



THE EVANGEL

APRIL 2016

Jesus
said to her,
“*I Am*
the *Resurrection* and the *Life*.
The one who believes in me will
live,
even though
they die;
and whoever
lives by
believing
in *Me*
will never die.”
John
11:25-26

WAR ROOM

A GUIDE FOR PRAYING FOR PRODIGAL LOVED ONES

Excerpt from "Prayer: The Timeless Secret of High-Impact Leaders" by Dave Early

One of the greatest stories ever told is the narrative Jesus gave of the prodigal son. It is the tale of a young man who asked for his inheritance prematurely, then ran off and wasted it in wild living. Finally, he came to his senses and went home to his father's house. I love the statement Jesus made revealing the awesome love of the father. *But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him*" (Luke 15:20).

Prodigals do come home in response to prayer. Maybe you have loved ones who have wandered far from "home." Luke 15 gives a good guide for praying for them:

LORD, PLEASE:

Bring them to a place of famine and need (v.14).

Create within them holy hunger and "homesickness" (vv. 16,17).

Cause them to come to thier senses (v.17).

Draw them home (v.18).

Give them the gift of repentance (vv. 18-21).

Give us welcoming grace (v.20).

CURRENT (3 WEEKS):

Savanah Gray– battling cancer;
recently baptized

CIY Believe– 4/1 & 2

Karen Cooper Humphy–
knee replacement recovery

Alicia Myers

Shelly Jackson

Gay Murphy– pneumonia
(Juanita Cowger's mom)

Doug Moore– heart recovery

Joe Briggerman– knee recovery

Richard Russell

Homer Ryans

ONGOING CONCERNS:

4/14

CIY - High School 7/25-30

Conjoined twins, Charleston

Ann Conn

IN CARE FACILITIES:

Ivan Cooper - Heartland

Carolyn Gast - Cumberland Co

Elsie Phillips - Heartland

FIGHTING CANCER:

Ann Conn

Mel Hood

Patty Johnson

Dan Letizia

Carol Mefford

Denny Mefford, Jr.

Brad Odum

Wyatt Smith

Elizabeth Weidner

Larry Wheeler

Lis White

IN THE MILITARY:

Jalen Blazich - Army

Jared Blazich - Air Force

Tyler Briggerman - Navy

Shane Gephardt

Josh Kiest

Wes Letizia - Air Force

Alicia & Steve Tordoff -
Army Reserve

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

-Ephesians 6:18

4/14 News

With everything we do let us LOVE GOD, LOVE MAN.

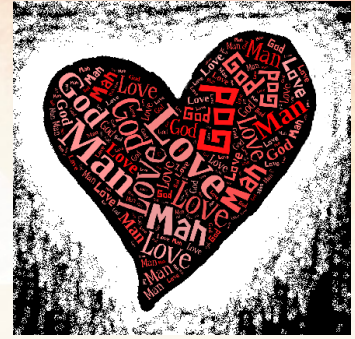
Do you know what is coming up on April 9th? No!!! Well, let me tell you. On April 9th the students from 4/14 (and some crazy adults) are going to gather at the IGA here in Neoga and have a cook out/ bake sale. We are doing this to raise money for our trips to CIY. True, the middle school trip will have ended the week before (hopefully I will be functioning by then), but high school CIY will be just a few short months away.

What we need from you all is . . . some baked goods. We are asking those of you who are really good at baking to donate some of your delicious, delectable treats to us so that we can sell them. Whatever it is that you make that people ask for every time you have a gathering, please make that (like people who make awesome Oreo balls or really good peach cobbler or banana bread, just some suggestions. You know who you are) please make us some. Please pre-bag them in small amounts or bring whole loaves of bread for sale. All proceeds will go to our youth fund for CIY.

You might also consider coming out and buying some of these wonderful treats. Don't forget lunch that day, our chef can't wait to grill to perfection some juicy meat just for you. I have already looked at the weather forecast, crazy I know, but they say it will be in the 50's with rain in the afternoon. Sounds like perfect grill weather to me!

I look forward to seeing you on April 9th, and so do the kids.

-Matt Davis, Youth Minister



4/14 Calendar Updates

4/1-4/2 CIY Believe-

Middle School trip to Springfield to discuss John the Baptist and how to "Turn on Truth"

4/9 Youth Fundraiser

Cookout and Bake Sale at IGA

5/22 Graduation Sunday

5/25 Last 4/14

before summer break!!!!

6/27-7/1 VBS

7/5-7/28 The Hangout

Daily Devotions then "hangout" time for 5th-8th graders 2-4 P.M.

7/25-7/29 CIY Move-

High School trip to Macomb, IL

What is 4/14??

In Luke chapter 10 Jesus is asked by an expert in the law "What must a person do to be saved?" Jesus answered in the typical Jewish teaching method: he answered with a question. "What does the law of Moses say?" Jesus knows the answer, He just wants this man to think through the answer himself. The man's answer is spot on. "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" We know that his answer is correct because Jesus tells us so. "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

This is our job as Christians, we are to love God and love man. Four words and fourteen letters. Many people look at this and say that there must be more than just this. I mean there are 10 commandments and many teachers of the law created a vast number of regulations to help people understand and follow these ten commandments. But when we take the time to boil them all down they fit into one of these categories: LOVE GOD or LOVE MAN. Now, I am not saying that all laws and regulations are not necessary, because they are meant to help us understand how to LOVE GOD, LOVE MAN.

FCC Outreach

Priscilla Shirer Simulcast

Our ladies at FCC are excited to host the Priscilla Shirer Simulcast on April 23rd. It will be from 9:00-5:00 that Saturday and lunch will be provide. Doors will open at 8:00 am for registration and coffee hour. If you register by March 29th the fee is \$10, after that date the registration fee goes up to \$15. Please fill out the registration form and turn it into the office or give it to Amy Baker or Jennifer Davis today!!

Life Way women says there are 5 Things to expect from Priscilla Shirer Simulcast:

1. **Biblical teaching.** Hear a powerful, unique message straight from God's Word.
2. **Greater understanding.** Learn to study the Bible for yourself.
3. **Powerful prayer.** Priscilla will lead a time of prayer for your life, church, and community.
4. **Shaking up.** Worship along with thousands of women from around the world.
5. **Deeper community.** Connect with like minded women who are looking to go deeper in Bible study and prayer.

Community Meals

For about a year now God has blessed us with a Community Meal on the first Thursday of each month at the 4/14 Outreach building (former elementary). The Neoga Community Meals that the area churches comes together to participate in are a wonderful opportunity to build relationships. This is where people of ALL backgrounds come together and truly get to know each other while sharing a meal. This meal is free and open to everyone. We are looking forward to another joint effort in May where the meal will be provided by the First Christian Church (FCC), Grace United Methodist, Free Methodist, United Presbyterian, and joining us this month we welcome St. Mary's Catholic Church. May's meal falls on the 5th, which coincides with the National Day of Prayer. The meal will be at its normal time of 5:00-6:30 with the prayer service following immediately.

National Day of Prayer

In 1775 Congress called the colonies to come together for prayer in forming our nation. The call to prayer continued in 1863 when President Lincoln proclaimed a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer". The national day of prayer was declared in 1952 in a joint resolution signed by President Truman and Congress. Our country was founded on the basis of our faith in God and prayer. This year's National Day of Prayer Service will be at the 4/14 Outreach building. Area churches are coming together to lift up our country and community in prayer.

²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

-Hebrews 10:23-25 (NLT)

Summer Events

Neoga Days

We are looking forward to Neoga Days and the Community Worship Service for 2016. Neoga Days will be June 16th through the 18th. With the success of last years Neoga Days booth we have decided to participate again. This was and will be a great way to let families know about our upcoming VBS. We are also planning to have another Community Worship Service on June 19th. This will take place at Jennings Park Pavilion and will combine the area churches. What awesome way to end Neoga Days by coming together to worship God.

VBS

VBS will be June 27th through July 1st. It will once again take place in the mornings. This event will be for children ages 4 to 4th grade. Please check your schedule and consider volunteering .

Back to School

The Back to School Give Away is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 7th. Once again this ministry opportunity will take place at the 4/14 Outreach building. Last year we helped provided over 100 Neoga students with backpacks, school supplies and new tennis shoes to start the school year with much needed supplies. This is possible because of our generous community and members of FCC.

Look for more detail about the above **summer events** in future evangels.

Missions Committee Update

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, through-out Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

This verse has provided direction for the missions committee in determining our yearly budget. We want to be a part of spreading the gospel locally, regionally, and throughout the world. Monthly donations are given to the following area ministries: Heartland Christian Village, the Neoga Food Pantry, Oil Belt Christian Service Camp, EIU Campus House, Oblong Christian Children's Home, and Ryan and Melinda Hicks who are missionaries through One Mission Society. Please keep the Hicks family in your prayers as they will be making their second trip to Africa March 28-April 10. We hope to have Ryan and Melinda visit and tell us more about their mission work after they return from this trip.

The missions committee contributed \$550 to the CIY fund. As many of the youth are learning about Jesus for the first time, we felt this was definitely a true mission that we wanted to support. A donation of the same amount was made to Ingraham Christian Church for their upcoming trip to Belize June 5-10. Alan, Linda, and Heather Baker will be going on this trip. They will be serving at an orphanage. They will be involved with construction projects there, but are most looking forward to loving on the kids. They will again be working with Thirst Missions. They ask that you pray for them and the other 5 members of their team – that God will be glorified through them and that He will equip them to do the work He has already prepared for them to do there. And that if the work is to be done outside, that He will once again display His mighty power and stop the rain!

This year a different international mission will be spotlighted each quarter and given a gift of \$300. Because of our past partnership and connection with the people of Belize, the first ministry to be supported is Thirst Missions. Their theme verse is John 4:13-14: "Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'" Please join us in praying for this organization as they help many mission teams teach the people of Belize about this living water. To learn more about them, visit their website at thirstmissions.org.

Mission committee members are Matt Frankie, Fontella Waddell, Amy Baker, Marian Lindley, Mary Ann Wilson, and Linda Baker.

Ladies' Ministry

Sunday April 10, 2016 –
Last Date to Sign Up for the
Christian Women's Conference
at Lincoln Christian University.

Registration material for the
Christian Women's Conference is
now available at the FCC Welcome
Center. Michele Cushatt,
a storyteller at heart, gifted speaker
and author will be bringing a
message from her unique life
experiences as written in her latest
book, *Undone: A Story of Making
Peace With an Unexpected Life*.
Additionally Dr. Dinelle Frankland,
Professor of Worship at Lincoln
Christian Seminary will be speaking
from Psalm 23. The messages given
by these two extraordinary women of
faith will encourage and challenge us
in our walk with Our Lord. We will
leave FCC at 7:15 am and anticipate
being home by 5:30 pm. The cost is
\$35 and includes a box lunch.

War Room Study on Prayer

Two weeks (April 3 and April 10)
remain in our study, utilizing movie
clips from the movie *War Room*, to
help us grow our prayer life.
Engaging in Spiritual Warfare and
Trusting God in Prayer are the last
two topics of this five week study.

See FCC Outreach page for
Priscilla Shirer Simulcast.

Seniors' Ministry

Thursday, April 21, 2016 Southern
Illinois Seniors' Luncheon, musical
program, fellowship and devotions
will be held at Fairfield Christian Church
at Fairfield, IL. The cost is \$6.00 and
registration information will be available
at the FCC Welcome Center April 3 and
April 10. We will leave FCC at 10:00
am and anticipate returning by 4:30 pm.
This event is hosted by Lincoln Christian
University, and St. Louis Christian
College. To assure you a seat in the Van,
please sign-up either April 3 or April 10.

Praises and Thanksgiving...

- Heartland Christian Village Auxiliary:
FCC of Neoga contributed \$399.00 toward
the "Circle of Friends."
- Choices Pregnancy & Health:
FCC contributed \$707.83 through the
"Baby Bottle Blessings" fundraiser.
- Neoga Community Food Pantry:
36 families; 93 people served
4 deliveries
14 volunteers; 22 1/2 hrs for volunteers
April item: tuna
- Community Clothesline:
March 3rd: 34 Families and 86 individuals
March 17th: 16 Families and 34 individuals

April Volunteers...

	Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers
3	Zach	Aubrey	Tom & Cathy Tomlinson	<u>Nursery</u> : Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th</u> : Jennifer Davis, John Tomlinson	David Coen Don Coen Bill Kenworthy Tom Tomlinson	Art Walk Chad Walk Barry Conn Jack Gilbert
10	Matt	Tom	Jim & Martha 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	Harry Starwalt Alan Baker Zach Letizia Monte Page	Paul Lake Doug Baker Zak Gentry Don Coen
17	Zach	Tom	Jack & Cheryl Gilbert	<u>Nursery</u> : John & Reeni Letizia <u>Wee Worship</u> : Cheryl Gilbert, Penny Hess <u>K-5th</u> : Paul & Amber Lake, Austin Robinson	Bill Kenworthy Tom Tomlinson Art Walk Chad Walk	Jack Gilbert Doug Baker Barry Conn David Coen
24	Jim	Aubrey	Don & Denise Coen	<u>Nursery</u> : Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship</u> : Rory & Paula Gentry <u>K-5</u> : Joni McClure, Zach Letizia	Monte Page Zak Gentry Harry Starwalt Zach Letizia	Alan Baker Doug Baker Tom Tomlinson Don Coen

Thank You...

He is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight" ([Isaiah 42:1](#)).

Servanthood is a key theme in the lyrical words of Isaiah 41—53. God uses this term to describe the people of Israel, the coming Messiah, and others.

Interestingly, “servant” and “chosen” are often together in these chapters. (See, for [example](#), [41:8](#); [43:10](#); and [44:1](#).) Isn’t it an odd combination? When I picture a chosen person, I see an adopted child, a best friend, or an elected ruler. But not a servant. The word *chosen* points to high regard and honor. The word *servant* describes someone quiet and humble, working hard.

But God’s chosen are his servants. His people Israel were his servants, a people called to bear witness to him and to provide the human ancestry of his Son. Jesus is *The Chosen One*, the One by whom the world was made and by whom it will be judged, yet who “did not come to be served, but to serve” ([Matthew 20:28](#)). We, too, are chosen by God and are called to serve.

So what are your servant tasks today? Do they include changing a diaper and making dinner? Or preparing a report and making a sales call? Maybe it’s supporting people on the team you lead or wrestling through a decision that will impact hundreds. Is it patiently listening to a spouse or a friend, holding back your own needs for a time? Or perhaps it’s cleaning things up and running the errands. Maybe you’ll cross paths with a stranger in need today.

Did you notice what else God says about his servant, his chosen one, in the words above? God upholds the servant. And more: God delights in that servant. While the servant serves, God supports and rejoices, he encourages and enjoys. Who knew servants had it so good!

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 CIY Believe (Jr Hi) - 4/1 & 2 Matt Davis	2 Bill Figgins Emily Frankie Wyatt Gentry
3 5pm Prayer 6pm Ladies' Study	4	5 Volunteers at Heartland	6 9:30am Ladies' Study 2pm 4th & 5th 5:15 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Group	7 1-7:30pm Community Clothesline 5-6:30pm Community Meal 6-7pm Food Pantry	8 Heartland Volunteer Luncheon @ GUMC Steve Drum Jim & Martha Wilson	9 CIY at Neoga IGA 9am Bake Sale Cookout over lunch until approx. 1pm
10 3pm Elders' Mtg 4pm Financial Board Mtg 5pm Prayer Mtg 6pm Ladies' Study Amber Lake	11 Beth Gentry Zach Letizia	12	13 9:30am Ladies' Study 2pm 4th & 5th 5:15 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14	14	15	16
17 3pm Elders' Mtg 4pm Elders'/ Staff Mtg 5pm Prayer Mtg	18	19	20 2pm 4th & 5th 5:15 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 8:30pm College Group	21 So IL Seniors' Luncheon 1-5pm Community Clothesline	22	23 9am-5pm Simulcast
24 Building Fund Sunday 5pm Prayer	25	26 8am Seniors' Breakfast at the Depot Amia Workman	27 Ladies' Day @ LCU 2pm 4th & 5th 5:15 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 Andrea Workman	28	29	30