

get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



A Word for 2023 *by Pastor Nate Crandall*

One of the things that the Lord usually does around the beginning of the year is to put a word for that year on my heart. This year was no exception, except that I felt moved to share that word with you. The word for 2023 is PRAYER.

I believe that the importance of intentional and consistent prayer, both personal and corporate, will be more crucial this year for both the condition of our souls and the advancement of the gospel.

In order to have the fuel and the inspiration to shift gears in prayer, I want to draw our attention to Jesus and his habit of prayer. At the time during Jesus' ministry when large crowds of people came from everywhere to see him, his behavior concerning his habit of prayer is mind-blowing. ***"The news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray."*** (Luke 5:15-16, NASB)

The typical human response in a season such as this one would be to drop prayer like a bad habit. You see that not only did the Lord not stop his regular habit of prayer, he made it his priority. His personal prayer time was a "more than typical" kind of thing. The regular prayer habit of that time

among the religious Jews was morning, noon, and night. My study in this tells me that "often" for Jesus was above and beyond the expectation of even religious people.

Why? Let me suggest that the Lord knew that he needed to be in prayer with his Father more than he needed anything else. Unless this reality was present in his mind, prayer of the kind and pattern Jesus showed would not have been a reality.

This need for prayer is what we lack. The Lord is nudging me to nudge us all to become in tune with our need for intentional and consistent time with the Lord in secret and with our fellow believers. My first prayer is that we begin to recognize our need as it truly is.

The Lord told his disciples this powerful truth during the days before his crucifixion. ***"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."*** (John 15:4, ESV) He is our life, and prayer is one of the indispensable ways that we remain connected to the wholeness of his life. May it be said of us in 2023 that our life is full of "often" getting away to spend time in prayer with him.

January 2023

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Operations Pastor Candidate Forum

by Jon Cruzan

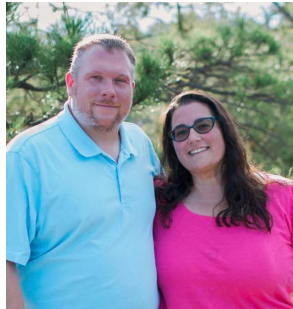
Earlier this year, on recommendation of the Trustees, the church, at our Mid-Year Business meeting, voted to create a new part-time, paid position of Operations Pastor. A committee of the Trustees, composed of Neil Lubke, Randy Kersten, Rick Mullen, Pastor Liz, and Jon Cruzan have been actively involved in recruiting efforts.

In our recruiting process, Pastor John Pethtel has emerged as a strong candidate for this position. To help you become acquainted with him, Pastor John will bring our morning message on January 14. Please mark your calendars for this important event. We encourage you to attend in person or online. After the service, we invite you to stay for a light lunch and an opportunity to interact with Pastor John.

Here is the rationale for this

new position:

Effective church operations are critical for the overall impact of ministry. Operations include a broad array of responsibilities including development and guidance of volunteers, facilities management, information technology, finance & budget, security, and management of supplies. As is typical of a church our size, we have employed a variety of approaches to church operations from volunteers, to assigning tasks to paid staff members. Most



Pastor John and his wife, Tabatha

recently, most of our operations functions have been assumed by or assigned to paid staff members. This approach has been successful to a degree but also has created challenges which we believe would be better met by a more consolidated approach. Additionally, as we look to the near future, we realize we will experience natural attrition in more than one of

our paid positions as incumbents transition to new stages of their lives. Thus, we believe that the best stewardship of our ministry is to be proactive in implementing changes as we approach these anticipated normal transitions. The approach we are recommending is developmental rather than remedial and, thus, will allow us to stay ahead of a changing curve. A change in staffing in any organization means some degree of change for each current staff member. It is important to state that this proposed change is not intended to change or eliminate any current position. Rather, it is to prepare and position our church for changes of which we have been informed and which we know are inevitable.

A more complete list of job duties is available as is Pastor John's resume. You may request a copy of either of those by contacting Jon Cruzan at 608-290-6465.



Camp Wakonda 2023

Camp Discover	June 26-30
Camp Collision	July 9-16
Intermediate Camp	July 16-21

Step In to God's Heart for the Nations

Sabbath School, Saturdays, 9 a.m. – January 7 - February 11, 2023

Do you want to develop a greater understanding of God's love for those who don't know him? Join Linda Lyke in this Sabbath School class – **Step In, through Global Frontier Missions.**

The Step In Study is designed to expose participants to God's Word, God's World, and God's Work, challenging each person to take a leap of faith and "Step In" to God's heart for all nations. Each section focuses on the heart, the head, and the hands.

We want people's minds and hearts to be transformed as we look into God's Word and



as we see what He is doing around the world. We also want to be doers of the Word (James 1:22), and not just hearers that are puffed up with new knowledge. Therefore, this

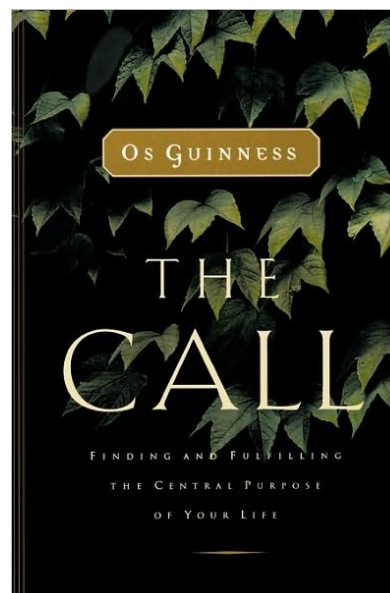
study provides a number of practical next steps for people to form the habits of a globally-minded Christian.

Elders Book Club February 25, 9:00 a.m.

Are you wondering what God is calling you to do in 2023 and beyond? Join the conversation on February 25th at the 9:00 a.m. Sabbath School gathering with Carl Greene. We will be using Os Guinness's classic book *The Call*, to guide our conversation.

If you would like a copy of the book, please pick one up at the Welcome Center or contact Janet Butler.

"Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service."



January Spotlight on Ministry: Jan Teat & Q Place

by Linda Lyke

In 2017, Melissa Lade, Shanny Snyder and I (Jen Preiss is also pictured) took a Q Place coaching class to learn how to invite people into



a safe, nonjudgmental group to talk about life, God and the Bible. For the past six summers on Monday evenings, we have started a new “Spiritual Conversations” group for spiritual seekers, and then each spring, we invite that group to “fold into” the Bible study group on the opposite Mondays. Our Bible study ladies, all on Zoom, are now delving deep into the book of Mark.

The Spiritual Conversations group that began this past summer met at the YMCA in Milton for eight sessions, twice per month on Mondays through September. The YMCA welcomed us in and looked at our “spiritual fitness” group as complimentary to what they offer – physical fitness. We had not offered the

“in person” option since prior to Covid. At the YMCA, we offered in person and on Zoom. Because of the Zoom option, we had women participate from across the country. The YMCA

offered a neutral setting for us to meet, since often those who are “figuring out faith” may not feel comfortable coming into a church building. Many attendees are struggling through traumatic life events and want to know if God is real.

Do you know any women who are asking spiritual questions? We’d love to invite them!

We’d also like to start a men’s Q Place group. If you’re interested, contact me.

A Q Place is best described as evangelistic discipleship, walking beside these ladies, asking lots of questions so they discover who Jesus is through the word of God. Because the three of us facilitators have “been around the block

before,” it is a little less scary to invite our lady friends, family and neighbors into a new group each year. We remind ourselves that if they say “No,” it does not mean “Never.”

This group would not have happened without the training by Jan Teat, a Field Worker with Q Place. Her impact on us for the past six years has been one of encouragement, mentorship, problem solving and prayer. So many times we have received emails saying that the Q Place staff is praying for our group meeting that evening.

She has provided steadfast support to us for so many years and now our church supports her as a Field Worker. Serving with Q Place for 21 years as a National Field Leader, please consider supporting her through our church. Watch for Jan’s video update during our Spotlight on Ministry at our January 7th church service.

Prayer Focus January - Field Worker Jan Teat and Q-Place Ministry

- LORD, continue to bless Linda, Shanny and Melissa as they meet with women to seek answers to spiritual questions and study your word
- Bring women to these Spiritual Conversations groups to grow in faith
- Bless Jan Teat in her mentoring and training ministry.
- Provide her with financial, spiritual, emotional and physical health
- Provide her with prayer support from our church
- Let Jan and those she mentors shine the light of Jesus to those around them
- Let them see the fruits of their labors – New life in Christ!
- Be glorified, LORD, in your servants as they share the gospel.

Jan Teat's December 2022 Q Place Update

A surprise happened after our car ran over a sharp metal object while Dave and I were on our way to church one Sunday this fall. The tire started to deflate, so we immediately turned around and drove to the tire center of a nearby Costco.

While waiting for our new tire, we walked over to the phone center. There we met "Madison," a young woman who had come to train a new associate all week in Fort Wayne. The trainee hadn't arrived, and we had a lovely time getting to know her. She was only 21 and yet had a job with a lot of responsibility. Our conversation moved easily from job stresses to things we would love to share with her—like a music venue in town and a Costco pumpkin pie. (And yes, along with checking on our tire and getting lunch, we bought a pie and shared it with her!)

When our tire was fixed and we were leaving, I felt a strong prompting to give Madison a copy of *Steps to Peace with God*. In conversation I had mentioned my Bible study group and that I would love to have her drop in if she could while in town, but other than that we hadn't talked about spiritual things. But when I prayed silently for confirmation, I knew that I was supposed to give the booklet to her. So, I told her that my faith means a lot to me, and I felt led by God to give this to

her. I delivered it with a hug.

Later that day I received a text from Madison:

I just wanted to reach out and thank you and Dave yet again for bringing such a beautiful light into my day.

*You were the very first human interactions for the day, and I could not have asked for better, more wholesome people to walk into my life & brighten my day! You guys are truly amazing & I wish you all the best in life! If I am ever in Fort Wayne again, I will make sure to be in touch! Thank you so much for the pie & the heart-touching experience! **You guys were the light I did not know that I needed in my life! Xoxo***

As a long-time "mobilizer of Christians" with Q Place, I am thrilled when God puts together an unexpected encounter and works to reach someone directly through me!

So many Christians feel insecure about having spiritual conversations and often miss opportunities that God puts before them. That's why I love connecting Christians and



churches with Q Place's simple practices that start with noticing and move in time to sharing our story and God's story. I love coaching Christians to run groups where people can discuss the Bible and see it for themselves. I love helping to lead our national and field teams to grow God's Kingdom.

As God works at all of these levels, people like Madison are seeing light that they didn't know they needed! Your support is part of all that God is doing in this ministry to draw people to Him! Thank you too for your prayers and support that help make this happen. Have a Merry Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus, the one true light!

Jan Teat
Q Place National Field Leader

Where Oh Where Did Our Boxes Go? Operation Christmas Child

On November 5, 2022, our church and the community packed 301 boxes. The results are in and boxes went to five countries on three continents: **Suriname & Guyana in South America;** **Jamaica in North America;** **Zambia & Lesotho in Africa.**

Here's a bit more about one of the countries our boxes went to.

Suriname: *Is a country on the northern coast of South America. A land of tropical rainforests, Suriname is one of the top producers in the tropics of bauxite, the main ore of aluminum. Formerly a Dutch colony, its ethnic diversity also includes South Asian and African influences. Distribution of shoeboxes started there in 1998, and The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program started in 2013.*

Let's pray for those children and families in Suriname who received our boxes, that any obstacles of the gospel traveling to these children can be overcome by Jesus word. That Jesus' truth would penetrate hearts and that families would experience miracles and live transformed lives, drawing more people to Him. We pray this in Jesus' precious name, Amen!

Thank you...

to the many people from our church who donated monetarily and gave items to make our



packing party a reality. Please thank these local businesses for their monetary contributions to our event and patronize them:

- Olin Auto in Milton
- Reitz Dental in Edgerton
- Bank of Milton
- GIFTS Thrift Store and Project 16:49 for the many items they donated.



**SDB World Federation
Week of Prayer
January 1-7
"Rising from the Ashes"**

Booklets with daily readings are available in the Welcome Center and at www.sdbwf.org or www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Merry Christmas Milton East Hey Neighbor Mentor Program

*Thank
You!* 

**TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE
THESE GIFTS!
THEY ARE APPRECIATED!**



Bulletin Board



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

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 22 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Stop by the church to pick up an Annual Report and the 2023 Budget after January 14th.



Meeting Together

Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday, January 10th
9:00 a.m. at Sharla's



2023 SDB Winter Forum Sunday, January 8th 1:00 p.m.

Scan this QR Code for details and to register

January Children's Church

January 14

Unit 14: Session 2

Isaiah Warned of God's Judgement, Isaiah 22:48

January 28

Unit 14: Session 3

Zephaniah Warned God's People to Repent, Zephaniah

Men's Chorus

will rehearse at 8:00 a.m. on Sabbath, Jan. 21st and sing during worship that day at 10:30 a.m.

December

4	Club
11	Club – Flapjacks and Flannel Night
18	Club – Beach Party Night
25	Club



January	
2 (Mon.)	Roller Skating with Koinonia
4	Collision
11	Collision
18	Collison – Pizza Party
25	Collision





Focus on Funds

as of November 30, 2022

General Fund Balance	\$ -97.21
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$55,142.98
Nov. Undesignated Inc.	\$13,784.15
Nov. Total Income	\$16,659.64
Nov. Expenses	\$28,458.25
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 7,360.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 8,240.14

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>1</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>  <p>Happy New Year</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p> <p>1:00 SDB Winter Forum online only</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship & Children's Church</p> <p>12:00 Lunch and Operations Pastor Candidate Forum</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Annual Meeting - Sanctuary</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship and Children's Church</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <p>Jan. 6 4:38 p.m. Jan. 7 4:39 p.m. Jan. 13 4:46 p.m. Jan. 14 4:47 p.m. Jan. 20 4:54 p.m. Jan. 21 4:55 p.m. Jan. 27 5:03 p.m. Jan. 28 5:04 p.m.</p> </div>



**January
2023**

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Communications Coordinator:
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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.