



Making Disciples Indeed

August 2017

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SOUL HEALTH

I have been captured by the emphasis from Isaiah 55:2 which is so very practical for the American Christian to hear: "*Wherefore do you spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*"

Soul health. The Laodicea church in Revelation had lost complete sight of this and Jesus said they were wretched, miserable, poor, and blind. We can lose sight of this if we do not realize to take care of that eternal part of our being that reveals that this world is not our home.

Isaiah continues to remind God's people to "*seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near.*" One clear aspect of soul health is a continuing prayer life.

James Montgomery wrote these words as a part of a hymn: "Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air, His watchword at the gates of death; he enters heaven with prayer."

Christians cannot live naturally without constantly breathing. So,

too, they cannot live, spiritually, without prayer, which is our vital breath and native air.

NATIVE AIR: the reminder that we are kingdom citizens and our source of true health cannot be found on this earth.

Paul reminded the believers in Thessalonica to "*pray without ceasing.*" (1 Thess. 5:17) If prayer is allowed to dwindle into mere duty or into a cold requirement, it can be experienced as more of a burden than a blessing. The grave danger of this for the Christian is spiritual death; for if there is not soul health, this is the result.

If we would be spiritually healthy, we must never relax our breathing exercises, particularly in the morning before we face the heat and burden of the day.

Keep praying Church!

Brother Rick

YOUTH

Church camp gets hot. The dorms smell like feet. The showers are littered with random nastiness. The beds are uncomfortable, and the kids are usually loud. This year a mouse ate one of the student's shirts. Yet for twenty of the last twenty-three years for at least one week each summer, I enthusiastically pack up my stuff and head to youth camp. As a teenager, church camp was the highlight of my summer. All these years later, I look forward to it still. In fact, I sometimes think camp is even more fun as an adult than it was as a student.

We all just arrived home from this year's camp a few days ago and, as always, God moved.

God moved in the hearts of our current students.

The first day, our students came in excited, but also a bit apprehensive. Many of them had not been before and weren't sure what to expect. As the week progressed, I got to watch as God began to work on their hearts. By day two, many of the students were hearing the Holy Spirit



begin to speak to their hearts. On day four we had three students give their hearts to Jesus and many others surrendered areas of their lives to Jesus that needed some adjusting. I was beyond blessed to be able to be there with two of the girls when they met with Jesus for the first time. There is no greater joy than to be present when God radically saves another soul.

God moved in the hearts of our former students.

Camp is always special, but this year exceeded even my expectations. Chris and I have been richly blessed to have been working with students in many different capacities for about fifteen years. This summer we had eight adult workers at camp who were once a part of our ministry in some way. These eight adults we met as children who have now grown up, both in age and in faith, and are now pouring their own lives into the lives of a new generation of youth. There are no words to adequately describe what a blessing that is to us. I think John said it best in his third letter to the church, *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth."* (3 John 1:4)



God moved in my marriage.

I will never forget the first mission trip Chris and I went on together. We were in Seattle, Washington and the worship service had just ended. I found Chris sitting in the back of the sanctuary praying with a young boy, leading him to Jesus. I knew then that He was the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. Many of the most influential events in our marriage, events wove our hearts together, have been times of serving Jesus together. When we go to camp each year, we stay in separate dorms. Many times we don't even get to sit together at meals, because we are busy talking to the kids. However, just being there together letting God work in our individual hearts, watching God work in the hearts of those around us, and sharing a common blessing of service brings our two hearts together in a way little else can.

Going to camp every year for more than twenty years is not possible for everyone. But, serving Jesus by serving others is. I beseech you to find a place to serve and, better yet, find a place where you and your spouse can serve together. The work is hard, but the rewards are worth it. If you are spending your life in Christ simply sitting by and letting people pour into you, you are missing out in ways words cannot describe.

Thank you church family for praying for us while we were at camp. Thank you for sending your children and grandchildren. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of God's work in their lives.

Chris & Amanda Reed



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It is hard to believe summer is almost over. In three weeks kids will be going back to school. Just a reminder that our Wednesday afterschool program, WASH, will begin September 6th. There will be plenty of opportunities to disciple these children. Please be in prayer as to where you could disciple a child.

We have had a great start to our summer with VBS and CampRenu (children's camp); numerous children have come to Christ during these times. I asked the ones who have served to share their personal experiences with you in this newsletter. Thank you for your prayers.

In Christ,

Sharon

Rome: Paul and the Underground Church

2017 VBS was amazing! Children experienced what it was like to shop in a Roman Marketplace. They discovered how Roman children entertained themselves with wooden tops. They learned how the Romans created plumbing with aqueducts. They were even given the opportunity to share the gospel with the Roman shopkeepers and invite them to the Extollo (celebration).

Paul was under house arrest with Brutus the Roman soldier who guarded him. The children discovered each day how Paul shared the gospel with Brutus and also was able to send letters to fellow believers.

The children learned how Christ died for them and His gift of salvation. The children played Roman games, such as chariot races. The Extollo was full of worship through music and sign language. The children learned how to sing *Jesus Loves Me* in Spanish in Missions.

While learning a little Spanish, they also learned how Operation Christmas Child is used to provide children in Mexico with Christmas gifts. Shoe boxes were sent home with children and returned full of goodies to send to the children in Mexico. The boys

and girls even had an offering contest (girls won) where the money collected filled more shoe boxes for the children in Mexico.

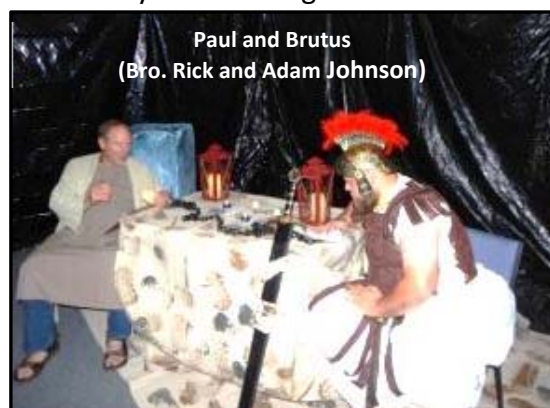
So many people were working behind the scenes and on the front lines of VBS. God used His servants to plant seeds, bless others, and further His kingdom.

God has truly blessed

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church with those who serve Him.

Dawn Porter

Linda Friday



Paul and Brutus
(Bro. Rick and Adam Johnson)



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)



Making Aqueducts



Celebration (Extollo) Time



Chariot Racing

Experiencing CampRenu Children's Camp for the first time!

CampRenu was an amazing experience! My husband and I were led to be adult sponsors this year for children's camp and I am extremely overjoyed to have gotten this opportunity. Mrs. Sharon Harris did a wonderful job of organizing everything for us and made sure we didn't have to worry or need for anything; she was always just a phone call away. The day we showed up for registration was a little hectic. The devil knew God was going to show up and show out, there was great spiritual warfare to start our camp week. First off, the camp experienced electrical outages, however it was fixed quickly. Then, the worship leader called and said he was in the ER for extreme exhaustion. He also was healed and able to lead worship!

We had several first-time camp goers and they were all very well behaved and focused on what we were there to ultimately accomplish – studying the teachings of Jesus! We were grouped with a few others as the purple team and had an awesome time with the purple team. We won for the cleanest cabin the first night. We also won "best Christ-like behavior" and we won the most points earned overall!!!

We had 17 children attend camp from PHBC this year and four of them gave their lives to Christ during the week. Very, very exciting!

I feel so blessed to have worked hand in hand with the kids and the other adults. Seeing God work in this camp and in these children's lives is nothing less than a great blessing and I will never forget it!

The people who work so hard all year round to make this camp possible are true, kind, big hearted, faithful, and Jesus-loving people! We are very thankful and grateful for these Godly people who work so hard to make this camp happen year after year!

We are also very grateful to the people who donated money to pay for kids and sponsors to go to camp to experience God at work in all the activities and worship services. We are especially thankful to Mrs. Sharon and Mr. Dennis for all the hard, dedicated work they put in day after day for the children in our community! We love them very much!

We absolutely loved our experience at CampRenu 2017 and can hardly wait to do it again in 2018!! Much love to our PHBC family! Thank you all for loving our children and teaching them what it's like to 'Show Jesus'!

*Forgiven and Rescued,
Shanon and James Pinson*

I got the luxury of going to Children's Camp and loved every minute of it. God truly worked in amazing ways. This was my first year to be able to go as a sponsor. We had about fifteen children. Each child came from a different background and home life. I have to say, God showed up every minute of every day to each child in some way or another. During morning worship, recreation, group time, or even during our meals, God was there. It was a blessing to be able to be at camp with the children and share God's Word with them. Everyone could tell that God was alive and speaking to everyone's hearts, even mine.

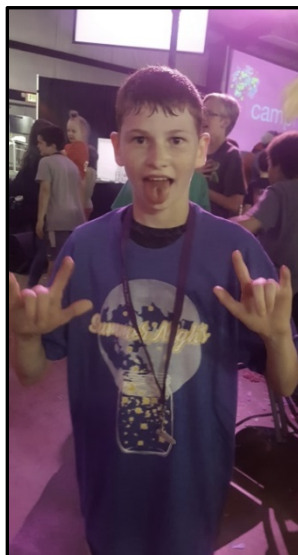
My experience as a sponsor was great. I felt like each child was aware of what was going on around them and, in their own way, I feel like God spoke to each one individually. We had four children come to know Christ from our church and a total of about twenty children throughout the camp. It was an amazing feeling as a Child of God to see them weep for God and want to know him more.

We had our fun times when we ran wild and yelled at the top of our lungs, but we also had our quiet times when we focused on God's Word and calmed down to see what was truly going on around us. Every time of the day was time to see God's creation and share God's Word, but sometimes we had to slow down and have one-on-one time with God.

Every moment was one to remember. I loved every minute of Children's Camp and I hope next year I am able to go again and have just as amazing time as I did this year.

Sarah McPherson

Memorable Children's Camp Moments





OUR CHURCH NEEDS TO HEAR YOU SING!

Ever since I have been leading worship, I have felt very strongly that every willing member of the church – old AND young – participate in the worship of our Lord. I remember as a young boy, sitting next to my father and mother on Sunday morning, opening the hymnal and singing with the “song leader” as the congregation proclaimed loudly: *“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!”*

And, boy, did they sing! My father never read music, but his beautiful baritone voice rang out strong and confident. Likewise, the small group of children could be heard joining in with their mothers and fathers.

Well, those days and that time have come and gone. But the command of *“singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord”* (Ephesians 5:19b) remains true and steadfast. The youth of today have more ways of listening to music at their fingertips than was ever thought possible even 10 years ago. But what they listen to is much more important than how they listen. God’s

Word says *“As he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”* (Proverbs 23:7) And music is a driving force in youth and society in general today. If you are a parent or grandparent, you know today's secular music is not what a young Christian should be exposed to. That's why it's imperative today's young ones are given access to Christian music at an early age. And yes, friends, say it with me: today's church music is totally different than what you and I grew up with! Just as it must have felt like to our parents when they were in our current position. Which leads me to this – the BEST music is the LORD's music, however it sounds, and we must seek ways to feed the e n t i r e flock. Not just a select group.

A personal conviction of mine is that every person who walks through the doors of Pleasant Hill should feel the warmth of our love and the freedom to sing of and to the Savior. We profess when we come together in corporate worship on any given Sunday morning. We want to reach the couple who has been married for 40 years. We want that 30-something couple with three children to participate in worship. We want Grandma to be able to sing the songs she loves. We want our teens to recognize and sing songs they've heard. And we want to be able to reach the visitors who come who may have never been to church before. To accomplish that vision, we need to come to the understanding that not everyone has heard of “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name” or even “(Your Favorite Hymn Here)”. Simply put, and as hard as it is for some of us who have grown up in church to believe, not everyone is familiar with our great hymns of the faith that span 200 or more years. So we must adapt, without changing our sound New Testament theology. Truth is truth no matter how it's presented or sung!

We are blessed with an abundance of God-given talent at PHBC. I have searched for a combination of those who would fill the purpose of a vocal/instrumental group and have struggled in a very real way over the almost two years since becoming your music minister with exactly who would be that team best suited to bring a more modern sound; whose talents I am called to blend with our blessed traditional hymns and our choir while maintaining a cohesive worship service for all people.

And then Easter Sunday morning happened!

You may recall that it was a combination of our Celebration Choir, some beautiful duets, and the praise team from our 8 a.m. service.

When the praise team sang, something wonderful took place. I looked around, and observed people singing WHO HAD NEVER SUNG BEFORE! There were families singing! There were young children joining in, as well. At the conclusion of the service, several came and expressed how much their lives were blessed that morning. Over the next 36-48 hours, the accolades kept coming from calls to emails and texts – each expressing the blessings of God that morning. And, of course, ALL glory was given to God! That night, as I sat at home, I couldn't help but reminisce about the morning's blessings. And the thought came to me: Had I been thinking about this thing all wrong? Had I been trying too hard, under my own power, to come up with the “right” people to form a group to blend into our worship service? The answer, of course, was YES! I had been struggling for two years to come up with the answer – when God put the answer right in front of my face Easter Sunday morning!

Over the following week, I prayed and asked the Lord to give me a new vision. A clarity was missing before. One HE inspired and not my own. It was as if an entirely new world had opened within my mind.

I have spoken with Bro. Rick. I have spoken, texted, and emailed Bro. Chris, who was the originator of the group that has been leading in our 8 a.m. service. I have a new-found respect (not that I didn't before) for Chris. Fully cooperative, he shares in my vision and is "full steam ahead." After much prayer and talking with the following individuals, we have formed the PHBC Worship Team: Amanda Reed and Faith Cody, Mike Tschiemer, Chris Reed, Matt Cody, Kevin Davis, David Littleton, Leah Vocque and William Glover.

Each member is looking to his/her Savior and glorifying God in this new venture, and I ask even now for your prayers that we be used, along with the Celebration Choir, to build upon the music ministry and magnify His precious Name in an even greater way to further the cause of Christ musically as we continue to serve Him!

William Glover

Minister of Music

wglover@earthlink.net

ATTENTION! ALL CHOIR!

(Present and Potential)

On Saturday, August 26th, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. you are invited to come to Brother Rick and Cindy's home. Why? Because just around the corner on the calendar is Sunday, September 10th and the new beginning of choir practice with a definite purpose. Labor Day play will be over. School will have been in session for a while. You will have completed the summer. So we need EVERYONE present on the 26th. Do not plan to be anywhere but at 12508 West Sardis Rd. Please bring your favorite finger foods and a drink of your choice. We will first enjoy the food and fellowship. Then the vision for the future will be recast and all questions anyone may have will be answered. Choir will play a pivotal role in God's design for Pleasant Hill's future. You need to be on the leading edge of joining the Holy Spirit at work in being the Composer and Conductor of this new presentation that will glorify and magnify the Lord. See you on the evening of the 26th!!!

MEN ON THE MOVE

August usually provides the best environment for a good sweat. The men of the Church have an opportunity to get involved in a ministry project as one of our members needs help moving. We will finish our breakfast on Saturday, August 5th and have the joy of working it off. A pickup and trailer can be a very handy thing coupled with a willing heart. All the details of the morning's ministry are still being worked out. So men, thank you in advance for your servant's heart. We will see you August 5th!

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

Christians are called to care for those in need according to Galatians 6:2 and Philippians 2:4. PHBC is starting our Manna Ministry up again to help minister to our home bound and those recovering from surgery. We would like to provide one or two meals a week. It needs to be a one dish type of meal to serve approximately two people. They will need to be put in a disposable container that can be stored in the freezer and labeled. If you would like to be involved in this valuable ministry opportunity to either cook or deliver, please call Cindy Porter (416-8520) or Diana Pieri (993-1903). Please sign up using the tear-off section of the Order of Service.

God Bless!

Cindy Porter

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

The work of the Welcoming Committee is a continuing process. Training was held on June 25th where we learned to better welcome our guests and serve our members through the greeter and usher ministries.

We should consider EACH PERSON who enters the doors of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church a guest. A **visitor** is someone who goes to see and spend time with someone for social pleasure. A **guest** is anyone who is invited to visit and who receives hospitality, such as a meal or lodging.

God has **invited** everyone to Himself. Jesus said, “Come to me...” He also tells us to “*abide with Him.*” No matter if they are young or old (or somewhere in between); if they are male or female; no matter their outside appearance, uptown or country-fried (or somewhere in between) God has extended His invitation. He has given each of us the privilege to purposefully be guest “focused” and to extend hospitality to EACH PERSON HE invites to His house. We all are sojourners on this road of life and God **invites** us to join Him.

Our church is known around the Sardis community as a “friendly” church. It is up to each of us to live up to and continue that tradition.

At the Welcome Booth, several folders have been given out to new guests. The folder includes a welcome letter, a church brochure, Bro. Rick’s business card, a calendar of events, and, during the school year, a free “coupon” for the family to join us on Wednesday evening for the meal. New guests who visit the Welcome Booth after the service receive a small gift that has been prepared for them.

A New Member fellowship has also been discussed with the Fellowship Committee with plans to honor new members, to have a chance to get to know them better as they join the PHBC family. As plans are finalized, they will be shared with the church body.

How can YOU be a part of this? Be a GREETER! Be on the front lines, at the front doors, and we can each be guest-focused in the pews, as we WELCOME whoever God invites and leads to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church!

The Welcoming Committee thanks you for the opportunity to serve in this way!

Kathy Hensley

SEWING WITH LOVE

God has blessed the Sewing with Love Ministry in so many ways. We have been averaging 7 members each month. These ladies are amazing! They work so hard each month getting items prepared to take to the nursing homes, to individuals and to the Children's Hospital.

We have made 81 Alzheimer Activity Mats, 77 dolls for Children's Hospital, 10 adult bibs/aprons, 14 walker totes, 2 prayer shawls, and 4 crocheted hats for cancer patients.

On June 22nd, our sewing ministry team went to Evergreen Living Center to deliver items and to minister to the residence. Three children went with us. We handed out 25 Alzheimer Activity Mats and 10 adult bibs/aprons. We were able to talk to each person who received a mat/bib. The Activity Coordinator said she would give the other bibs for gifts in the game of Bingo. The children really enjoyed talking to the residents. It was such a blessing to each one who went.



We have given four walker totes to people with walkers. They are used to carry items from place to place. We are not taking any more walker totes to the nursing homes because most of the residents are in wheel chairs. We will give the totes to anyone in need of a tote for their walker. If you know someone who would like a walker tote please let us know.

On July 25th Susan Barnes and Lexie Gilleran took 77 dolls to Arkansas Children's Hospital. These dolls will be given to children who are facing a procedure, such as getting an IV, for the first time. The medical staff can demonstrate the insertion of an IV on a doll's arm as they explain the procedure to the child. Sometimes children use the dolls to communicate where they feel pain or discomfort. The dolls help develop rapport with the children and help them relax in a hospital environment.



Lexie and a volunteer at Arkansas Children's Hospital

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We have prayer shawls ready to give to family members who have someone in ICU.

A prayer shawl is a special gift that has been knitted or crocheted. It can be wrapped around the shoulders of someone who is in need of comfort. As the maker knits or crochets it, they pray for the recipient. It is made in prayer. The shawls are passed on hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart. Before giving the shawl away, the maker says a prayer over the shawl, remembering the one who will receive this gift.



God has blessed this ministry greatly already. We would love for you to come out on any third Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. and get a blessing too. If you have any questions call Nelda West (773-8865), Tonya Knight (804-8833) or Margaret Stinson (626-2775).

HANDS IN SERVICE PUPPET TEAM

The Puppet Team will be going out to Arkansas Health Center in Benton Saturday, August 19th. Anyone who would like to attend should meet at the church at noon and bring money for lunch afterwards.

Puppeteers will begin our weekly practice on Wednesday, September 6th at 5 p.m. in the Puppet room. If you would like to join the Puppet team, contact Tonya Knight.

*Love in Christ,
HIS Puppet Team*

MINISTRIES OF THE HEART

To start off with I would like to thank Nelda and Margaret for stepping in and going on the monthly visits while I was taking care of my Grandmother before she passed away on June 12th. I really missed going in May and June to see all our special members who can't come due to health issues.

On a sad note we recently lost two of our Ministries of the Heart members – Mellie Pettus and Norman Meyer. They both always had a smile and a story to tell us.

Always remember to look on the back of the Order of Service to see who is the *Superstar of the Month*. Remember – a card, phone call, or visit means so much to them!

*Love in Christ,
Tonya Knight, Nelda West and Margaret Stinson*

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Jayde Maxey----- | Profession of Faith ----- | May 31 |
| Brayden Carpenter----- | Profession of Faith ----- | June 4 |
| Candace Hines ----- | Transfer of Letter ----- | June 4 |
| Allie Sharp----- | Profession of Faith ----- | June 18 |
| Benjamin Pinson----- | Profession of Faith ----- | July 9 |
| Ghere Bradley----- | Profession of Faith ----- | July 9 |
| Olivia Pinson----- | Profession of Faith ----- | July 9 |
| Neelie Reed----- | Profession of Faith ----- | July 9 |
| Matthew Hanna ----- | Profession of Faith ----- | July 16 |
| Britten Hays ----- | Transfer of Letter ----- | July 16 |
| Emilee Parmer ----- | Profession of Faith ----- | July 16 |
| John Rapier ----- | Profession of Faith ----- | July 23 |
| Elana Harrington ----- | Profession of Faith ----- | July 23 |

FROM THE OFFICE

As the end of summer and the beginning of school approaches, we can be thankful for the many blessings we have enjoyed this summer. Listed below are the upcoming opportunities to bless and be blessed if the Lord wills it, with much more to come.

Sunday, July 30th – Women’s Ministry Luncheon and Pie/Cake Auction

Sunday, July 30th – Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Monday, August 14th – School starts back

Wednesday, September 6th – W.A.S.H. program resumes

Sunday, October 1st – Revival with Dr. Ben Phillips

Wednesday, October 4th – Revival with Dr. Ben Phillips

Saturday, October 7th – Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip to North Little Rock

Friday, October 13th thru Sunday, October 15th – Women’s Retreat in the Ozarks

Tuesday, October 31st – Fall Fest

As a reminder, our office is open and phones are being answered Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To have an announcement placed in the Order of Service, please submit your request no later 9 a.m. on the Thursday before you want it to run. Also to reserve any or all of our facilities, let me know A.S.A.P. so we can be sure there is no conflict in scheduling. Reach me by phone at 557-5153 church, 626-0575 cell or email at dharris030301@yahoo.com.

Thank You,

I Love You,

Dennis Harris