

July 2023

Garden Gleamings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

LADIES NIGHT OUT

A short notice ladies night out turned out to be a well attended night out at El Cerrito in Hesston on June 22. The goal of the evening was to get acquainted with James Goossen's new wife, Angela while they were here in the states. After the meal, Angela, with the translation help of her daughter-in-law, Jordana, shared with the ladies a little bit about herself and how God brought her and James together. A fun surprise of the evening was that an anonymous donor had paid for everyone's meal! Thank you to the anonymous donor!



Baby DEDICATION



Baby Dedication was held on Father's Day, June 18, Kevin and Kim Kohls dedicated their son, John Ford. Keep the Kohls family in your prayers as they strive to raise John and also Karlee and Harper to come to know the saving grace of Jesus in a personal way.



Youth Mission Trip

The Youth Group made our trek to Elkhart, Indiana July 5-9th to volunteer at SonSet Solutions with Tim and Renee Zook. Though the travel time was longer than usual, the memories made were extra special! We had a smaller group from the youth go: 4 sponsors and 3 teens. The Quick Family was also able to join us during our volunteer time at Sonset Solutions.

While at SonSet, we helped with many different projects, including taking apart old radio equipment and sorting metals for recycling, installing parking bumpers in the parking lot, hanging dry erase boards, and cleaning up inside and outside the building. On Friday, we tested and packed 480 radios to be shipped to one of their partner radio stations in Zambia.

Thursday night, we ate at Tim and Renee's house. It was a beautiful evening, so we were able to sit outside in their backyard to eat. Friday night, we ate in Shipshewana at an Amish couple's house with the SonSet Solutions crew. We were blessed with as much food as we could eat. On the menu was fresh bread with jam and peanut butter, meatloaf, grilled chicken, salad, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered noodles, and three types of pie! It was a feast!!

Saturday, we went to Lake Michigan. A few of us braved the chilly waters and played in the lake then we hiked up one of the sand dunes. We finished out the afternoon playing mini golf and riding go carts.

During our trip, we studied sections of Paul's letters. Discussing what it means to be saved, being used by God no matter our past, and making the conscious decision to live for God rather than for man.

It was a wonderful trip, and many memories were made!



LIBRARY NEWS

In both of the Adult and Children's Libraries we are highlighting the **theme of Summer Adventure**. In the **Adult Library** you will find various genres of book choices on the feature table. Hopefully this will spark interest in moving out of the usual choices of books you normally find yourself choosing. Be purposeful in your reading choices, but enjoy a more relaxed reading adventure.

The **Children's Library** will focus on our Summer picture book selections. The books and activities will reflect a more relaxed atmosphere. Enjoy this last month of Summer before the fall activities and school days fill our schedules.

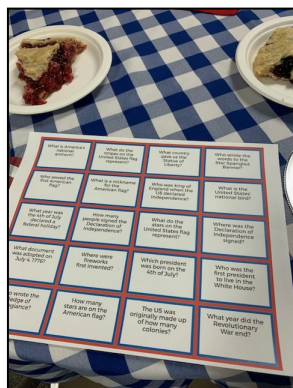
Good reminder to parents - "Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or a duty. It should be offered as a gift."



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

On July 7 the Garden Seniors gathered to celebrate God and our Country. A patriotic theme was evident throughout the Fellowship Hall. The American flag and the red, white and blue colors dominated our table decor. A history quiz at each individual place setting sparked conversation about our country's history. Table groups worked together at finding the answers and it was obvious that there were some history buffs among us!

Our meal reflected a July picnic menu consisting of pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, chips and delicious blueberry and cherry pie for desert. Lots of good fellowship and relationship building took place around the tables. Our featured speaker was Scot Loyd. With energy and enthusiasm, he reminded us of the faith of our founding fathers and the Biblical position that they took in establishing our country. He gave us some very interesting facts about George Washington. He closed with a good reminder that although we are seniors with waning energy, we still have a great opportunity - and responsibility - to build into the next generation. Our evening came to a close as we sang - My Country Tis of Thee. The evening provided a good time to reflect on the blessings and privileges we have because of the freedoms that have been born out of a sacrificial service.



ADULT/CHILD PRAYER MINISTRY

Jonathan Williams—Kyle & Karis Friesen/Julia Renich

Kyle & Karis—It has been such a pleasure and privilege to pray for Jonathan these past few months, especially as he navigates what's next after completing high school! We as a family have committed to pray for him when we do family devotions each evening. It's been all the more sweet as our son Brett is being prayed for by the Williams family, so our families are praying for each other.

Julia—Jonathan is a bright young man with a great future ahead of him. I pray that he will continue to put God first in all his dealings. Hebrews 12:1-2; Proverbs 16:9.



Brett Friesen—Ashley & Julia Williams

Julia—Praying for Brett has been such a joy. What a privilege it has been to get to know Brett and his family better and to check in with them and then bring to the Lord concerns and thanksgivings.

Brett—Brett has enjoyed having Mr. Ashley and Mis Julia as prayer partners. What a blessing that their relationship has been strengthened not only through this pray ministry, but also their presence in his Sunday School class.



Lincoln Hanzlicek—Abe & Judy Schmidt

Abe & Judy—It is a great privilege to pray for Lincoln daily and we will wait to see how the Lord will answer these prayers.



John Kohls—Caleb & Cynthia Quick/Julia Renich

Julia—It is a joy to pray for John. He was born on my birthday and it is fun to watch him grow. He is a sweet little guy and my prayers for him are to grow up running after God and all that is good.



Vonnie's Views

What do you do when you're blindsided by unexpected life events? Maybe you live with a long-standing unmet expectation. Perhaps a prayer wasn't answered in the way you wanted or at the time you desired. Have you ever wondered if it's okay to question God?

In Psalm 74, the Psalmist reflects on the conquest and destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. As he views the devastation, Asaph pens a poignant Psalm that is a gift to us centuries later! I don't get the sense that Asaph is angrily shaking his fist at God in unbelief, rather I get the sense that he is a dedicated follower of God who is overwhelmed with grief, asking anguished questions:

O God, why have you rejected us so long? Why is your anger so intense against the sheep of your own pasture? Remember that we are the people you chose long ago, the tribe you redeemed as your own special possession! And remember Jerusalem, your home here on earth. Psalms 74:1-2 (NLT)

Asaph feels the heat of God's wrath. In distress, he asks God to remember. Does God forget? No, but Asaph needs to express his deep sense of abandonment as he reminds God that Israel is His specially chosen covenant people. Asaph asks God to remember that He chose Israel out of the nations and names them His "special possession."

I picture Asaph slowly walking through the smoldering ruins.

Walk through the awful ruins of the city; see how the enemy has destroyed your sanctuary. There your enemies shouted their victorious battle cries; there they set up their battle standards. They swung their axes like woodcutters in a forest. With axes and picks, they smashed the carved paneling. They burned your sanctuary to the ground. They defiled the place that bears your name. Then they thought, "Let's destroy everything!" So they burned down all the places where God was worshiped. We no longer see your miraculous signs. All the prophets are gone, and no one can tell us when it will end. Psalms 74:3-9

God seems profoundly absent in the middle of this extreme trial. Asaph asks God to walk with him through the debris and see the decimation of God's own sanctuary. Asaph points out that nobody knows how or when this will end. Don't you feel like that in a hard trial? I sure do! We want God to stand in the chaos with us, to see what we are seeing and to feel what we are feeling. Aren't you glad our God does this? (Hebrews 4:14-16)

More questions tumble out of Asaph:

How long, O God, will you allow our enemies to insult you? Will you let them dishonor your name forever? Why do you hold back your strong right hand? Unleash your powerful fist and destroy them. Psalms 74:10-11

Why God is allowing all this to happen, will it ever end, and where is God's power to defend His people? Can't you identify? Is your first impulse to take your questions to God? I hope it is, because God understands your questions and encourages you to seek His face in your pain. God already knows all your thoughts; He is ready for a conversation with you!

Then Asaph recalls the greatness of God.

You, O God, are my king from ages past, bringing salvation to the earth. You split the sea by your strength and smashed the heads of the sea monsters. You crushed the heads of Leviathan and let the desert animals eat him. You caused the springs and streams to gush forth, and you dried up rivers that never run dry. Both day and night belong to you; you made the starlight and the sun. You set the boundaries of the earth, and you made both summer and winter. Psalms 74:12-17

Asaph then asks God to remember and respect His Covenant with His people.



See how these enemies insult you, Lord. A foolish nation has dishonored your name. Don't let these wild beasts destroy your turtledoves. Don't forget your suffering people forever. Remember your covenant promises, for the land is full of darkness and violence! Don't let the downtrodden be humiliated again. Instead, let the poor and needy praise your name. Arise, O God, and defend your cause. Remember how these fools insult you all day long. Don't overlook what your enemies have said or their growing uproar. Psalms 74:18-23

Asaph asks God to act not only out of compassion for His people, but also out of concern for His Glory. He asks God to rebuke the invaders who are mocking God because they are dishonoring the Holy Name of God. Like Asaph, we can know with certainty that God does not, and will not allow His Name to be slandered. Neither will God abandon His people! This God is OUR God too!! He will always accomplish His purposes. Like Asaph, we can trust our God in every season and in every situation!

AUGUST

Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: John 3:36—The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life, instead, the wrath of God remains on Him.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Pray kids who attended Camp David this summer remember the truths they were taught.	2 Pray we each learn how to serve God better & better as we get older.	3 Pray believers come alongside Elwyn & Linda and encourage them.	4 Pray you would get out of the way and let God order your days.	5 Pray Ivan & Mary have the energy & physical stamina to keep up with young'uns.
6 Pray for the people who sit around you at church each Sunday.	7 Pray James & Angela know how to help each other best.	8 Pray God conquers our fears.	9 Pray Joe & Denise find creative ways to lead & serve.	10 Pray for relief & endurance for those who suffer pain.	11 Ask God to give you an iron-on-iron friend. (Proverbs 27:17)	12 Pray for individuals you know who need Jesus.
13 Pray for the Sunday School teachers.	14 Pray parents have God's wisdom in training & correcting their kids.	15 Pray God helps you to speak only what is helpful & edifying.	16 Pray we don't hold onto anything more tightly than we hold onto God.	17 Pray God reveals to Josh & Camila any blind spots they may have.	18 Pray for wisdom in properly conducting the activities & business of the church.	19 Pray Peter & Rachel are wise counselors to others in the mission field.
20 Pray for the Holy Spirit to be free to teach, convict, & minister in the service.	21 Pray college students recognize the lies of the world.	22 Pray Chuck & Connie have the joy of leading others to Christ.	23 Pray God prepares the hearts of those who will come on Wed. to be sensitive to Him.	24 Pray for kids going back to school to be cooperative & do their best always.	25 Pray God uses Tim & Renee to raise up young people to know & love Jesus.	26 Offer the areas where you struggle up to God and ask Him to help you.
27 Pray God would bring new people to our church.	28 Pray parents model godly priorities before their kids.	29 Pray Mark & Mollie are effective in sharing Christ with their neighbors.	30 Pray Christian teachers keep their sense of humor & have patience.	31 Pray Josh & Hanna release their own desires to pursue what God wants.		



STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

You have helped us to be prepared to help and serve homeless people from all kinds of different situations. One evening recently, we were surprised to have a nineteen-year-old man ride more than seven miles on his bike to get to the Shelter. He had completed his freshman year in college. He had no place to stay and a job starting imminently.

On June 10, he flew to Vermont where he has taken a position in a camp for the balance of the summer. He will then return to school to start his sophomore year in college. We wish him the very best.

Other people who have stayed in the Shelter recently have come in from their tents, or their cars where they have stayed a few days or a few months.

In every case we try to respond with encouragement, and direction and try to care for their needs whatever they may be. Your regular support financially, or with food, or supplies helps us to navigate the varied and difficult situations we are presented with every day. Thanks.

We Love You,
Brian Bisbee

The Power of the Memorial or Honorarium Gift

Recently we received Memorial Gifts for Calvin J. Frye, who passed away on April 26 and Arlene Decker who passed away on May 7. As you know flowers are pretty. They last for a few days, wilt and are thrown away. A memorial or gift in honor of an anniversary or birthday can have a lasting impact in the lives of people. Think about making such a gift. We will properly recognize the memorial or honorarium. For further information, please give Brian Bisbee a call at 316-283-7711.

Speaking Engagements

Recently Brian has spoken at a number of churches and organizations. If you like him to come and speak about the work of the New Hope Shelter, please give us a call at the Office. We will be happy to book a date at your organization, church or service club.

Myth Buster

People often express their belief that all of the people who stay at the New Hope Shelter are from somewhere else like Wichita or from out of state. That is far from the truth. Recently a Mom came to us from Butler County after living in her car with her family. Recently a Newton woman called asking for a place to stay after having spent the night on a park bench in the City. Thanks for your continued support which enables us to give help to these folks in their time of need. Twenty-five dollars a month can change the life of a homeless person who has lost all hope.



The weather was threatening most of Friday, June 9, but we held our Beam and Wall signing. The new Shelter is progressing well. Our Conference Room/Storm Shelter is up and will be getting a reinforced roof soon. Steel beams are being erected on the cement slab which has been fully poured. We are so happy with the progress is being made. We are on schedule to occupy the new building by the end of the year and we are Thankful to Hutton Construction for their excellent work on the project so far. Check your Facebook page regularly for pictures and drive by 308 South Meridian in Newton to see things in person.

Current Needs List



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| Paper Towels | Milk |
| Masking Tape | Black Pepper |
| Pine-Sol | Coffee |
| Dishwasher Pods | Creamer |
| Laundry Pods | Sugar |

Food Reminder

We welcome your garden produce. We also can use leftovers from picnics, family events, and corporate functions. Don't hesitate to bring us that half ham, those hot dogs and hamburgers or the partial pies and cakes. They help us provide lunches for our residents and staff. Further information—give Marilyn a call at 316-283-7711.

You can Help us while you Shop at Dillon's

Register your Dillon's Plus Shopper Card, select "New Hope Shelter" as the non-profit you support, and each time you show at Dillon's or Kwik Shop, New Hope Shelter will receive up to 5% of your purchase.

Register at: dillon.com/communityrewards

Our mission at New Hope Shelter, Inc. is to provide a sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness in Harvey, Marion, McPherson and Butler counties by uniting the local church into a nurturing community which restores hope through a growing relationship with Christ.

It is through the love of Christ we share with those in need of hope.

Executive Director - Brian Bisbee
brian@newhope-shelter.org
 316-283-7711



New Hope Shelter, Inc.
 Following Christ, Building the Community



Dear Friend,

What a privilege we have of still living in freedom, independent of the tyranny of other countries. We do not know, however, how long God will grant us the amazing liberty we have.

We are commanded in **Galatians 5:1** to: *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.* We thank God we were freed from bondage the moment we accepted Christ as our personal Savior, and that our Bibles are still public domain. We need to use and obey what we read in God's Word.

Christ commands all of us in **Matthew 22:9**- *Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.* and in **Mark 16:15** He tells us, *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

Because we are told to tell those we come in contact with daily how they can also be free from bondage, why are so many of our friends, neighbors and others still waiting to be told? We are Christ's hands, feet, and mouths. How are you and I using them?

Thank you for your many prayers, anniversary cards, get well cards, and many other acts of grace and mercy you have shown to us. We still have occasional struggles; however, God is so good!!

In spite of how the condition of our beloved country seems to be headed, remember God is Sovereign!

Keep Looking Up! Our Redemption Draweth Nigh.

Norvin & Evelyn Schrag

