know that the leadership at King Street is constantly seeking God's wisdom as we listen and respond.

Our Agape English Ministry team has worked overtime, looking for ways to respond to the ENORMOUS NEEDS of the many families right here in downtown Chambersburg, especially those who don't yet have good skills with speaking English. I can't begin to tell you all of the work that is going on behind the scenes, looking for ways to support people and meet needs.

Special kudos go out to Becky Hann and our

Children's Ministry team. When the decision was made by our local school board to only offer virtual learning, we were immediately aware of the hardship that this would place on many families. Becky and her team went to work, creating in the span of just a few days a ministry called Kidztown Crossing. The goal of the ministry is to fill the gaps for our dual working church families (including families involved in our After School and Agape English programs). Please know that we are not a site that is hosting some other program. This is a MINISTRY of our church—seeking to accomplish our mission to engage and bless our community with the Gospel. Your tithes and offerings are going to support this vital ministry. Kids are being blessed and families are receiving much-needed support.

Everything I describe here is truly just the tip of the iceberg. My report at the previously mentioned recent board meeting went on for several minutes! I wanted to give you a taste of that report here in my newsletter article, so that you would be encouraged and blessed by the many ways that God is working. Thank you all for praying—and continuing to give. Thank you for remaining engaged these past six months and for leaning in as we move forward into the future that God has for us. We don't always see with our eyes all that God is doing, but we trust that God's Upper Story plan is being lived out EVERY DAY in our Lower Story lives—as we remain flexible and responsive!



KING STREET CHURCH

Mission Statement: Engaging and blessing our community with the Gospel.

We believe that becoming a transformed disciple of Jesus involves three core values:

Spiritually Alive in Jesus
Relationally Connected by Jesus
Missionally Engaged for Jesus
Who are you worshiping? Who is your community?
Who are you serving?

Ministry Staff

Paul Baker, Pastor Emeritus
Jody Bowser, Senior Pastor
Jay Brown, Pastor of Mission and Discipleship
Ron Cook, Minister of Pastoral Care
Stephen Flint, Pastor of Worship and Care
Matt Gish, Pastor of High School Ministries
Dan Gehris, Business Manager
Becky Hann, Director of Children's Ministry
Nathan Hann, Pastor of Contemporary Worship
Adam Keath, Director of Restoration and Recovery
Nick Randle, Worship Associate
Tyler Roberts, Media and Production Coordinator
John Shadle, Pastor of Middle School/College Ministries

October 2020 Messenger Deadline

Articles and information for the October 2020 issue should be submitted by September 23.

The Messenger is a monthly publication of King Street United Brethren Church 56 N. Second St., Chambersburg, PA 17201 Phone: (717) 264-4651, Fax: (717) 264-9408 Internet: www.kingstreetchurch.com

Don Burkholder, editor (donburk@comcast.net)



TIME CHANGE

Starting September 5,

our Saturday Worship Service will begin one hour earlier, at 6 p.m.

Bring your chair and join us in the parking lot of the KSC Ministry Center for worship and teaching each week. You can even have the song lyrics and sermon screens sent right to your smart device by texting REGATHER to 717-401-7777.



L3 Groups have had a positive effect at growing communities in our church. We will be forming new groups this fall. If you would like to be a part of one, reach out to Molly Shull at mshull@kschurch.org.

SERVING DURING COVID: THE SUMMER INTERNS SOUND OFF



It's hard to believe that the summer is coming to a close! King Street Church offers internships to students who are seeking to serve God in ministry. We praise God for the interns who served with us this year! In the coming weeks they will be leaving their roles here and heading back to school. COVID has created an unusual environment in which to serve, and yet, we also know God is at work. So we asked our interns...

What was it like to serve during COVID? What has God been teaching you this summer?

Celeste Kanka Worship Ministries

(Celeste is studying Worship Leadership at Huntington University.)

It's been interesting to serve during COVID. I was sad at first and not sure what to expect with the internship, but then it was exciting to see how King Street was still being the church and reaching out to the community. I saw staff members encouraging each other too. There have been opportunities to serve outdoors, which I didn't expect, and that's been really fun. I like knowing that the outdoor services have given people another way to worship together during the pandemic. My personality likes to

be in control, and with everything being out of control, it has been hard for me. But God has been showing me that in these moments I need to trust Him. He has shown me that He still has a plan for me. I'm learning to say, "God, I trust that you know what's going on even when I don't understand."

Brieonna Williams Children's Ministries

{Brieonna is studying Graphic Design at York College of Pennsylvania.)

Through this internship God has taught me that the people really do make the church! I didn't realize how much work the congregation

and the Children's Ministry team do. I found out that there is a group of ladies who water and take care of the plants outside. I thought someone was hired to paint the murals in the preschool hallway but I learned that members of our church family did that too (including Lisa Todino, the Nursery Coordinator!)... The list of discoveries could go on. Through COVID God has taught and shown me that it is all in His hands and that I just need to trust in Him. I reference 1 Peter 5:7 sometimes ("Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.") and although no one knows what the world will look like after this or even when this could be over, I feel like this is the time for us all to turn to God and, if needed, rebuild our relationship with Him.

Tatiana Regels Creative Arts

{Tatiana is studying Digital Cinematography at Full Sail University.)

I was immediately interested in this internship for the opportunity of combining my passion for video with my relationship with God. I learned a lot about how I can use video to share encouragement to those around me, especially through projects like the Midweek Connection. During COVID, I learned about the importance of connection and community even from a distance. It was really fun to improve our livestreams every week so that everyone could still worship from home.

Hannah Black Children's Ministries

(Hannah is studying Early Childhood Education at Shippensburg University.)

Through this internship God has taught me that the church body is united through Christ above anything else. Christians come from many diverse backgrounds and opinions, but we share the same goal to share the Gospel and God's love with the people around us. So instead of our differences being a point of division, we can use them to our advantage by working together to solve problems. Through COVID, God has taught me that He can bring good out of any situation. This season has been hard, but even through many obstacles, I was encouraged that God used the KSC Children's Ministry to reach out to our church families and serve them. He also taught me that serving doesn't always have to be in the form of a grand gesture. Sometimes the small things we do to serve others make the biggest difference.

Camaryn Ellis Children's Ministries

{Camaryn is studying Rehabilitation and Human Services at Penn State University.}

Through this internship, I have discovered that my passion is working with people, especially those who need it the most. I have had many experiences that have opened my eyes to ministry opportunities here in the local community. I have also felt God calling me towards speaking and preaching to people. I have had a couple opportunities to do this during my internship. I have also been given the opportunity to see how ministry can still continue even through a pandemic. We are called to love and serve others no matter the sacrifice. I have seen many people making sacrifices to continue to reach the local community with the Gospel.

Please pray with us for these women of God, that God would protect them and guide them as they return to school.

Giving REPORT

July 26

Offering (General Fund): \$42,987.62

August 2

Offering (General Fund): \$45,739.42

August 9

Offering (General Fund): \$60,408.97

August 16

Offering (General Fund): \$43,370.78

August 23

Offering (General Fund): \$33,933.29



Celebrate Recovery will not be meeting in September, as we work to make some exciting updates. Watch for more information coming in October.





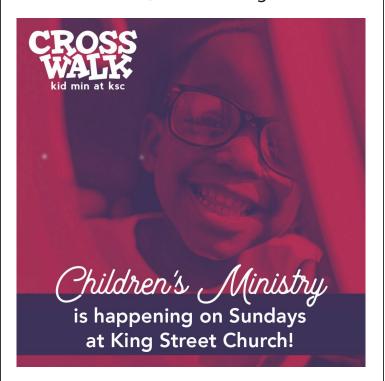


We celebrate that God has opened doors for us to minister to our church family and community in a new and exciting way. Our Children's Ministry has responded to the current school-year challenges with a new program called KSC Kidztown Crossing, designed to meet the needs of kids in the Chambersburg School District whose parents are working and unable to stay home with them during the day.

Starting Monday August 24 we welcomed more than 40 children (who have completed our registration process) into our building to help them with their online learning and to share God's Word with them. This included children from our Agape English Program, our After School Program and children who attend King

Street Church on Sundays. Kidztown Crossing is happening on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m.

Please pray for the children, their teachers, parents, our Children's Ministry staff and those that will be helping them with their school work. Please pray that God would be glorified through our efforts. If you would like to know how you could help or support this ministry, contact Becky Hann at bhann@kschurch.org.



Our kids are back in action! Crosswalk Kids Ministry is offering one hour of classes on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for our children in Nursery through 5th Grade. Space is limited; it is important for parents to register their children. The sign-up for the following week goes live at 9:30 a.m. the previous Sunday. The registration then continues through Tuesday. For example, the registration for Sunday, September 13 will be open from September 6 at 9:30 a.m. through Tuesday, September 8 at midnight: https://kingstreetchurch.com/register

KSC STUDENT MINISTRY EVENTS





SEPT 9 @ 7:00 PM IN THE BAKER CENTER

Doors open at 6:45 pm



GPS Restart

Sunday, September 13 9:30 a.m.

We're so excited to be gathering back with students on a regular basis. While it may look different, we have a lot of fun in store for this year and can't wait to see how God works.

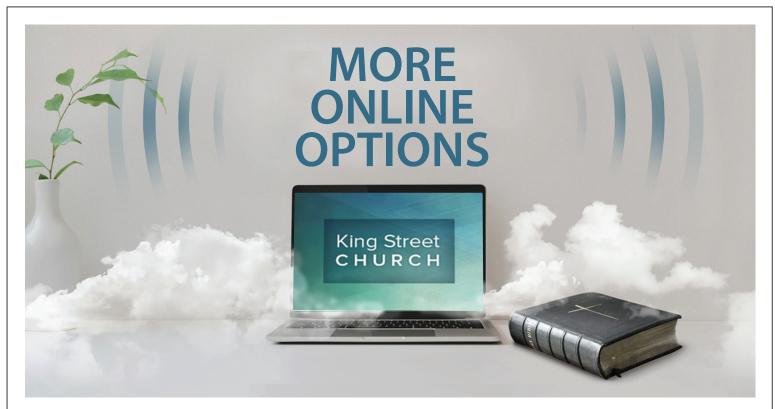


The Street at Rhodes Grove

Fall "All Dayer"

Saturday, September 26 3–8 p.m.

Save the date to join us at Rhodes Grove camp for a time of fun, fellowship, food and a campfire!



We now have even more online options for viewing our worship services. Live streaming of the worship services will occur at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 9:30 a.m. (contemporary). Additionally, you can now view a rebroadcast of each service: 11 a.m. rebroadcast of the contemporary service and 1 p.m. rebroadcast of the traditional service. This is a great way to share the service with a friend!

SEPTEMBER 2020 BIBLE READING PLAN

Following Jesus: A Journey Through the Gospels

1 Luke 13:1-9 □ 11 Luke 15:11-32 □ 21 Luke 18:18-30 П 2 Luke 13:10-21 П □ 12 Luke 16:1-18 □ 22 Luke 18:31-43 3 Luke 13:22-30 □ 13 REST □ 23 Luke 19:1-10 4 Luke 13:31-35 □ 14 Luke 16:19-31 □ 24 Luke 19:11-27 5 Luke 14:1-14 □ 25 Luke 19:28-40 □ 15 Luke 17:1-10 6 REST □ 16 Luke 17:11-19 □ 26 Luke 19:41-48 7 Luke 14:15-24 □ 17 Luke 17:20-37 □ 27 RFST П 8 Luke 14:25-35 □ 18 Luke 18:1-8 ☐ 28 Luke 20:1-18 9 Luke 15:1-7 □ 19 Luke 18:9-17 □ 29 Luke 20:19-40 □ 10 Luke 15:8-10 □ 20 REST □ 30 Luke 20:41-47



SEPTEMBER 2020 SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Visit https://serve.kingstreetchurch.com for more information.

CROSS | Cumberland Vista

Cards of Encouragement 9 Openings

CROSS | Grace Home

Cards of Encouragement 6 Openings

CROSS | Grace Home

Power Washing 2 Openings

CROSS | Griffith House

Cards of Encouragement 5 Openings

Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County

Habitat Faith Builders 4 Openings

Monarch's Way

General Indoor Maintenance Projects 6 Openings

Monarch's Way

Window Washing 10 Openings

Pregnancy Ministries, Inc.

Sort Clothing 1 Opening

Shook Home Retirement-Community

Cards of Encouragement 12 Openings

Sweet Grace Ministries

Make Cards 1 Opening

King Street Church

Crosswalk Elementary

Elementary Volunteers
15 Openings

Crosswalk Nursery

Nursery Volunteers 15 Openings

Crosswalk Pre-School

Pre-School Volunteers 15 Openings

Greeters

20 Openings

Media and Lyrics Operator

5 Openings

Online Sevice Host

8 Openings

Sanitizers

12 Openings

S**eaters**

15 Openings



On Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, we plan to remember Christ's sacrifice through communion. Individually-packaged elements will be served. For the month of September, communion offerings will go to Once More Ministries. This ministry shares the love of Jesus and builds relationships by providing toiletries to those in need in Franklin County.



Did you know that you can get the weekly Digital Worship Folder automatically sent to your smart device each week? Text TODAY to (717) 401-7777 to subscribe.

NEW PARTNERS



The following new partners were recognized on August 23 at 8 a.m. in the Sanctuary:

Martha and Gary Norris
Carrie and Michael Partch
Jacqueline Shaffer

*** * * * ***

The following new partners will be recognized in September:

Sunday, September 6 11 a.m., Baker Center

Kristin and Glenn Tucker

Saturday, September 12

Barbara and Gary Keller

Taryn and Scott Keller

Lisa and Ralph Todino

Sunday, September 13 9:30 a.m., Baker Center

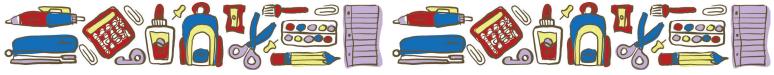
Amy and Aaron Probst Holly and Monty Seaman Trina and George Snoke

9:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Nick and Kathryn Randle

SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 18 19 20 2	BER 2 0 W T 7 8 14 15 21 22 28 29	F S 2 3 9 10 16 17 23 24			1
8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary Contemporary Worship Services in the Baker Center and Sanctuary Crosswalk Kids Ministry Classes (Nursery through 5th Grade) Contemporary Worship Service in the Baker Center	6	Labo	or Day 7		8
8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Communion, National Grandparents Day Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary Contemporary Worship Services in the Baker Center and Sanctuary Crosswalk Kids Ministry Classes (Nursery through 5th Grade) GPS Student Ministry Contemporary Worship Service in the Baker Center	13		14	First day of 1 Hispanic Heritage Month	5
8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary Contemporary Worship Services in the Baker Center and Sanctuary Crosswalk Kids Ministry Classes (Nursery through 5th Grade) GPS Student Ministry Contemporary Worship Service in the Baker Center	20		21	First day of 2 autumn	22
8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary Contemporary Worship Services in the Baker Center and Sanctuary Crosswalk Kids Ministry Classes (Nursery through 5th Grade) GPS Student Ministry Contemporary Worship Service in the Baker Center	27		28	2	29



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	3	4	6:00 p.m. Outdoor Worship Service Ministry Center Parking Lot
7:00 p.m. The Street Fall Kick-Off Baker Center (Doors open at 6:45)	10	Patriot Day 11 7:30 a.m. United Brethren Golf Tournament Greencastle Greens Golf Club	Communion 12 6:00 p.m. Outdoor Worship Service Ministry Center Parking Lot
7:00 p.m. The Street Meeting	17	18	6:00 p.m. Outdoor Worship Service Ministry Center Parking Lot
7:00 p.m. The Street Meeting	24	25	3:00 p.m. The Street "All Dayer" Rhodes Grove Camp 6:00 p.m. Outdoor Worship Service Ministry Center Parking Lot
7:00 p.m. The Street Meeting		Devo	TE YOURSELVES TO



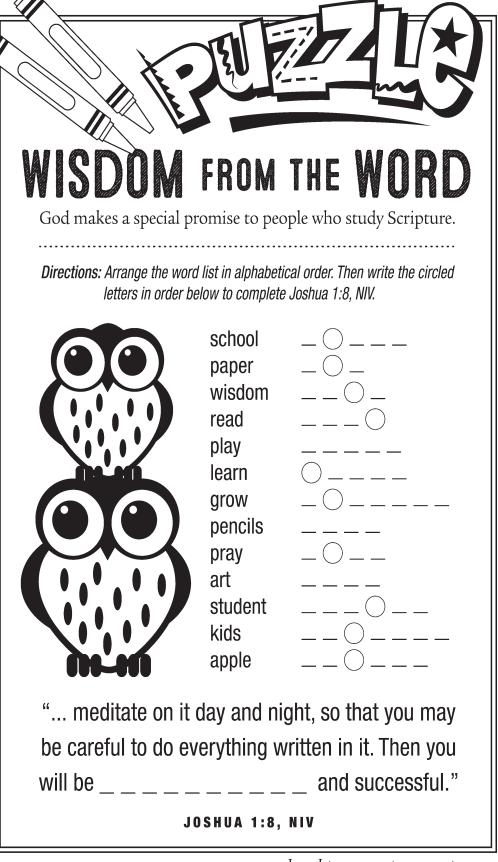
JUST FOR KIDS

A BUSHEL OF Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall. What you need: • Plain canvas bag

- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



- 1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
- 2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
- 3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
- 4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
- 5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
- 6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!





The following individuals were baptized on August 29 at 7 p.m. outside of the KSC Ministry Center:

Anisha Horst Noah Lehman

Marielle Sipe Autumn Stouffer



7th ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

for Emily Schoenleber has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2020 5 – 7 p.m.

Emily will share about her experiences at 6 p.m.

In accordance with CDC guidelines and PA Dept. of Health, we will be serving dinner while socially distancing. All meals will be served in single serve carry out boxes. This includes spaghetti, salad, desserts. We will be sitting socially distanced, but please feel free to sit with who you come with. We thank you in advance for wearing your masks to and from the dinner. Curb side and to- go orders are available. Please text or call Tamy Cook at (717) 658-4097.



Emily has been serving on staff with Circuit Riders, a division of Youth with a Mission (YWAM). She is now based in Huntington Beach, California.

Qu@tes of the Week

"More often than not, God uses the simple, and seemingly unnoticed to accomplish His work in this world."

Pastor Jody Bowser, July 25 and 26, 2020



"It's not how we see ourselves that ultimately matters. What matters is how God sees us."

Pastor Jody Bowser, August 1 and 2, 2020



"Now, more than ever, we need to hear the words of Colossians 3:2—'Don't shuffle along, eyes on the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is."

> Pastor Jody Bowser August 8 and 9, 2020



"The trials that we are going through today create the opportunity for us to grow in our faith. To develop an inner, SPIRITUAL sense of wisdom and understanding. To be fully aware of the LIV-ING GOD who loves us and is shaping our lives."

Pastor Jody Bowser August 15 and 16, 2020



"Jesus is God-sized. God is Jesus-shaped."

Pastor Jody Bowser, August 22 and 23, 2020



King Street Church is hiring a Coordinator of Guest Experience. This is a part-time, paid position.

We are looking for a person who has a vision for creating a warm, inviting atmosphere at King Street Church and who shares our belief that Welcome Ministries is a vital opportunity to engage and bless our community with the Gospel.

They would seek to identify new ways for members of our church family to connect into the life of the church and to guide them to service opportunities that would best suit their spiritual gifts. The Coordinator of Guest Experience would develop and oversee teams to carry out this mission.

Read the full job description at www.kingstreetchurch.com/staff.

Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and two references to Molly Shull, Administrative Assistant to the Pastoral Staff, at mshull@ kschurch.org.

PRIMETIMERS UPDATES

Please check the online worship folder: kingstreetchurch.com/the-hub/digital-worship-folder-2/ and the website: kingstreetchurch.com/connect/seniors/ for schedule changes or cancellations due to COVID-19.

If you have questions or for a refund, please call Frances Hummelsine.

September

Minibus Trip to Raystown Lake

CANCELED

October

Minibus Trip to Mercersburg

CANCELED

November

Bollman Bus Day Trip to American Music Theater in Lancaster to see Deck the Halls

- Wednesday, November 11
- Cost: \$107
- Included in cost: Transportation, Shady
 Maple Restaurant lunch buffet at noon, Show at 3 p.m., Gratuities for meal and bus driver
- Just a few seats left

December

Christmas Luncheon

• Wednesday, December 9



Friday, September 11 Greencastle Greens Golf Club

7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Shotgun Start

COST: \$65 per person (Money must be paid by September 4.)

Registration Deadline: September 4, 2020

Please make check out to: United Brethren Association

Please send Registration form and money to:

Bobby Culler, 2509 Black Gap Rd. Chambersburg, PA 17202

Please contact Bobby Culler with any questions you might have regarding this tournament: bobbyc@mtp-church.org.



Emily Schoenleber

August 3, 2020

(Serving with Circuit Riders in Huntington Beach, California)

Moving Back to California



It's beautiful, isn't it? The photo above was taken just a few minutes before our plane touched down at LAX. After a wonderful few months spent in Pennsylvania, it feels good to be back in Huntington Beach. I am so thankful for all the time I was able to spend with family during the quarantine, but I have such an expectancy in my spirit for what is to come in the days ahead!

Last week I took over the job of registrar for 21 Project because we made the decision to move it online. I actually really enjoy it and I've done it the past two summers in some capacity. In less than a week we have about 200 students signed up from all over the world. It's not too late to sign up. If you're between the ages of 17-29, head over to https://21project.com/ to apply. The school runs August 10-15 and we even made schedules to work for other nations in various time zones. If you want to apply, let me know and I can give you a discount code for \$50 off tuition. Every year when I've done 21, I always learn so much and really grow as a leader. I highly recommend it. If you're in middle or high school, Infusion Youth Camp is also running online.

Our Promise House

This past weekend, some friends and I had the absolute joy of moving to a beautiful house.



The Promise House

Except for the Evangeline (the big blue house you saw in my last newsletter), the way our community does staff housing is the younger married couples find a place to rent and a few other staff move in with them. It's a really fun set up because you get to build community with those you live with, in addition to the groups of people you work with on a daily basis.

Every time a couple is approved for a house, it really is a miracle because there aren't a lot of landlords that are excited about a bunch of 20 somethings renting a house together. But God always provides and opens the perfect doors. Madi and Caleb and their little boy, Azariah, are the ones who got this house. My roommate is Steph and we also have Abigail and Lindy who will be joining us in a few weeks. We're all so excited for this season.

In the next few weeks we will also be having two new little additions to our house—Madi is expecting twins. Our entire community is extremely excited about Ben and Ada's arrival. Over the next few months I'll actually be helping Madi look after the twins in addition to staffing our upcoming DTS starting mid-September.

Grit and Determination: Missionaries of Old

Over the last year I have read a handful of books detailing the lives of missionaries from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Men and women like Hudson Taylor, Gladys Aylward and Lillian Trasher, to name a few. I read their writings and excerpts from their journals and I am absolutely floored by so many things about their lives; they share many common threads. One massive one is their unwavering faith in the Lord, whom they fully take at His word. We're talking about situations where hundreds of children need to be fed and there's no food in the pantry and no money in hand, yet is worry present? Absolutely not, because the Lord promised to provide; and He always did.

These are men and women who left their homes to board a ship for no less than five months to sail to places like China and parts of Africa. They knew where the Lord had called them and they said their goodbyes to their parents and families, fully aware that they may very well never see them again on the earth. What devotion! When I think of my own life in missions, I've had it so easy compared to what they faced. Even when I lived on the other side of the world, visits home still happened at least once in a year. All it took was two days of travel, not six months. My heart has been so stirred to a deeper level of faith and surrender to the Lord through the lives of these incredible people. I encourage all of you to dive into their stories; they lead to a place of conviction, but beyond that, an even deeper love for the Man to whom they gave their lives.

Persistent Prayer

Before I list some things that you can be praying for, I was thinking about this over the recent weeks and wanted to share briefly about Luke 11 and Luke 18. In both of these chapters, Jesus gives some amazing instructions about prayer. At the beginning of Luke 11, just after He teaches them the Lord's prayer, Jesus goes into the story of a man who goes to his neighbor in the middle of the night asking for bread. Jesus says it's not even because they're friends, but because of his persistence that his neighbor gives him what he wants.

Similarly in Luke 18, Jesus tells the story of the persistent widow. Even though the judge is unrighteous, he still gives her justice because she continued bothering him. I think it's interesting that Jesus uses these kinds of words to tell us how He wants us to pray. Even if we think we're being repetitive and annoying, that's what Jesus is telling us to do. Keep asking, knowing that He will answer.

The other extremely encouraging thing I find is Luke 18:1, "And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." Jesus knew that it would be easy for us to get discouraged in prayer. He knew that we would struggle when we don't see answers. That is the entire reason we have this parable

at the start of Luke 18. Jesus is SO kind!

Prayer Points

- The preparations leading up to 21 Project and the school itself; even though it's online, that students would still encounter God, build community, experience freedom, get set on fire for Jesus and filled with faith
- All of our new staff arriving in a few weeks; that they would be able to raise the finances they need, that their housing would lock in and that they would just slot right in to our community when they return
- Our new house, that it would be a seamless transition as we all settle in over the next few weeks and also when we're joined by our two remaining housemates. Specifically for twoyear-old Azariah that he will feel settled in his new home amidst a whirlwind of transition
- Pray for Madi and the next few weeks leading up to the twins' arrival! Pray for a smooth and safe process as she and Caleb welcome these two miracles.

Some Final Thoughts

Our friend Lindy released a new song last week called "Lord of the Harvest" and as I listened to it, God was reminding me of how much I really do love the nations of the world. Almost as if it slipped to the back of my mind, because it's not really something we do right now. But I had this thought: Just because we're not going to the nations in this season doesn't mean we stop burning for the nations.

I think that idea applies to so many things; even though our lives look a bit different right now, our present circumstances don't determine the rest of our lives. God is no less trustworthy now then He was before Covid. He is still faithful! His word still holds true! We need to continue to press in and believe in faith, full of hope. The words He's spoken concerning nations, people groups, your own life aren't canceled just because we're in a pandemic. Allow yourself to be filled with hope for the

days that lie ahead.

I think we can all take a lesson from Abraham in this area: No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised (Romans 4:20-21). Wow! I just love that. There was no unbelief in his heart and he was completely convinced that God would do what He said. May we be the same.

Emily and Bryan Gerlach

July 28, 2020

(Serving in Thailand with TEAM Global Missions)

Bread for Life

In the midst of the chaos created by COVID-19, FCF has launched a new food-distribution program called Bread for Life (BFL). Since its first delivery in April, BFL has provided food and household essentials for nearly 2,000 people in over 900 family units. They work hard to find families in needy communities where FCF already has relationships built so that the distribution can strengthen those ties. FCF



The Bread for Life team praying with the recipients of a distribution.

partners then follow up with the recipients, encouraging them to know Jesus, the only one who can satisfy their spiritual hunger. BFL has over 1,000 more recipients already lined up and will continue to help meet this immediate need

for the foreseeable future.

It has been exciting to see the Lord working through food distribution at FCF and at the Cool Shade of Life church as we strive to bless those around us in this difficult time.

In family news Jameson is back to school two days a week and he absolutely loves it! Eden is 1 going on 13 and thinks that she can



Eden, Bryan, Jameson and Emily Gerlach

do everything her big brother can do. They continue to bless us and those in our community. Emily has been struggling with ear-nose-throat issues since bringing a sinus infection back with us from the U.S. She is on her fifth round of antibiotics since January, so please pray for her long-term healing! Bryan is staying quite busy with his work at FCF and online classes. He has been challenged and encouraged by his Thai co-worker's faith and spiritual growth.

Juvi Center

Emily had the chance to host the team that serves at the juvenile detention center for women this past week for a planning meeting. The team will be allowed to go back to the center in the next month and they are so excited to see the girls again and continue building relationships. They have not been able to enter the facility for several months for English or Bible classes due to COVID-19 government

restrictions and precautions.

Praises:

- Life is slowly opening back up here
- God is working through Bryan's team at FCF.

Prayers:

- For the Thai church to purchase land
- Health for Emily

B and SP

July 29, 2020

(Serving in Lincoln, Nebraska with Christar)

Counting Our Blessings

- Remember the runaway girl we mentioned for prayer several times? She has returned back to her family! She said, "Nobody is going to love me like my family." May God continue to work!
- One of our teammates got to pray with a Koren boy as the child desired to confirm his trust in Christ.
- *J* had a good 13th birthday. Thanks to all who encouraged him!
- Our teammates returned safely from Asia Minor on an evacuation flight with stories of God's faithfulness.
- Two Arabic church teens spent lots of time at a teammate's house and helping his dad. One continues to check on his dad while our teammate is out of town and the other has been heard loudly repeating biblical truths in the cornfields while detasseling corn. Who knows what God will do with and through these teens!
- A woman's face lit up with emotion and joy when she saw the Ukranian Bible *B* offered her at Foodnet.
- Huge tree branches that fell from our neighbor's tree during a storm did not hit T's room!

- *T*'s doctor was pleased with the results of his surgery and cleared him for normal activity. His next test is September. *T* was able to attend a Christian Day Camp last week.
- *J* attended a day camp for middle schoolers with Campus Life last week and was greatly encouraged.
- A teammate tested positive for Covid (twice), but none of us who were exposed to her tested positive, not even her husband. She also did not have bad symptoms. Praise the Lord!
- We are grateful for YOU, our faithful partners!
- Our North America Affinity Group conference, normally in New Jersey, was instead on Zoom. It went really well and was very encouraging. We are grateful to work with a group of wonderful servants of God!

Prayer Needs

- 1. Our hearts have recently been pricked for the Bosnian Muslims in Lincoln. Pray we would know how to follow this up and for open hearts.
- 2. Pray for the spiritual blinds to fall off our Muslim, Sabean, and Yazidi friends' hearts here. There are so many really lovely people set to enter a Christless eternity at this moment. May breakthroughs happen soon!
- 3. A couple marriages in the Arabic church are still on the rocks, but one husband is hoping to move back with his family soon. Pray God would become the center of both families.
- 4. While the Covid dial is still on orange in Lincoln, we have the option for our children to return to school in masks or stay home and do remote learning, this time mostly "live" with their teachers. Please pray for wisdom as we make decisions. School starts 8/12 (T) and 8/13 (J).
- 5. Ministry in person is still strange and socially distanced. Pray for wisdom as we look to the future with clubs, English class-

- es, house calls, etc.
- 6. A dear friend and Christar co-worker in Eastern Europe was just released from a one-month hospital stay from Covid. Pray he regains strength and wisdom to know how to best heal.
- 7. A young French couple requests prayer for their marriage as they deal with issues of depression and keeping Christ #1 in their individual lives and marriage.
- 8. Monday, 8/3, is the 6th anniversary of the 74th Yezidi genocide. Please pray for those who are still displaced or in captivity, as well as so many who continue to go through PTSD.

Karli Frelin

July 28, 2020

(Serving in Chiang Mai, Thailand with Campus Outreach International)

Family and Friends

Thank you for your faithfulness to pray for my team and the people of Thailand! I'm forever grateful for your generous gifts! Your prayers



Karli, Seven, Fang and Rachel

and financial gifts are having an eternal impact in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The new semester started at Chiang Mai University and there are several students who are interested in reading God's Word. I praise God that he is drawing students to himself!

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

I want to introduce you all to Seven (with the water bottle) and Fang (in the red). Right before the Coronavirus, Rachael and I got lunch with Seven and thought we could ask her to read the Bible with us next time we hung out with her. Unfortunately, Seven went to her home province soon after our lunch appointment. As I was praying for the girls in our ministry a few weeks ago, Seven texted me to let me know she was back in Chiang Mai! This was perfect



Madison, Dookdik, Ayne and Karli

timing. Rachael and I had dinner with Seven and Fang a few days later and they said they were interested in Christianity. After hearing this the Lord prompted us to ask the girls to read the Bible and they said yes! We have read about God creating the world in Genesis 1 and the fall in Genesis 3. This week, we plan to read about Jesus dying on the cross with them. Please pray for their hearts this week. Pray they would strongly consider giving up their lives to follow Jesus and would choose to surrender their lives to Christ!

Also, there are several other people that are reading the Bible with other staff on our team

or coming to our Bible study. Please continue to pray for God to open the eyes of these students that are showing interest in Jesus!

Madison and I met Dookdik and Ayne at the cafeteria the first week we were back on campus. Even though we just met these girls, I feel like God is already giving us favor in this friendship! I really enjoy spending time with them and I think they enjoy spending time with us, too. Please pray that God would deepen this relationship and for God to help us in speaking Thai with Dookdik and Ayne. Pray for God to give us opportunities to talk about him.



This picture is at our welcome back party. God brought about 60 students! We all had so much fun and I honestly couldn't believe how many people showed up. Pray for the Lord to continue the momentum he created with this event! The girls and guys are both having separate events this Friday. The girls are having a watercolor paint night and the guys are having a cookout. Please pray for students to come and for them to feel the love of Christ through the Christians that come.

Since the Messenger is online and available everywhere, precautions are necessary when sharing about missionaries serving in Muslim countries or other restricted areas. In order not to jeopardize our missionaries working in very challenging places, names and locations are excluded from some updates.



