

THE CORNERSTONE

"Mobilizing Disciples to fulfill God's passion to save and transform lives"

May 2021 Volume 17 Issue 5

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LIFE IS BUSY FOR THE CPCC FAMILY!

“May Day Pray Day” - Saturday, May 1st - Join other women across Topeka from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Every Plaza, 630 S. Kansas Ave. in downtown Topeka. The event is designed for women to come together and pray for men in leadership positions in the capital city.

National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 6th - Come and join your Legislators on the South steps of the Capital building as they pray for every area of our culture. We will seek the Lord and pray through our theme verse, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is FREEDOM.” Lord pour out your LOVE, LIFE and FREEDOM.”

Mother’s Day Breakfast - Sunday, May 9th - Start Mother’s Day off by treating Mom to a hot, delicious breakfast prepared by the men of the church! The men will be serving breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall and EVERYONE is invited to enjoy the feast. Thank you, God, for our Moms!

Graduation Sunday - Sunday, June 6th- If you are graduating from High School, College or Trade School this May, please let us know so we can celebrate this milestone in your life during our worship service. Contact the office at 234-5963 to add your name to the list!

a message from OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

“A Word of Wisdom”

When you think back to just a century ago, the world has changed so much. I know a hundred years is a lot, but I want to think this through for just a moment. Consider a few of these things. We went from the invention of the radio to satellite radio. We went from the discovery of the polio vaccine to surgery being done through video and internet.

Think about all the changes. A chip meant a small piece of wood or yummy snack. Hardware might have been nothing more than a hammer or a screwdriver. Software was not even in the dictionary yet. Cell was associated with biology alone. What huge change! You used to be able to buy ice cream for a dime and a pop was pretty much only Coke. Rotary phones kept our fingers in action and you could make a call from a phone booth.

So, it is without a doubt the world has changed in great ways, and the changes that are on the way are going to be even bigger and life changing. There will be smarter and wealthier people that are going to come along and make huge impacts to the way we live, but the question I want to ponder for a moment is, “Are we actually any wiser?” Think about it. Have we really learned from our past? Are we ready for all that lies ahead? If I’m going to be honest, it does not feel like wisdom is what is gracing us today. It does not feel like our smarts and our wisdom are walking hand in hand anymore.

Metal detectors in schools are the norm now. People interact better through social media than face to face. We are adding more to our food today to make it taste better, but people are getting sicker and sicker, and to top it all off, we are more hateful today than ever and justify it by political party, country or identity. Each generation that comes and goes has the potential to live with wisdom or foolishness, to be good or evil. The sad truth is, no generation has got it right yet, but the even sadder truth is, it’s getting far worse rather than better.

Somehow our words have gone from “*Father, forgive us, we know what not we are doing*” to “*Father, forgive us, we know what not we are doing, and please don’t tell us because we really don’t care or want to know.*” Will you consider Proverbs 18:1-9 with me for a moment?

18:1 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. 2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. 3 When wickedness comes, contempt comes also, and with dishonor comes disgrace. 4 The words of a man’s mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook. 5 It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice. 6 A fool’s lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. 7 A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul. 8 The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. 9 Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

continued on page 3

A Word of Wisdom...continued from page 2

What does it mean to lack wisdom? From the movie *The Princess Bride*, Vizzini describes a fool as this: “Ha-ha, you fool! You fell victim to one of the classic blunders, the most famous of which is never get involved in a land war in Asia, but only slightly less well known is this: Never go in against a Sicilian, when death is on the line!” But this is real life, and while I do all I can to cram in a movie line from the *Princess Bride*, the simple truth is this, a fool is lacking wisdom and playing it out in their life. The dictionary defines it as this: a person who acts unwisely or imprudently; a silly person.

A fool is absorbed with himself. He cuts himself off from people and from sound wisdom from people. If anyone calls him to sound judgement or any kind of moral reasoning, he battles and argues each detail no matter how obnoxious it is. His opinions are close-minded and so, if anyone interjects, he just speaks his opinion louder and calls them his truth. The root of all of this is the word pride. Pride does not allow people to hear anything outside of their own thoughts and convinces people to think their way is the right way.

I wish that we could just take a moment and see the confusion that sits before us in this world today. This has little to do with believers not being able to convey the message of the cross but seems to be more about people not being open to the message of the cross. Therefore, it is so vital that we present the cross in the way that it was presented to us. The cross was only harsh for one person. The cross only took judgement to one man. The cross is a means to an end of our foolishness and pride and a way to wisdom. That is why we cannot forget Jesus is wisdom.

A fool's lack of wisdom, then, is a lack of Jesus. To argue against foolishness will get us nowhere, but to argue the need for Jesus (wisdom) is our only hope. If a fool is absorbed with himself, then we need to be so crammed full of Jesus that it flows out and spills into their self-absorption.

The cost of being a fool catches up with them, and the only way to walk with them as they battle through shame, dishonor and disgrace is to meet them at the end of their self-filled road with patience, truth, love and grace, because that is how Jesus met you and continues to meet with you.

Jesus is the perfect display of wisdom, and our pursuit of Him must become more and more. He shows us how to be love and speak truth that is inviting. He was inviting and even so was disgraced and dishonored along the way. Did that change Him though? Not in the least. In fact, He chose to take on more humiliation by taking on the cross. He gave His best for us and I believe that His asking price is fair and practical. “*Come follow me. Just as you are, follow me.*” His invitation is for all of us. His grace is undeniable. His love is real. His devotion is uncanny.

Swimming in the deep end,

Derek

STUDENT MINISTRY



Jeff Martens

High School & Middle School Youth Group

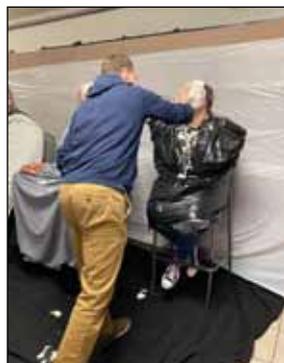
Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the church.

High School Youth Group meets Sunday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the church. Lunch is served.

Contact Jeff at 785-845-4131 with questions.

Pie & Pancakes a success!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Pie & Pancakes event a success! It was such a fun morning! In fact, we had so much fun, we plan to make this an annual event! Proceeds will assist our children and youth attend camps this summer.



No pastors were harmed during the event!

STUDENT MINISTRY



Miranda Bohlander

Kid's T.N.T.

Kids Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us on Thursday nights for Kid's Thursday Night Teaching (T.N.T.) from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m.

Contact Miranda at 785-234-5963 ext. 6 with questions.

The Joy of the Lord

I am overwhelmed with joy by how God has provided so much for our camps this summer.

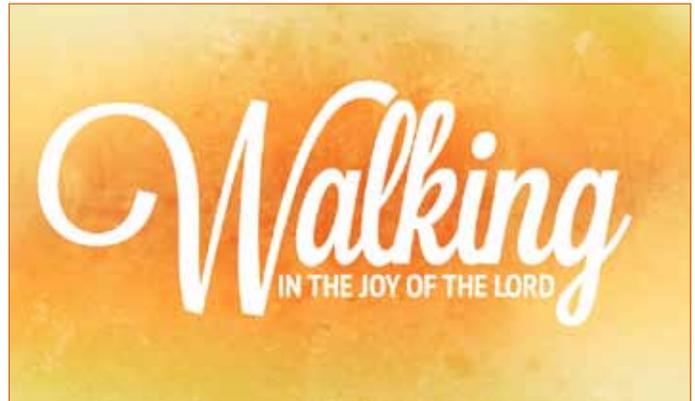
I am very thankful for the generosity shown by our church family and community members.

With everyone's help, we raised \$1,940 from our most recent fundraiser,

the pancake feed and the pie-the-pastor event! We had such a fun morning and the high-schoolers loved cooking and serving the pancakes and other breakfast goodies. I would have to say there were lots of laughs during the pie-a-pastor event. My face hurt from laughing and smiling all morning long. Thank you for coming out to fellowship with and to be joyful with us.

Camps are going to be so much fun this summer; especially, since last summer we were not able to go. We have three camps coming up soon, as well as VBS. The dates and camps are as follows:

- Texas High School Retreat- June 7th-13th
- King Solomon MS Camp- June 28th-July 2nd
- King Solomon Pre-Teen Camp- July 7th-9th
- Treasured VBS- August 2nd-6th



Please be praying for a great summer of camps and for Jesus to be revealed to the students in new and exciting ways.

And finally, last but not least, congratulations to Aubrielle Franklin. Aubrielle was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 4th. May she continue to grow in her faith and love for our one, and only, Savior!

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."
~ Nehemiah 8:10*

a message from

OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Dayme Green

Just Checking In

This month, I will be pretty brief but I just want to share what God has been putting on my heart in my own journey to really live out His Kingdom day by day. First of all, I was recently encouraged by a friend and mentor to put a little extra effort each day into seeking out the active presence of the Holy Spirit. The Word tells us (in several places, in both Testaments) that the Spirit never leaves us and, in fact, once we've given our lives over to the Lord, the Spirit actually lives within us. I'm not sure if I take this for granted or what but when I actually think about it, how often am I actively aware of that presence? It's easy during church service, especially lately, as I think we can all agree that the Spirit has been very, very obviously present during this revival of sorts we're experiencing. It's also easy during devotions or quiet time when we shut out the world to commune with Him. What I'm talking about though is constantly trying to be aware of His presence as I go about the mundane and sometimes a little too busy parts of my life. It has been a challenge but it becomes a more and more rewarding with each passing day.

Next, I have been really inspired lately by the fourth chapter of Paul's letter to the Philippians. Philippians 4 is a wonderful expression of encouragement, joy, prayer, and a call to trust God no matter where He has allowed us to wander or where circumstances beyond our control have led us. It's even more encouraging to know that Paul wrote the amazing pep talk in the midst of a years-long prison sentence.

Finally, the little bit of conviction that He has given me is to do some self-reflection and check my motives. I am in a wonderful season of seeking after the Lord, I am on a daily quest to be aware of and to abide with Him, but why? What's my end game? The Lord has given me a reminder lately that I don't follow Him for my own benefit, but for His. The Lord doesn't owe me anything, especially for simply doing what He created me to do. Happiness and security are not necessities but occasional benefits. My purpose and motivation for serving the Lord should be nothing more than to serve the Lord for the sake of His glory and majesty.

Thanks for listening, love you...see you soon.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Ladies Bible Studies

Wednesdays

6:45 to 8:00 p.m.

The Miracles of Jesus

Led by Barb Gray.

Group meets in the CPCC Parlor.



Thursdays beginning

May 13th - 6:30 p.m.

Flooded

*The 5 best decisions to make when
life is hard and doubt is rising.*

Group meets at Megan Green's.

(Contact the church for address.)

***Ladies will need to purchase the
study guide from Amazon for \$12.***

*Please contact Megan to let
her know you are coming.*



Deaconess Meeting

The next Deaconess meeting is

Saturday, May 1st
from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Prayer Shawl Meeting



The next prayer shawl meeting is
Thursday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, please
contact Judi Cox at 272-9803.

Monthly Bible Verse

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ~ 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Greeting from the elders!

LEAD LIKE JESUS

This month's update may look a bit different as there is an update and a call to action.

We are pleased to report that the church building's roof replacement is complete, as is the replacement of not one but both heating and air conditioning units. These were replaced at the same time as the roof since part of each unit is located on the roof and requires equipment to lift them in place. One of the heating and air units was not functioning properly and required replacement. The other unit was 16+ years old and it seemed prudent to replace it while all of the equipment was in place to reduce costs and mitigate risk of an inopportune, ill-timed failure.

We are continuing to review the constitution and bylaws, as well as work on planning some new programs and initiatives to encourage engagement and growth. In addition to the discipleship triads and Sunday Evening Teaching we wrote about previously, we also plan to implement a welcoming committee to provide information and a welcoming smile to everyone who enters our church building on Sunday mornings (this will be in addition to our crossing guards). In the coming weeks we hope to have a point person in place to start building out the team of men and women who are gifted in hospitality, as well as physically building out a kiosk in the foyer for the team's use.

Now for the call to action. If we are to see the fullness of revival in our church, our community, our state and our nation that we all desire, we must make prayer a priority. God tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." We want to encourage you to pray diligently for this revival and to join together in prayer to lock shields, and pray as a unified body. Each Monday the elders and others meet at the church (and via zoom) at 5:30 for a time of earnest prayer. This time of prayer is powerful.

We encourage you to participate in this time of prayer and to pray together as well as individually for one another. James 5:16 tells us "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." This kind of prayer for one another requires a level of trust and intimacy that is unusual outside the body of Christ. This level of trust and intimacy allows us to truly love one another in a way that will let the world know we are followers of Christ (see John 13:35) and to bring glory to the Lord. Your faith and relationship with God will grow as you see prayers answered. As RC Sproul wrote in *Knowing God*: "What I crave is a relationship with God that is both intimate and personal. The great barrier to intimacy is God's invisibility. Because I cannot see Him, I tend to doubt His presence. But He is there and promises Communion and fellowship with Him. The tool He provides to overcome the barrier is the tool of prayer. Prayer offers us a link to intimate fellowship with God."

So pray early, pray often and pray together!

IMPORTANT INFO

Young Adult Gathering

June 6th at 7 p.m.
Location TBA

Young Adult Sunday School

Young Adults (age 18-29) are invited to join Pastor Derek in his office during the Sunday school hour. Topics vary and discussions are fun!

For more information, contact Derek.



A graphic for a 'Rent a Youth' fundraiser. It features icons of tools (wrench and hammer), a house, and a muscular arm. The text reads: 'PAINTING - YARD WORK - BABYSITTING RENT A YOUTH FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CAMP'. It also includes contact information for Pastor Jeff at 845-4131 and a date: 'SATURDAY, MAY 8th'. A note says 'PLEASE GIVE ALL DONATIONS TO PASTOR JEFF. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO CPCC WITH "YOUTH" IN THE MEMO LINE.' and another says 'PICK YOUR PROJECT AND OUR TEENS WILL DO THE WORK!'.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Do love snuggling babies and loving on toddlers? Then nursery duty is for YOU! We are in need of volunteers to assist in the nursery on Sunday mornings and also on Sunday evening during our new Sunday Evening Teaching (SET). Please contact Miranda for details regarding Sunday mornings and Derek in regards to Sunday evenings.

MAY IS CENTRAL PARK'S MONTH AT DOORSTEP



Your Doorstep contacts are

Kim White
CPCC Coordinator
(785) 338-1378
and Ann Uhl
Board Member
(785) 286-7300

How You Can Help...

VOLUNTEER:

Volunteers are not needed due to COVID; however, see other ways to help below.

DONATE:

Donations are always needed for the food pantry. We are one of six congregations responsible for stocking the food pantry during the month of May.

ASSIST FINANCIALLY:

Make a monetary donation to Doorstep. Please note your membership with Central Park Christian Church for credit.

NEWS AND NOTES

MAY

CROSS GUARD

Sunday School

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

May 2nd

Tristan Webb

May 9th

Charles McWilliams

May 16th

Lynden Landholm

May 23rd

Wesley Lewis

May 30th

Ray DeMoss

Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m. - Noon

May 2nd

*Randy Spilker
& Gary Burks*

May 9th

*Tim Cunningham
& Dan Force*

May 16th

*Jim Reser &
Dan Johnson*

May 23rd

*David Johnson
& Steve Horton*

May 30th

*John Cantrell
& Tyler Crow*

MAY DEACONESS

Allison Crow & Stacy Spilker

may at Doorstep

Doorstep has been assisting with clothing and hygiene items needed for the new state-of-the-art trailer that will provide showers, laundry and restrooms to Topeka's unsheltered populations and other individuals. This is the first component to the Mobile Access Partnership (MAP) which is the collaboration of Valeo Behavioral Health and the Topeka Rescue Mission. Later this year, there will be a mobile food pantry and mobile health service unit. This is truly a collaborative effort of many agencies and churches in our community coming together to help the unsheltered and at-risk families and adults. Doorstep is happy to do what we can. While we have helped stock the trailer with clothing so people can have a clean outfit after their shower, and smaller-sized hygiene items, we are also keeping on hand what we need to help those coming to our doorstep for assistance.

The ribbon cutting for the new program and trailer will be May 4th at 11am, St. John AME Church at 701 SW Topeka Blvd.

There may be times in the future when we might request specific items as the project needs them, if we don't already have them here at Doorstep. This is a big community effort, and we are proud to be a part of it!

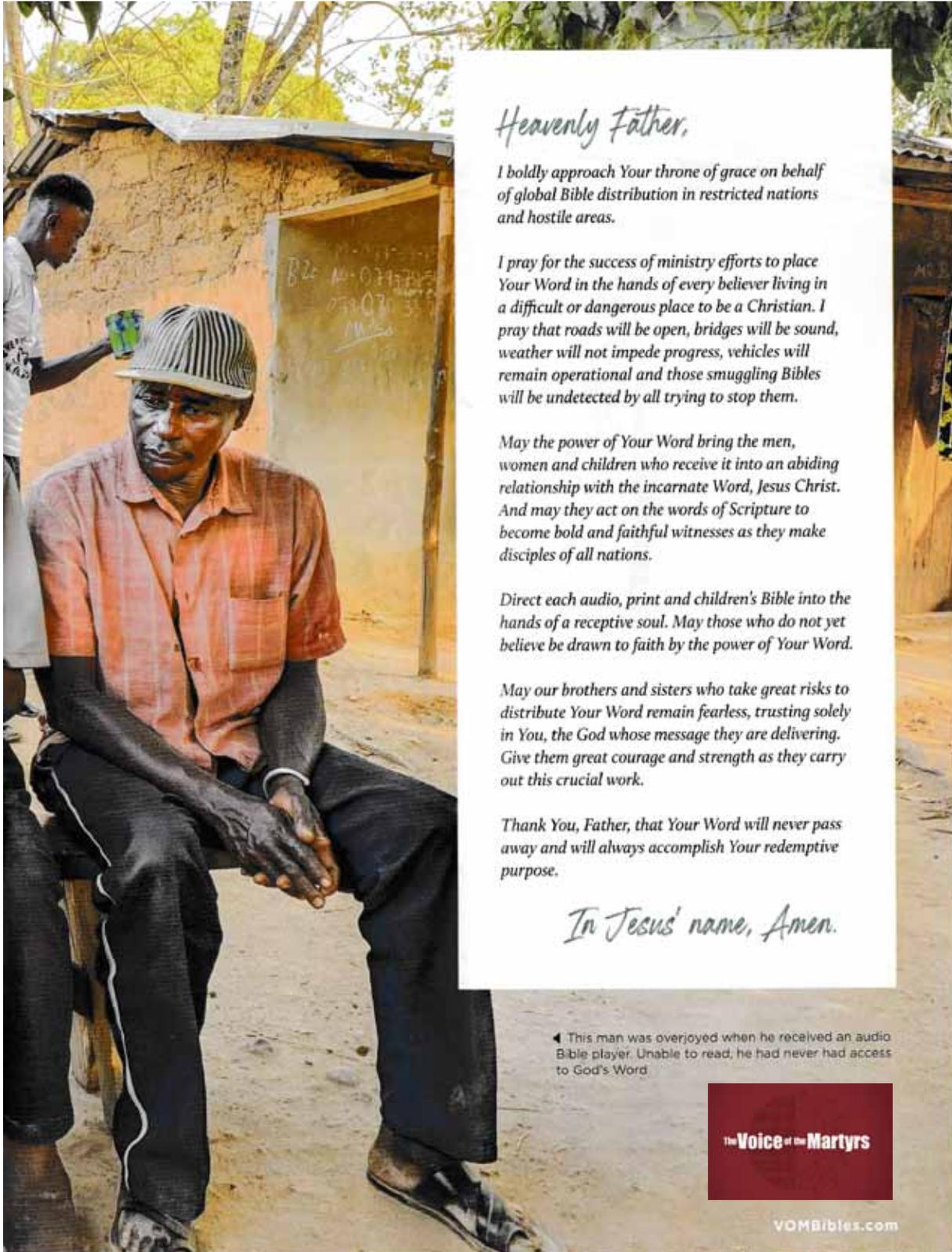
Starting 6.13.2021
at CPCC

Sunday **E**vening **T**eaching

Watch for details!

The next Cornerstone newsletter will print Thursday, May 27th.
Please have all items to the office by 5 p.m. Thursday, May 20th.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



Heavenly Father,

I boldly approach Your throne of grace on behalf of global Bible distribution in restricted nations and hostile areas.

I pray for the success of ministry efforts to place Your Word in the hands of every believer living in a difficult or dangerous place to be a Christian. I pray that roads will be open, bridges will be sound, weather will not impede progress, vehicles will remain operational and those smuggling Bibles will be undetected by all trying to stop them.

May the power of Your Word bring the men, women and children who receive it into an abiding relationship with the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. And may they act on the words of Scripture to become bold and faithful witnesses as they make disciples of all nations.

Direct each audio, print and children's Bible into the hands of a receptive soul. May those who do not yet believe be drawn to faith by the power of Your Word.

May our brothers and sisters who take great risks to distribute Your Word remain fearless, trusting solely in You, the God whose message they are delivering. Give them great courage and strength as they carry out this crucial work.

Thank You, Father, that Your Word will never pass away and will always accomplish Your redemptive purpose.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

◀ This man was overjoyed when he received an audio Bible player. Unable to read, he had never had access to God's Word.

The Voice of the Martyrs

VOMBibles.com

Prayer & Praise



Congratulations to Aubrielle Franklin, who was baptized on Sunday, April 4th.

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

~ Galatians 3:27 (NIV)



Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...

Robert & Agnes Cox

Currently living with their daughter, Juanita.

Darlene McCarter

McCrite Plaza Nursing Home Resident

Jim & Shirley Wolf

Atria Hearthstone Resident

Sandy Darnell

Ruble Ranch Assisted Living Resident

Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting

Join others at 8:30 a.m. Sunday mornings for 30 minutes to spend time praising the Lord, praying for His leading and blessing and asking Him to move powerfully in our classes and worship time.

The prayer meetings have been moved to Derek's office and are also available via Zoom. zoom.us/j/2029856144 - passcode cpcc1535

Monday Prayer Meeting & Elders Meeting

All are invited to join the Elders on Monday evenings, at 5:30 at the church, as they pray for our church, our city, our state and the nation. The prayer meetings are also available via Zoom. zoom.us/j/2029856144 - passcode cpcc1535
An Elder's meeting will take place on the 2nd & 4th Monday immediately following the prayer meeting.



Monthly Events at CPCC...

MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i> 9:30 AM Deaconess Meeting
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	2 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	3 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	4 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-3rd Floor South Classroom 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	5 6:00 - 7:30 PM Kid's T.N.T. (Dinner served)	6 7	8 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i>
8:30 AM-10:30 AM Mother's Day Breakfast 8:30 AM - Group Prayer 9:15 AM Mother's Day Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	9 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	10 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	11 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-3rd Floor South Classroom 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	12 6:00 - 7:30 PM Kid's T.N.T. (Dinner served) 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study <i>at Megan Green's.</i>	13 14	15 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i>
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	16 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	17 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	18 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-3rd Floor South Classroom 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	19 6:00 - 7:30 PM Kid's T.N.T. (Dinner served) 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl at Judi Cox's 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study <i>at Megan Green's.</i>	20 21	22 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i>
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	23 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	24 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	25 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-3rd Floor South Classroom 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	26 6:00 - 7:30 PM Kid's T.N.T. (Dinner served) 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study <i>at Megan Green's.</i>	27 28	29 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i>
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	30 Memorial Day Church office closed.	31				

CPCG Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



Randy Lesseski
Associate Pastor
randy@centralparkcc.org



Derek Slack
Senior Pastor
derek@centralparkcc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
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**JOIN US
DURING
THE
WEEK**

Prayer Time - Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School - Sundays at 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service & K-motion - Sundays at 10:45 a.m.
SIAFU - No SIAFU at this time.
High School Youth Group - Sundays 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Prayer Time - Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
A.R.R.O.W. - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Youth Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Kid's T.N.T. - Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

Trustees: Terry Barnes & Stan Seidel

Elders: Eric Cook, Geoff Gray, Victor Hercules, Hank Hylton, Randy Spilker, Jason Vinsonhaler, Bill White