

February 2025

# Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

*Hello, world!*



*Introducing*  
**BOAZ LEDDY**

January 17, 2025

3:54 am ♥ 8 pounds, 3 ounces, 20.5 inches

Proud Parents: Christopher & Jasmine

Siblings: Abrosia, Augustus, & Lydia

# Vonnie's Views



Do you remember the game show *Let's Make a Deal* with Monty Hall? Launched in 1963, this popular show featured a host who selected an audience member to "make a deal." The twist? The prize was hidden behind a box or door, and the contestant had to decide whether to keep what they had or "trade up." More often than not, they ended up with a "zonk"—an item of no value.

At the end of January, I finished reading the book of Deuteronomy as part of my Bible reading plan. Deuteronomy contains Moses' final message to the Israelites before they enter the Promised Land. Moses himself would not enter, due to his sin when he dishonored God by striking the rock for water, rather than speaking to it as God had commanded.

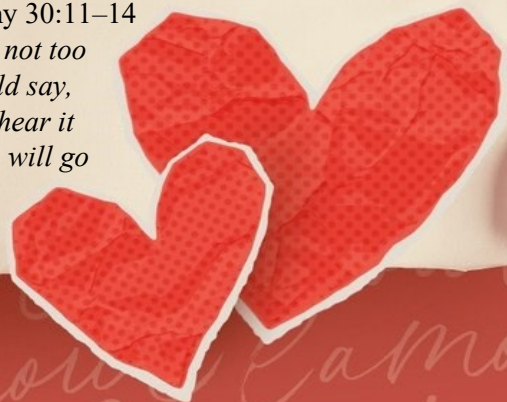
A central theme in Deuteronomy is choice. Moses addresses an audience made up of people who were either children during the Exodus or born during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. He urges them to choose whether they will believe and follow God or go their own way. Moses wants them to understand God's holy name, His requirements, and the consequences of disobedience.

Throughout Deuteronomy, Moses presents a clear choice: blessings for obedience or curses for disobedience. The blessings include peace—both within Israel and with surrounding nations—and prosperity in families, crops, and livestock. These blessings would serve as a testimony to the world that God is with Israel. On the other hand, the curses would lead to crop failures, famine, broken families, confusion, and frustration. There would be conflict with other nations, resulting in war, loss, and sorrow.

Moses passionately urges Israel to choose life—by trusting and obeying God, giving their full-hearted allegiance to the God who loves them and desires to bless them. He emphasizes that this isn't merely about following rules; it's about heart transformation. As Moses says in Deuteronomy 30:6, "*And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*"

I'm almost to the end of the book of Judges, and despite Israel's repeated vows to follow God, they've already failed far more times than you might expect. Unlike *Let's Make a Deal*, where the contestant had to make a blind choice, Israel was clearly told the consequences of disobedience. Yet, they chose the "zonk"—something of no value—rather than the blessing, flourishing, and peace God had promised. Worse still, these poor choices had a profoundly negative impact on their nation, families, and communities.

The choice before Israel is the same one we face today. The most important decision is to trust Christ as our Savior. From there, we make daily choices that either draw us closer to God's heart and help us shine as a light to others—or lead to pain, sorrow, and negative consequences. We can choose to put the deeds of the flesh to death, yielding to the Holy Spirit's guidance, or follow our sinful hearts to dark and painful places. We can invest our time in things of eternal value or waste it on trivial pursuits. Every choice we make affects not only us but also those around us. As Deuteronomy 30:11–14 reminds us: "*For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.*"





## Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Jude 25 - To the only wise God, Our Savior, be glory and majesty, and dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.</b></p>						<p><b>1</b> From everlasting to everlasting, I am God. (Ps. 90:2)</p>
<p><b>2</b> God hears me - always! (Micah 7:7)</p>	<p><b>3</b> The Lord finishes what He starts. (Is. 46:9-10)</p>	<p><b>4</b> God made each of us with a plan and purpose in mind. (Ps. 139:14-17)</p>	<p><b>5</b> God thought we were worth dying for. (I Peter 2:24)</p>	<p><b>6</b> His loving kindness never ends, never runs out. (Ps. 107:1)</p>	<p><b>7</b> He is the perfect provider and gives us what we need. (Romans 8:32)</p>	<p><b>8</b> He is holy - without blemish, without sin, without fault. Wholly pure. (Ps. 99:9)</p>
<p><b>9</b> He is strong and mighty, not afraid of anything! (II Samuel 22:2-4)</p>	<p><b>10</b> He means what He says. (Is. 45:23)</p>	<p><b>11</b> He sets the captive free - from bondage to sin, guilt, addictions, whatever. (Ps. 116:16)</p>	<p><b>12</b> He cares when my heart hurts. (John 11:35)</p>	<p><b>13</b> God delights in our right response to Him. (Ps. 147:11)</p>	<p><b>14</b> No one can fully comprehend God &amp; there is comfort in that. (Deut. 29:29)</p>	<p><b>15</b> He will not share His glory with another. (Is. 42:8)</p>
<p><b>16</b> He rejoices over us with singing. (Zeph. 3:17)</p>	<p><b>17</b> I don't have to know what lies ahead because HE knows. (Deut. 32:8)</p>	<p><b>18</b> He cares very much about the poor, needy and suffering. (Is. 58:6-7)</p>	<p><b>19</b> He wants to use us in reaching others. That's the plan. (II Cor. 4:6-7)</p>	<p><b>20</b> He cares about each individual and their hurts. (Ps. 147:3)</p>	<p><b>21</b> His love is lavish and abundant. (I John 3:1)</p>	<p><b>22</b> I can tell Him anything and He gives right counsel. (Is. 9:6)</p>
<p><b>23</b> He is faithful and true. He can't lie to me - ever! (Rev. 19:11)</p>	<p><b>24</b> He fills the empty spots in our souls with Himself. (Ps. 25-26)</p>	<p><b>25</b> There is nothing too hard for God to do. Don't be afraid to ask Him. (Jer. 32:17)</p>	<p><b>26</b> He controls governments and rulers. (Dan. 2:20-22)</p>	<p><b>27</b> God is willing to forgive the most wicked of sinners. (Acts 9:15)</p>	<p><b>28</b> He forgives us when we fail Him. (Hosea 14:4)</p>	<p><b>29</b> He carries me when I can't hold myself up. (Is. 41:10)</p>
<p><b>30</b> He cares deeply when someone we love dies. (Psalm 116:15)</p>	<p><b>31</b> God wants to see us safely home to Himself. (Jude 24)</p>					

# Avant

## In Brazil

### Three things to keep in your prayers:

**1** We are looking forward to the birth of our 13th grandchild! He is due to “arrive” during the first week of February. We have a flight to Wichita on February 1 so we can be with Michael, Roberta and big brother, Liam at this wonderful time. Hopefully, he will wait for us to arrive first! He breaks the tie of grandsons and granddaughters. The boys are now ahead!



Liam

So we hope to see many of you some time in the next two months. We will probably stay until the end of March, traveling a lot, visiting family and friends and churches.

**2** We have a couple of exciting new ministry opportunities on our field that we will be talking about while in the US. One very significant one is the opportunity to acquire another radio frequency. This will enable Harvest Radio to broadcast to a much broader audience. This frequency is about 2 hours north of Nova Russas (Where we have been on the air for over 20 years!). It overlaps a bit with our present audience but will more than double our outreach. With this new frequency comes the need for all the technical work to be done to get on the air.

Those of us in the Mucambo area are especially excited about this. While we have recommended Harvest Radio to our neighbors, reception is very faulty due to distance and other factors. From the location of this additional frequency, the Mucambo area will be well covered.

**3** We have asked you to pray for Guilherme (William) and others who have followed Christ in the past few years. We praise the Lord that Guilherme (who works at the coffee shop) will be going to Bible college, starting next month. We are thankful for how the Lord is leading him. However, he will be greatly missed in our church and at the coffee shop. He will be studying at a Word of Life Bible college in Belém which is in the Amazon region, quite far away. This is a big step for him, and we ask for your prayers as he seeks to be obedient to God's call on his life.



Guilherme and his dad with Ivan

### Your prayers make a difference! Thank you!

If you would like to give to our ministry, please go to  
[avantministries.org/give](https://avantministries.org/give).

Or send a check (earmarked Ivan Goossen) to  
**Avant Ministries**  
 10000 N Oak Trafficway  
 Kansas City, MO 61455

Good afternoon!

We have some exciting news for you! Lord willing, Harvest Radio will soon be expanding!

A number of months ago, one of our announcers, Lima, told us that a friend had called him to say that he knew of a radio station for sale. The location interested us, but we didn't know how seriously to take the offer.

Well, the Lord wouldn't let us forget about it, and we began to pray. Elwyn talked with the owner and was told that the sale only included the license and tower, the station has never actually gone on the air yet. We drove around, did some research into coverage area, and went to the tower site.



This is the view from there! The tower is literally looking out over the valley where there are numerous new Avant-related church-plants started, including the one in Mucambo, where Elwyn's brother and family are ministering. Our current station, FM 102.7 doesn't reach this far north.

After more prayer, research, and counsel, we entered into a verbal agreement with the current owner to purchase this station. Although he isn't willing to sell the land the tower is on, the purchase agreement also includes free use of the land where the tower and transmitter building currently are. We plan to get it on the air as soon as possible (paperwork signed, equipment installed, etc) with plans to upgrade the license to a much higher power. Once upgraded, it will more than double our current potential listening audience!



Avant approved a fund-raising project, and praise the Lord, through several very generous donors, we already have nearly 1/3 of the money needed! If you would like to join us, you can send to Avant Ministries to project #72027 "Expanding the Harvest". You can also give online if you would like: <https://avantministries.org/give>

If you have more questions, let us know. We'd love to talk with you!

Elwyn & Linda Goossen