

THE BETHEL CONNECTION

MARCH 18, 2020



Ask any veteran parent, and I think they'd all agree that their children grew up too quickly and they'd love more time with them. Now is our chance, without the usual busyness of life, to prioritize time with our children, especially when it comes to teaching them the Word. This can be simple and fun: list things you can thank God for right now (Psalm 118:24), pick a verse (maybe Psalm 46: 1-3) and memorize it as a family, dance to some fun worship songs. Yes, the days may seem long, but make them fun and memorable. Your attitude during this time of unknown, forced changes, and social distancing will set the tone in your house with your family. Lean into God and make the most of it that you can!

KELLY

Welcome to the first edition of THE BETHEL CONNECTION!

We hope that you will be looking forward to this each week, as we will be using it as a tool for encouragement during this time when gathering together as a congregation is difficult.

To access the directory on our website, go to www.bethelbiblechurch.org click on "About", then "Church Directory" and enter the password: **bbcwinamac**

PRAYER

Pray for the Elders/Deacons as there is much discussion surrounding BBC continuing to meet the needs of the church.

Pray for Chris Shell, as he is struggling with effects from Lyme Disease.

Pray for Sherry Bell, Cindy Vanwienen's sister, diagnosed with lung cancer.

Folks who face on-going health issues:

- Judy Luckey
- Virginia Barr
- Linda McNabney
- Clifford Fritz
- Phyllis Fritz
- Faye Fagner
- Paulette Krulik
- Carrie Fritz
- Michele Anderson
- Connie Davis

Encourage one another daily! A phone call would be a great encouragement to those who are alone!

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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Lead Pastor: Don Whipple

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What about the offering?

We encourage you to continue giving generously to the Lord's work here at Bethel. Here are some different options available:

- Mail
- Bank bill pay
- Drop off at the office
- Call & have an elder or deacon pick it up for you

Office Hours:

Monday 2 pm-5 pm

Tuesday 9 am- 5 pm

Wednesday 9 am-5 pm

Please call ahead other times of the week.

Missions Spotlight

Justin & Sarah Hutts

Many of you have heard of the struggles facing Mubarak, a fellow believer in Chad. His father tried to have him killed, left him for dead in the desert because he would not renounce his faith in Jesus. He was found and is doing well. A few weeks ago, he told his father and the whole world that he is still alive and that he is still a Christian! Praise God for Mubarak's faith and boldness!

Pray for continued encouragement & boldness surrounding the Hutts' ministry.

Charlie & Rachel Armstrong



Pray for the Armstrong's as they are all under confinement from this virus! THANK God with us for the health, safety, and provision that we enjoy. PRAY for those in more vulnerable positions.

PRAY for COVID-19 to be slowed, halted, and gotten under control. PRAY also that the Holy Spirit will use this reminder of our vulnerability to open hearts to the Savior.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

God's Hand Holding



Of all the word pictures in the Bible to have tattooed on our imaginations, the image of God's hand surrounding our hand in an uncompromising grip has to be one of the most stabilizing and sweet (Isa. 41:13, 42:6; Psalm 73:23). In Isaiah's day, the people of God were confused, fearful and uncertain. The world as they knew was crashing down around them in every way possible (Isa. 40:27). Through these words God raises our awareness to what is real—His power, His plan and His glory. He has you, us, our church, your family, our country and this world by the hand—insuring that we get where He wants us to go safely. Save that photo and the truth it pictures and look at it often.

Life has changed in the past few weeks. Life at Bethel Bible Church has changed as well. Be careful to understand that **what** we are as a church has not changed. We are a community of people transformed by the grace of God in Christ Jesus to worship, love, serve and influence others toward the new life found only in Jesus. What must change in these uncertain days of a global health crisis and ever-increasing restrictions is **how** we do what we do. We are not able to meet, greet, hug, touch, connect and encourage in many of the ways we have grown accustomed to and dependent on. So with God holding our hand, we continue forward with the hope and assurance that He will help us be the church as He has saved us to be in new ways that are forged in the inconvenience and uncertainty of our current world.

Along with this newsletter is a letter to the church family detailing how we will do church over the next few weeks or months as God enables and leads. Wouldn't it be great to find that at the end of this walk holding God's hand, that we look up and find ourselves in a totally better and more hopeful place than we have ever been before as a church? That is highly likely if we keep our hand in His and away from the controls and levers that we are so prone to trust in. God is taking us by the hand for a life transforming walk.

Pastor Don

For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

Isaiah 41:13