

# Garden Gleanings

November 2022

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church



## The Gospel

Our annual Missions Weekend was held on November 4-6. We had the privilege of having Tom Dorsch as our main speaker for the weekend. Tom and his wife Marcy work full-time with Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ).

Friday evening, following a soup supper, Tom lead us in a time of prayer for different areas of the world, our missionaries and for ourselves. During the prayer time, kids, up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, were told to bring their blankets and stuffed animals for a Missionary movie night.



Saturday morning, we gathered together for another session with Tom. Tina Busenitz was able to come and share with the kids. Tina is a Leadership Training Instructor for Child Evangelism Fellowship. After the first session, everyone gathered together for a break time with various coffee cakes and coffee.

Following the break, the kids went back to their Sunday School classroom for another story with Tina. The adults broke up in two different groups. The men went up to the Upper Room, where Tom shared with them and the ladies stayed in the fellowship hall to hear from Marcy.

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## Missions Weekend Continued



Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour, we were able to hear some updates from our missionaries. Andrew, Nathaniel and Susanna Goossen shared with us about their various ministries with Bott Radio and Echo Ranch Bible Camp. Then Chuck and Connie Myers shared with us about their ministry with Rural Home Missionary Association where currently they are helping a small church in southern Missouri. Chuck also shared his gift of drawing caricatures. He has been doing caricatures for close to 70 years!

The kids were able to hear from Tina again during Sunday School.

The weekend finished up with Tom giving the morning message.







# Vonnie's Views

This year in my monthly posts, I'm commenting on my Bible reading as I journey through the Bible with two friends using a YouVersion plan. Having completed the Old Testament readings a couple of weeks ago, we've completed the gospels and are reading Acts.

The devotional that accompanies the readings suggested the best name for Acts is "The Acts of Jesus & the Holy Spirit." Just like the Spirit hovered over the new creation in Genesis 1, so the Spirit hovered over the birth of the church after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Acts makes it evident that the "wind and breath" of God was blowing through Jerusalem as the early church was starting.

As Jesus left this earth, his final words were, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NLT). Having just read the Gospels, it is clear these words were spoken to a group that didn't catch on to all Jesus spoke! They consistently misunderstood Christ's mission and missed the point of most of his teaching. They were a rag-tag group that argued about who was greatest and vied for a seat at Jesus right hand in his Kingdom. This is the group who were going to be Christ's witnesses?!

Jesus had said to the disciples the night before his betrayal, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth..." (John 14:16-17 NLT). "Christ sent the Holy Spirit to them, to teach them all truth and so save them from all error, to remind them of what they had been taught already, and to reveal to them the rest of what their Lord meant for them to learn." (JI Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 77).

The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples in very tangible ways. Brash Peter, who also denied Christ three times, preached three bold and powerful sermons. Thousands believed and joined the early church. Religious leaders recognized an "external power" was enabling these "unschooled, ordinary men." Believers prayed potent prayers, asking God to give them supernatural boldness in the face of opposition and persecution. The disciples performed miracles, gained insight, and demonstrated courage and bravery before the Sanhedrin. Believers rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ. And all these things happened in the first five chapters of Acts!!

The growth of the church was supernatural. JI Packer observed, "Is the work of the Holy Spirit really important? Important! Why, were it not for the work of the Holy Spirit there would be no gospel, no faith, no church, no Christianity in the world at all." (p. 76-77). It was the Holy Spirit that superintended the written Word—inspiring, overseeing, and preserving precious words. It is the Holy Spirit who brings light to sin-darkened minds and enables saving faith. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is that of revealing and illuminating the things of God to believers as we read the Bible and listen to pastors and teachers. It is the Holy Spirit that is building the church—and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. (Matthew 16:18)

Reading Acts is a reminder that the Holy Spirit is present and enabling TODAY as we share the Gospel. It is a misplaced impression that we must be clever and "have all the steps down" to share effectively. (Truly we do need to be prepared, use my head, and be brave). But we have the supernatural assistance of the God the Holy Spirit as we share the Good News! May we always remember that the Holy Spirit authenticates our witness. May we look to him, trust him, and boldly testify to all God has done!



## Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: Psalm 146:8—The Lord opens the eyes of the blind: the Lord raises them that are bowed down: the Lord loves the righteous.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Thank God for those in the church who so faithfully pray for others.	2 Pray for Brett and Aiden Friesen.	3 Pray for Noah Goossen.
4 Pray for Andrew Goossen - in serving God & making future plans.	5 Pray for Nate Goossen - graduating & serving God where he is.	6 Pray for Greyson & Lincoln Hanzlicek.	7 Pray for Elisa & Katherine Harms - wisdom in choosing friends, activities & priorities.	8 Pray for Joel Harms - working, getting close to finishing up schooling.	9 Pray for Drew Hiebert - discipline in walk with God & continued growth.	10 Pray for Seth Hiebert - balancing being an RA & class work, needs wisdom & stamina.
11 Pray for Enora and Colton Huxman.	12 Pray for Elisabeth Kitto - a solid understanding of God as her Father.	13 Pray for Alexis, Brayden & Callie Klaassen.	14 Pray for Josh and Matt Koehn.	15 Pray for Karlee and Harper Kohls.	16 Pray for Kaycee & Tyler Mason.	17 Pray for the Youth Group kids who do not attend church.
18 Pray for Matthew Morrison.	19 Pray for Michelle Morrison.	20 Pray for Kylee, Brett & Jenna Nelson.	21 Pray for Esther, Cora & Abigail Quick.	22 Pray for Raiden, Lydia & Zaylyn (Karen Smithson's grandkids.)	23 Pray for Wyatt, Weston and Jaycee Sommerfeld.	24 Pray for Jonathan & Eli Williams.
25 Pray for Cody & Macy Wohlgemuth.	26 Pray for Daniel, Tito, Filipe & Gabriel Goossen.	27 Pray for Lucas, Levi & Annika Kunkee.	28 Pray for Dakota & Riley Zook.	29 Pray for Zephaniah Hansen.	30 Pray for Sussanna Goossen, Jordyn Vogt, Jared Nelson in seeking God's will for their lives.	31 Pray God raises up workers & servants for Him from among the young in our church!





## STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

I read an interesting article online about Joe, the owner of the convenience store who sold the winning Powerball ticket that produced over 2 billion dollars to one winner. Normally I would have quickly passed over this article, but it captured my attention. The owner was given \$1 million for selling the ticket. It mentioned that he was going to share the money with his family.

The article went on to say that Joe was known in his community as one of the kindest men around. At 75 years old he showed up every morning at 5:30AM. He helped his neighbors and family whenever they needed help. He was active in his church and every weekend he spearheaded efforts to feed the homeless. That story reminded me of you. You have been exceedingly loving and helpful to the New Hope Shelter. Every day someone comes in the door or calls who wants to help. Let me share how you helped a young couple recently.

On September 26 this couple came in and asked for shelter. They were unemployed and were without money. You provided them a place to stay, food and everything else including hope. He was able to find a job making over \$25 an hour in a plant and she found work in a grocery store. You brought in winter coats and clothes for them. You furnished them with an appropriate bed and furnishings for their apartment in Newton along with food.

In less than two months they moved to their own two-bedroom apartment after expressing their gratitude several times. Not only were they thankful, but I am thankful too. Your prayers, financial support, and contribution of food and supplies, along with your volunteer efforts makes all this possible.

As we conclude the year, please remember us in your End of the Year giving. On a year-round basis we are helping folks to get back on their feet and to become productive citizens, again. We would appreciate it if you would make a personal investment in support of that.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
We Love You,  
Brian Bisbee

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Remember you can do your holiday shopping at Amazon Smile and designate New Hope Shelter as your charity of choice. It takes just five minutes to get signed up at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) to start donating today.

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## Christmas Plans—Can You Help?

This year we are going to put on a nice dinner and gift exchange for every resident on Christmas Eve. We are seeking the funds to buy each resident three small gifts (\$75) for each person \$2,250 total and \$250 for Christmas dinner—for a total of \$2,500. If you can help, please designate your donations—Christmas Eve. If you would like to shop for a resident, please let us know and Christmas week, we will be happy to supply you with a list.



A sweet couple came by the Shelter recently. They brought us cupcakes that she had carefully prepared. As they were leaving, we started talking about our Building project. I showed them the picture of the rendering of the building and the proposed plans and gave him a brochure about the Restored Hope Campaign. I told them that we had received a Million-dollar challenge grant that we will receive when we raise the remaining monies we need. He reached into his wallet and pulled out a \$100 bill. He said, "We want to help." We now are \$100 closer to building our new home. We hope to have a construction company in place before the end of the year and to break ground in early 2023. Please pray about what you can do to help. We can accept gifts in many forms—cash, checks, real property, stocks, vehicles, crops, IRA distributions, etc. Please give Brian Bisbee a call at 316-283-7711



**Disposable Vinyl Gloves**  
**Coffee, Creamer & Sugar**  
**Jello & Pudding Cups**  
**Fruit & Granola Bars**  
**Cookies**  
**Sliced Meat & Cheese**

**Laundry Pods**  
**Pillows & Pillow Cases**  
**Letter Sized File Folders**  
**Pine-Sol**  
**WalMart & Dillon's Gift Cards**



November 5, 2022

### Dear Garden Community Church,

Thank you for all of your prayers, especially for the healing of my wrist! Yes, it has been a challenge doing things mostly with one hand. Yesterday the doctor took off the cast/splint and I will use a brace for the next three weeks which gives me more freedom of movement. Also, our team leader and his wife have recuperated from covid.

This week the men of our team were able to go to the city of Gori, Joseph Stalin's home town, and met with the pastor who Avant is helping. Upon arriving in town, we met up with two other men from a church here in Tbilisi and went shopping for food for relief to the poor which will be distributed by the church to 40 families. We unloaded the food at the church and were able to spend some time fellowshiping and talking with staff that was there. Later we took the pastor out for dinner and had more time to talk. Yes, he is Georgian but a Russian speaker, so it was good for me to be able to talk with him. The church recently baptized 21 people. One of their testimonies that he shared was especially touching. One woman was a Muslim from another region but married to a local man. When he passed away, she and her family were in great need and since there is not a mosque in town she went to the Orthodox church to ask for help. After they turned her out without helping she sat on the church steps crying. As she was there, she heard a voice saying to go to a certain address and that she would find help there, however on lifting her head there was no one around her. Later she remembered the address and went looking for it and found this Evangelical church which gave her help and invited her to attend and it is where she came to faith in Christ!





The word from Oleksandriya is that they are prioritizing the outdoor work while the weather is still good and then after it gets too cold they will move inside and work on the machines - getting the press and other machines installed. The main project outside has been the Publishing Association's Bus4Life bookmobile, rewelding the frame, sandblasting and painting. They want to enclose it before the weather turns cold. Currently they are having one or two power outages each day.



We have not lost hope of getting back to Ukraine for a time this next year to finish out some things, however as you have undoubtedly also observed from the news, it looks like it will be a while before things are resolved! Please keep praying for Ukraine! Pray that as we wait, we will be available to the Lord in how He might want to use us.

Thank you again for keeping us in your prayers!

*In His grip,*

**Joe & Denise**



# Transmitters & Receivers

November 11, 2022



The picture is of the shortwave transmitter we make here at SonSet Solutions. Recently, we were asked, "Why are there so many pieces?" The thought must have been "we expected one transmitter so what are all these pieces?" The picture shows how everything connects and where the black thing goes in the piece with the lid off.

Maybe you can see why we call it a suitcase shortwave transmitter. With three suitcases we can fly this transmitter anywhere in the world and install it with ease. Each piece is designed to be connected and disconnected. This helps if there are problems because any piece can be returned to SonSet Solutions for repair. If there is unrest the transmitter can easily be moved.

This suitcase shortwave transmitter will cover a larger area than FM. It can reach a whole country. It will reach behind a mountain or deep into a canyon. The power level is 1000 watts, which is low enough that a small organization can afford the electricity.

The SonSet® radio can pick up shortwaves. This makes the suitcase shortwave transmitter a perfect link for the SonSet® radio. Both work without internet or electricity, provided the suitcase shortwave transmitter has a generator.

We recently sent a suitcase transmitter to Peru where it will reach into the Cotahuasi Canyon. A shipment of over 2000 SonSet® radios is being prepared for this ministry. We pray God will place these tools into the right hands and prepare hearts to hear the Good News.

Tim Zook

November 15, 2022

Good afternoon,

Thank you so much for your prayers!

We praise the Lord for the progress Elwyn is making on the solar project. A couple of highlights are:

1. The electric company finished their part of the installation for the solar plant at our studios in town and they are fully online now!
2. At the solar plant up at the tower, the panels are in place and one of the inverters is functioning. To see a quick video update click [here](#).

**Please pray for Elwyn** as he works to get the other inverter wired up within the next two weeks so we can make the request for the electric company to finish it up.

All of our adult children are in a period of significant transition in their lives, and we made the decision to make a quick trip to the States in December to spend some time with them.

**Please pray for me (Linda)** as I am doubling up on the production of Algemas Quebradas (Unshackled in Portuguese) to get them all recorded before we leave. We are also working on a Christmas audio drama production.

Your prayers, interest, and support are a great encouragement to us!

Elwyn & Linda