

The Grapevine

July and August 2019



“My dear brothers and sisters, stand firm, let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:58

Upcoming Events

We have a lot going on this summer! Starting with our Family Movie Night on June 21st at 7:00. It's an old favorite of many, I hope you can join us for the fun! Then in the beginning of July our youth will be heading west for their mission trip to the Ute Native American Reservation in Colorado. They may also have a chance to visit the Towaoc and Navajo Tribes nearby. Please pray for traveling mercies and for hearts to be touched. Last but not least the Summer Event will be on July 21! It's going to be an exciting summer!



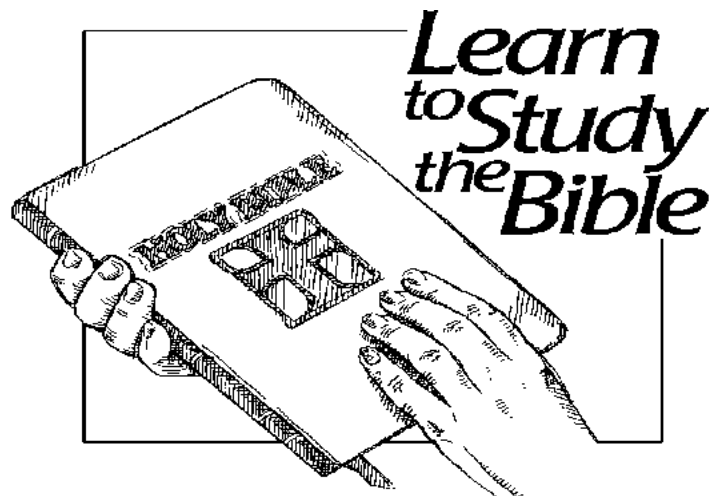
Ladies Bible Study

Over the past few years I have attended a Bible study lead by Regina and Karen in this study we have learned so much about the different people (leaders and followers) who at times chose the ways of the world and disobeyed God who in turn would call out for HIS help and the love of God would always take them back. However, even after God would take them back these same people would be tempted by misc. things of the world along with the worship of idols and would fall back into disobeying our wonderful God.

I have also read of how a woman of the Bible (Ruth) who married into a family and left her own to go with her new family to a new land and while there her husband dies. She had the choice of going back to her family but because of her deep love she remained with her mother-in-law and was redeemed by a man (Boaz) so she could remain in the family of Naomi.

Just as Boaz redeemed Ruth by paying for her our Lord redeemed us by paying for our sin through HIS death on the cross. What deep love He showed and gave us by HIS forgiving us by his death when HE could have turned HIS back on us. Our Redeemer loves us today and lives in our heart if we accept HIM as Lord and Savior!

The studies and fellowship have been an enjoyable time as we learn from our studies as well as give our input as to how we interpret/understand the ways we need to follow God. Along with this is the enjoyable time of fellowship with the other women who meet with me.



Missions

ELIZABETH & WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Elizabeth has been working at Wycliffe Bible Translators for several years now. She has a heart for doing what God has called her to do and she has served her Lord very well. It takes a special heart to go and be all that God asks us to be. There is preparation, traveling, excitement, discouragement, finances and so many other areas where faith must be your way of life. We thank God that there are those who answer the call and travel the world over teaching and loving so many and, most importantly, taking Jesus to the lost.

Elizabeth married a good man several years ago and he has been a support to her and to her ministry. Jason is not just a support but a partner in accomplishing Elizabeth's call to be a light in the darkness to so many. Elizabeth has two children. Lily was their first child. She was a beautiful little girl and brought so much joy to their family. It was a time of learning what raising little ones was all about. Children have a way of changing all that we ever thought about love. They reach deep into our hearts. Their second child, Promise, went home with Jesus after 22 weeks of gestation. Her name reflects God's promise to us; some day we will run, laugh and play with her in our heavenly homes. Elizabeth and Jason are now expecting their third child and are waiting anxiously for the new arrival.



There are those who have never heard of Jesus in their own language and now they do. There are those who have never heard the gospel story in their own language and now they do. Elizabeth works to teach and train other believers to share Jesus in their native tongue. This spreads Jesus to those who have never heard about our Savior. The work can be very hard at times but Elizabeth continues marching forward so that the name of Jesus can be proclaimed to the world. Hard work, dedication and willingness to be a servant is who Elizabeth is.

I wanted to share with you some of what the new president and CEO of Wycliffe, Bob Creson, said in his recent letter to us;

“Wycliffe Bible Translators USA and SIL International celebrated a milestone together this year --- the dedication of the 1,000th New Testament translation! The Keliko of South Sudan now have the New Testament and portions of the Old Testament in their language.”

“Over 32 years of unrest, trials, and displacement challenged the Keliko translators. At one point the unrest halted the project for 10 years, but the determined team was able to restart with the assistance of Wycliffe and SIL.”

“This past year 113 Scripture publications were completed, which means 89 more communities are able to know Scripture in a language and form that clearly speaks to their hearts! “

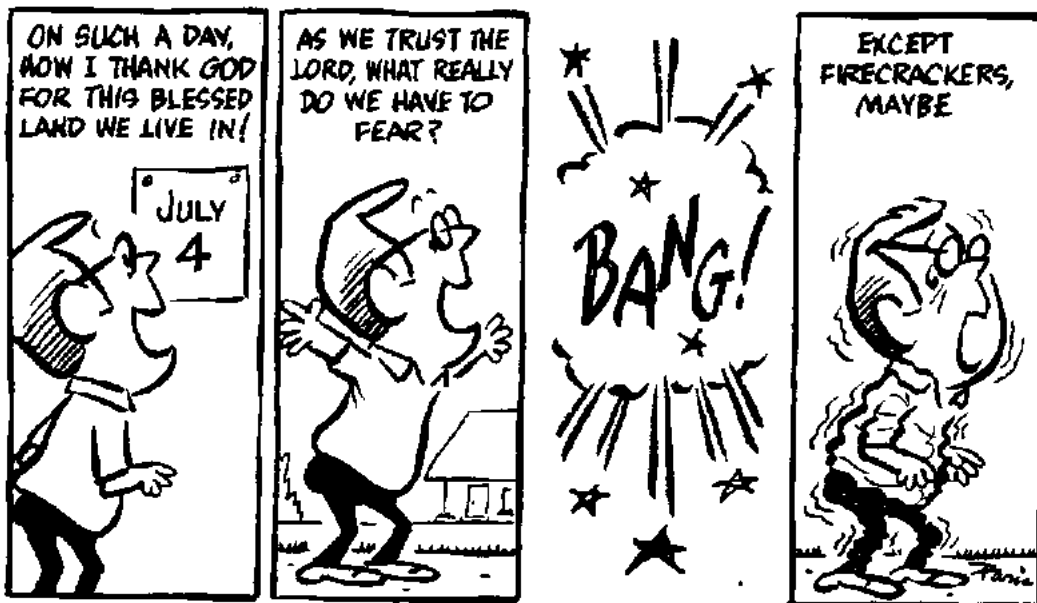
“Isaiah 55:11 says, ‘It is the same with my word, I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.’ God continues to use his Word to transform communities around the world.”

Please remember to pray for and financially support it, if you feel led to do so, for this wonderful missionary work of Elizabeth and Jason Eno.



Craft and Verse

My name is Margaret Stephens, I’m here to tell you a little about our little group craft and verse. We meet on Fridays at 10 till noon. We bring a craft project that we are working on. We memorize bible verses. It is a time for us to get together and catch up during the week. It is a sharing time. Everybody is welcome!



How Big Is Your GOD?

I've been reading a book, well one of many, but this one is entitled, "Your God is Too Small." Can you imagine thinking that your God is too small? Yet I wonder if that's what we think all the time. You see, as I was reading this book, I

got to thinking and examining myself, "Is my God too small?" "Have I taken Him and put Him in a box, or does He still sit on the throne with no limits in my life?"

Now, I know what you're thinking, "Preacher, you put limits on God?" Hey, I'm human just like you. There are times when I doubt that God can do it, so I have to help Him out a little. Come on, let's just be real about this. You know you do the same thing as well. We all do. It's in those times that we don't think that God is as big as He really is.

It's during those times that I think of the story of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Oh, you don't recognize those names? Maybe you're more familiar with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. You know the three Hebrew boys that got thrown into the fiery furnace.

Can you imagine? Here's the story. They were in captivity in Babylon. The King there treated them fairly well. However, the king had a dream of a statue. He then built a statue and ordered that whenever you heard the music you were to bow down to the statue.

There was one problem, these three served God and God said, "Thou shall not have any other gods before me." They not only believed that, but they followed it. They were now faced with a serious

problem, would they bow, or would they serve God and maybe face the fiery furnace?

When they didn't bow, the king was mad. He called the boys to talk with them about not bowing. He was willing to give them one more chance. However, the boys told the king, very respectfully, that they couldn't bow. That if they were to be thrown into the furnace God would protect them.

Now, that's faith in a big God. They had heard the stories of His provision with Abraham, Jacob and Isaac. They had heard of the provision for Moses and the Israelites. God was big enough for all those people, God was going to be big enough for them in the furnace if need be.

I imagine the other thought that went through their heads was, if they died they'd be with Him in heaven. So, either way it was going to be a win, win situation. Either they'd walk out, or they'd walk out. One would be here on earth, the other would be onto the streets of gold. How big is your God?

You see why I'm reminded of this story? They were thrown in a furnace that was heated 7 times hotter than ever before. It was so hot that it killed the guards that were throwing them in. Did they burn? Did they scream in pain? Did they yell out? No, they were having a party with Jesus.

You see, when you are trusting the Lord with your life, when you realize how big God is in your life, then you have a party in the fire. Believe me there will be fire in your life. There's no getting out of it. Trials will come. They will hit you out of nowhere. There will be temptations to bow to an idol. It'll be life-threatening. Ask yourself, "How Big Is My God?" "Is He big enough to handle this?" The answer is, YES!!!! The best part is that not only is He big enough to handle it, but He is also big enough to carry you through. HALLELUJAH!!!!

Pastor Rob

Columbus West Church

Ute Nation Here we Come

The youth are leaving for their week with the Ute Indians in Colorado. This is an awesome opportunity for our youth group. There will be three youth, Pastor Rob, Chris Pick, and Candy who will be travelling July 5th through the 15th.

While they are there, they will be ministering through puppets, crafts and recreational games. When they aren't doing these things, they will be working with the elders of the communities on any projects that they have lined up for them to do.

There will also be time to do some sight-seeing at some of the national parks nearby. There are several considerations for prayer that the group would ask for your prayers.

1. Travelling. The group will be taking Pastor Rob's car. They will also be taking a trailer to carry all of their luggage and supplies that they'll need while in Colorado. Please be praying for their safety over the road. They will be driving for about 15 hours the first day and about 8 the second, and doing the same coming home. They will need your prayers as they travel these long hours and through the part of the country that receives some pretty bad storms.

2. For the daily puppet services. Running the puppets is NOT an easy task. Your arm gets very tired quickly, your back hurts from kneeling and holding your arm up in the air. Plus we want to make sure that we are ministering the needs of the children and whatever adults are there in the service. The first goal of the group is that each and every one that is there gets introduced to the Kingdom of God.

3. Pray for the storms that might pop up while we are there. There is very little shelter for us where we are going. Please be praying that the storms just keep away while we are there ministering.

4. One last thing is to pray for our finances. The group is in the midst of raising funds through the selling of candy bars at school. They have done our Le Grande Chateau's. They have sent out donation letters to family and friends asking for prayer as well as help with the finances of the trip. God is big enough and He will provide.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to the youth group. If you'd like to help out the group financially for this trip, please send it to the church at the address at the end of this newsletter, or if you're in worship service, place it in the offering, just make sure that it gets marked for the youth trip.

Thank you. CW Youth



The Family Retreat is just around the corner. I know, it's hard to believe that we are that close to Labor Day. School just let out as I'm putting this down for this

issue of the Grapevine, but that's how fast things work around here. We just get one thing accomplished and it's time to start the next.

Most of you who have signed up for the retreat have paid for the weekend, however, there are some who haven't paid the full amount and we are now in need of that money to finish paying off our bill. Please get that money in as soon as possible so that we can finish paying off the rental bill for the cabins. If you're in need of help, please let me know so that I can see what we can do.

Don't forget that the dates of the retreat this year are, August 30, 31, September 1, 2. We will be arriving at Lake Hope on Friday and leaving Monday. Lunch and Dinner on Saturday and Brunch on Sunday. The rest of the meals you'll be on your

own. Usually we have a cook out on Friday with hot dogs over the fire. There usually is also a fire burning every evening in the central area that is chosen.

Unfortunately, this year we'll be pretty scattered throughout the cabin area, however, we'll be making it work, so be patient, and co-operative with us as we work out what's best for the group. Remember that no matter what is decided not everyone will be happy. Why? Because you can't

please everyone all the time. So, we'll try and please most of y'all most of the time, lol.

Dawn and I are really looking forward to sharing another year of great laughter, great food, and awesome study together. If this year is like years past, I know that all who attend will be blessed. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask as we get closer. Of course, I'll be giving out more information as we get closer.

Pastor Rob



Congratulations to Pastor Watts and Karen for being honored and inducted into the COAA Senior Hall of Fame. This is quite an honor as they represented Franklin County with this honor. It was with great joy to hear the introduction from Colleen Marshal from Channel 4 News and have everyone in the room applaud when she read how many children have passed through their house through the years. This was even before they stood and walked to receive their honor.

Congrats Pastor and Sister Watts. We are so proud of you and know that it is the Lord that has sustained you through the years and continues to use you in mighty ways to further the Kingdom. We love you and are proud to have you a part of our Community of Faith.



Worship Team

I love being a member of the worship team. I have always loved music and I have always loved to sing. Music speaks to me in a way that merely saying the words does not. God has spoken to me through music many times. And my worship of Him goes to a new level when I am singing those praise songs! I am very blessed to be a part of this team!



Andrew Update

Update on Andrew Watts, our soldier who is currently serving overseas. The temperatures in Kuwait are steady at 118-122 degrees every day. He is doing well at his job. He is going to be going to school to become a Sargent. He says that their church services are deeply spiritual and very exciting. He is also involved in a Bible study group that is going through the book of Romans and learning how they fit in God's plan and how to live righteously, even on a deployment. He says the army food is starting to get bland, so if there are any special treats you would like to send him, or to see if there is anything he needs, see Missie. She has a list of things he would appreciate receiving. Also, you can donate financially to help pay the shipping costs to send him things. Most importantly, let's continue to let Andrew know that we love and support him and that we are lifting him up in prayer as he serves our

country overseas.



Speak from the Heart of God

While I was a student at Indiana University, I had the privilege of participating in several musicals and a couple of operas. In the musicals I endeavored to put myself into the emotion of the character I was playing. I tried to put my full heart, soul, and being into it. Some of our friends questioned Karen as to how she could sit there and watch her husband so in love with the female lead (I was the male lead) and even kissing her in front of Karen and all those people (you'll have to ask Karen how she handled it).

There was a preacher of the Gospel in Eastern Europe who was frustrated at the reaction of his congregation. The people were rarely moved by his words. Some would even fall asleep in the middle of his sermons. One day he was in the theater and he was watching a famous actor in a Shakespeare play. He watched the reaction of the audience and he was amazed – the people were moved with emotion. Some were even in tears. The actor had a reputation for that.

The preacher was so taken by it, that he made it a point to speak to the actor after the performance was over.

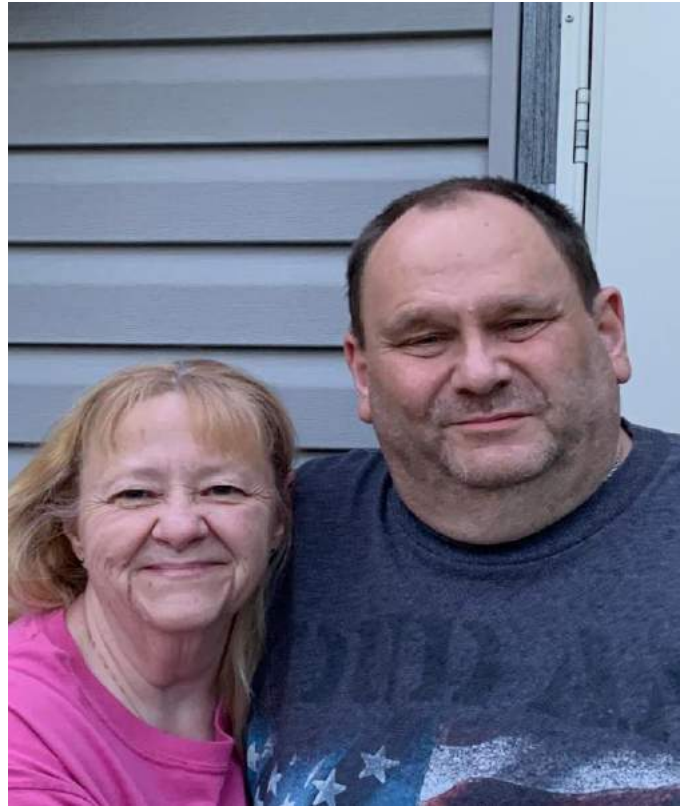
“What’s your secret?” said the preacher to the actor. The actor responded, “When I play the part of Romeo, I don’t just memorize the words and say the lines and go through the motions, I put myself in Romeo’s shoes. I feel what Romeo felt. I wept as Romeo would have wept. I love as Romeo loved. I speak to those in the audience as if each of them were Juliet. Yet, I am only acting the part in a fictional story but you, on the other hand, have the Word of God. You’re just saying the lines. If you want to reach people with God’s Word as I do, put yourself in the heart of God, feel the burdens that God feels, be moved with the compassion of God, weep with the tears of God, and love with the love of God. Speak to the Word of God and let it be as if it were God, literally speaking through you.”

The advice is not only for preachers and pastors, but for every child of God. The Bible tells us that when you speak, it’s to be God speaking through you. When you minister, it’s to be God ministering through you. When you live, it’s to be God living through you.

You’re not only called to just do the will of God. You’re called to do the will of God from the heart of God. You’re not called only to copy and imitate God. You’re called to do the works of God as God works through you. And you’re called not only to live the “Christian life,” but you’re called to live the Christian life through the life of Jesus living it through you.

Don’t just say the right words or perform the right outward actions, but put on the heart of God to weep with His tears, rejoice with His joy, see with His eyes, and love with His love. Live your life through His life and let Him live His life through yours. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 20, “Nevertheless I live, but it is Jesus Who lives within me.”

Meet The Ritters



CW has been our house of worship for over 5 years now and it has truly been a blessing to our family. We are Dave and Nancy Ritter from Pataskala, we have 2 adult children, DJ and Katie. Nancy has been a church going person her entire life. Her mother raised her in the Christian faith, she attended youth group and sang in the choir for many years as well as taught Sunday School, VBS and Awanas. Nancy was saved when she was in high school, making a life-long commitment to follow the Lord. I, on the other hand, had a much different journey to the Lord. I was raised as a Christian, but never attended church on a regular basis until I was in High School. It was then that I felt the need to learn more about Christ and that lead me to the local Catholic church where I studied The Word with the priest and was confirmed into the catholic faith at 17. I attended services on a regular basis, but I always felt like something was missing and never felt like part of the church family. I found myself drifting from organized religion for a very long time. I would try this church or that church and truly never felt at home and lost hope in finding a home to worship. I continued to have a deep faith and used the teaching of Christ as my guide through life, but I started to feel like I was not a good enough Christian to attend church.

I was first introduced to CW church about 9 years ago when I took a nursing assignment to take care of a member of the Watts family, their son Butch. It was there that I met Pastor Ralph Watts, his wife Karen and the Gang. For the first time in my life I was exposed to what a "true" Christian was and what it really meant to walk by faith not by sight. Day after day I witness faith, the power of the Lord and how love can overcome so much. I was so amazed at what I saw that I brought my family over to meet the Watts family. I was invited to go to CW many times but I felt as though I was still not a good enough Christian to walk into a house of God and worship Him. It wasn't until after Butch had passed away that I had a long talk with Pastor Ralph where I told him how I felt and his reply changed everything. He said everyone falls short of the Lord and that is why we go to church to learn The Word so it may draw us closer to Him.

Once we started to attend CW, we found a warm and caring group of people that were not judgmental and not one person ever made us feel out of place. To the contrary, we were made to feel like part of the family from the very beginning We really like the fact that others don't hide the fact that they are going through hard times and everyone has problems. No one pretends that they are perfect and that makes this church real to us. We have never found a week that the message has not spoken directly to us. We both have renewed our commitment to the Lord and are helping to build His Kingdome. Nancy was baptized a few years ago and I have plans to do so this year. We are truly been blessed to part of His Kingdom and to be part of the CW family.