

March 2026

# G Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church



## Science Day Camp

Science Day Camp, held on February 21<sup>st</sup> from 11-4:30, was a partnership between Garden and Emmanuel Bible Baptist Church (Galva). The day was resplendent with the message that God created our world and everything in it with intelligent design, that what we see in creation follows the Biblical timeline, and that we can trust that everything in the Bible is true! It was an amazing day with 100 kids participating and two of them accepting Jesus as their Savior!

A great big thank you to everybody who helped in any way! From preparation to clean-up, and everything in between, we appreciate the help of over 30 volunteers from Garden, as well as those from Emmanuel. It's a privilege for us all to be busy about the Lord's work.



# Elder Installation

Kevin Kohls and Abe Schmidt were installed as Elders on February 15, 2026. They were both appointed by the Board to fulfill the remaining year of Rob Hiebert's term after he resigned his position as Elder at the end of 2025. Continue to uphold all the men on the Church Board as they lead Garden.

## 2026 Church Board:

Steve Crist—Board Chairman  
Lindley Harms—Vice-Chairman  
Gerhard Fast—Treasurer  
Kyle Hanzlicek—Secretary  
Scot Loyd—Elder Chairman  
Scott Vogt—Deacon Chairman  
Kevin Kohls  
Abe Schmidt  
Pastor Dizzy  
Dennis Morrison  
Theo Rempel



The ASL class being held at the Garden Activity Center has about 60 participants, many of which are children, actively learning American Sign Language. This opportunity the Lord has given for ministry is already bearing fruit!



# Library News

Easter is just around the corner, and some people are already observing the days of Lent that lead of to Jesus' death and resurrection - the reason we can celebrate life every day!!

*If the Tree Could Speak* by Tim Tebow is a beautiful new book, like a small coffee-table book, that tells the story of Jesus' death from the cross's point of view. A quick read, with illustrations, reminding us again of the tremendous gift Jesus paid to ransom each one of us.

Several other books that have been in the Library for some time emphasizing Easter will be standing around the adult Library. *The Characters of Easter* and *The Women of Easter* help us put faces on that turning point in history, and we can almost feel we were right there too. Max Lucado has written many books about Jesus' gift to us, he writes in such a beautifully, thought-provoking way.

Jesus conquered death and paid for our sin at Calvary, but the enemy is still working hard to gain as much ground as he can. Jonathan Pokluda writes about that in his latest book, *Your Story Has a Villian*. We often ignore what we think are little problems when there is really spiritual warfare going on. We need to be in the Word, be aware, and discern the enemy's schemes.

And now a plug for BOOK CLUB! We read a wide variety of books that each person suggests. Sometimes we haven't even finished the book or didn't like the book, but we still get together and hear each others' thoughts on it. Any lady is welcome to join us, we would value your presence and input.

The book last month was *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Usually we don't read novels for the book club, but this one was highly endorsed. After reading it, we unanimously voted it an excellent book for the beautiful writing, the character of Theo and how he loved each person he met, seeing the real person inside. It was a great inspiration to all of us. Several read the book a couple times! There is a copy in the Library. I will try to have 1 or 2 copies of each upcoming book club book available in the Library. The next one is *The Attributes of God* by A.W. Pink. It's an old book, but being reminded of God's amazingness is even more important today! It's a thin book, a great devotional.

~Denise Goossen

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We have quite a few new non-fiction books in the teen library, including some higher-level thinking on Noah's Ark. For teens and adults alike, these books help us understand how the Biblical account is not only plausible, but true!

- *Noah's Ark: Thinking Outside the Box* by Tim Lovett
- *How Many Animals Were on the Ark?: Understanding the Animal Kinds* edited by Craig Froman

We also have some new additions to the well-loved series, *What a Character! Notable Lives from History* by Marilyn Boyer.

- *Famous Pioneers and Frontiersmen*
- *Heroes of Early America*
- *America's War Heroes*
- *America's Famous Spies*

~Carla Murphy

# Vonnie's Views

There's a scene in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C. S. Lewis that resonates with me. Eustace Scrubb (a difficult, moody, oppositional boy) had been involuntarily turned into a dragon. At first, he didn't know what to do about it. Eventually he decided the only thing he could try was to claw at the dragon skin and pull it off. To his surprise, it worked. He peeled away one thick layer of dragon skin. But underneath the skin he had just removed was another dragon skin. So, he tore that one off too. And beneath it, another still.

Finally, Aslan (the Lion-hero in each of the Chronicles of Narnia books), who was watching all this, told Eustace he would need to let him rip off the dragon skin. Eustace refused out of fear and kept trying to tear it off himself with the same result of another dragon skin being revealed. Finally, Eustace relented and allowed Aslan to rip off the dragon skin. Eustace later said that the Lion's claws went far deeper than his own had gone. It hurt more than he expected. When Aslan finished ripping off the dragon skin, he tossed Eustace into a lake. Plunging into the water stung his newly exposed skin. However, Eustace emerged from the water with baby-smooth skin—no longer a dragon, but once again a boy; a changed boy, completely different from what he had been before.

If I'm honest, I often find myself trying to "un-dragon" my own heart. I notice something in my life that shouldn't be there—an impatient spirit, pride that creeps into my thoughts, a sharp or unkind word spoken too quickly, or brooding self-pity. My instinct is to fix it, to try harder, to do better next time. I try my best to "manage" my behavior. Sometimes that works for a while; it feels like I've peeled off that layer. But sooner or later I discover what Eustace discovered: underneath the outer layer there is another one.

Our sin problem runs deeper than we think. Scripture tells us why. Our deepest problem is not our behavior; it's the condition of our hearts (Matthew 12:35). God makes a remarkable promise: "I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26) The transformation we need begins there. Before anything else can change, God must give us a new heart—a heart able to respond to Him, trust Him, and love what He loves. That is where the "un-dragoning" starts.

But the Lord does not stop there. Once He has made us new within, He continues the work of reshaping our lives. In Colossians 3, believers are told to put off the old self and put on the new. Anger, malice, slander, and lies are to be laid aside like filthy old clothes. In their place we are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and love.

Anyone who has tried to live that way knows it isn't as simple as changing clothes. The old self clings stubbornly. Old habits linger. The dragon skins do not always come off easily. Real change happens when we stop clawing at ourselves and allow the Lord to do the deeper work. Sometimes that work is a growing insight from Bible reading, other times it is a sharp and painful lightbulb moment. God is faithful to expose motives we didn't realize were there or to press on places where pride or unbelief has settled into our hearts.

It can feel painful, like Eustace felt when the Lion's claws went deep. Yet God's purpose is always mercy. Slowly, patiently, He peels away the dragon skins of our old life. What begins to appear underneath is the life God intended all along—a heart made alive to Him, reflecting the character of Christ.

As long as we live, God's work sanctifying work is not finished *by* any of us or *in* any of us. And some days the most honest prayer we can pray is a very simple one: "Lord...un-dragon me."

# APRIL



## Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:9—For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you in my prayers.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Pray for Mark & Amy Albin, Marlo & Wilda Becker, Barb Beesley, Sally Bestvater.	<b>2</b> Pray for Elaine Brown, Milton & Tonia Busenitz, Stan & Imogene Carlisle.	<b>3</b> Pray for Steve & Mandi Crist, Ben & Pat Dirks, Gerhard & Vonnie Fast.	<b>4</b> Pray for Dale & Shelly Friesen, Kyle & Karis Friesen, Larry & Jeanette Friesen.
<b>5</b> Pray for Mary Friesen, Florene Goering, Verne Goering, Elaine Goossen.	<b>6</b> Pray for Joe & Denise Goossen, Nathaniel & Jordana Goossen, Mel & Leda Graybill.	<b>7</b> Pray for Kyle & Katie Hanzlicek, Lindley & Kayla Harms, Dale & Jan Hastings.	<b>8</b> Pray for Rob & Tami Hiebert, Donna Hostetler, Art & Cindy Huxman.	<b>9</b> Pray for Bryson & Grace Huxman, Ethel Huxman, Gary & Marci Huxman.	<b>10</b> Pray for Jerry & Melinda Jantz, David & Lynette Janzen, Gary & Kathy Janzen.	<b>11</b> Pray for Gary & Merideth Janzen, Dwayne & Karen Jarman & Karma Kitto.
<b>12</b> Pray for Derik & Chantelle Klaassen, Cyndi Koehn, Ryan & Erin Koehn.	<b>13</b> Pray for Kevin & Kim Kohls, Betty Krehbiel, Ken & Kimberly Kropf.	<b>14</b> Pray for Scot & Jenny Loyd, Chad & Val Mason, Tyler Mason, David & Tanya McCloud.	<b>15</b> Pray for Terry & Darla McCloud, Darren & LuAnn McMannis, Bill & Sharon Mierau.	<b>16</b> Pray for Leo & Sheryl Miller, Dennis & Diane Morrison, Dizzy & Carla Murphy.	<b>17</b> Pray for Barb Nelson, Chris & Julie Nelson, Douglas & Laura Orpin, Eva Pankratz.	<b>18</b> Pray for Roger & Donna Pfaff, Randy & Judy Pretzer, Simon & Danae Pyle.
<b>19</b> Pray for Caleb & Cynthia Quick, Jim & Mary Regier, Theo & Joan Rempel, Julia Renich.	<b>20</b> Pray for Steve & Janel Rogers, Larry & Dot Rowe, Abe & Judy Schmidt.	<b>21</b> Pray for LaVerne Schmidt, Betty Schrag, Matt & Rashelle Schrag, Norv & Ev Schrag.	<b>22</b> Pray for Todd & Carmen Selzer, Aaron & Elisabeth Smith, Don & Rosie Smith.	<b>23</b> Pray for Jim Smith & Carolyn Wohlgemuth, Lila Smith, Sharon Smith.	<b>24</b> Pray for Karen Smithson, Betsy & Sheila Snow, Larry & Donna Sperling.	<b>25</b> Pray for Dennis & Teresa Stahl, Josh & Karen Stinchcomb, Ben & Jan Stucky.
<b>26</b> Pray for Jim & Joanne Stucky, Twila Stucky, Ron & Emily Sunquist.	<b>27</b> Pray for Arnold Vogt, Gerald & Arlene Vogt, Lloyd & Sue Vogt.	<b>28</b> Pray for Scott & Amy Vogt, Stan & Marcy Vogt, Verne & Janet Voth.	<b>29</b> Pray for Polly Weesner, Larry & Suzanne Wiens, Delvin & Cherie Wohlgemuth.	<b>30</b> Thank God for a good church family, a good church home.		

# GUARACIABA NEWS

## In the groove

It's good to be back in the routine of things. All went fine in our absence for which we are very grateful. This just re-enforces the fact that we are all just integrated parts in Gods great plan! We appreciate your part and are thankful that our shoulders rub in this plan of Gods!

## WARRIORS

This month James is starting a new decipleship group of EVERY MAN A WARRIOR. It's a group of seven young men in their 20's, from the Guaraciaba Church. Pray for their perseverance and spiritual growth in their walk, that they may truly love the Lord their God with their whole heart ,soul and mind.

## PLANTING

We are beginning to mobilize the Guaraciaba Church to plant a daughter church at the opposite end of town. We have a family that lives there so we plan to use them as a beach head for the Gospel.



## A time to build...

As soon as the rains let up we will be involved with two building projects. Above you see the start of our church building. This is a very incremental process because we build as the resources come in. We pay the professional brick layers and the rest is volunteer labor. All are very excited and contribute and work sacrificially!

Below you see the sight where we will be building our library at POINT OF VIEW. The plan is to have this library as a resource and research center for all who stay here. Pray that both of these very brick and mortar projects will bring much glory to GOD!

