

Sunshine Church of Christ

Volume 50, Issue 37

Sunday, September 20, 2015

www.sunshine-church.org

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Diamonds in the Night

By: Susan M. Watkins

Have you noticed the stars lately? Taken the time to look up? Shining above us, silently declaring their obedience with stationary positions. The sky is endless; God's blackboard of promises. It's also the venue displaying His glory. I don't know about you, but my night sky gets cloudy from time to time. Obscured by stormy circumstance and causing me to lose sight of God's tailored plan.

Clouds shrouded Abram's view too. Dedicated to God and the original pattern of a surrendered life. Yet, like me, he felt a questioning that ebbed and flowed with passing years. The Bible records the first tithe in Genesis 14. Melchizedek receives Abram's tenth and in less than one inch of text, God unwrapped His secret plans to this committed servant.

And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be" ([Genesis 15:5](#)).

Sparkling diamonds against black velvet skies. Stars used to tally a new nation. Abram stared up in wonderment as celestial promises were made regarding his posterity. From the expanse of heaven, Israel twinkled down illuminating the darkness. Holy astronomy.

Sometimes, I stay indoors too long. Life's demands keep me busy. So busy, that I'm focused inward with restricted vision; trained only on what's before me. Like He did with Abram, I'm led outside, into the fresh air of purpose and inhale deeply. My eyes need adjusting to the view. His view. I'm invited to leave earth's confines and move freely about God's domain. Everything looks different from this vantage point. Suddenly, what appeared as insurmountable problems are now reduced to manageable sizes. Worries and concerns melt away in God's majestic presence. Weights and pressures drug about like millstones, become airborne as His faithfulness envelops me. My outlook assumes His, and I find myself lying down once more in His contented green pastures.

There are times the Lord must take us outside. Must separate us from what has become our routine, to look up instead of down, and reestablish His pristine rhythm. He must change the status quo and shift the gear for our acceleration. After all, His reputation is on the line. Over the decades of knowing Him personally, I've received numerous promises from Him. Hope for things unseen, yet authorized for fulfillment. A hallowed "Purchase Order" already in hand but the transaction incomplete. In this silent interim we grow. Likened to pregnancy, each month, each trimester brings us closer to birth. We are secluded inside our tent. Waiting on a word we sometimes question will manifest. It's easy to believe the promise, but what about the prolonged delivery?

Story continued on page 3



Prayer Concerns

For our national leaders and world leaders as they lead their respective nations.

For our troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Korea, Iraq, Liberia, Haiti and other places.

For the "people in the box"-- the lost in our families and community.

For those who are being martyred and persecuted for Christ in our own time

For marriage to stand in our laws as God ordained it.

For the church in Siliguri and Naresh Chhetri and Ashok Basfor

For the churches in Honduras and Haiti who partner with us in the gospel

Jim Young (Terri Young's husband) has stabilized for now.

Peggy Hollback recuperating at home from transplant.

Margaret Ann Reed recuperating from a sprained shoulder, will have knee surgery soon.

Garnet Lindeman stable for now. Living at Nancy's house.

Alan Graff starting new chemo regimen in a few weeks.

Henry Mason now at home, current treatments taking a toll on him

Morgan Castle (Valley Schools), bad car accident, life-flighted to St Mary's in Huntington. Still in critical condition

Gus Spears (Shaun and Aaron McCray's 5 month old nephew in Cincinnati) now in Children's Hospital in Cincinnati in serious condition.

David Bradshaw had his knee surgery on Wednesday and was able to come home Wednesday pm. He is healing now and waiting to start rehab on the knee.

Phyllis White (Kaye Hammond's sister) in SOMC this week for renal failure. Home for now but may have to go on to Columbus soon.

October Sweet Monday

Meeting in the Annex at 7 pm. Please make plans to be there.

Singing Tonight

This evening at 6 pm all are invited to come and enjoy a time of singing before our evening Bible study.

See Nick Davis for details.



Coming Events

Looking Ahead at Sunshine

9/21	Innermission Welcome Back Dinner
9/26	Acappella Concert in Waverly
9/25-26	Roundlake Men's Retreat
10/4	Baby Bottle Deadline
10/5	October Sweet Monday
10/4-25	Sunday PM Home Groups
10/23-24	Sunshine Men's Retreat at Fort Hill
11/13-14	Ladies Retreat at Scioto Hills

Acappella Concert/Reunion Tickets

All former members of the Elm Grove/Piketon Youth group are having a reunion at the Pike County Fairgrounds September 25-27. Of course, others are certainly welcome. **Originally tickets to the reunion were advertised for \$25/ person. However, the reunion is now free to any who wants to come. A donation box will be available for anyone who wants to donate.** Several guest speakers are slated to speak and on Saturday afternoon, at 1 pm, Acappella will be giving a concert at Waverly High School as part of the reunion. Details are posted throughout our building. **Tickets to the Acappella concert are available from Spike and Jean Ferrell or Jason and Tammy Foster. Tickets to the concert are \$15.**

Help with Acappella Concert Needed

Several people are needed to help move staging and speaker equipment on Friday, September 25, at the Waverly High School to get set up for the Acappella Concert. Please see Jason Foster right away if you are willing and able to help.

Teen News

September 26: The youth group will be meeting at the church on Sept 26 at 11:30 to go to the Acappella concert. After the concert we will go out to dinner before attending the speaking and worship that evening at the Pike County Fair Grounds. Each person is responsible for obtaining their own concert ticket. If you plan to attend please sign up in the foyer, if you can drive to the event please indicate that on the sign up sheet. The van will not be available that weekend

Baby Bottle Collection

Representatives from Elizabeth's Hope visited us last Sunday evening to give us an update on their ministry to women with unplanned pregnancies. The baby bottles were handed out and we have October 4 as the deadline to get them back full of change or folding money. You can bring them back to any service on or before October 4. Please hand your baby bottle to one of the deacons. They will keep them in a safe place until all have been collected.

Roundlake Men's Retreat

September 25 and 26 Christian men from all over Ohio are invited to Roundlake Christian Youth Camp in Lakeville, Ohio, for a weekend of great speakers, golf and wonderful food. Cost is \$56/person. Details are posted. See Jamie Riley for details.

Minford Concession Stand Help

At the football game on Friday evening, September 25, we need 20-25 volunteers from the congregation to help with the concession stands at the MHS football field. Show up at 5:45 pm and be ready to work.

Sign up on the pad on the table. Wear something that identifies you as part of Sunshine church, please. Details, see Shaun or Lisa McCray.

Sunday PM Home Group Update

We could use one or two more homes to have our groups. See Steve ASAP to get your pad laid out on the table for sign up. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered their homes. In two weeks the home groups begin.

Home Group Sign Up Begins

Today the pads are laid out on the table in the foyer for home group sign up. Hosts, if there are restrictions please write them on your sign up pad. People, some of the groups need to be limited numberwise. Please be aware of the size of the group and any restrictions the host writes before signing up. We have two weeks before the groups begin.

Details on the Men's Retreat

The men's retreat this year is at Fort Hill, starting Friday, October 23, with supper being served at 6:30 pm. As already mentioned Ben Merold is the guest speaker on the theme of Fundamentals for Kingdom Growth. Cost for meals is \$22.50/person (three meals: supper, breakfast, lunch) and another \$7.50 if you stay overnight. That's an even \$30.00. We should be done around 2 pm Saturday afternoon. Pay all fees on Friday evening at camp. Ben will be making a couple presentations at camp and will be leading a Q and A session after lunch on Saturday. Ben is going to be talking about the things his churches did to move from 175 and 350 in attendance to 3000. Every male Christian in the congregation needs to be there to help us develop a strategy for growth. Ben will also be bringing the morning lesson on Sunday for the congregation. Sign Up starts today for the men's retreat. We need a count for food preparation.



"Be Our Guest!"

Ladies, please plan to attend the Sunshine Ladies Retreat on November 13-14 at Scioto Hills Christian Camp. Come and "Be Our Guest" as we share in prayer, fellowship, and fun! Details to come. Please see Cheryl or Mandi with any questions.

Welcome Back Innermission Dinner!

Monday, September 21, at 6:30 at the Innermission building. There is a sign-up sheet in the back to sign up for side dishes and desserts. Anyone willing to make food can bring them to the building on the 21st by 5:45.

New Citizen of the Kingdom

Hunter Gahm confessed Jesus as Lord and was baptized in his name on Wednesday just before Bible study. Hunter is the son of Troy and Julie Gahm. We congratulate Hunter and his whole family today. Be sure and give Hunter the



Story continued from the front page:

"Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass." [Joshua 21:45](#)

Just like Abram, we must exit our tents and look up toward heaven, counting the innumerable. For unless we're willing to change our geography and go outside, we'll never see the stars. Our destiny is not inside the dusty tent, but rather in the open and displayed above us. God intentionally chooses the dark to reveal His light. Have you tried looking at the stars in the daylight? It's in the dark, the secret places, that the Lord shines brightest and we see Him clearest. None are tasked to find stars at noon, only to exit our pre-conceived expectations that often lead to misunderstanding God's movements. Without that shift, our purpose is hidden in plain sight and we can become hopeless. Or worse, think that God has stopped working on our behalf. He hasn't. It's all about perfect timing. We simply need to unfold that yellowed, dog-eared paper and reread our personal promises. After all, time crawled long before Isaac ever did. Let God take you outside. Maybe it's time the two of you went stargazing again.

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THOSE WHO SERVE



Sun. Morning	9/20/2015	9/27/2015
Welcome	Rich Book	Don Coriell
Reading	Alan Graff	Jim Jacobs
Midservice Prayer	Dusty Henry	Aaron Kallner
Communion	Aaron McCray	Shaun McCray
Sermon	Steve Miller	Jamie Riley
Closing Prayer	Jason Coriell	Jared McCray
Sun. Evening	9/20/2015	9/27/2015
Song Leader	Zach Coriell	Jacob Miller
Reading	Roger Cooper	Mark Villinger
Communion	Derek Miller	Gabe Coriell
Assist	PJ McGaughey	Jason Henthorn
Prayer	Shane Mougey	Shawn Gragg
Wed. Evening	9/23/2015	9/30/2015
Song Leader	Matthew Hoskins	Caleb Miller
Prayer	Dewey Cordle	Rich Book

Regular Service Times

Sunday

Worship - 10:00 am

Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

This bulletin is a publication of the Sunshine Church of Christ. To learn more about the Church of Christ you may contact us at the telephone number or address on the front cover. Deadline for each issue is 3 p.m. Saturday. Content should be emailed to info@sunshine-church.org

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AND THE LORD SAID UNTO NOAH, COME THOU AND ALL THY HOUSE INTO THE ARK; FOR THEE HAVE I SEEN RIGHTEOUS BEFORE ME IN THIS GENERATION. OF EVERY CLEAN BEAST THOU SHALT TAKE TO THEE BY SEVENS,

THE MALE AND HIS FEMALE: AND OF BEASTS THAT ARE NOT CLEAN BY TWO, THE MALE AND HIS FEMALE. OF FOWLS ALSO OF THE AIR BY SEVENS, THE MALE AND THE FEMALE;

TO KEEP SEED ALIVE UPON THE FACE OF ALL THE EARTH.

FOR YET SEVEN DAYS, AND I WILL CAUSE IT TO RAIN UPON THE EARTH FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS; AND EVERY LIVING SUBSTANCE THAT I HAVE MADE WILL I

How many creatures do you see in this drawing of Noah's ark?

