

get connected

We connect people to Jesus and help God change their lives.



New Year. New Plan.

by Joel Osborn, Communications Coordinator

The beginning of a new year is a good time to start new habits. A good habit for Christ followers to get into is daily reading and meditation on God's word. If you don't already have a regular Bible reading plan, or if you're looking for a new plan, here are some Bible reading plans and devotionals.

There are several dozen **devotional books** in the church library. To make them more accessible, we have moved them into the Welcome Center. Also, you can check these books out for a full year. There is a huge variety of subjects and plans available.



mat and large print. For more information, contact Nick Kersten, nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org.

Our Daily Bread (<https://odb.org/>) is another popular devotional. You can get the daily readings online, by email, on Facebook or subscribe to the print magazine.



If you have a smartphone, the **YouVersion Bible App + Audio** has many reading plans. You can read by subject matter, specific books or sections of the Bible and different length of plans. It has plans to read through the Bible in a year, but it also has a plan to read though the Bible in 3 years. The Bible app can remind

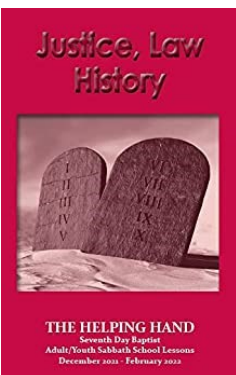


you every morning to do your reading and you can select which version of the Bible you want to read. "+ Audio" means the Bible App can read the passage to you and you can follow along while it reads. The Bible App is available for free in the Apple App store and the Google Play store.

The **BibleProject** has several plans on the Bible App, but one

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Also available in the church Welcome Center are copies of the **Helping Hand** lesson guide, published by the Seventh Day Baptist Christian Education Council. There are weekly lessons

and daily Bible readings. The Helping Hand is edited by Steve Osborn, who used to be a pastor here at the Connecting Church. It is also available in Kindle for-



New Year. New Plan., *continued*



in particular is “One Story that leads to Jesus” This one-year reading plan guides you through the Bible with an emphasis at looking how the entire Bible points to Jesus. Besides the daily readings, it occasionally includes videos from the BibleProject that illuminate the passages. Read more about BibleProject reading plans at <https://bibleproject.com/reading-plans/>

A plan that hasn't made it into the Bible App yet is the **Five Day Bible Reading Schedule** (<https://fivedaybiblereading.com/>).

You can download and print the PDF of the reading schedule and keep it with your Bible or wherever you do your Bible reading. The advantage of the 5-day plan is that you have less chance of falling behind and getting discouraged. Every day you have a reading from



the Old and New Testament, in chronological order. Every other day or so there is a chapter from the Psalms.

This is just a small sample of the Bible reading plans that are out there. Some are just a few verses with a longer devotional attached. And some take you through large swatches of scripture every day. The important thing is to take advantage of this New Year to start a New Plan for reading the Bible regularly.

Sabbath School Class Continues with The Chosen



Are you enjoying The Chosen? We have been watching the Season One Series together during Sabbath School and are often moved to tears by the humanity of our Jesus as he walked the earth. We encourage you to join us at 9AM on Sabbath days. We have lively discussions about the episodes as time permits. We will be resuming the series at Season One, episode 7, “Invitations” on January 1, 2022 after our break for Christmas. If you miss a week, you are welcome

to view these episodes online at <https://www.peoplemustknow.thechosen.tv/>.

If you missed the Christmas Movie, you can catch it here: www.ChosenChristmas.com

Ladies, we will also be starting the series over again in the Thursday Morning Ladies group at 11 AM in the church library. We will be a couple weeks behind, but ladies are welcome to join us.

Growing In The Grace Of God

by Pastor Nate Crandall

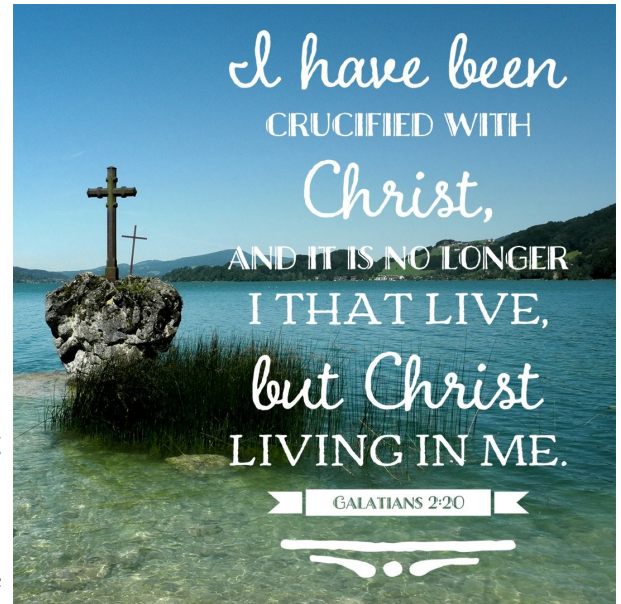
Over the next few months I will be speaking on Sabbath mornings about the topic of grace. Paul's letter to the Galatians is especially effective in teaching us about grace simply because he was addressing issues which challenged the reality of grace growing in God's people. In order to **"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"** (2 Peter 3:18), we must be aware of those issues which divert us from this path. In this the apostle Paul can help us greatly!

Paul became known as the apostle of grace, but he started out on the opposite end of the spectrum. His early life

before coming to know the Lord Jesus was characterized by legalistic righteousness. He was so good at it that he declared himself to be faultless at keeping the Jewish law.

Though we may not be in the same league as Paul was in terms of legalistic righteousness, we still may be caught up in the spirit of legalism in one way or another. As we take a journey through Paul's letter to the Galatians, we are going to discover the truths which allowed Paul to leave legalism behind in order to embrace the

grace of God. By his grace we will also be able to embrace these truths ourselves and to experience the fullness of all God has for us.



Join Us at Camp Wakonda in 2022

Vacation Bible School

June 27-July 1

Intermediate Camp

July 5-10

Collision Camp

July 10-17

Stay tuned for more details!

Prayer Focus – Reaching our Community for Jesus – It’s Urgent

By Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

All around us people are perishing. We walk among those who face eternity without the saving grace of Jesus. Here, in the Milton area, are thousands who will be lost FOREVER – when the angels come and separate those who are in Christ from those who are not. People, real people, people we know, will end in the outer darkness where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth. Can we shut our eyes?

The time is shorter today than it was yesterday. Can we sit silent? God’s word tells us “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16). We know this is true – so let us be diligent.

How do we pray fervently and with urgency? Each of us have experienced a time of deep, focused, and passion-filled petition to God. When a child was in danger, when a disaster happened and our loved ones were missing. When we faced a severe trial. We know what it is to cry out with our whole heart.

Yet, honestly, we don’t do that often. We can do better, we can focus better – and our prayers can be more effective. Jesus says that our prayers can move mountains – so they can impact our community! Fervent, passionate doesn’t need to be fancy, or even pro-



longed (though frequent is good.) Romans 8:26 says that the Holy Spirit can translate wails, moans, and tears into prayer. We need to pour out our hearts to God – even though he already knows. The communion of deep prayer allows us to go past the surface and delve into the depths of the Spirit in order to meet Him at the throne – aligning our will with God’s and praying effectively for His will to be done.

Fervent, passionate prayer is often coupled with fasting prayer. Fasting is the act of abstaining from food and drink, or another type of sacrifice (many today refrain from social media, television, or other distractions) to devote time to prayer.

So, here is our challenge for January – make time to pray fervently for God to act in our community. Find a way to fast – skip a meal (or more), skip a TV program or a solitaire game, and use that time to pause amid all the busy-ness of the new year to pray. Your prayers

matter!

Find a quiet place free from distraction, quiet your heart, confess/repent – accept God’s forgiveness, forgive those who have wronged you – for these are part of being in Christ and being one of the righteous whose prayers accomplish much. Then speak your desires to God. Listen with your mind, your spirit, and your heart to hear other things He would have you pray or do – for His glory.

Some things to pray for:

- Hearts to be open to Jesus
- Conviction of sin and the need for salvation
- A hunger for God’s Word
- Opportunities to share the gospel
- Lives to be changed for all eternity
- God’s truth to be shared
- Jesus to be lifted up and glorified
- Growing love for God
- Love for one’s neighbor to be a way of life in Milton

Opportunities to Pray Together

By Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

The early disciples gathered together for prayer.

Jesus often went by himself to pray. His followers, however, gathered together for prayer. God tells us “Where two or three are gathered, there I am in the midst of them. The LORD’s prayer starts “OUR Father.” Our prayer challenge for January is to fast and pray fervently for our community. With that

goal in mind, here are some opportunities to gather together for prayer:

- Tuesday January 4, 7:00 am zoom
- Thursday January 6, 7:00 am zoom

Links will be sent in the Friday Update on December 31.

- Friday January 7, 7:00 pm at church

And, of course, our regular Bible Study gatherings where

we also take time to pray.

- Weds. January 5
6:30 a.m. Sharla’s (Men)
9:30 a.m. at Sanford’s (Ladies)
- Thurs. January 6
11:00 a.m. at church (Ladies)



Jesus Said WHAT?

The “I Am” Statements of Jesus


by Angie Mullen, Director of Children’s Ministries

As the new year begins, so will our new, exciting Awana Large Group Unit. We know that everything Jesus said is so important for us to know and understand so that we can learn more and more about him. In the book of John, Jesus tells us some essential things about himself, but if you are a kid, they might sound a little crazy! In this 7 week unit Mike Hoffman will lead us in

learning about some of those “I am” statements. I AM the Bread of Life; I AM the Light of the World; I AM the Gate for the Sheep; I AM the Good Shepherd; I AM the Resurrection and the Life, I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life; I AM the Vine! If you read these literally, which is where many of our children’s understanding is developmentally, you might think this sounds weird. But understanding

these concepts is essential to maturing as a believer! We’re excited to share this unit with our clubbers in January and February and see where God leads these young hearts.





January Collision	
5	Collision
12	Collision
19	Collision – Pizza, Invite-a-friend
26	Collision

January Awana – Jesus Said “What?” The “I Am” Statements of Jesus	
5	Club
12	Club
19	Club
26	Club

Operation Christmas Child – To The Ends of the Earth

by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

Our church has been in prayer for a long time about how to reach the world for Christ in a greater way. The 295 boxes that our church packed at our Operation Christmas Child packing party on November 6 were distributed to many ends of the earth this year! They went to 7 countries on 4 continents! Talk about reaching the world in...

Namibia – in Africa (southwest coast)

Colombia – in South America (northwestern part, where South American connects with Central and North America)

Malawi – in Africa (southeastern)

Republic of Georgia – in Europe (located at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, a former Soviet republic, on the Black Sea)

Rwanda – in Africa (east central)

Mongolia – in Asia (between Russia to the north and China to the south)

Gabon – in Africa (west coast)

Thank you...

to these local businesses who donated monetarily or items to our OCC event. Please thank them by personally telling them or doing your business with them:

*Ace Hardware, Milton
Reitz Dental, Edgerton
TLC Restoration, Milton
MercyCare
Bank of Milton
Arndt's Gas Station, Milton
Cornerstone Graduate Supply, Milton*

Pray!

Please continue praying for the boys and girls who received our shoebox gifts. Continue to ask God to soften their hearts to the Gospel and give them the courage to follow Christ even if others around them do not—yet!

Pray that communities in these areas will be transformed by light of the Gospel.

Ask God to guide, guard, and protect the local believers who distribute them and make them effective ambassadors for Him.

Matthew 21:22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.



Friends packing boxes at the November 6th Packing Party.



Remember to look for after Christmas sales on small toys, hygiene items and kit supplies for next year's boxes.

Zac's Last Report from Barcelona, *by Zac Muench*



What a blessing when we gather and share our God stories!

One thing for sure – the gospel is shared through relationships. This month in Barcelona we had opportunities to share with a Dutch skater and to continue getting to know Marco – a 20-year old who has been coming to our Friday Bible study. Last week my co-worker David and I spent 5 hours (!) with Marco talking about various deep topics: God, government, social justice, science, and ultimately our part we play in the world; I even got to share the most impacting thing God has done in my life.

Marco is very open to God and wants to know the truth and where God and science meet. Please pray for him, that he would keep seeking, and that he would find.

We travelled to Madrid and reconnected with Isaac, a 20-

year old we met who is now doing skate ministry by himself. He hosted a skate camp this past weekend and opened it up to anyone that wanted to come. Several of us from YWAM Barcelona went to support him. There were mostly teenagers, and Aaron (one of the students from the Barcelona Thrash program we hosted in July) also came out. It was encouraging seeing how much God has been doing in his life over the past 5 months, including seeing him surrendering to God.

As this will be my last newsletter, I would like to thank those that have supported me over the years, and everyone for reading my newsletters. Just a few of the people you have helped reach with God's truth and love: Josh, David, Aaron, Ezra, Claire, Jaqueline, Kat, Gustavo,

Matt from Michigan, Cez, Michaela, Karolina, David (German), Isaac (Madrid), Mikołaj, Garrett, Jesenya, Josh J, Tucker, Adanya, Aquila, Luis, Nathan, Matt, Marco, and Sander. And so many more.

You have also helped in my personal walk with God. The past 3 years have been the most transformative of my life – thank you also for helping make that happen.

As the LORD leads you, please continue to pray for WYAM Barcelona:

- Elisha & Estter Stegner - Calling all Skaters (Skate ministry)
- Sarah Grunder - Creative department (ministry through the arts)
- Dave Terranova - Calling all Skaters & Creative department
- JP & Eve Sanders - Calling all Skaters & Creative department
- Isaac Vasquez - Youth ministry & Creative department

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Bulletin Board

ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 23rd,
9:00 a.m.**

Stop by the church to pick up an Annual Report and the 2022 Budget.



Capital Campaign Update

As of November 30, 2021

Starting Balance	\$ 2,505.00
Total Income	\$82,287.35
Transfer from Memorial	
Fund Cash Fund	\$8,250
Total Expenses	\$87,243.81
Fund Balance	\$ 5,798.54

Focus on Funds

as of November 30, 2021

General Fund Balance	\$13,144.94
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$52,425.48
Nov. Undesignated Income	\$11,189.00
Nov. Total Income	\$13,757.66
Nov. Expenses	\$23,212.67
Denomination Giving YTD	\$11,120.30



- 2 Mark & Faith Green
- 3 Phil & Lois Watson
- 4 Ryan Holbrook
- 6 Sophia Kersten
- 6 Jeremy Lade
- 8 Amanda Sykora
- 8 Doneta Osborn
- 8 Nate Crandall
- 8 David St. Clair
- 8 Elijah Geske
- 17 Sondra Muench
- 23 Katie Lubke
- 23 Kathleen & Ryan Holbrook
- 24 Josiah Lubke
- 25 Lillian Holbrook
- 26 Jim Lyke
- 27 Barbara Jones
- 30 Verne Wright



January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
						1 9:00 Sabbath School - Library & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary and YouTube
2	3 8:00 TOPS - Library	4 7:00 Prayer- via zoom	5 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda	6 7:00 Prayer- via zoom 11:00 Ladies Bible Study - Library	7 7:00 p.m. Prayer- at Church	8 9:00 Sabbath School - Library & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary and YouTube
9 9:30 Deacons Meeting	10 8:00 TOPS - Library	11 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's	12 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda	13 11:00 Ladies Bible Study - Library	14	15 8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School - Library & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship - 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary and YouTube
16	17 8:00 TOPS - Library	18	19 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda	20 11:00 Ladies Bible Study - Library	21	22 9:00 Sabbath School - Library & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary and YouTube
23 9:00 Annual Meeting	24 8:00 TOPS - Library	25	26 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda	27 11:00 Ladies Bible Study - Library	28	29 9:00 Sabbath School - Library & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary and YouTube
30	31 8:00 TOPS - Library		Sabbath Sunset Times Dec. 31 4:33 p.m. Jan. 1 4:34 p.m. Jan. 7 4:39 p.m. Jan. 8 4:40 p.m. Jan. 14 4:47 p.m. Jan. 15 4:48 p.m. Jan. 21 4:56 p.m. Jan. 22 4:57 p.m. Jan. 28 5:05 p.m. Jan. 29 5:06 p.m.			



**January
2022**

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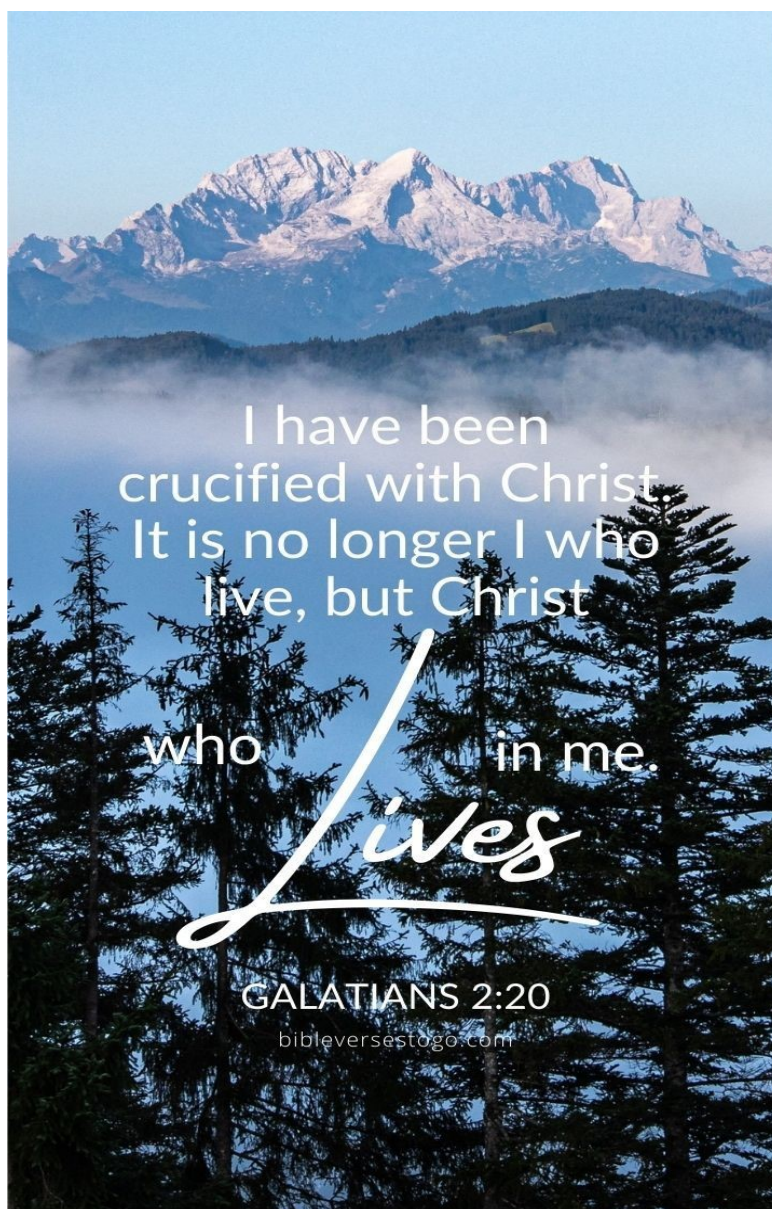
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Online Worship

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel. Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link. We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.