

# Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

## Sunday School Missionary Project

The Sunday School kids, 2 year olds through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, have had a missionary project the past 4-5 months. The kids had been saving money, and working on projects to earn money. Their project was to collect money for Ashely & Julia Williams' ministry in Honduras. Each week, starting in late August, Ashely & Julia would come and share with the kids during Sunday School opening about Honduras and their ministry there. Ashely even faceted the kids when he was in Honduras. They are building new church and library for the people in Honduras. An offering was taken each week to help purchase books for their new library. On December 19, the Sunday School kids had the opportunity to present the Williams' with books, in Spanish, and also \$357.17 to help fill the new library.





The theme focus in both the Adult Library as well as the Children's library will be that of LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS. Our Adult Library display table will feature books that speak to the nurture and attention of the different relationships in your life. Which of these areas need your greatest attention currently - Is it God, a spouse, a child or a next door neighbor? Notable authors offer great advise to an open mind! Watch for prayer prompts and reading prompts as the month unfolds.

Over the past few months, the Children's Library has been focusing on one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Activities and books within the library have been available on each of the themed fruit. A Parent newsletter each month highlights the Fruit providing some "at home" family activities and ideas for parent discipling. An added email goes out each month as well, for some electronic helps for intentional parenting. This email is crafted by Karma Kitto. The TeamKid Facebook page created by Chantelle Klaassen also gives some great ideas to be done with parents and kiddos. We are thankful for these additional helpers in our Children's Library. Our focus this month is the Fruit of Love. We have been commanded with the words of Jesus to "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12. May God's love be evident in all of our interactions, not only with God's people but also with our neighbors who need to see Him!

## Church Board Installation Service

### Organization of the 2022 Church Boards

#### Elder Board:

Abe Schmidt—Chairman  
Larry Friesen—Vice-Chairman  
Scot Loyd—Secretary  
James Goossen

#### Deacon Board:

Bryson Huxman—Chairman  
Art Huxman—Vice-Chairman  
Mel Graybill—Secretary  
Dennis Morrison

#### Full Board:

Larry Friesen—Chairman  
Scot Loyd—Vice-Chairman  
Abe Schmidt—Secretary  
Gary Huxman—Treasurer

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> we installed new board members. Dennis Morrison was installed as Deacon, and we re-installed, for their second 3-year term, Larry Friesen, as Elder, and Mel Graybill as Deacon. Thank you to all of our board members for their faithful service at GCC. Please continue to lift up all the men on the church board as they seek God's will in leading our church into this next year.





# MINISTRY FAIR

What a special morning was shared on January 9 as the body of Garden Community Church came together to celebrate God's activity in our midst! This event was the crowning cap following an intensive 9 weeks of Sunday School teaching and discovery concerning the use of our Spiritual Gifts. Our Ministry Fair provided a birds eye view to all of the varying ministries at work within the Church. It also gave each of us a way to interact with those leaders who work in the different areas. Most importantly, the Fair provided an opportunity for each of us to evaluate where our talents and gifts would be most useful for the building up of the Body here at GCC.

Some of you may have picked up Interest/Connect cards for further prayer and a possible commitment to a specific ministry. A collection basket will be on the Welcome Center for several weeks. There will also be available with the basket, cards to fill out if you have decided *later* to seek further information about a specific ministry. The back of the card is a good place to write your questions or intentions. Step out of your comfort zone and see how God might magnify your willingness to be used by Him. We say thank you to all those who did respond with a commitment! The leader of that ministry will be contacting you for further instructions.

A special thank you is again expressed for all those leaders who created ministry tables and took the time to engage with each of us. A BIG thanks also goes to the Task Force who planned, prayed for and executed the event. This Task Force includes: Darren & Luann McMannis, Larry & Dot Rowe and Terry & Darla McCloud.

The following notes are some reflections from individuals who attended the fair. . .

"I love people! Today was an energy rush to see the people working at the ministry team tables as well as others learning about the ministries at GCC. Although I've been a member here for 26 years, it was still exciting to me to see the ongoing ministries and how there are new one still starting. Being in a different setting with each other and talking about the areas we serve, was a lot of fun!" Cherie Wohlegemuth

"Commit was a "God given" thought for our church this morning! I was amazed at the amount of people involved in our church ministries. The camaraderie and love in our church was very much in evidence. Being "connected" is a privilege and is very important here." Pat Dirks

"January 9 was a great conclusion to our study of the Spiritual Gifts. A full set of tables set up with displays in the gym revealed the various ministries of GCC. These displays were well done, spoke to our leaders love, devotion and commitment to their giftedness in our Church ministries. The S.S. hour spoke to needs and on going opportunities for further growth and maturity in the family of God. Remember, what can we offer to God for His individual giftedness to our lives? Let us learn to be AVAILABLE AND OBEDIENT!" Aaron Smith



# Vonnie's Views

This year, each month I'll write a snapshot of what I'm reading as I journey through the Bible with two friends. We started on January 1<sup>st</sup>, using the [BibleProject](#) | [Biblical Storyline Reading Plan](#) | [Devotional Reading Plan](#) | [YouVersion Bible](#). (By the way, it's not too late for you to start a reading plan!)

I'm reading the grand narrative of Genesis, currently about the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I've especially thought about the account in Genesis 27. This is the account of four people each trying to do things "My Way." Rebekah was married to Isaac 20 years with no children. Finally, she became pregnant with twins. God specifically told her (Genesis 25:23) that two nations were in her womb and the older would serve the younger. Rebekah preferred Jacob and Isaac preferred Esau. The two sons obviously had a strong rivalry (Genesis 25:27-34). Esau traded rights as a firstborn to Jacob for a bowl of stew. Esau went on to marry two Canaanite women and were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

Years passed, Isaac was old and wanted to bless his oldest son. So, he said to Esau, "fix my favorite food and I'll bless you." Esau went hunting; Rebekah, overhearing the conversation, schemed to get Jacob the blessing through deceit. Isaac blessed Jacob; Esau came back and realized the blessing was not his. Esau hatched a murderous plot for revenge; Rebekah sent Jacob away to her brother by telling Isaac a half-truth.

Hearts were revealed in this account:

- Isaac's heart trusted his own perspective over God's. Isaac knew full-well that Esau was living a life that was not pleasing to God. He had to have known that God had chosen the younger over the elder. Yet he tried to circumvent all this by seeking to bless Esau. It's not clear if Jacob was aware of Esau selling his birthright, but he was grieved by Esau's marriages. Still, he wanted to give Esau the patriarchal blessing—trusting his own heart's desires instead of God's plan.
- Rebekah's heart was full of unbelief. God had made her a promise. She resorted to deceit because she didn't think that God would accomplish what he promised in Genesis 25:23. Rebekah disrespected her husband and didn't trust God. These choices fractured her family permanently.
- Esau's heart was godless (Hebrews 12:16-17). His life was characterized by the lyrics of the song "My Way." Esau was reckless; he had no qualms about stepping on anyone to achieve his goals—even scheming to murder his brother. Later, he would marry a third wife—seemingly to further provoke his parents (Genesis 28:8-9)
- Jacob was a deceiver whose heart was later transformed by God. He took advantage of his elderly father (spinelessly following his mother's scheme and outright lying to Isaac three times) to get the blessing God already promised him. Jacob ran from his angry brother into an unknown future—he would never see his mother again. But Jacob's heart was transformed on the plain of Bethel where God appeared to him in a vision and repeated the covenant. Despite his history of not trusting God, lying, and deceiving, Jacob throws himself on God's mercy and gives his past, present, and future to God (Genesis 28:20-22). Twenty-plus years later, God met Jacob on the plain of Bethel and reaffirmed the covenant to him. Jacob worshipped God there.

Actions reveal hearts. Esau wanted a blessing but had no desire to yield himself to God as a man God could bless. Jacob was a deceiver, yet he was willing to yield his life to God. God took Jacob through a lot of hard times to purify his heart. God did not fail this family, nor will he fail us. As we maintain a tender heart toward God, He will do his mysterious work in us and through us!

## My Way

I loved, I laughed, I cried  
Had my filled my share of losing  
And now as tears subside  
I find it all so amusing  
Just to think I did all that  
And may I say, not in a shy way  
Oh no, oh no, not me  
I did it my way

For what is a man, what has he got  
If not himself, then he has not  
To say the things he truly feels  
And not the words of one who kneels  
The record shows I took the blows  
And did it my way

To say the things he truly feels  
And not the words of one who kneels  
The record shows I took the blows  
And did it my way

Excerpt of lyrics by Paul Anka  
Sung by Frank Sinatra

Now that Jacob had returned from Paddan-Aram, God appeared to him again at Bethel. God blessed him, saying, "Your name is Jacob, but you will not be called Jacob any longer. From now on your name will be Israel."

So God renamed him Israel. Then God said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Be fruitful and multiply. You will become a great nation, even many nations. Kings will be among your descendants! And I will give you the land I once gave to Abraham and Isaac. Yes, I will give it to you and your descendants after you." Then God went up from the place where he had spoken to Jacob.

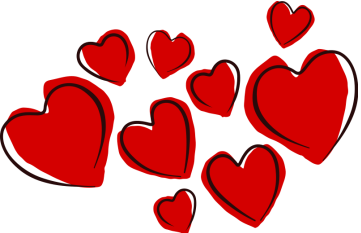



Jacob set up a stone pillar to mark the place where God had spoken to him. Then he poured wine over it as an offering to God and anointed the pillar with olive oil. And Jacob named the place Bethel (which means "house of God"), because God had spoken to him there.

Genesis 35:9-15, NLT

# February

## Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

**Memory Verse: II Timothy 4:18—And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Pray God would draw you closer & closer to Himself.	<b>2</b> Pray the Holy Spirit works through Tami, Jeanette & Jenny to communicate His truth.	<b>3</b> Pray God will continue to comfort and guide the Roth family.	<b>4</b> Pray for stability and safety in the Ukraine.	<b>5</b> Pray God would give you the opportunity to meet a need today.
<b>6</b> Ask God to help you understand what it means that He is gracious.	<b>7</b> Pray for Camila's family to all know Jesus as Savior.	<b>8</b> Pray songs of praise would spring from your heart in worship to God.	<b>9</b> Pray Christian employees would work for the glory of God & bear testimony on the job.	<b>10</b> Pray God's mercies on those living in difficult places, in difficult circumstances.	<b>11</b> Pray for God's peace for those that are sick.	<b>12</b> Pray the Holy Spirit gives us hearts to hear & obey.
<b>13</b> Ask God to help you understand what it means that He is holy.	<b>14</b> Pray God would make the hope of His return so real you find yourself anticipating.	<b>15</b> Pray for our missionaries.	<b>16</b> Pray those attending Wed. night are used of God to impact their families.	<b>17</b> Pray for those who received Operation Christmas Child packages.	<b>18</b> Pray for emergency personnel to have the strength & peace Christ offers.	<b>19</b> Pray for wisdom in ordering your days and making choices.
<b>20</b> Ask God to show you where He has been gracious to you.	<b>21</b> Pray the Holy Spirit would minister to the spirit of those failing mentally.	<b>22</b> Pray teens grow in their love for & knowledge of Christ.	<b>23</b> Pray Peter & Rachel give wise, godly counsel to those to which they minister.	<b>24</b> Pray for family members that need salvation.	<b>25</b> Pray God would use you today to reach someone for Him.	<b>26</b> Pray for David McCloud's physical needs.
<b>27</b> Ask God to show you where your life doesn't reflect His holiness.	<b>28</b> Pray a hedge of protection around 2nd Blessings and the workers.	   <p><b>We love</b></p> <p>BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US</p>				