

Garden Gleanings

August 2024

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

??? Mystery Trip ???

Close to 40 women and girls met at the church office on July 27th anxiously anticipating where the adventures of the day would take them! After getting into seven different cars based on their birthdays, the ladies found themselves headed to Lyons, Kansas for the first stop of the day. The Women's Ministry bought a cinnamon roll for everyone and ladies were able to purchase their own drink of choice from Brew 56 Coffee & Tap House.



Once everyone had enjoyed their coffee and fellowship, they got back into cars based on the number on the Uno card they drew and continued west on Hwy 56. Stopping in Ellinwood. In Ellinwood, ladies were able to pour their own candle at the Kansas Earth and Sky Candle Company. While the candles were cooling, everyone ate lunch around the corner at 10-39 Café.



Following lunch and a bit of shopping downtown, the group went on the Ellinwood Underground Tour and The Historic Wolf Hotel & Underground Storefronts.



After picking up poured the candles, it was time to head back to the church office in Hesston. A snack was provided for the road home and depending on what snack you picked determined which car you got to ride in back home.

Thank you to the Women's Ministry for their time in planning a surprise trip for the ladies of Garden! It was a wonder time of adventure and fellowship!

Singspiration

Our Annual Singspiration was held on July 28th. The Music and Worship Committee put together a list of songs requested from the congregation. Each of the different Worship Teams lead a group of songs. Following the time of worship singing together, homemade ice cream and toppings was served and enjoyed in the fellowship hall.





Vonnie's Views

A few weeks ago, I experienced three distinct encounters, each occurring in close succession, which profoundly deepened my understanding of the effects of sin in our lives and the transformative power of salvation. Allow me to explain.

My first encounter was through my daily Bible reading. At that time, I was studying the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah prophesied during the final decades of the nation of Judah, just before the 70-year Babylonian captivity. For over 25 years, he tirelessly called God's covenant people to return to the True and Living God. He urged them to abandon their pagan idols and abhorrent worship practices, which included ritual prostitution and child sacrifice, and to embrace righteousness, justice, and mercy. Despite his persistent efforts, Jeremiah's message was met with rejection and mockery. He was imprisoned, threatened with death, and his people remained stubbornly drawn to false prophets and sinful pursuits. Their inclination was away from God and toward evil.

The next encounter occurred while I was preparing for a Monday evening ladies' Bible study. That week, we examined Luke 13:10-17, the story of a woman who had been crippled for 18 years. She was bent over and unable to straighten up. On that Sabbath, as Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, He saw her, approached her, laid His hands on her, and healed her. Immediately, she stood upright and praised God. In essence, Jesus "unbent" her.

The third encounter came through a daily audio devotional, *Things Unseen*, by Sinclair Ferguson. In this devotional, Ferguson described the sinful soul as "incurvatus in se"—Latin for "curved inward on itself." Due to our inherent sinfulness, our souls are like the woman in Luke 13: bent inward, away from God, and drawn toward sinful desires, much like the ancient Judeans. Our souls become misshapen and self-centered.

Ferguson explains it this way:

...our sin means that we make ourselves, in a thousand different ways, the center of the universe. But then our soul is bent over, turned in on itself, separates itself from the source of true life and nourishment, and eventually starves itself of spiritual oxygen, shrivels up, becomes hard, and dies... So the question is, Is there a remedy for this sickness? Is there a divine pharmaceutical? Can we be saved from it? And the answer, of course, is yes, there is. There is restoration and healing and transformation for souls curved in on themselves, and it's available to us in Jesus Christ. His lordship over our lives, our submission to Him as our Savior, begins the marvelous reshaping of our souls. That's why the Son of God came from heaven. (<https://www.ligonier.org/podcasts/things-unseen-with-sinclair-ferguson/turned-in-on-ourselves>)

Because of our "incurvatus in se," we believe lies and pursue fleshly cravings, like the ancient Judeans. Similar to the woman of Luke 13, we cannot unbend ourselves, no matter how hard we try. Satan tells us we are destined to remain bent, that God is indifferent or hostile, and that He is unkind. Pride convinces us we don't need to change, that we are better than most and thus "good enough." Legalism suggests that if we try harder, follow the rules, and appear righteous to others, we'll be acceptable.

All of these are lies. It is only through the touch of the Master's hand that we can be truly unbent. As God, through the Holy Spirit, draws us toward Him, we are led to the Living Water and the Bread of Life. By grace through faith, we are enabled to approach our Savior, who has been waiting for us. He "unbends" us and begins the process of remaking us in His image, for His glory.

SEPTEMBER



Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:18—See then that ye walk circum-spectly. Not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time,

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Praise God - in spite of circumstances, in spite of fears. Trust Him.	2 Pray for patience when healing is slow to come.	3 Pray for someone you know who is hurting.	4 Pray for Pastor Dizzy to find great joy in his service for God.	5 Pray for God to guide your steps in every decision you make.	6 Pray God's strength & comfort for those grieving.	7 Pray God's protection over the Harvest Radio equipment.
8 Pray for family relationships to be healthy & good.	9 Pray for the elderly to have peace & sweet rest in Christ.	10 Praise God for young men at Café y Graca learning to share the gospel.	11 Pray for our church family to have sincere love & appreciation for each other.	12 Pray for a good start to the school year for teachers & students.	13 Pray Josh & Camila have wisdom in making transitions at Café y Graca.	14 Pray military chaplains boldly & clearly present the gospel.
15 Ask God to show you what you need to eliminate from your schedule & let go of.	16 Pray for Daniel and Krissy settling into their work for Christ.	17 Pray the new church of-fice & youth center are effective in reaching out to the local community.	18 Pray young kids in church behave & are not a distraction to their parents or others.	19 Pray those in the work-place are a light in the darkness.	20 Pray we draw closer to God daily, seeking Him first.	21 Pray Tim & Renee have sweet times with the Lord in His word.
22 Ask God to strengthen your faith, cling to Him.	23 Look around and enjoy the beauty of our God & worship Him.	24 Pray caregivers find healing for their hurts in Christ.	25 Obey what God has called you to do. Ask Him to help you.	26 Pray Ivan & Mary hear with their hearts the needs around them.	27 Pray a hedge around our marriages that they would be God-honoring.	28 Pray for Wed. night groups that will be starting up again.
29 Pray for the opportunity to help someone today.	30 Pray the Holy Spirit convicts each of us where we need to confess & make corrections.					

Celebrating God's Blessings



I wish to thank each of you for standing behind my technical ministry. It is a relatively new idea that the Lord would use a technical person. In the 1970s a business man in Elkhart, Indiana invited technical missionaries to build a transmitter in the back of his factory. We can see how God used it in many ways.

This technical knowledge has been put to Kingdom use ever since. The new technical ideas of today build on the ideas of the past. The old circuits are not actually used but they aid in the new circuit design. They multiply our efforts in telling the world what God has done.

I praise God for putting the willingness in me to become a missionary more than 35 years ago. Staying in my "perfect job" would have been easier for me. I made the transition and God used it for His purposes.

One of those purposes was meeting Renee. She is by far the greatest blessing I have received after becoming a missionary. We just celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary! Far more ministry has occurred than if I were on my own.

God continues to show his faithfulness in how he provides for our needs. We are volunteers at SonSet Solutions. We live on the gifts of His people. We are so grateful for the opportunity to work every day at SonSet Solutions and not have to pick up a part time job to fund ourselves.

To read more stories of how God is working, please visit the website: <http://sonsetsolutions.org>

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Technology for abundant life!

Hansen Update August 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

It has been far too long since we sent out an update. So, much has happened since then, and too much to include everything in a letter like this.

By God's grace, I have recovered well from the bypass surgery and God has allowed Rachel and I to make several trips since then. These include:

- At the end of Oct. 2023, we attended leadership meetings in Spain.
- Then in Nov. we attended the International Ministries Team meetings in Missouri.
- 2024 started with hosting a 3-day International MK-Care forum in Sanford, FL.
- In March – 3 days Security Resource Team meetings and then 3 days of multi-mission security forum in Sanford, FL.
- From March 13 to April 2, Rachel and I were in Germany to meet our latest grandchildren. Philip and Natalie were blessed with twins at the end of January.
- Upon returning from Germany, I went straight to Arizona to attend board meetings at Ethnos360 Aviation and got back home on Apr. 6.
- From Apr. 13-29 – I was in Thailand for our Asia Pacific Leadership forum.
- Then in May and June Rachel spent 3 weeks in Germany again helping Philip and Natalie, as they could use some extra help.
- Besides all these trips, we continue in ministry from home, and I spend most days working via email or in online meetings.

We are indeed grateful that God allows us to be engaged in ministry and with our family in this way. Thank you so much for your part in making this possible for us, with your faithful prayers and gifts.

In July we enjoyed having Benjamin, Wina, and Noah and a classmate of his with us for 3 weeks. What a joy to have them around for this time. As you can imagine, it just seemed too short.

The next big thing on our schedule is our son Steffan's wedding. On Sep. 7 Steffan and Jenna plan to be married in Albuquerque, NM. We greatly look forward to Jenna joining our family and are thankful they plan to live in the Omaha area. Please pray for them as they start married life together.

In October and November, I have a long trip planned. About a week in the UK to speak to students at the training center there. Then 5 days of meetings in Romania for the Europe Leadership meetings. From there I go to Dakar, Senegal for leadership meetings and will be there about 2 weeks. I am very thankful that Rachel is planning to be with me for the Romania and Senegal parts of the trip.

It is hard to believe 2024 is already more than half gone. God has been so gracious to us, and He is continually faithful. We look forward to what He has in store for us in the months to come.

Thank you again for praying for us.

In Christ,

Peter and Rachel Hansen

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