

# Garden Gleechings

February 2022

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

## Freezer Meals Event

On Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, just under 20 ladies came together at Garden to put together freezer meals for their families.

A devotional began the morning using 2 Peter 1:5-11 as the text. Peter gave encouragement to leaders of the church and gave them some “ingredients” for an even better and fulfilling life in Christ.

The beginning of the recipe calls for personal relationship with Christ. Next, goodness and (Biblical) knowledge are to be added in. Continue by stirring in self-control and perseverance. Godliness and mutual affection are to be combined in the mixture. The last step is to bake with an abundance of love.

God calls for us to continue to grow and possess the above qualities in increasing measure. Growing in our personal relationship with Jesus is the best recipe for a productive life.

Before the event, recipes and the needed food components were organized on tables ready for attendees to put together each meal in gallon-sized freezer bags. During the event, ladies moved from table to table adding the needed ingredients for the four meals they would take home with them that morning.

The consensus seemed that ladies left fulfilled and thankful to have some meals ready for the crockpot!

Brainstorming also took place for how this event could possibly be duplicated or extended in order to bless others in our fellowship and community.





January 14-15, a weekend for the memory books!

Our winter retreat began with a winter storm that blew through and knocked out the power at Rock Springs Ranch in Junction City, KS. We took this as an opportunity for adventure, braved the storm, and set out for our cabin at Rock Springs. Winter camping, anyone? We were informed they would have a cozy fire burning in the fireplace for us when we arrived, and while it's true there was a fire... it was not the blazing fire we were hoping for!! We had happened to bring along roaster sticks and smores fixings, so off to roasting smores we went! There were even some Totinos pizza rolls roasted over the fire. As I said... It was an adventure! 😊

We played games and sat huddled by the fire on Friday night and had a blast! God is good and allowed the electricity to come back on at about 11:30PM, so we were able to take showers and sleep with the heater.

Saturday morning, we had a guest speaker, Kevin Foster from Manhattan Christian College. He shared his testimony with us. We had an afternoon full of team building games and activities. We had hoped to participate in a low ropes course, but it was too cold and snowy for that! We finished out the day with a delicious meal and headed back to Hesston. It was a wonderful weekend, full of unexpected excitement, laughter, and adventure.





# Library News

Many of us who have been Christ followers for many years lose our first love and excitement that we felt when we experienced our calling into the family of God. Over time, our Salvation experience becomes simply a ticket into heaven. At the beginning of March, the Adult Library will be presenting books and equipping tools to help you reenergize your daily faith journey. Our Theme focus - *Encouraging every day faith to inspire Extraordinary life* - has the potential to reset your enthusiasm and cause you to experience a fresh touch from God.

A starting point for personal growth is with a *Scripture Writing Plan*. . . Yes! Writing!! Watch for this plan to be on the feature table the first of March. Spend ten minutes each day writing God's Word and listening to His love message to you. A side benefit to the exercise is that you will be leaving a legacy of God's Word in your own handwriting.

This is a small sampling of some of the *books you will find on our March display table*. Continue to check the table for new books to be added as the month progresses.

- \* *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald Whitney. Whitney provides you with a refreshing opportunity to embrace the pursuit of holiness through a lifelong delight in the disciplines
- \* *Spiritual Hunger* by Gari Meacham The answer to Spirit hunger is to engage God like never before. Do you want to turn your longings into purpose? Your heartaches into prayer and your loneliness into closeness with God?
- \* *Overcomer* by David Jeremiah 8 ways to live a life of unstoppable strength, unmovable faith and unbelievable power
- \* *You Can Trust God to Write Your Story* by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth & Robert Wolgemuth. A book on embracing the mysteries of Providence.
- \* *Facing Your Giants* by Max Lucado. Giants - Disaster, Divorce, Disease, Debt - roam our world. We must face them but we do not need to fear them! With a "God focus" we can pick up our stones and take a swing of victory.

May you be challenged this month to live your faith with a renewed exuberance and let it spill into a life that is extraordinary!

A verse for memory and contemplation is found in 2 Corinthians 5:7 "Live by Faith, not by sight."



# Vonnie's Views

This year I am reflecting on what I read as I journey through the Bible with two friends using a YouVersion Bible-reading plan ([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 have just finished reading Leviticus and am 7 chapters into Numbers. Often, these books are the "stopping-point" to Bible reading plans. They contain some narrative (which is usually interesting) but they are books primarily of rules and regulations (which can be hard to read and even harder to understand).

Down "in the weeds" of reading according to a plan, it can be very easy to lose the "big picture" of what is being conveyed. The bigger picture is the focus of my thoughts this month. I intentionally keep my focus on what God is revealing about His character and human standing before him. To do this, I do the following as I read: 1) I keep notes and lists as I look for repeated phrases, themes, and patterns, 2) I keep two commentaries at my fingertips—Walvoord & Zuck and Wiersbe (who have written succinct whole-Bible commentaries), and 3) I find the accompanying video devotionals in the reading plan helpful.

The holiness of God is the theme of God's instructions to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Holiness means "set apart, different, other;" it means absolute moral purity. R.C. Sproul, in *The Holiness of God* says, "When we use the word holy to describe God...we often describe God by compiling a list of qualities or characteristics that we call attributes...But when the word holy is applied to God, it does not signify one single attribute...the word holy calls attention to all that God is. It reminds us that His love is holy love, his justice is holy justice, his mercy is holy mercy, his knowledge is holy knowledge, his spirit is holy spirit." (p. 57)

God's absolute holiness consumes sinful humans (Hebrews 10:31). Our sin does not defile God, but our sin will destroy us if we attempt to enter God's holy presence while in a sinful state. God desires a relationship with humans—through the rules, rituals, and sacrifices, God makes the way for sinful humans to be near a holy God and not be destroyed.

When humans make idol gods, they make capricious, angry gods. Man-made gods are never satisfied; people never know exactly where they stand before these fake gods. The One True God is not like that. We can know *with certainty* our standing before God and His holiness. We stand condemned and guilty (Romans 3:23). Any attempt to enter God's Holy presence on our own terms results in our destruction (Leviticus 10—it happened to Nadab and Abihu). But, when we enter according to God's prescribed way, we stand with confidence and joy in the presence of God.

Holiness comes from God and God alone—humans are incapable of living right because of indwelling sin. For the fledgling Israelite nation, God prescribed ways to confess sin and experience forgiveness, ways to know when they were qualified to participate in worship (ritual cleanness vs uncleanness), and ways to fellowship with a holy God (offerings and festivals). Holiness began at the altar of sacrifice—acknowledging sin and bringing a substitute sacrifice to die in their place. Holiness involved obedience and discipline—it was not confined to rituals, holiness was practiced daily in how they lived, worked, talked, and interacted with each other. God, through the Levitical structure, enabled Israel to live in a way pleasing to him—and thus enjoy communion and worship. Holy living (even in the Old Testament) is an "inside job." It is a heart change—not just following rules (Ezekiel 11:18-21; Jeremiah 31:33-34). Holiness glorifies God. When people submit to God's will and follow God's ways through belief and trust, their lives become a trophy of God's grace and a tribute to His power.

I invite you to join me in learning more about this wonderful, merciful Savior who loved us and gave Himself for us that we could draw near with confidence to his lovely presence!!

Leviticus 19:2 NLT Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

Leviticus 20:7 NLT So set yourselves apart to be holy, for I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 20:26 NLT You must be holy because I, the Lord, am holy. I have set you apart from all other people to be my very own.

1 Peter 1:15 NLT But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.







# March


## Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

**Memory Verse: Psalm 37:23-24—The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholds him with His hand.**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Ask God to help you bring forth fruit unto His glory.	<b>2</b> Pray scripture is written on the hearts in Wed. night groups.	<b>3</b> Pray God is a comfort and companion to the lonely.	<b>4</b> Pray Harvest Radio equipment is protected from weather related issues.	<b>5</b> Pray for small groups to provide meaningful growth & relationships.
<b>6</b> Pray that nothing would hinder God's Spirit from moving in the service today.	<b>7</b> Pray those in jail find forgiveness & new life in Christ.	<b>8</b> Pray for people to be willing to work & to do a good job.	<b>9</b> Pray for kids in your local schools - they carry a bundle of hurt in their lives.	<b>10</b> Pray Tim Zook is able to get parts he needs to do his job.	<b>11</b> Pray for caregivers to have wisdom & find blessings in their circumstances.	<b>12</b> Pray for open doors for Josh & Hanna to share gospel message.
<b>13</b> Pray we would have no other gods before the One True God.	<b>14</b> Pray for missionaries raising kids - wisdom, insight, protection, joy.	<b>15</b> Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with your neighbor.	<b>16</b> Pray those preparing Wed. night meals sense the pleasure of the Lord in their work.	<b>17</b> Pray college students have discernment in what they hear & believe.	<b>18</b> Pray Joe & Denise are a continued encouragement to those in the Ukraine.	<b>19</b> Pray for those adjusting to life without someone they love.
<b>20</b> Praise God for new beginnings & redeemed losses.	<b>21</b> Pray lessons heard on Sunday will be remembered & applied.	<b>22</b> Pray God's protection over all our missionaries.	<b>23</b> Thank God you live in America. And pray for those in another country.	<b>24</b> Pray we all experience freedom from fear - trusting our Lord.	<b>25</b> Pray for God to heal the brokenhearted.	<b>26</b> Pray for doctors & nurses to have stamina & compassion.
<b>27</b> Ask God to show you where you have been wrong & need to change.	<b>28</b> Pray for children going through Bible study after receiving Christmas box.	<b>29</b> Pray God's Holy Spirit ministers to His children in nursing homes.	<b>30</b> Pray for a fresh touch from God today.	<b>31</b> Pray God would give peace to those with autism & help them.		

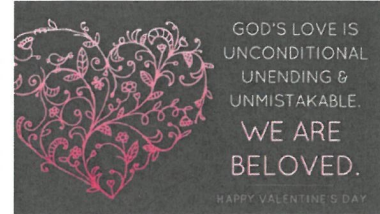
Dear Friend,

February, 2022

Being close to Valentine's Day, let's get to the  of the matter:

The other day Chuck Swindoll had a great message out of the book of Habakkuk. He had five points concerning God's Sovereignty in his message, "Wait and Listen". These may not be his exact statements, but they are close to what he said.

1. "God is able, I am not." (I can't fix anything.)
2. "God knows what is best, I do not."
3. "God sees the end from the beginning; I cannot."
4. "God should have his way in this situation. I should not."
5. "God must be glorified; I should not."



These were the answer to Habakkuk "sighing" in Chapter 1:2 with the key verse in 2:4b...but *the just shall live by faith*," he ends with "singing" Chapter 4:19. "To the chief singer on my instrument."

Daniel 4:35 "*And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*" This is certainly written not only for Daniel's day, but also confirmed in the time of crisis in which we are living. God is still God and on His throne; as some are wringing their hands and, asking, "O LORD HOW LONG"?

The  of the matter is in the key verse, Habakkuk 2:4b "... *but the just shall live by faith.* "

This comes from the HEART of joy expressed in music.

Yes, even though we missed several weeks of church after arriving home from NE. Norv had a cough, having been with our great grandchildren, who just got over Covid. Some of our family here at home had it as well. Then shortly after that, Norv called me (Ev) from the bathroom at 1:30 a.m. and said in a struggling voice, "*Ev, call 9-1-1.* " Being half asleep, I asked, "*Why?*" to which he again said *call 9-1-1, I can't breathe.* " I finally did as I was told. By 2:00 a.m. after E.M.T.'s gave him oxygen and medication, I watched him disappear in the ambulance to E.R. (The E.M.T.'s were not sure of Covid rules so they told me to stay home.)

I prayed for comfort, and God gave me a verse with 'JOY' in it. I was then able to sleep. The ER nurse promised to call in one hour, and she did, in 1 hour and 20 min. She said Norv was fine, but needed watching for a few hours. They called at 8:30 a.m. to say I could come get him. I dressed in triple layers and warmed the car. Norv had forgotten his cell phone at home, which was a blessing, since I needed it to call and tell them I had arrived at the hospital. They brought Norv out, so I didn't have to get out in the freezing weather. Arriving home, we noticed that all the cars were in their carports, and the driveways and sidewalks were covered with snow, except for ours. Norv said as he sat up the previous night on the gurney, the snow in our driveway was the only one that was cleared. I had not noticed that. We still wonder if a guardian angel did it, because there were four men and one lady E.M.T in the house with Norv. "The just shall live by faith."



Praise to Our Sovereign Prayer Answering God,  
Norvin & Evelyn Schrag



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CHRISTIAN RADIO IN NOVA RUSSAS, BRAZIL

# GoosseNews

Elwyn & Linda Goossen

## SOLAR PROJECT

The past several months, our efforts have been focused on buying and installing the solar array for Harvest Radio.

The first set, consisting of 14 panels are up and running! This array is installed in town, and is powering our studios. These panels, along with our previously installed array are currently averaging 50 kw per day.



The next step is to install the larger array up on the hill to power our transmitter. This will be a lot larger (112 panels), and installation is complicated by the difficult access. Most of the steel has been bought, bent, and galvanized in Fortaleza, with just one more load to bring back to Nova Russas. We are thankful for Mauricio and Chico, who have been helping Elwyn with this project.



In spite of sickness, lock-down and travel, we were able to complete our goal of producing 12 episodes of the radio drama "Algemias Quebradas" in 2021! We can't slow down, now!

## ALGEMIAS QUEBRADAS

Also last year, we merged the websites for Harvest Radio and Algemias Quebradas, all with a new look. Check it out: [www.radioseara.fm](http://www.radioseara.fm).

It continues to be a real pleasure to work with our volunteers, both in the recording and the production!



We recently started working on getting our follow-up Bible studies in an online format.



(Every episode of Algemias Quebradas includes an offer for a Bible study.) We will continue to provide a print copy for those who prefer, but we also want to have an online form that can be easily done from a cellphone, the most-used form of technology here in Brazil. We currently have 25 people doing Bible studies as a result of the program.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

- **Praise** that we were able to get the solar installation done in town!
- **Praise** for the 12 episodes of Algemias Quebradas finished last year!
- In our last prayer letter, we asked for prayer for the transformer change that needs to happen before we can do the solar installation up at the tower. **Please continue to pray for this!**
- **Pray** for the safe transportation of the metal and panels up the hill for the solar installation there.

*Avant*

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Dear Friends,

Feb. 2022

Without a doubt 2021 was a year of profound change for me, having had Molly promoted to glory. I am so grateful for the outpouring of love and support from all you who have helped and prayed me through this hard time. I have experienced God's direct comfort, grace and mercies in many wonderful ways in the last six months!

The verse we chose to engrave on Molly's tombstone was John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." This verse provides the proper context for any and all the fruit that remains from Molly's life. Any real fruit that was produced was done so as she abided in Christ, therefore, all the glory goes to God.

I look forward to returning to Brazil in April. I plan to remain in church planting with a particular focus on the discipleship of young leaders. I see the opportunity to get involved with several churches simultaneously, helping raise up young leaders who can start new churches in their respective regions.

One thing Molly and I had dreamed and planned for was how we could provide a place and environment for christian workers to get physical rest and spiritual refreshment within their lives of ministry. We have seen too many of our Brazilian fellow workers sidelined and often incapacitated because they simply burned out. Jesus pulled His disciples aside to rest (Mk 6:31) and Paul had those who refreshed him (II Tim. 1:16). So to the degree that the Lord enables, I want to pursue this dream of providing a place and environment for physical rest and spiritual renewal for christian workers that I rub shoulders with.

It's been a pleasure to see many of you recently as I have been visiting supporting churches. If I haven't seen you, I hope to do so before the middle of April.

Your co-laborer in the harvest,

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# ONE | COLLECTIVE



## Hannah is pregnant with baby #2!

We couldn't be more excited to welcome this new life into our family in June!

### SO MANY ANSWERED PRAYERS:

- Time with both families in the USA over Christmas!
- Amadas Christmas events for people in prostitution went great & we were able to bless over 400 people.
- The new life that God is forming in Hannah's womb!

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Continued health for Hannah & the baby
- Multiple legal matters with the ministry to be settled before Hannah goes on maternity leave.
- Guidance for plans for this summer for our return to the USA for the birth and to hopefully connect with many of YOU!

## Amadas Christmas Parties



In total, we did Christmas parties for over 400 people in prostitution. It worked great to do the parties at a local community center. Here we were able to do a free medical clinic, give out food kits, connect individually with the women, offer prayer & hope & love! We couldn't have done it without all the generous people that gave to make it happen! Thanks to those of you who gave!



Here I am (Hannah) talking one-on-one with one of the Amadas women in prostitution during the Christmas Parties. I loved the role I got to be in of connecting individually after the women went through the clinic. One woman & I sat for 45 minutes while I heard her whole life story! It was such a blessing to listen and pray for these beautiful women.

## Family Christmas with the Millers & Zooks



Dakota is the only grandchild on Hannah's side & one of seven on Josh's side!



Dakota played in the snow for the 1st time! He built a snowman with "Gama" Renee & went on a walk with Rara (Auntie Sarah). He loved being outside!

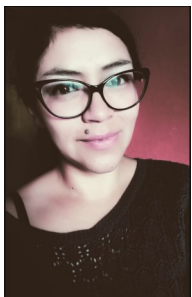
Enjoying time with our nieces & nephews!



So many new experiences! Dakota loved the tractor & the vroom!

## More Ministry Updates

Check out Hannah's ESME team at the January Youth World annual team conference! As you can see, we have been able to grow the team a lot during 2021 which has been amazing for the health of the organization and each team member to not be stretched so thin. God provides!!!



Karina has just joined the ESME team as our new Amadas Coordinator. Debbie, the previous coordinator decided to step down to focus on her family & young children. We found Karina shortly after & are so excited to have her join!

We hope 2022 is a year full of joy & hope for each one of you! Thanks for continuing to walk with our family!

