



THE EVANGEL

SEPTEMBER 2015



Fellowship Groups

Sunday School, Small Group, Bible Study, Discipleship

Developing deep rooted relationships with God and each other

E.M. Bounds, Purpose in Prayer:

Prayer is not a meaningless function or duty to be crowded into the busy or the weary ends of the day, and we are not obeying our Lord's command when we content ourselves with a few minutes upon our knees in the morning rush or late at night when the faculties, tired with the tasks of the day, call out for rest. God is always within call, it is true; His ear is ever attentive to the cry of His child, but we can never get to know Him if we use the vehicle of prayer as we use the telephone--for a few words of hurried conversation. Intimacy requires development. We can never know God as it is our privilege to know Him, by brief and fragmentary and unconsidered repetitions of intercessions that are requests for personal favours and nothing more. That is not the way in which we can come into communication with heaven's King. "The goal of prayer is the ear of God," a goal that can only be reached by patient and continued and continuous waiting upon Him, pouring out our heart to Him and permitting Him to speak to us. Only by so doing can we expect to know Him, and as we come to know Him better we shall spend more time in His presence and find that presence a constant and ever-increasing delight.



Prayerfocus

CURRENT (3 WEEKS):

Zak Gentry-- Praise & prayer -New life in Christ
Leota Figgins-- broken elbow
Harry Starwalt-- back
Janet Landrus-- broken ribs
Marilyn Walk-- shoulder recovery

ONGOING CONCERNS:

Grade School Ministries
FCC Fall Calendar
See You at the Pole 9/23

COMPASSION CHILDREN:

Ashley
Mehari
Joydeb
Axel
Melanie

IN CARE FACILITIES:

Ivan Cooper-- Heartland
Elsie Phillips-- Heartland
Carolyn Gast-- Cumberland Co
Allene Young-- Harmony Center

FIGHTING CANCER:

Penny Walk
Chuck Bartlett
Brad Odum
Megan Buxton
Sam Bean
Mel Hood
Phyllis Kirtner
Michelle Simpson
Clint Mausehund
Denny Mefford
Bob Trefzger
Bob Tucker

IN THE MILITARY:

Shane Gephardt
Tyler Briggerman-- Navy
Wes Letizia-- Air Force
Alicia & Steve Tordoff--
Army Reserve

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

Ministries:

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

Missions Team & Missions:

Neoga Community Food Pantry
Heartland Christian Village
Oblong Christian Children's Home
Christian Campus House,
Oil Belt Christian Service Camp
International Missions:
Ryan & Melinda Hicks
September: Voice of the Martyrs

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS

“Melissa” was just 4 years old when she lost her mother. On July 1, 2012, she went to church with her mother in Garissa, Kenya as usual. Melissa went to Sunday school while her mother joined in worship with other members of the Africa Inland Church. But the service ended abruptly when gunmen burst into the sanctuary and opened fire on worshipers. Melissa huddled with the other children in Sunday school as worshipers ran from the building. Later after other parents had collected their children, Melissa was told that her mother was in the hospital. The next day she was told that her mother had died. The attack had killed 14 believers and injured 58. Twelve children were orphaned that day, and Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) has helped to support them since. Melissa is being cared for by her elderly grandparents. Like many in the area, they are subsistence farmers in a drought-prone region where crops are undependable. The support from VOM will help ensure that Melissa is able to attend school and that she and her family will always be able to buy food. VOM’s support also lets Melissa know that the Body of Christ cares for her.

The Voice of the Martyrs is a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization dedicated to assisting our persecuted family worldwide. VOM was founded in 1967 by Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand, who was imprisoned 14 years in Communist

Romania for his faith in Christ. His wife, Sabina, was imprisoned for three years. In the 1960s, Richard, Sabina, and their son, Mihai, were ransomed out of Romania and came to the United States. Through their travels, the Wurmbbrands spread the message of the atrocities that Christians face in restricted nations, while establishing a network of offices dedicated to assisting the persecuted church. The Voice of the Martyrs continues in this mission around the world today. Their ministry is based on Hebrews 13:3

“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.”

We are blessed with so many freedoms here in the United States, yet our brothers and sisters around the world face very real persecutions for being bold and refusing to renounce the name of Jesus. We need to be lifting them up to our Heavenly Father every day! We also need to be praying for their persecutors, that they will see the Truth of Jesus!

To learn more about Voice of the Martyrs and the many ways you can become involved with this organization, visit their website at www.persecution.com. You can make a monetary donation online or send it to:

The Voice of the Martyrs, P.O. Box 443,
Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443.



September Mission Spotlight

Small Groups! Are you ready?

Small groups will be starting Sunday evening 9/20 and Wednesday evening 9/23, both groups will meet from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Childcare will be available. The fall session of small groups will last 8 weeks. We will start with a sermon based study in the book of Colossians. Join a group and get connected to other disciples at FCC. Please sign up at Welcome Center and note childcare needs.

Sunday School

Sundays at 9:00 am

Welcome to FCC: If you are a new member or interested in becoming a member of our church, prayerfully considering attending this class led by Doug McClure. It will be held in the "War Room" building which is next door to First-Mid.

Our Spirituality: Begins September 6 with Bob Potter in the Basement.

School has began and fall is quickly approaching. It is time for a new season of bible studies to begin. Ladies group, men's group and small groups are starting soon as well as other spiritual growth opportunities. Recall from our series in Proverbs the importance wisdom plays in our lives as God's people. The only way to know the wisdom of God, in order to better obey and live accordingly is to spend time in His Word. Meditation, memorization and sharing the truth with others helps each of us grow spiritually.

Consider the example set by the early church. In the book of Acts, it is recorded that the followers of Christ "*devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer.*" One group of Christians known as the Bereans were praised for their diligence in discovering whether Paul was accurate in his interpretation of scripture.

Acts 17:11 - *And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.*

Obviously, God wants each of us to personally and privately invest time in prayer and His Holy Word, however it is just as important that we spend time in fellowship with each other discovering the truth of scripture and encouraging each other along the way. Please seriously consider the decision to invest time in one of the groups. You would be very welcome and encouraged in any of the study opportunities.

- Mel



FCC Fall

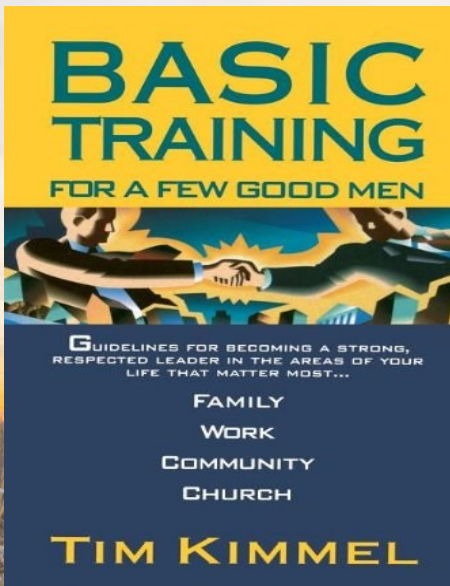
Men's Ministries:

Men, are you ready to rumble? To get your game on? On Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 we will kick off men's group with a time of food and fellowship. The following Tuesday we will begin a series called "Basic Training for a Few Good Men." The series is 7 sessions. This year we are planning to have a men's fellowship night every 3rd Tuesday. Join in the bible study and fellowship as often as your schedule allows.

Basic Training For a Few Good Men presents scriptural principles to empower men to 'stand in the gap' and be 'watchmen on the wall' before the Lord for their families.

The challenges that men are facing in our culture today are staggering. Many men feel lost, without a solid moral compass. They feel helpless as to what position they are to play in a society that is constantly changing. Basic Training is a crash course in character. It's a no-holds barred study of the things that turn men of faith into men of God. In each session, Tim Kimmel shows men how they can flourish at work, draw the best out of their

wives, make it easy for their kids to look up to them, and find it a joy to serve in God's army.



Ladies Bible Study:

September 12, 2015: Reminder: information on "Living Proof Live Simulcast" with Beth Moore is available in the Fellowship Center.

September 20: (6:30pm Sunday or 9:30am Wednesday) **JONAH with Priscilla Shirer**

September 20, 2015 through November 4, 2015, meeting weekly, Priscilla Shirer will lead us in the study of Jonah and how we can better navigate our life when interruptions come. Priscilla states that "Life's interruptions shock us; they shake us; they compel us to change. You can't escape life's interruptions, but you can change your perspective on them. Dive into the study of Jonah and discover that what you see as an interruption may truly be God's divine invitation to a life so much bigger than you can imagine."

Priscilla Shirer is a Bible teacher whose ministry is focused on the expository teaching of the Word of God to women. In the past years, we have benefitted from Priscilla's teaching about "Discerning The Voice Of God" and "Gideon: Your Weakness, God's Strength." Our study will include a DVD presentation by Priscilla, weekly home-work, discussion, fellowship, and prayer. Level's of participation include viewing the DVD or viewing the DVD and completing the weekly home-work. To assure that we have a book for you, please sign-up in the Fellowship Center by August 30, 2015. Our study will be held in the Basement Fellowship Center.

Bible Study Opportunities

Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds us all together in perfect
harmony. And let the peace that comes
from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members
of one body you are called to live in peace.
And always be thankful.
- Colossians 3:14-15



Baby Shower for
Brianna and Baby Dow.

September 27

3:00 pm

at FCC

Jacob & Brianna are
registered at Walmart

Travel With The Seniors

Seniors, mark your calendar, put on your traveling shoes and enjoy the coming events and fellowship.

September 10, 2015: Seniors at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp. Registration forms available in the Fellowship Center. We will plan to leave at 7:45 a.m.

October 8, 2015: Tour of Former Elementary Building We will meet at 11 am at the First Christian Church, board the van, and travel across town to the Former Elementary Building. Matt Davis will give us a tour of the facilities, lead us in our devotion, and share information regarding the summer and fall youth events. We will then treat ourselves for lunch at the Villa.

November 20, 2015: Senior Day At Festival of Trees We will journey to Bloomington, IL and attend the Festival of Trees sponsored by The Baby Fold. More details later.

December 10, 2015: A Visit At the Cross We will journey to Effingham, visit the Cross, see the video, and view many Nativity Sets that will be on display. Following our visit at The Cross, we will treat ourselves for lunch at Ryans. More details later.

Remember **Seniors' Breakfast** at 8am the last Tuesday of each month at The Depot.

And the Meals will continue...

What a great summer! I cannot believe that it is over. In the spring Amy and I had the idea to serve a community meal on the first Thursday of each month. We wanted to provide meals for kids and families that go without over the summer. God surprised us in the turn out. People came, and we got the opportunity to get to know some of the families, while we shared a meal with them. We were amazed that we served over 100 people in what was supposed to be the last meal at the beginning of August. This was a test run to see if this was something we could provide every month. God has answered this desire.

We have had some money donated for the September 3rd meal. Not only this other Neoga churches have stepped up and said that they want to sponsor some of these meals. Praise God. The Free Methodist Church has agreed to take the October 1st meal. Then in the month of November there will be a combined effort of area churches to make a Thanksgiving meal. In December we are also planning to do another combined effort to provide another holiday meal for the community. This is an awesome testimony to what God is doing in our community.

But our participation is not done, this summer in VBS, the theme was "We want to be your hands and feet". In John 13:14 Jesus instructs, "*And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet.*" We have been blessed with volunteers, and food donations for the meals over the summer. We now want to incorporate Table Sponsors for these meals. What this means is we want families in our church to come in during the meals and "take care of an assigned table". We are not looking for someone to clean the table (although that would be helpful). But what we are looking for is some of our church family that will take a table and take the time to get to know these families. We want them to feel welcome by showing God's love while we share a meal. This is a great opportunity to make a difference to others lives in our community.

Thank you so much for taking part in this exciting endeavor. We feel God has directed all of us to be the hands and feet for the community of Neoga.

Sunday,
September 13,
6:30 pm- 8:00pm
at FCC

All ladies (sixth grade to 110 are invited to hear Patty Winn, a motivational speaker, storyteller/dramatist, and historic reenactor speak on the theme "Is Jesus In Your Ship?"

Following Patty's presentation, we will enjoy a variety of desserts and fellowship in the Basement Fellowship Hall.

Guests are welcomed. If you have not sign-up, please sign-up today (in Fellowship Center) to assure yourself a plate for the delicious desserts.



4/14 Love God Love Man

Wow, the lazy youth minister has been forgetting to get things into the Evangel, well you all know the joke about the preacher who walked into a shoe store to get a pair of loafers and came out with a youth minister under each arm? (I was in the left are, because I'm not right!)

We have had a crazy summer this year, a lot of change and rearranging! Let us start with the acquisition of the "Old Elementary School" building (now the 4/14 and Outreach center): We got our keys on July 1st and haven't looked back. Starting on July 6th we opened our doors every Monday through Thursday for a couple of hours and let middle school kids come in and just hang out, in fact that is just what we called it, The Hang Out. We played games, basketball, four square, gaga ball and some kick ball. We planned to take 15 minutes every day to go over a bible lesson, but I don't think Joni, Todd or I ever kept ourselves to just 15 minutes, it's hard to limit yourself to 15 minutes talking about Jesus! Throughout the month of July we reached 50 middle school students!

Then there was Mission Neoga. When I changed plans from Mission Indy to Mission Neoga I was very let down. I have heard many great stories about this church and their relationship with Mission Indy and felt that I had failed in some planning that it wasn't going to work. I didn't know that God had a plan and didn't want us to go all the way to Indy, but that He had work for us to do here in Neoga. On the first day of Mission Neoga we had over 20 kids show up to help move the Clothesline and Food Pantry from their old locals to their new digs across town. I had planned to make a dent in the moving on this first day and come back to this the other two days as filler if we got our other work done, praise God we got it all moved in 1 day! Those kids worked so hard, we drank 5 cases of water to prove it. On the other two days we helped clean and pull weeds at Heartland Christian Village and help teachers organize their rooms at the new elementary building. While there some of us took to pulling weeds out at the Sandy Hook garden behind the Elementary School, thanks to them you can now walk the garden without getting attacked by Queens Anne's Lace.

I am now finishing up getting things ready for our first 4/14 in our new location. Thanks to this new, neutral site, I have invited the other churches in town to get involved. We are trying to create a "Community" youth group, a youth group that can reach more kids for Christ. As the only youth minister in town I have noticed that none of the other churches have any youth events going on during the week and many of them feel their youth programs are struggling. Why not come together and reach this community for Christ? Jesus tells us in John 13:34-35 *"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* There are so many things that divide us, let's come together and show Neoga that we are His disciples by demonstrating out love for one another.

Please pray for us as we begin this new journey and consider helping out as well. You don't have to be Super Man to help kids, you just have to show up and love. 4/14, every Wednesday night 6:00-8:00 P.M. 6th-12th grades.

Please Remember
these community
businesses that
made donations to
4/14 Kick-Off

Mattoon:

Freddy's
Buffalo Wild Wings
Taco Bell
Wendy's
GameStop
KFC
Angelo's
Dairy Queen
Arby's
Domino's

Effingham:

Army/Navy/Air Force/
Marines
TGI Friday's
Lone Star
EB Games
Niemerg's
Panda Express
Hibbet Sporting Goods

September Volunteers

	Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers
6	Leslie	Aubrey	Wilma Burton	<u>Nursery</u> : Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th</u> : Jennifer Davis, John Tomlinson	Alan Baker Doug Baker Barry Conn Don Coen	Dave Coen Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake
13	Jim	Brianna	John & Mary Ann Wilson	<u>Nursery</u> : Joann Miller, Pam Storm <u>Wee Worship</u> : Louella Drum, Katie Hakman <u>K-5th</u> : Joni McClure, Julie Altman, Chanille Oakley	Doug Moore Zack Letizia Monte Page Austin Robinson	Tom Tomlinson Noah Workman Art Walk Chad Walk
20	Zach	Brianna	Fontella Waddell	<u>Nursery</u> : John & Reeni Letizia <u>Wee Worship</u> : Cheryl Gilbert, Penny Hess <u>K-5th</u> : Paul & Amber Lake, Austin Robinson	Harry Starwalt Alan Baker Doug Baker Barry Conn	Don Coen Dave Coen Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy
27	Matt	Tom	Marian Lindley	<u>Nursery</u> : Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship</u> : Rory & Paula Gentry <u>K-5</u> : Joni McClure, Zach Letizia	Paul Lake Zach Letizia Doug Moore Monte Page	Austin Robinson Tom Tomlinson Noah Workman Chad Walk

Come be empowered to PRAY...

The Midwest Regional Prayer Conference

of the CPLN and Harvest Prayer Ministries

September 25 - 26

7 pm Friday - 4 pm Saturday EST

Greenwood, IN

(Leave from church 3pm on 9/25)

Bob Russell is perhaps best known as the longtime lead pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY and **Dave Butts** is the founder and president of Harvest Prayer Ministries will be speaking. Plus there will be multiple workshops to select from, taught by Harvest Prayer Ministries staff and other regional prayer leaders. Seminars TBA. **More info at prayerleader.com**

Registration Fee \$25

Please Sign Up at Welcome Center by 9/6
Please indicate if traveling with the church
and if hotel is needed.

Community Clothesline

For the Back to School Give away we served 69 families, which included 155 students.

August :

August 6th - 39 Families 99 Individuals
August 20th - 15 Families 40 Individuals

Neoga Community Food Pantry

August:

57 families; 185 people served
5 deliveries
17 volunteers; 44 volunteer hours

September requested food items:

September: corn
October: catsup

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Volunteers at Heartland	2 6pm 4/14 (6th-12th Youth Group) 8:30pm College Small Group	3 1-5:6-8pm Community Clothesline 5-6:30pm Outreach Meal 6-7pm Food Pantry	4 Martha Wilson	5 Joann Miller
6 5pm Prayer Service	7 Labor Day— offices closed Amanda Baker Denise Coen Kyrrah Oakley	8	9 6pm 4/14 8:30pm College Small Group Bob Schwindt	10 7:45am Senior's Day at Oil Belt	11	12 7:30am Living Proof Simulcast in Casey Cathy Rennels Doug & Pam Moore
13 11:30am Welcome to FCC Luncheon 3pm Elder's Mtg 4pm Financial Board Mtg 5pm Prayer Service 6:30pm Ladies Fellowship	14	15 6:30pm Men's Ministry Kick-Off at Letizia's Phyllis Scoles Olive Stiebner Mary Ann Wilson	16 6pm 4/14 8:30pm College Small Group	17 1-5pm Community Clothesline Reggie & Cathy Rennels	18	19 Dallas Peadro
20 3:30pm Elder's Mtg 4pm Elder/Staff Mtg 5pm Prayer Service 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study Small Group (Childcare available) Sophia Baker	21	22 6:30pm Men's Ministry	23 SYATP TBA 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group (childcare available) 8:30pm College Small Group	24	25 Doug Moore Leaving 3pm for Prayer Conference	26 7pm Fri-4pm Sat (EST) Midwest Regional Prayer Conference 180 TBA
27 3pm Baby Dow Shower 5pm Prayer Service 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study Small Group (Childcare available) Jim Wilson	28	29 8am Senior's Luncheon at Depot 6:30pm Men's Ministry	30 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group (childcare available) 8:30pm College Small Group			