

Garden Gleanings

March 2021

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

Manhattan Christian College WOMAN'S WORLD CONFERENCE

Twelve women attended the Woman's World Conference this year from Garden Community. Dee Brestin was the keynote speaker. We were blessed by corporate worship and Dee spoke three different times on Friday and Saturday. Her topics included "The Jesus who Surprises" (Daily God Hunt – be alert to spying God in your daily life); "Religion vs Gospel" (appearance or the heart?) and "How to live in a Fallen World" (Power of the Gospel, Power of the Psalms, Promise of Palingenesis). She encouraged us to pray through the Psalms. God is looking for our intimacy with Him. He does not want us to back away. Erin Miller shared during one of the breakout sessions on John 14:1-6 and shared her passion for worshipping through Bible journaling. All 12 of us had a big slumber party and Howard and Joann Wilson's home (Julie's parents) Friday night and enjoyed an early morning hour of spending time with God in prayer by utilizing a prayer wheel. The weekend was challenging and gave us an opportunity to get to know each other a little better.



A NEW OUTREACH PRAYER MINISTRY IS UNFOLDING AND WE WANT *YOU* TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATING!

Every Wednesday evening, 24 grade school children and youth from our surrounding communities (this number does not count our own GCC children and youth!) attend our Wednesday evening Discipleship Ministries. . . approximately 20 of those do *not* have a church home. What a mission field we have within our own sphere of influence! Our purpose for this Prayer Ministry is that these parents will know that we as a church family, love their children and care about them as a family. Our hope is that through the intercessory prayers offered on their behalf, these families will come to faith. How might God use our willingness to prayer for His divine purposes? May our church doors and hearts be open and ready to receive any who might walk in!

WATCH FOR COMPLETE DETAILS COMING SOON.

CAREFULLY CONSIDER *NOW* HOW YOU MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED!



Welcome New Members

Once again we were blessed to hear testimonies of fellow believers. It is always an encouragement to hear how God is working in the lives of those around us.

On February 27, Steve and Mandi Crist shared with us how God has and continues to work in their lives and we welcomed them into membership.



Library News

Lent has begun and Easter is coming! The Libraries - both Adult and Children - are providing resources that we hope will help to prepare your hearts for the celebration of Easter. As you contemplate Easter and what it means for you, allow yourself to follow in His steps. Hear the shouting of the crowds. Look into the faces of those who loved Him. Consider the incredible weight that must have rested on His shoulders. What kind of love must have kept Him going - to the point of "no turning back" - knowing He would soon be despised and crucified? Take in every word of His final teachings. Reread the Easter message in one of the Gospels of your choice. Perhaps you might want to consider choosing one of the Scripture handouts on the display table. May your love and gratitude for Him carry you straight to the cross.

LOOK FOR THESE RESOURCES IN THE ADULT LIBRARY -

Books to consider on the Display table. . .

- * On Calvary's Hill - Max Lucado. Short readings of the players and props in the final days of the life of Jesus
- * After Easter - Jeremy Howard. How Christ's resurrection changed everything
- * The Characters of Easter - Daniel Darling. A new look at the ancient story of Easter with unlikely characters from the Easter story
- * The Lord's Table - Andrew Murray. A classic author giving insight to the right observance of Communion
- * The Women of Easter - Liz Curtis Higgs. Encounter the Savior with Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene

Additional books will be found as you browse the Display table.

Several different Scripture Prompts will also be available to keep your heart in the passages that speak of the Passion week events and the message of the Cross.

A DVD - The Passion of Christ - is also available for your viewing. This is a powerful visual of the suffering Christ. Refresh the tremendous gift of Salvation that is ours to receive.

Children's library . . .

The Fruit of the Spirit focus this month of Easter is Faithfulness. God's faithfulness to us is the reason we can walk in the Spirit. Every follower of Jesus is "saved by grace through faith." The more we experience and press into God's faithfulness toward us, the more we grow into children He can trust to obey. Helping our children walk in faithfulness begins by praying for them to receive faith from God.

Easter is a good time to review the Easter message with children's books that are more easily understood by little people. Numerous books on display will guide and open conversations about the gift of salvation.

A new picture book has just arrived on our shelf - Manners and Tips for Caring Kids - based on the Fruit of the Spirit. Good information, all faith based!

Several Young Readers book series have been added this month. Wanda Brunstetter's Double Trouble series and books 7 & 8 in the Secret of the Hidden Scrolls series completing our set.

The readership continues to increase which is exciting to see! Helpful assistants in the Library have also increased in numbers! Much work behind the scenes is at work. If you happen to see Leda Graybill, Karma Kitto, Luanne McMannis and Chantelle Klaassen give them a word of thanks for the various work assignments they are carrying out to make our Library a better place.

The Library is an inviting place. Step in and see for yourself!!!

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](#)). Now is a great time to start a reading plan.

We are reading in the book of Joshua—we just completed chapter 11 this past week. A hot discussion topic between the three of us has been the conquest of Canaan. These bloody chapters of early Joshua are hard to read—especially with the images of war we have been seeing on the news. People died. Families died. Entire cities were destroyed. What happened here? Did God command ethnic cleansing? How do we, as Christians, interpret this?


In chapter 10, the phrase “he left no survivors” occur six times. In chapter 11, that phrase or a similar phrase occurs 3 times. In addition, 11:20 says, “For it was the Lord himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the Lord had commanded Moses.” The reason for their destruction was sin-hardened hearts. If you remember, God made some very specific statements earlier about Canaan and his judgement on Canaan. Here are a few hints of coming judgement for the Canaanites:

- In Genesis 15, God made a unilateral covenant with Abram. As part of that covenant God said: "Then the Lord said to Abram, “You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years...your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction.” The inhabitants of Canaan had HUNDREDS of years to respond to the call of God. Yet, they did not repent; their hearts hardened toward God. It was not for lack of evidence that there is a God, it was their willful disbelief that brought judgement.
- In Deuteronomy 8, especially verses 19-20, God through Moses reminds the Israelites they are not to forget God, or they will be destroyed just as the Canaanites will be destroyed. It was not ethnic cleansing--it was God's holy wrath against blasphemous sin.
- God warned Israel "But if you fail to drive out the people who live in the land, those who remain will be like splinters in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will harass you in the land where you live." (Numbers 33:55) This warning was not heeded—the Israelites failed to obey God and destroy all the Canaanites. This led Israel to stumble badly in the coming years.

Psalms 75:8 says of God's judgement: "For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs." God's wrath is his measured response to sin. God's wrath arises from God's holiness. Sin is malignant; it will metastasize leading to degradation, pain, and destruction of individuals and societies. Sin ultimately leads to eternal separation from God.


Here's what's beautiful...God did NOT write off the Canaanites who demonstrated faith in God. Jesus had Canaanite blood in his veins (Rahab was his ancestor). Matthew 15 records an encounter Jesus had with a Canaanite woman. She approached Jesus asking him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples were dismissive of her, and Jesus tested this Canaanite woman by saying he came to the Israelites—not the Gentiles. In response, woman boldly knelt in worship and declared her faith in the God of all mercy. Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Our Holy God is kind, loving and merciful. But judgment is coming. Today is the day of salvation—we have today to repent if we do not yet know the Lord. We have today to share the Gospel with those around us.



The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent



II Peter 3:9 (NLT)





Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:8—"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the One who is, and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Pray for a heart of compassion.	2 Pray for the gospel transmitted through radio stations to bring forth fruit.
3 Pray area churches would declare God's truth.	4 Ask God to help you see others like He sees them.	5 Pray to live in such a way you won't have any regrets.	6 Pray for Satan to be bound during service going on at Café y Gracia on Wednesdays.	7 Ask God to help you forgive yourself when you fail.	8 Pray for missionaries to know how to balance family & ministry demands.	9 Ask God to help you to be quick to see the good in others and not judge them.
10 Pray for our church - that we would take church seriously and not play at it.	11 Pray for health needs of our missionaries.	12 Pray the Holy Spirit would open our eyes to God's love & desires for us.	13 Pray God would prepare the kids' hearts to receive His truth.	14 Pray for kids of our missionaries to know their role and identity in Christ.	15 Ask God to heal the hurts among us.	16 Pray for lost people to receive salvation.
17 Pray for those in military to know and serve Christ.	18 Pray a hedge of protection around our marriages.	19 Pray small groups would be effective in helping people grow in Christ.	20 Pray our young people would walk in purity.	21 Ask God for an opportunity to speak encouragement into someone's life.	22 Pray for the teens in the church to know, really know, Christ for themselves.	23 Pray the elderly rest in God's arms and sleep well.
24 Praise God for His mercy!	25 Ask God for a chance to make something right that needs tended to.	26 Pray parents model godly living before their kids.	27 Pray for all the workers on Wed. night to be blessed for their service.	28 Pray for homeless and poor to have shelter, food & hope.	29 Pray for leaders in the church to walk humbly before their God.	30 Ask God to help you live faithfully, all the way through.



IN THE DITCH

It was January 1st and my wife and I were coming back from Arkansas where we had spent a week with some of our children and grandchildren—22 of us in all. We had started that morning from the Joplin, MO area. About half way through the roads started to get ice and snow covered. We slowed down and continued home until we got two miles out of Wichita on Highway 96.

At that point we hit a patch of ice. All of a sudden we were spinning out of control. Into the ditch we went with our Chevy Avalanche. We did a figure 8 (we determined later) in the median and then shot across the two lanes of traffic on the opposite side and ended up upright in the ditch heading the opposite way. With a wrecker's assistance we got back on the road. We arrived home traumatized by our near-death experience.

A lot of the folks we deal with at the New Hope Shelter come and see us when their lives are in the ditch. It is very easy to judge and to say "How could they be so stupid." When I do that I have to remind myself that all of my judgments and decisions over the years have not been wonderful. I have sinned and failed miserably. I have made serious mistakes. If we are honest, all of us would have to say that we have too.

The distinct privilege we have, with your help, is to offer Hope, Help, and Grace to people. I truly believe that is what Jesus has called us to do, and I would ask your continued support in that work.

We Love You,

Brian Bisbee, Executive Director

Did You Know?

We served 341 Homeless Men, Women and children in 2021—even in the midst of Covid. Seventy percent of the Homeless population in America is male. Here, Forty three percent of the people we served were Women, and that number is growing fast.

We need volunteers. Please call Shonda at 316-283-7711 to get trained to serve as a volunteer.



Your prayers for the Staff, volunteers, residents and New Hope Shelter make a difference. They prompted a wonderful lady to bring in winter coats, hats, and gloves just before the last big storm.

Food for thought...

Just the other day I heard a report about a Survey of 2,000 American adults and their finances.

This fact was shocking to me. Fifty percent did not have \$5,000 in savings and reserve. Twenty-eight percent did not have \$1,000 in savings and reserve.

Just the other day I was talking with a co-worker. She had taken her vehicle in for routine maintenance. The bill was \$750. I recently took my truck into the repair shop because it was not running right. When everything was repaired properly, my bill was over \$1,000.

Both of these bills show the importance of accumulating savings and reserve funds. If you save \$20 a week you will have over \$1,000 at the end of one year. If you continue doing so for five years you will have over \$5,000. These are the kinds of basic financial principles we talk about with our residents every day.



A BIG THANKS

First, Thanks to each one of you who drops off a loaf of bread or a gallon of milk, a box of cereal or a container of applesauce. You come in every day and you are appreciated. Please keep it up. Last year you kept our Food expense for the Year 2021 below \$150.

Second, Thanks to the People of First Mennonite Church in Halstead you put on a Benefit Drive-Through Verenike Supper on Saturday, February 26. We appreciate it so much.

LET'S TALK FOOD

We are happy to accept your leftovers from Church suppers, Family gatherings and Business lunches or Dinners. We use them for our lunches. If we get too much food, we will share it with people in need.

We were contacted recently about the food needs of a young family with three children. They were in a tough season in life and had not eaten meat in two months because they couldn't afford it. I am happy to say that we were able to assist them, with your help in their time of need.

In 2021 we were able to assist over 300 families and over 900 people with our Food pantry. The Food pantry is open 8AM to 8PM seven days a week. Call Brian at 316-283-7711 if you have food you want to share with us.

*Current
Needs
List*



HE Laundry Soap Pods
Dishwasher Pods
Pine-Sol
Napkins
Toilet Paper
Paper Towel

All-purpose Cleaner
Bar-B-Q Sauce
Ketchup
Ranch Dressing
Milk
Storage & Sandwich

YOUR DONATIONS ARE INVESTMENTS IN CHANGING LIVES

Recently I had a conversation with a woman who was looking for a job. She asked me about job openings around town. I was able to say, "We have a General Manager in _____ restaurant that is hiring that is a former resident. We have a former resident who is in management in _____ grocery store. We have a supervisor in this factory who is a former resident. We have two residents who work at _____. They are hiring." There are more successes we could talk about that you have made possible. Thanks for your sacrificial support. It has made a difference.

ECHO RANCH BIBLE CAMP

Susanna Goossen

Dear friends and family,

It's me again! Looks like I'm going back to camp! I spent several months praying about whether God wanted me to go back before making the commitment. Although I love Alaska, I wanted to make sure my heart was in the right place. I wanted to return focused on the ministry and not just looking for some fun adventures or great friendships.

So here we are! I am abounding with excitement to spend yet another summer doing what brings my heart the purest joy and greatest peace: MINISTRY.

Let's go ahead and get to the part we all know is coming: I'm looking for supporters. Yes, I will need some financial support to make this summer possible, but I'm also looking for other forms of support. I'm heading into 3 months of intense, spiritual battle. I'm asking you to consider supporting me spiritually and emotionally by PRAYING and POURING INTO ME. You can do the latter by 1) checking in with me throughout the summer 2) pointing me to Scripture and 3) Reminding me to stay connected to the TRUE VINE [John 15]. I'm sure you can think of even more ways to do this.

Thank You!



MY ROLE THIS SUMMER WILL BE:

- >Volunteer
- >Camp Counselor
- >Kitchen/Cleaning
- >SHARING THE GOSPEL

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- >God to provide supporters
- >An astronomically busy semester
- >That I'll learn to seek refuge in Christ alone
- >My heart to be ready to love and to learn

MY FINANCIAL NEEDS:

- >\$500 Room and Board
- >\$500 Plane tickets
- >\$500 Misc. (Adequate gear/clothing, snacks, toys/games/bracelets to give to campers, etc.)

If you have any desire to support me financially, I will include the information needed below. If your heart is wanting to be more than just a financial supporter, I will be sending out more details about that closer to camp. All else fails, you can always reach me through any of the several Goossens that cycle through Garden Church. ☺

Address checks to Susanna Goossen and send them to 521 N. Weaver St. Hesston, KS 67062 OR PayPal/CashApp: 620-314-6087

Checks can also be sent to Avant Ministries (please make a note for Susanna Goossen) at 1000 N Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64155 OR you can give online! My account number is: 12317.

Greetings Friends and Family,

March 2022

I (Chuck) would like to share something with you that may be of interest. Each Sunday I have object lessons that sort of introduce my message. I would have loved show-and-tell in school. So much more is retained when we both hear and see some new information. I am writing this message on Saturday morning and will give this object lesson for tomorrow morning.



My object is a magnifying glass and my lesson is taken from Philippians 1:20 where we read: "So now also Christ shall BE MAGNIFIED in my body." That, my friend, is the lesson. Let us look at the "object." As a young guy, among my treasures was my magnifying glass. Most people use one to increase the size. For me, there was one use ... I could use it on a sunny day to burn my initials or name on a piece of white pine board or even a large cottonwood leaf. I love the smell of that burning leaf. I could have easily caused a fire, but I was quite careful. This object lesson will lead into my message, mostly taken from Psalm 119:105, "Thy Word is a LAMP unto my feet and a LIGHT unto my path." My emphasis will be on the word LIGHT. I do wish that I could share this with you in an "eye-to-eye" experience.

For Christmas, we had a good attendance at our pre-Christmas Candlelight service. We had a fellowship time following.

As a church we have continued an outreach in our community by putting together large food baskets for needy families in our community. We included with the baskets a short note from our church and a copy of the current "Daily Bread" devotional. We do this every Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. We have received some very heart-felt responses from several families expressing their appreciation in helping meet their needs. Our people find such joy in bringing items and we purchased additional items. Acts 20:35: "remember the Words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Our Sunday attendance has been holding steady, with several visitors.



Missouri weather is much warmer than Nebraska, but due to some very icy roads we had to cancel some of our Wednesday Bible Study and Sunday Services.

Overall we are in good health. I did have a COVID virus test and it came back negative, so we praise God for that.

Send us your prayer requests and praises. We enjoy hearing from all of you.

Yours in Ministry here in Southern Missouri,

Chuck and Connie Myers

1716 Luna Drive West Plains, MO. 65775 ♦ 417-256-1393 ♦ ccm Myers2@gmail.com