

February 2024

Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

WoMin Service Project

On February 3, the Women's Ministry organized a service project to make freezer meals for the Heartland Pregnancy Care Center in Newton. Over 40 freezer meals of Tater Tot Casseroles and Crock-Pot Salsa Chicken recipes were put together to put in the freezer for the center. Brent Guthrie, the director of Heartland Pregnancy Care Center, shared about the ministries available at the center. Ladies also brought baby items to shower the center with supplies for the women who visit the center.



Search Chat



Diligence means to pursue something with keen attention and effort. Peter used in 2 Peter 1:5, "He told us to diligently add virtue to our faith and knowledge to our virtue." In verse 10, "Therefore brethren be even more diligent to call and election sure."

It has been a busy month for the search committee. We sent out job postings to several colleges and seminaries. We have received eight applications for our senior pastor position. The selection process looks at categories such as cover letter, resume, education, degrees, work history, ministry experience, references, and videos. We prayerfully consider some and denied others. We are still sending job postings to other schools.

Continued prayer for the following:

1. God's will and timing
2. God's Guidance through candidate selection
3. Wisdom and unity for the search committee
4. For our church in the season of waiting

Adult/Child Prayer Ministry



Reminder to continue
PRAYING FOR &
CONNECTING WITH
your special
child/children!!



NEW INFORMATION
about this ministry
will be coming soon!!



PART 2
is in the works!!



Vonnie's Views

As I read large chunks of the Bible daily on my 90-day rapid journey through the Bible, I've noticed God's relationship with his chosen people, Israel. The way God interacted with Israel through the Old Testament tells me much about His character. What I discover about God in the Old Testament, particularly in the prophets, leaves me in wide-eyed astonishment. God bares his heart—I plainly see a God of deep emotion and expansive love.

In the prophets of the Old Testament, I encounter:

- A very personal God—a God who intensely feels his people's rejection of His love (Jeremiah 2:3; Ezekiel 6:9; Hosea 11:1-4; Malachi 1:2-3; 6-7; 12-13).
- A jealous God (Exodus 20:5) who is eager for people to think of Him accurately (Isaiah 40:18-31), to revere Him as Holy (Ezekiel 38:23), to love him genuinely (Isaiah 54:10), and to worship Him for who He is (Jeremiah 31:33-34).
- A just and holy God who promises disaster and death to all who reject Him (Jeremiah 35:17; Ezekiel 6:10-14; Zephaniah 1:17).
- A God who demonstrates endless love to a people brazenly choose idols over the Eternal God (Isaiah 5:1-7, Jeremiah 2:9-16; 10:1-16; Ezekiel 36:16-28).
- A God who speaks plainly to his people (Jeremiah 6:16-17)—revealing Himself to them & calling them back to Himself (Isaiah 42:5-8; 44:6-8).

God was so incredibly patient with these stiff-necked people with whom he had covenanted. He's not about to break the covenant he made with them. In Genesis 15, God covenanted unilaterally with Abraham—he made the covenant; he will keep the covenant—even in the face of persistent defiance.

But God will hold the people who rejected him responsible for their choices. In a graphic paragraph God says, "Then tell them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Drink, get drunk and vomit, and fall to rise no more because of the sword I will send among you.' But if they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink, tell them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: You must drink it! See, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that bears my Name, and will you indeed go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for I am calling down a sword on all who live on the earth, declares the Lord Almighty.'" Jeremiah 25:2-29 (NIV).

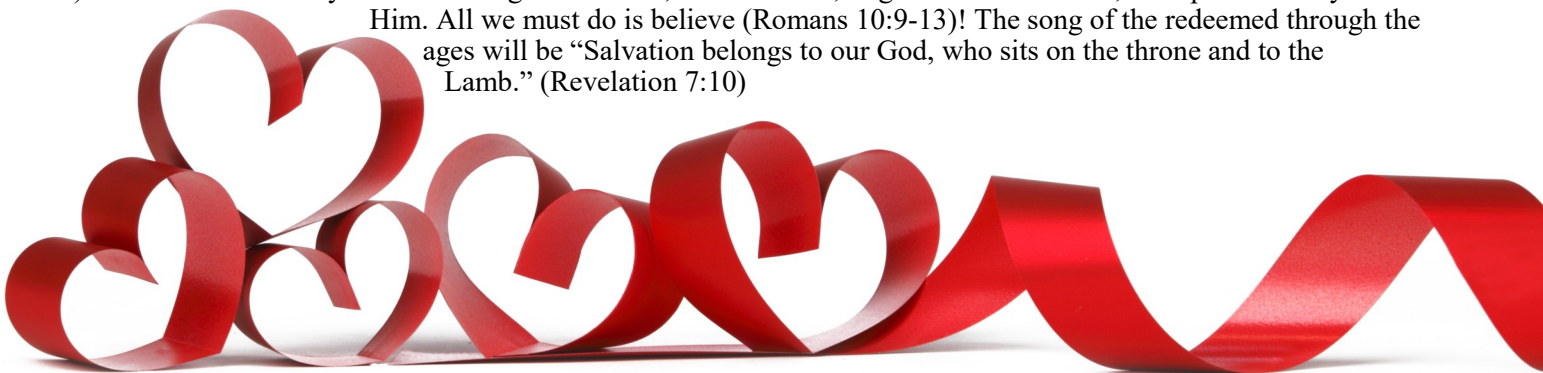
God's wrath is his measured, just, and holy response to treason against the Most High God. Israel could not refuse the cup of God's wrath, and neither can we.

Repentance and salvation are the goal of the discipline of God.

"This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NIV)

It is important to understand (the OT prophets help us to grasp this) that the wrath of God against sin and sinners is just and right. Sin is high treason against God. High treason is punishable by death. Sin carries a severe penalty: death and eternal separation from God. God has every right to destroy rebellious human beings. He is under no obligation to do anything to make us right with him. But, because he's rich in love and mercy, God made a way to deal with our sin so we can once again be in relationship with Him.

Jesus took the full wrath of God in our place (Isaiah 53:4-12) so we could receive the righteousness of God (Romans 5:19). God has made a way for us to be right with Him, to know Him, to grow to be like Him, and spend eternity with Him. All we must do is believe (Romans 10:9-13)! The song of the redeemed through the ages will be "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb." (Revelation 7:10)





Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse: I Corinthians 6:19-20—Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.</p>					<p>1 Pray the Holy Spirit would enable you to walk in purity before God.</p>	<p>2 Praise God for redeeming your life from sin, bondage and death.</p>
<p>3 Pray for hearts of gratitude - for the obvious and not so obvious blessings.</p>	<p>4 Pray for development of retreat center in Brazil.</p>	<p>5 Pray God's sustaining grace for caregivers.</p>	<p>6 Pray for Brazilian churches working towards their own church building.</p>	<p>7 Pray we leave church with a high exalted view of Almighty God.</p>	<p>8 Pray for the man who will come to be our next Pastor.</p>	<p>9 Pray the Holy Spirit would help you to stop and think before you speak.</p>
<p>10 Praise for the Wed night teachers in preparing the lessons.</p>	<p>11 Praise God that you have been forgiven - never lose the wonder of that.</p>	<p>12 Pray for Joe & Denise as they establish a new normal & new roles.</p>	<p>13 Pray God Himself is the light that lonely, hurting people find in the darkness.</p>	<p>14 Ask God to bring forth much fruit through the Sunday School classes.</p>	<p>15 Pray those on church board are led by Holy Spirit & not personal preferences.</p>	<p>16 Pray everyone who enters Café y Grace senses the presence of the Lord.</p>
<p>17 Pray the Holy Spirit would give you the words to share Jesus Christ with someone.</p>	<p>18 Praise God that you are warm and safe - then pray for those that aren't.</p>	<p>19 Pray for marriages that are in a hard place right now.</p>	<p>20 Pray the children of missionaries grow in their understanding of God.</p>	<p>21 Pray for young adults who are seeking to serve God with all their hearts & minds.</p>	<p>22 Pray the Holy Spirit would minister to the spirit of believers in nursing homes.</p>	<p>23 Pray Peter and Rachel know what to hang on to and what to release.</p>
<p>24 Pray for those faithfully fixing Wed. night meals to have joy in the service.</p>	<p>25 Pray the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to scripture you need to obey.</p>	<p>26 Praise God He has a better plan for us & our loved ones than we have for ourselves.</p>	<p>27 Ask God to show you what He wants of you in living a holy life.</p>	<p>28 Pray we each have a growing hunger for more of God's word.</p>	<p>29 Pray we are beneficial to each other & don't cause others to stumble.</p>	<p>30 Pray the Holy Spirit guides you in making all your decisions.</p>
<p>31 Pray for those listening to Harvest Radio & All Nations Radio.</p>						



In Brazil

News from Ivan and Mary Goossen

January, 2024

A Quick Update:

Well, we have another grandchild (#12) on the way to being born. Kyle and Stefanie are expecting the arrival of their third child around February 28. (We think the 29th would be fun!). So with the help of a couple Christmas gifts from a couple of churches, we are traveling to the U.S. for the event.

We will go on February 16 to return March 16. We very much look forward to it. But we are mindful that while we are gone, coworkers get more of a load. So please pray for Joshua and Camila and boys while we are away. Also, even though Lucas and Crislany and family are not official Avant missionaries, they have a wonderful outreach opportunity in their area (about 7 miles from us). We have also tried to help them in this. Basically, it is just reading Scripture in several homes a couple times a week. It is very well received but we still wait for those who are reading and listening to "see the Light". Please pray for both the coffee shop work and for this newer work in a community called "Bom Gosto", which literally means "Good Taste". No one seems to know where the name came from.

This trip will also give us the opportunity to be with family. Of course, we will be visiting Ivan's mom, Michael and Roberta, and other Goossen family. This is not so hard to do as we usually fly in to Wichita and then drive a borrowed car to Indianapolis where Kyle and Stefanie live. Along the way, we usually try to see at least some of the Patterson family (Mary's). This time, we will make a special effort to visit her two sisters. One (Joyce) has been in the hospital with pneumonia and kidney problems (dialysis) for almost a month now. The other (Susan) just lost her husband of 49 years to cancer last week. The funeral is this Friday.

It is hard for anyone who has to be far way from family during both very good times and very difficult times. So we are thankful we will have this chance to visit these sisters and maybe others.

We probably won't be doing other traveling/visiting other than to see family.

We would appreciate your prayers for all of those mentioned here.



In this photo, some of us women are visiting some women in the Bom Gosto community. On this night, we read John 3 and had a great chance to explain again what Christ did on the cross.



HOME ASSIGNMENT

Our time in the US is over and we are

heading back to Nova Russas, Brazil! It has been a delight to visit with so many of you! And we are so sorry that we simply weren't able to see everyone. We were blessed to be able to visit most of our supporting churches, sharing how God is working in and through Harvest Radio.



We are so thankful for many special moments with our state-side children, Nathan and Susanna and Susanna's boyfriend, Andrew Weibe.

We also were able to spend a lot of time with both of our extended families.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Praise the Lord for His provision of needed funds.
- Praise for a wonderful time in the US.
- Pray as we return to Brazil and say goodbye to our families. Pray for our adjustment back into life and ministry in Brazil.
- Pray for full funding for the tower maintenance project and sponsor a day at Harvest Radio.

PROJECT UPDATES

Project # 1:

Mobile recording studio for Alge-mas Quebradas (Unshackled in Portuguese).

This project is fully funded and we will be taking quite a bit of the equipment with us.



Project # 2

Tower painting and maintenance. This project is still lacking about \$2000. If you are interested in helping out with this much-needed preventative maintenance, you may send your donation to Avant Ministries at the address below and make a note that it is for project #71831.

Project # 3

Sponsor a day at Harvest Radio is still lacking \$2900 a month. If you would like to donate regularly toward this project, it is project #70181

We thank God for His provision, through you, to sustain the ministries of Harvest Radio!

CHRISTIAN RADIO IN NOVA RUSSAS, BRAZIL

GoosseNews

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