

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

12/3/17

WELCOME – We want to welcome people who are visiting today. We are praying that you will experience God's presence and sense the voice of His Holy Spirit speaking to you. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way. **A FREE GIFT IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE FOYER AFTER THE SERVICE.**

MISSIONARY PRAYER FOCUS – Please pray for these missionaries this week: **Doyle Robinson**, Church Planting; **Arthur Walker**, Campus Ministry; **Stephen Wilson**, Chile; **Franklin Graham**.

ATTENTION YOUNGER MEN (college age to 45): We will be starting a weekly, younger men's Bible study / fellowship group on Saturday mornings beginning **December 16TH**. **(NOTE DATE CHANGE)** We will be studying Elijah and how to kill your inner Ahab. (The accompanying book will cost \$15.25 (free if you use Kindle Unlimited). Please prayerfully consider being part of this opportunity as we seek a deeper level of fellowship and seek to set ablaze hearts for revival. **If interested, please contact Brian Daugharthy 212-4361.**

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – This year's meeting is **TOMORROW NIGHT, DECEMBER 4TH**, **FROM 7-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** The men who are willing to serve as Elders are Bill Brown, Dave Bass, and Rick Sharp. Those willing to serve as Deacons are Steve Cooper, Brian Daugharthy, Wade Housh, Steve Tasche, and Wilbur VanWinkle.

If you have any concerns about any of these men, please practice the instructions in Matthew 18:15-17. Tim Clover is taking a break after serving as a Deacon for many years. We deeply appreciate Tim and all of the things he has done to assist in ministry here.

Please make this meeting a priority. It normally lasts for one hour.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – This year's program will be at **6 p.m. on Sunday, December 10th**.

Please prioritize the few remaining practices on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings!! Children must also attend a mandatory sanctuary rehearsal Saturday morning, December 9th. Grade Schoolers and Actors will practice from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Three-Five year olds will practice from 9:00-9:30 a.m. (Change of Plans!!) 4-5 year olds will not have a later dismissal time.

SPECIAL THANK YOU – To **Shelly McMahan, Amy Bishop, Carol John** and all those who helped to make our Feast of the Ingathering a wonderful time of fellowship as we gathered together to give thanks to God for the blessings He has provided throughout the year.

CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE – On the table in the foyer is the post office for those who would like to give Christmas cards to those in our Body. Also, on the table is a list of those who regularly attend Living Word Assembly.

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER – The small Christmas tree on the table in the foyer is from the Pregnancy Resource Center in Iola. On each bow is located a baby item needed at the Center. You are encouraged to choose an item, purchase it and place it in the box under the table. **DO NOT WRAP THE ITEM.**

CHRISTMAS SEASON AND NEW YEAR SCHEDULE: There will be **NO Wednesday night activities on December 20th and 27th**. Christmas Eve service will be at **10 a.m. on December 24th**. We will have communion in that service. **WE WILL NOT BE RETURNING FOR AN EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE.**

As we begin the New Year the January 7th teaching time will focus on ***THE GREATEST SIN IN THE BIBLE.***

The January 14th service will feature a video teaching by Gateway Pastor Robert Morris, which will explain the Biblical mandate and strategy behind our emphasis on supporting Jewish ministries financially. **YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS INFORMATIVE AND CHALLENGING TEACHING.** [As always, these plans are subject to change if the Holy Spirit chooses to intervene and change our direction.]

Allegations of sexual harassment pile higher every day in Washington. Senator Al Franken, the Democrat from Minnesota, has been accused of groping women, while Michigan congressman John Conyers has stepped down from the House Judiciary Committee because he paid \$27,000 to a woman who accused him of inappropriate sexual behavior. And a Texas congressman, Republican Joe Barton, is in the hot seat because he texted nude photos to a woman.

And then there's Roy Moore, the feisty Alabama judge who has been accused of having a sexual relationship with a woman when she was underage. When combined with the serious accusations against Hollywood movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, the Anthony Weiner fiasco, the Bill Cosby trial and the sexual harassment scandals affecting companies such as Uber, the impact is beyond embarrassing. **We've been hit by a tsunami of shame.**

The rug has been pulled back, and now we see the disgusting truth—American women have been mistreated, abused, coerced, disrespected, catcalled and harassed in offices, boardrooms, courtrooms, gyms, film studios and the chambers of the U.S. Senate.

At this point it's comforting to remember that Jesus Christ had a perfect track record regarding women. Though He lived in a patriarchal culture that viewed women as property, He always respected and elevated them—and He never once did anything inappropriate with a woman, ever, during His time on earth.

While professing believers in Jesus are not always perfect in this regard, let's remember how Jesus treated women and make Him our example:

Jesus protected women from harassment. Women in ancient Israel could be accused of adultery even if they were simply caught alone with a man. When the Pharisees brought one accused woman to Jesus, they said they had caught her "in the very act" of adultery (John 8:4), even though they conveniently forgot to bring the man she was with. **Jesus refused to condemn her, and no stones were thrown.** Jesus doesn't tip the scales of justice to protect the powerful; He defends the vulnerable.

Jesus looked beyond a woman's sexuality and restored her dignity. When a prostitute heard that Jesus was dining at a Pharisee's house, she came there and poured anointing oil on His feet. **The Pharisee was shocked that Jesus let her touch Him, but Jesus looked past her sin to see her need for forgiveness (Luke 7:36-50).** Jesus never undressed a woman with His eyes, yet in total purity He could look inside her and see her heart's yearning.

Jesus gave marginalized women a voice. Jewish rabbis in ancient Israel didn't have female followers. Yet Jesus called several women to travel with Him, and they became some of his most loyal disciples (Luke 8:1-3). **Mary Magdalene, in fact, had the privilege of announcing His resurrection to Jesus' male followers.**

Jesus restored the equal value of women. When Jesus came to the house of Mary and Martha, He welcomed Mary to kneel at His feet and take the posture of a disciple—even though women traditionally were not allowed in such settings. When He told Martha that Mary had "chosen the good part" at His feet (Luke 10:42b), **He issued an invitation—calling all women to find their identity in Him.**

Jesus defended women from discrimination. Jesus went out of His way to speak to the Samaritan woman in John 4. **She had been divorced by five husbands—perhaps because she was barren or because of her behavior. Yet Jesus canceled every mark on her record and used her to convince an entire village to believe in Him.** In one day, He turned an outcast into a heroine.

Jesus redefined the worth of a girl. Girls were considered inferior in ancient Israel, yet when the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus died, Jesus raised her to life (Mark 5:21-24, 35-42; Luke 8:40-42, 49-56). **That miracle reminds us that God doesn't devalue girls or ignore their problems.**

Jesus acknowledged the contributions of women. When a poor widow put two coins worth very little in the collection box, **Jesus shined His spotlight on her and told the Pharisees that her gift was bigger than theirs because of her poverty** (see Luke 21:1-4). This would have been the verbal equivalent of cold water in the face to the proud Jewish leaders, who considered themselves superior to women. Yet Jesus is not afraid to confront heartless macho pride. **[continued on page 3]**

Jesus never used demeaning language with women. When Jesus healed a crippled woman in the synagogue, He called her to the front of the congregation (a definite taboo in those days) and then referred to her as **"a daughter of Abraham"** (Luke 13:16), **an endearing term that no rabbi would have used for a female.** Jesus changed the vocabulary. He didn't engage in demeaning locker-room talk about women—**He esteemed them and gave them spiritual dignity.**

Today, even men who occupy the highest offices in the land have proven to be sexual predators. It's obvious we need a new role model when it comes to how to treat women. **I nominate Jesus.**

RECENT TEACHINGS – The November 19th teaching entitled ***The Beatitude of THANKFUL*** is a priority teaching involving the scriptural instruction on giving thanks for things that we perceive to be good **AND FOR THINGS WE PERCEIVE TO BE BAD.** Ephesians 5:20 admonishes us to **ALWAYS GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THINGS.** This teaching explains why.

The November 26th teaching is the beginning of a series entitled ***The DNA of Christmas.*** This is one of the most important teachings of the year and deals with the question, **why did God create humans if He knew it would result in the death of Jesus on the cross? The answer will encourage and motivate you.**

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE – **Feast of the Ingathering Report** – We sat this year's goal at **\$40,000.** I thought that it might be difficult to reach that goal based on a number of factors. As of now, **\$65,949.55** has been received. It appears that the offering will reach **\$70,000.** **Let me tell you why. I am providing a link to an article that I am partially reprinting.** I read this article several weeks ago, and told our elders that I thought we should begin supporting Jewish Ministries. We have had several unexpected expenses, and finances have been tight. **I believe that God has now given us the "seed money" through the Feast to begin supporting ministries to bring Jesus to the Jewish people, who are on His heart.** Please read the abbreviated article and access the link. **As we all endeavor to walk in obedience, God will bless YOU and LWA.** <https://www.charismanews.com/culture/67173-gateway-founding-pastor-reveals-biblical-key-the-church-is-missing>

This article is by Grant Berry and was published at CharismaNews.com on 9-9-17.

"I have just completed my latest book on ***The One New Man between Jew and Gentile***, which will be launched in 2018. The book has somewhat of a different approach; not only to help the body of Mashiach/Christ move into this most special union, but also to lovingly deal with all of the issues that may be keeping Jewish and Gentile believers apart from it.

The new book focuses on the great significance of this spiritual reconnection and how God is moving His family towards it...Many of these spiritual leaders in both the church and Messianic bodies have unique and fresh perspectives given them from the Holy Spirit...

One such apostolic leader is **Pastor Robert Morris**, who shepherds **Gateway Church** in Dallas, Texas, one of the largest churches in the United States with 39,000 active members. Just recently, I interviewed Pastor Morris, and in our discussion, **he shared his heart and own experience about how God began to reveal the Israel connection to him.** This story and revelation is shared in one of Pastor Morris' teachings and sermons called **"Blessed to Be a Blessing,"** which is a must for all to watch to help us better understand this reconnection message...

First Fruits

The fruit of this revelation concerning his reconnection back to Israel, which was given to him by the Holy Spirit, has been an untold blessing both to his life personally and also to Gateway Church. **Once, when in conversation with the Lord, Pastor Morris asked Him why He has blessed him so much, and immediately the Lord responded, "Because you gave your first fruits to my firstborn."** **Gateway Church gives one tenth of its Mission's tithe to the Jew first through Israel-focused ministries; plus it is the first check written each month by their church office.** However, like many of us, this was not always Pastor Morris' view and in the teaching he shares how the Holy Spirit began to unveil the Israel piece to him...

In this spiritual awakening toward Israel and the Jewish people, Pastor Morris does not encourage our focus to be exclusive by any means, but rather to re-prioritize them [**continued on page 4**]

into the order that God has already established in His word for His kingdom purposes; **"To the Jew first and also to the Gentile,"** (according to Romans 1:16). Plus he encourages us to be open and honest with our Jewish friends; **to tell them what we personally believe that Yeshua/Jesus is our Messiah, and to earnestly encourage them to seek out this truth for themselves.**

First fruits thinking has also become staple at Gateway Church. Not only with their finances to bless Israel and the Jewish people, but also to help Jewish believers find the fullness of their identity; to help strengthen them in Mashiach/Christ...

PASTORAL COMMENT: I HAD SHARED WITH THE ELDERS THAT WE NEEDED TO BEGIN SUPPORTING JEWISH MINISTRIES BUT HAD NOT SAID ANYTHING TO ANYONE ELSE. GOD KNEW OUR INTENTION AND SEEMINGLY CONFIRMED IT WITH THE ABUNDANT FEAST OF THE INGATHERING OFFERING. LET'S PRAISE HIM FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS!!!

We absolutely believe that the Holy Spirit was leading us in October to begin supporting key Jewish ministries designed to bring the reality of Jesus to the Jewish people as their Messiah. The Feast offering was His confirmation and EXCLAMATION POINT!!!!!!! We are taking His instructions very seriously and have begun this week to support 7 Jewish ministries at \$300 a month each for a total of \$2,100 in addition to the other ministries and missionaries we support each month. We will pick up additional ministries as the funding becomes available.

One of the Jewish ministries we are now supporting is an outreach to Jews in Kansas City. The others are focused on people in Israel. Thank you for your obedience in giving. We are praying for and EXPECTING a blessing for you in accordance with the truths established regarding giving in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9.

CLEANSING THE CHURCH – When people commit their lives to the Lordship of Jesus He accepts them just as they are. Their sins are forgiven and heaven is their destiny. But most people enter the church carrying a large amount of **BAGGAGE** from their past. **Cleansing the Church** is a 4-month seminar designed to eliminate the **BAGGAGE** along with its affects and to bring healing into areas that have been under satan's control.

Session #1 deals with learning how to resist the Adamic nature in order to **walk in the Spirit** on a daily basis. This session teaches people how to come into **ALIGNMENT with scripture.**

Session #2 deals with **committing and consecrating** everything to God so there is nothing in our lives that competes with His desire, purpose, and will for us in His Kingdom.

Session #3 involves learning how to **speak words of life** into circumstances and situations we encounter. Scripture teaches that **our words contain the power of life and death.** This session shows the results of both.

Session #4 involves the **process of being cleansed** as a result of applying the truths learned in the first 3 sessions. This is where people learn to walk in freedom and deny jurisdiction or footholds to satan as a result of sinful decisions that have been made in the past.

These four sessions are followed by a retreat, which deals with **pressing towards the GOAL. The goal is to equip people to walk in the Spirit as opposed to being controlled by fleshly impulses when conflict and contention arises.**

To learn more about the cost, dates, timing, and other important details of this seminar, please talk to Bill Brown at 431-3859.