

# FAITH *In Focus*



Engaging the Word...Impacting the World

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## WELCOME TO FAITH!

### From Pastor Tom's Desk...

Lately I have become aware of the many ways in which we express trust in our daily living. I think we could probably put together a rather long list, such as...

- The trust I place in my doctor when I take the medicine he/she has prescribed
- The trust I place in my surgeon when I go under the knife
- The trust I place in my financial advisor when he/she says, "It's time to buy stock."
- The trust I place in my kids' teachers when I send them off to school
- The trust I place in the driver I am riding with
- The trust I place in the cook when I eat in a restaurant
- The trust I place in my banker when I deposit my pay check
- The trust I place in my friend when I share a confidence
- The trust I place in my bride when I say, "I do."
- The trust I place in my mechanic when I drop off my car for repairs
- The trust I place in my lawn service when I get their bill for my fertilizer treatments

- The trust I place in my ophthalmologist when he shoots my eye with nine laser beams
- The trust I place in my counselor when she says, "Here's what you need to do."

I could probably go on for some time. These are examples that randomly come to mind as I write. Here's what I would like you to notice: in each case, there is a factor that is beyond my control. When I undergo surgery, for example, I necessarily entrust my well-being to my surgeon. I don't have the option of staying awake to monitor how well he/she is doing!

This highlights the essence of trust. Trust, of course, is a central dimension of faith. When I profess to be "trusting in the Lord," I am saying that I am entrusting my well-being to His care. I am allowing Him to control issues and circumstances in my life that are beyond my own control. I may not know how He will accomplish that, but I live in the assurance that He will. Therefore, I live in the conviction that I will be OK, because the Lord is taking care of me. (This sounds a lot like the faith expressed by David in Psalm 23, doesn't it?)

When we say that we are "saved by faith," we are affirming that Jesus Christ will do for us that which is beyond our

*(Continued on page 2)*

control: that through His death and resurrection, He will forgive our sin and make us righteous in the eyes of God. Trust in Him, in this context, means trusting that He will give us eternal life even though we can never earn it.

The bottom line: faith is more than believing in Jesus. It is also trusting Him as your Savior and Lord.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

### Turkey Trip Registration...

Once again this year we will be sending a mission team to Turkey to assist the Tea House ministry team during their annual retreat. Our team, led by Jodi Shimp, will staff a Vacation Bible School for the children of the missionaries, as well as interact with the team. Dates for this trip are June 15-23. Registration deadline is February 29. Please speak with Jodi, 419-733-9909, for more information.

### Special Fund Closed...

Now that we have hired Pastor Trent and he is on salary, the elders have closed the donor-designated fund that they had set up for him. We are grateful for those who have supported Trent financially, and we invite you to transfer your giving to the General Fund, where it will be used to support Trent's salary.

### WNL Menu Correction...

This week's Wednesday Night Live meal will include: Deli Wraps, Baked Potato Soup, Salad Bar and Cookies.

The wrong menu was posted in the bulletin. Come and join us for Wednesday Night Live! Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m.

### Current Prayer Concerns...

- Cierra Otting, departing for Gabon on Feb. 10
- Bev and Todd Fridiger, in the death of Bev's father, Bernard Nedderman
- Fred and Barb Moeller, in the death of Fred's sister, Beverly Wilt
- Mitchell Nutt, recovering from back surgery
- Erin Zimpfer, recovering from surgery
- Erin Zimpfer's mom, recovering from a stroke
- Bob Finke, Shelly's father, heart cath on Feb. 9
- Gene Dirksen, cousin of John Schulze, death of his wife
- Ben Boyle's sister, Angie, brain tumor
- Chris Bowers, undergoing chemotherapy
- Jay Berkey, awaiting consultation
- Brent Paulus, on-going illness
- John Schulze's niece, Megan, auto accident, recovering from surgery

### Luncheon for New Attenders...

We will be offering our "Starting Point" luncheon on Sunday, February 28, following the second service.



"Starting Point" is an informal lunch that provides information about our mission and program to persons who are relatively new to the church. You'll meet some

new friends over lunch, and then each staff person will share the highlights of their ministry area. Please call the church office, 419-629-3688, to make a reservation. Kids and teens are welcome!

### Spaghetti Dinner, February 14...

The Gabon mission team will be serving a Hope House style dinner for all interested persons on Sunday, February 14, from 11:00 am.–2:00 p.m. Spaghetti is one of the staples at the Hope House, our partner orphanage in Libreville. Our meal will be prepared as Pastor Israel and Mama Natalie prepare it for the kids there. The made-from-scratch spaghetti will be accompanied by a baguette.



All proceeds for this meal will go to the travel costs of the Gabon mission team. Come and enjoy a delicious meal and support our mission outreach at the same time!

### Financial Report

Offering January 31, 2016

General Fund: \$4,752

Local Mission: \$158

Great Commission: \$830

Care Fund: \$60

Building Fund: \$74

Love & Hope Envelopes: \$170

Cierra Otting Mission Trip: \$175

Tea House: \$10; Joel Meyer: \$50

Gabon Mission Trip: \$50

E4 Sewing Ministry: \$500

### “Paint and Praise” Fundraiser for Cierra Otting...

On Saturday, February 27, 2016, at Faith Alliance Church, Rhonda Hager will hold an art session and instruct painters how to create a Seascape painting. A continental breakfast will be available at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The art session will be held in Room 5 of the Education Unit at 10:30. Devotions will be led by Loresa Burden during the class. The cost is \$25 per person and space is limited to 25 painters. Proceeds will go to Cierra Otting’s Mission Trip. You may register in the church lobby before and after services today and on February 7 and February 14.



### Attendance

Week of January 31, 2016

9:00 Worship – 92

10:30 Worship – 156

Kids – 12 ; Adult Workers – 12

Youth Discipleship–6

Total Worship – 278

International Class – 10

Wednesday Night Live!

CONNECT–40

Kids– 32; Adult workers–9

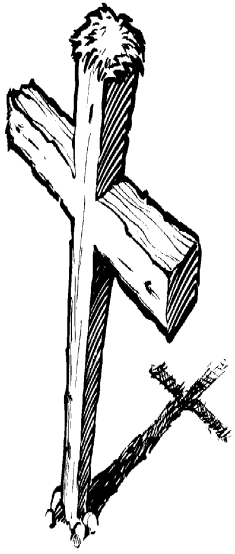
Youth Group – 32 students; 3 adults

### HOPE Ministry...

HOPE Ministry (Helping Other People Everyday) is a group working to be God’s hands and feet by showing love to members of our congregation and community by meeting needs brought to the group’s attention through outreach opportunities. If you are interested in being in such a group, please contact Shelly Finke or the church office. Our monthly meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Before our March 7 meeting, we plan to visit with the residents of St. Marys Living Center.



# RENEW



# COMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 7, 2016

### Today

- 9:00... Early Service
- 9:00... Discipleship Class
- 10:30... Late Service
- 10:30... Kids Church

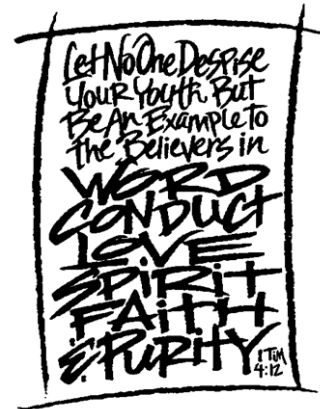
- Feb. 12 ...Last Overtime
- Feb. 19 ...Scene 75
- Feb. 26 ...Dodgeball Fundraiser
- Mar. 11-12 ...Youth Lock-In
- Mar. 13 ...Pie Auction



# MINISTRIES

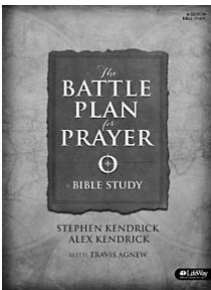
### This Week

- Wednesday...Youth Group...6-8:30 pm
- Friday...Overtime...9:30 pm–12 am



## 8-Session Bible Study from Stephen and Alex Kendrick...

Develop a deeper walk with God as you seek the Lord for your battles first. *The Battle Plan for Prayer Bible Study* equips believers to create their own prayer strategy and be specific and strategic in prayer. This study features teaching by Alex and Stephen Kendrick on the topics of: what prayer is and is not, why God wants us to pray, specific areas of prayer, specific strategies for prayer, and more.



This Bible study will be offered on Thursday mornings at 9:30 at the home of Luan Louis, 310 Mill St., New Knoxville, beginning March 3. If you would like to join this study, please contact her at 419-230-4713, or [Luan@nktelco.net](mailto:Luan@nktelco.net), so she can order the workbooks. They will cost approximately \$14.00.

## An Early Start to Spring Cleaning...

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, *Lent* comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is the ideal time for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith – and it's never too early for that.

