



THE EVANGEL

FEBRUARY 2015

You must
love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
all your soul,
all your strength,
all your mind.'

And,

'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 6:33 - Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

All of us are so busy with everyday life that when we hear a verse or passage such as this one we wonder how we can attain it. How can I seek the Kingdom first? The answer lies first in recognizing that this applies to more than just salvation. We are to seek the Kingdom for salvation but Christ has called us to seek his kingdom first in everyday life. The desire to seek his kingdom first will only be obtained in prayer. You can't will it or wish it were so... You must surrender in prayer each day and ask that God give you the desire to seek him above everything else. Andrew Murray said, "Let the Kingdom of God, in all its breadth and length, in all its Heavenly glory and power; let the Kingdom of God be the one thing you live for, and all other things will be added unto you. "Seek first the Kingdom of God." ... And all other things will be added. This is a matter of trust. Do you trust God to meet your needs? If you will seek him first, put his Kingdom first, God has promised to add the others things... I can only imagine what that entails for you but for me it means not having to worry about my time, my finances, my housing, my relationships, or my work. God has all my needs covered if only I will put him first.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

CURRENT (3 WEEKS):

Phyllis Scoles— knee surgery 2/4
Kellee Beccue— surgery recovery
Doug Baker— surgery recovery
Walter Thomas (Leota Figgins father)
Jeff Briggerman
Ivan Cooper— heart

ONGOING CONCERNS:

Marilyn Rennels
Lester Burton— stroke/ loss of vision
Joann Hood— heart
CIY trips:
Believe (Middle school) March 27-28
Move (HS) June 8-12
Mission Indy (Middles School-Adult)
July 12-18

FIGHTING CANCER:

Chuck Bartlett
Donna Lake
Michelle Simpson
Shawn Whetsell
Edith Winberg
Betty Zumbahlen
Kirk Zuhone
Clint Mausehund
Bob Trefzger

IN CARE FACILITIES:

Ivan Cooper— Heartland
Betty Latch— Heartland
Elsie Phillips— Heartland
Carolyn Gast— Cumberland Co
Allene Young— Harmony Center

IN THE MILITARY:

Shane Gephardt
Tyler Briggerman— Navy
Wes Letizia— Air Force
Alicia & Steve Tordoff—
Army Reserve, baby due in
March

COMPASSION CHILDREN:

Ashley
Mehari
Joydeb
Axel
Melanie

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

Ministries:

Elders & Deacons
Children's
Youth
College/ Young Adult
Senior
Praise/ Tech Team
Community Clothesline
Small Groups, Bible Studies,
Sunday School
Outreach/ Benevolence

Missions Team & Missions:

Neoga Community Food Pantry
Heartland Christian Village
Oblong Christian Children's Home
Christian Campus House
Oil Belt Christian Service Camp



Cross the Line

Luke 10: 33 Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

A few weeks ago, Alan and I attended Ingraham Christian Church with our daughter. I heard a sermon that day that God has brought to mind over and over again. I think that means He has something that He wants to teach me! The text was the story of the Good Samaritan. The theme of the sermon was "Cross the Line", just as the Good Samaritan did when he helped the man who was hurt. Luke says that the priest and Temple assistant crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. Is that what I do, or am I willing to cross the line and show compassion and mercy to whoever God places in my path? Am I even looking to see who is there?

At times, I think I do a pretty good job crossing the line. I'm also sure that's called pride. In December, we helped someone prepare food and serve it at the homeless shelter in Mattoon. That was a line that was easy for me to cross. But when we got the food ready early and were waiting for the time to serve the meal, another line became quite evident to me. One of the ladies helping went out to the dining room and talked with the people there. Was I willing to step out of the kitchen and mingle with those who had come to eat? What would I say to them? I was going to leave at the end of the night to go to my nice, warm home. I had just had a very abundant Christmas with my family. So, I didn't find the courage to cross that line. Where was my faith? Why didn't I just pray and ask God to give me the words to say? I know that sometimes God calls us to remain anonymous. But maybe there are also times when He calls us to cross the line of anonymity so others can see the love of Jesus shining through us.

Jesus crossed the line for me when He left the glories of heaven and humbly came to earth to be my Savior. This year, my prayer is that God will give me the courage to "cross the line". But it doesn't end there. One of the members of the Ingraham congregation prayed at the end of the service asking God to help us cross the lines, but then to not even see the lines we are crossing. When we don't see the lines, true humility has replaced pride.

Philippians 2:3-5 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Linda Baker

Food Pantry

28 families

89 people served

3 deliveries

10 volunteers

17 volunteer hours

Distribution in January was a week late due to the weather.

Community Clothesline

Due to New Year's Day we had one full distribution day on January 15. We were open 9am-8pm.

19 families

41 people served

Faith, Fitness, and Fellowship

We have kicked off our first week of our in house Biggest Loser. Congratulations to Reeni Letizia for winning the first prize, Neoga water bottle. Don't forget to turn in your weekly tracks so you too can be eligible for a prize. A larger prize will be drawn on March 1st, which will be the end of the first 6 wks. If you have any questions call Jennifer Davis 821-4238. Thanks for joining the fun.



Patience

FCC Church Directory

We plan to publish a new directory with updated addresses and phone numbers each year. During the month of February (Beginning Feb 8), the family information the office has will be available in the foyer for your review. PLEASE check your information and mark as correct or make corrections.

Art of Marriage

What: Art of Marriage small group study

When: Wednesday nights, starting on 2/11 at 6:30 pm. (This will be limited to 4 couples)

Where: At the church

Why: (from AOM website) - Marriage, the way God intended it to be, is a true art form. That's why for more than 35 years, FamilyLife has been helping couples understand God's plan for relationships. The Art of Marriage weaves together expert teaching, real-life stories, humorous vignettes, and more to portray both the challenges and the beauty of God's design. The Art of Marriage® consists of six video sessions that cover the following topics:

Session 1: Love Happens (Purpose of Marriage)

- * God designed marriage and has a great plan in mind.
- * The primary purpose of marriage is to reflect God's glory to a watching world.
- * It is important to receive your mate as God's perfect gift for you.



Coming in March...

Ladies Bible Study

Senior Fellowship

Seniors we will meet February 12, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. During our worship time, we will put on our traveling shoes and journey to the Holy Land via DVD with Dr. Jack Hayford. God's Word comes to life as we follow in Christ's footsteps. Plan now to attend and enjoy the worship, fellowship, and lunch with seniors of all ages.

Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided; each person should bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share.

Art of Marriage continued...

Session 2: Love Fades (Drift to Isolation)

- Couples naturally drift toward isolation.
- Our differences and weaknesses push us apart.
- Sin has affected every marriage.
- The gospel brings healing and reconciliation.
- Couples must learn to walk by the power of the Holy Spirit in marriage.

Session 3: Love Dances (Roles)

- God designed different responsibilities for men and women in marriage.
- Though their responsibilities are different, men and women are still equal in value.
- God calls men to sacrificially love and lead their wives.
- God calls women to respect and support their husbands.

Session 4: Love Interrupted (Communication)

- Conflict is common to all marriages.
- The goal is not to be conflict-free but to learn to handle conflict correctly when it occurs.
- Healthy conflict resolution occurs when couples are willing to seek and grant forgiveness.

Session 5: Love Sizzles (Romance and Sex)

- God created sex and has a wonderful design in mind.
- A satisfying sex life is the result of a satisfying marriage relationship.
- The ultimate purpose of sex is to bring pleasure and glory to God.

Session 6: Love Always (Legacy)

- To leave a godly legacy, we must think about the impact of our lives on future generations.
- Our hope for leaving a lasting legacy is through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Leaving a godly legacy requires putting a stake in the ground.

Weekend to Remember

Would you like to rekindle the fire in your marriage?
Would you like to communicate better with your spouse?
Would you like to strengthen your marriage?

Matt and I certainly did, and we got all of that and more at *The Weekend to Remember*. Join Mel and Andrea as they go with these same goals in Peoria, IL the weekend of 3/27/15-3/29/15. Simply sign up at the welcome center to get your space reserved. Cost for the conference is \$300, but we have sponsorship for four couples. You will need to make your own hotel reservations with the Embassy Suites in Peoria. Your marriage is worth it.



Humility

Facilities News:

As of this writing we have still not received proposals to consider from AKRA or Longhorn for our new multi-purpose facility. Hopefully, prayerfully soon...

A couple weeks ago, I asked a few people to meet and discuss how to pursue our fundraising goals. During the meeting we decided that more communication with the congregation about the needs of the facility should be expressed. One area of need is in regard to community outreach. The facility could be used to host community dinners, events and to serve the community as a possible warming shelter or cooling center during emergencies. Alan Baker mentioned that grants could be available to help offset some of the costs, like a generator, etc. Also, last summer when Linda and Brianna got back from a mission trip to Missouri they shared how a local church is impacting their community by providing a weekly community meal and they provide lunch to kids during the summer. This facility would provide us a unique opportunity to minister to people from all walks and introduce them to our savior.

Please continue to keep this project in prayer. God is able to meet all of our needs.

Hey guys...

Tuesday at 6:30 meet at the church have a **men's fellowship meeting**. We will briefly discuss upcoming ministry opportunities for the year, future studies and then eat dinner at the Villa. The meal will be paid for so come on out for a free meal if nothing else :)

Friday Night Join us for fun at Oil Belt for Men's Night. Corn hole tournament, dinner, guest speaker Matt Proctor. One group will leave the church at 4:45 and another at 5:30.



	Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers
1	Matt	Tom	Joann Miller	<u>Nursery</u> : Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship</u> : Louella Drum, Katie Hakman <u>K-5th</u> : Jennifer Davis, Michael Baker, Kristen Albin	Reggie Rennels Randy Rennels Barry Conn Art Walk	Chad Walk Harry Starwalt Zack Letizia Alan Baker
8	Zach	Tom	Fontella Waddell	<u>Nursery</u> : Joann Miller, Pam Storm <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th</u> : Paula & Rory Gentry, Julie Altman	Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen Doug Baker	Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake Roger Banks
15	Michael	Aubrey	Marian Lindley	<u>Nursery</u> : John & Reeni Letizia <u>Wee Worship</u> : Cheryll Gilbert, Penny Hess <u>K-5th</u> : Paul & Amber Lake, Austin Robinson, Amia Workman	Austin Robinson Doug Moore Reggie Rennels Randy Rennels	Barry Conn Art Walk Chad Walk Harry Starwalt
22	Jim	Aubrey	Wilma Burton	<u>Nursery</u> : Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship</u> : Jacob & Brianna Dow <u>K-5</u> : Joni McClure, Zach Letizia, Megan Robinson	Alan Baker Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen	Doug Baker Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4pm Elder's Mtg 5pm Prayer Mtg 5:30pm Small Group 6:30pm Ladies Study Preston Robinson	2 No AA in February Pat Briggerman Richard & Linda Russell	3 Volunteers at Heartland 6:30 Men's Ministry Mtg Carolyn Bartlett	4 9:30am Ladies Bible Study After School: 4th/5th bible study 6:30pm 4.14 6:30pm Davis Small Group	5 Community Clothesline 1-5pm, 6-8pm	6 Men's Night 445 or 5:30pm	7 Owen Lake
8 4pm Financial Board 5:30pm Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Matt/ Mel Small Group 6:30pm Ladies Small Group	9 Jannie Kenworthy	10 6:30pm Men's Group	11 9:30am Ladies Bible Study After School: 4th/5th bible study 6:30pm 4.14 6:30pm Davis Small Group 6:30pm Art of Marriage small group Julie Altman Donna Gentry	12 11am Seniors' Fellowship	13	14
15 4pm Elder/Staff Mtg 5:30pm Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Matt/ Mel Small Group 6:30pm Ladies Small Group John Letizia	16	17 6:30pm Men's Group	18 9:30am Ladies Bible Study After School: 4th/5th bible study 6:30pm 4.14 6:30pm Davis Small Group 6:30pm Art of Marriage small group	19 Community Clothesline 9am-Noon	20 Michael Baker	21 Doug Baker
22 5:30pm Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Matt/ Mel Small Group 6:30pm Ladies Small Group Kevin Rickelman	23	24 6:30pm Men's Group Elizabeth Davis	25 9:30am Ladies Bible Study After School: 4th/5th bible study 6:30pm 4.14 6:30pm Davis Small Group 6:30pm Art of Marriage small group	26 Terry & Joann Miller	27	28 Paula Gentry