

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Shining the Everlasting Light of Our Lord Jesus Christ Let His Light Shine in Us All.

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BETHANY CHURCH OF WANCHESE • NORTH CAROLINA'S OUTER BANKS • AUGUST 2026

Lessons from Grass Mowing

I have always thought a well-manicured lawn is pleasant to look at. I am working on the one at the parsonage. I love looking at the yard after I have mowed and seeing the fruits of my labor. I find that mildly rewarding. I think it is because in my "real job," I can't always see the result of my labor.

Some people feel the same way about making a bed first thing in the morning. It is a good way to start your day with an accomplishment. It has never been my favorite activity. But since it is only me and Teddy, I get to decide how many pillows I want on the bed. Some of you men will understand that statement.

The parsonage yard is a work in progress, but I am determined. I am sure you are thinking, "*Why are to writing about grass?*" I am glad you asked. As I am doing yard work, I am reminded of the truth about lawn care. Weeds are stubborn and will cause problems in your beautiful yard. They are hard to kill and can find creative ways to invade your yard.

You know where this is going don't you? I have found that life work is much like yard work. We do the things necessary to make it beautiful, meaningful, productive, and worthwhile. We try to grow the "*Fruits of the Spirit*" in the garden of our lives. (Remember that sermon series?)

However, the weeds are always ready to spring forth and ruin what we are trying to create. Jesus said this in Matthew 13:38 "**The weeds are the sons of the evil one and the enemy who sows them is the devil.**" The devil is always trying to plant weeds in our lives, our yards, our gardens.

He tries to get us to **think** the wrong thing, *a weed*, **do** the wrong thing, *a weed*, **say** the wrong thing, *a weed*. He will even try to guide us into "*weed*" relationships. And the devil knows us well. He knows the weakest part of our lives. He knows the best place to grow the weeds.

So, we need to recognize who the enemy is and what he is trying to do in our minds (what we think), our actions (what we do), and our words (what we say). So, I have to ask myself. "**David, where is the "weed devil" trying to ruin your life, your yard, your garden?"**

I wish that was all we had to deal with, but it's not. Jesus said this in Luke 8:14. "**The seed that fell among the thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures and they do not mature.**"

Wow! Another question I have to ask myself. "**David, what worries are ruining your peace? What greed is getting in the way of your joy? What pleasure is chasing out more important things?"**

I want to create a beautiful yard and a beautiful life. For that reason, I have to get the weeds out and keep them out. That task could be depressing. But then I am reminded of what John said in his first letter: "**The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.**"

I am not doing my "yard work, garden work" by myself. Jesus my comforter, my counselor, my helper, is right there with me. He knows how to get the weeds out and keep them out. So, I need to walk with Him. I need to do what the old song says: "**Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.**"

I still have weeds in my yard and weeds in my life. But Jesus loves me and is going to help me. See you in church, the place where people gather to get help with the weeds.

In His Service,

David.

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Monthly Schedule:

Bethany Women's Group:

Thursday, August 6, at 7:00 pm

Hosts: Merlee and Millie

S.A.L.T. Sisters

Monday, August 17 at 6:30 pm

Bethany's Table:

Wednesday, August 12

Preparation Day 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Thursday, August 13

Meals Packaged 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Deliveries 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Methodist Men:

Thursday, August 13 at 6:30 pm

Dinner and Fellowship

Feeding the Lifeguards:

Thursday, August 13 at 6:30 pm

Hosts: Methodist Men

Special dates:

Purple Heart Day, August 7

August Nursery Volunteers			
Date:	Nursery Workers	Acolytes	Children's Church
August 2nd	Millie Barkley/ Tasha Curles	No Acolyte	No Children's Church / VBS Program
August 9th	Nancy Doak / Jennifer Gilbert	Macon Morrill	Carol Saunders / Sheila Garrison
August 16th	Stormy Heroux / Opportunity To Serve	Becca Tawes	Jessica Davenport / Laura Mann
August 23th	Carol Saunders / Victoria Meekins	Kate Smith	Jessica Davenport / Millie Barkley
August 30st	Becky Beacham / Misty Curles	Owen Meekins	Luke and Victoria Meekins

Weekly Meetings at Bethany:

Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School (Classes for All Ages)

10:30 am Worship – Sanctuary

Live Stream: Bethany YouTube and Facebook

Tuesday

9:30 am Morning Bible Study

7:00 pm Evening Bible Study

Wednesday

6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Friday

9:00 am Mc Prayer

(Darrell's Restaurant)

MINISTRIES AT BETHANY

Meal Train – Jennifer Hamlen 919-665-7993

Y.A.L. – Outreach to New Mothers

Sheila Garrison 804-239-5242

College Students – Sheila Garrison 804-239-5242

Preacher David S. Clift

Church 252-473-5254

Cell 843-957-5626

[Email: dsclift@gmail.com](mailto:dsclift@gmail.com)

Many people in our church family remember Milah P. Meekins, "Ms. Milah," who taught many a Wanchese boy and girl at the old schoolhouse. She was also a colorful and devoted member of Bethany. Ms. Milah took an interest in my husband, Wayne Gray, when he was a curious, intelligent, yet troubled little boy. She went above and beyond her duties to give him special attention. She once sewed a little pillow, filled it with rock salt, and heated it up for him to lay his ear on when it ached during school hours. One day after a lesson, elementary-aged Wayne said, "I didn't know that." Ms. Milah retorted in her matter-of-fact way, "What you don't know would fill a very large library." She knew how to keep someone humble.

I felt like Wayne this month because there were a lot of things I didn't know. I didn't know what to serve as a protein for our meal. All the vegetables had come forward, but when Donna Pologruto asked what we were serving this month, I had to say, "I don't know, maybe a July 4th item if I can find one on sale." The next day, Donna and Larry called me from Food Lion. I was in an area where the phone service was patchy. I thought they were telling me the price of smoked brats at the store. Was I way off! It turns out they were arranging to have chicken thigh and leg quarters roasted at the store. I didn't know Food Lion provided a service like that. Then, I didn't understand that they were going to purchase them for Bethany's Table. In my ignorance, I committed a major faux pas as I started asking how much per pound were the leg quarters and then calculated out loud how much per serving they would be. I was obviously confused and wallowing in all that I didn't know.

When the light bulb finally came on, I was able to appreciate what Donna and Larry had done for our Lord and our recipients. In addition, Island Farm in Manteo donated over 70 pounds of Irish potatoes (or "arsh" potatoes as the old timers used to say). They were fresh out of the ground. Zucchini and yellow squash from the church garden were used to make squash casserole and zucchini muffins. Cucumbers from the Dare Challenge

Women's Center rounded out our local-as-it-gets side dishes.

It was great to see Damir Beasley back in Wanchese after a time in Ukraine. Speaking of sunny dispositions, Chloe Utz helped us deliver this month. We thought Kali-Jo Beasley was going to use her new learner's permit on her delivery route, but it turned out that Pop Walker did the driving. Tim Morrill recruited Dean Shillings to come pack meals. Dean grew up in the Bethany family, and it was good to have him back home.

In July, we served a roasted chicken thigh and leg quarter, buttery Irish potatoes, Posh Squash casserole, cucumbers in Ranch dressing, and a zucchini muffin to 193 people at \$1.09 per person with 19 adult and 4 young volunteers. (With thanks to our generous donors for the low food cost!) We had enough extra potatoes, squash, and muffins to send to the lifeguards that evening.



Milah Meekins shares a story with Cliff Tillett. (Marcy Mann photo.)



5 - Hughie Basnight
 5 - Clint Hepler
 6 - Denise Mann
 6 - Lori Wells
 7 - Kaleb Rogers
 Amber
 8 - Larry Franklin
 9 - Sally Defosse
 9 - Danny Burdette
 10 - Braydon Mann
 11 - Forest Davis
 12 - JoAnne Clift
 Linda
 12 - Rylee Simonsen
 13 - Amy Garretson
 13 - Charlie Dunn
 15 - Ashlen James
 15 - Edward Mann
 16 - Carol Etheridge
 16 - Abby Flowers
 17 - Ned Ashby
 18 - Mitchell Bateman
 19 - Brenda Hall
 19 - Becca Herring Williams
 20 - Tina Leonard
 20 - Brett Houston
 21 - David Clift
 22 - Gregory Austin
 24 - Kael Tillett
 29 - Gaither Midgette
 29 - James Meade Shackelford
 30 - Adrienne Midgett
 31 - Stephen Bateman



1 - Jim and Connie
 Troutman
 2 - Allen and Sue
 Berry
 10 - Jeffery and
 Malarney
 10 - David and Tricia
 Tawes
 10 - Zach and Demi
 Walker
 11 - Lamont and
 Warren
 16 - Steve and Carol
 Etheridge
 27 - Roy and Minta
 Bragg
 30 - Percy and Lisa
 Hunter



TITHES

JUNE AND JULY

We need \$6,109.33 weekly.

In June, we needed \$24,437.32 and our offerings were \$21,006.75.

In July, we needed \$24,437.32. As of July 20, our offerings were \$18,000.00.



CUDWORTH CEMETERY

Please remember your cemetery dues for mowing at the Cudworth Cemetery.

Dues are \$25.00 per lot, annually.

Make your payment to: Cudworth Cemetery Fund
 P. O. Box 100 Wanchese, NC 27981.



BETHANY METHODIST MEN MEETING

On August 13th, the Bethany men will meet (**now the**

second Thursday of each month). We will share the meeting with Dare Challenge participants.

We will have dinner starting at 6:30, a devotion, and Dare Challenge men will deliver their personal testaments. We will also be delivering pizzas to the lifeguards' dinner.

Our ultimate goal is to grow the Methodist Men fellowship which will also include involving young men.

I encourage you to join us to learn and grow in our faith in Jesus.

Larry Franklin

Bethany Methodist Men's Leader



MEALS FOR LIFEGUARDS

Thursday, August 13, at 6:30 pm

Hosts: Methodist Men

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact Becky Beacham 252-473-5313. She can give you more information.



BETHANY COLLEGE STUDENT MINISTRY WANTS YOU!

It's hard to believe the time is near for many of our recent high school grads to begin packing up and moving into college dorms! Others will

be returning to continue their studies. We will send prayers of support and love from Bethany wherever they may be in their next chapter, as well as periodically mailing care packages to each and every one on our new 2026/2027 roster. In order to ensure the roster is current and correct, please submit the following information for each new and returning student to be included in this ministry: full name; school attending; mailing address at school (with room #, box #, as applicable).

Sheila Garrison

SCHOOL SUPPLIES MINISTRY



Again this year during the month of August, we will be accepting monetary contributions and school items. There will be a box in the choir room to place your items in. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make a notation on your check or envelope indicating "school supplies."

On Sunday, August 16, we will have a special offering for school supplies.

Remember: "It takes a village..."



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We will have a blessing of the backpacks during the

morning worship service on Sunday, August 23. Children and youth are asked to bring their backpacks to church, and we will pray for each child and their backpacks.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FALL FUNDRAISERS



FRIED SHRIMP FUNDRAISER

Friday, September 11,
starting at 4:00 pm

Church front parking lot drive thru

Menu: Fried Shrimp Dinner

cole slaw – green beans – hush puppies

Cost: Donation



We will need people to bake homemade cakes, pies,

brownies, fudge, rice

krispie treats, cupcakes, etc. for the bake sale. (No desserts that need to be refrigerated, please).



BREAK THE CHAINS 11TH ANNUAL 5K

Saturday, September 26,
Wanchese Community Building

RAIN OR SHINE

Gathering 7:30 am Race Begins 8:00 am

Cost: Donations – proceeds will go to a special fund created to help pay for those in our community that need to seek treatment for addictions.

Registrations: Go to the following link or use the QR code <https://form.jotform.com/261884227773064>



THE MORNING OF THE RACE

Pancakes and Sausage
Saturday, September 26,
8:00 am – 11:00 am

Cost: Donation

Proceeds go to Haiti Mission

AUGUST 2026

MAY YOUR HEART BE FILLED WITH GOD'S GRACE....
in Jesus Name...

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2 Celebrating VBS	3	4 9:30 Morning Bible Study 7:00 Evening Bible Study	5 6:30 Praise Team Practice	6 7:00 Bethany's Women Group Hosts: Merlee and Millie	7 9:00 McPrayer	8
9 Communion	10	11 9:30 Morning Bible Study 7:00 Evening Bible Study	12 1:00 – 3:00 Bethany's Table Preparation Day 6:30 Praise Team Practice	13 Bethany's Table 3:00 – 4:00 Meals Packaged 4:00 – 5:30 Deliveries 6:30 Methodist Men Dinner & Fellowship 6:30 Feeding Lifeguards Hosts: Methodist Men	14 9:00 McPrayer 5:30 – 8:30 His K.R.E.W. and Crossroad Kids Field Trip Jockey's Ridge	15
16 Special Offering School Supplies 3:30 Daniels Day	17 6:30 S.A.L.T. Sisters	18 9:30 Morning Bible Study 7:00 Evening Bible Study	19 6:30 Praise Team Practice	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21 9:00 McPrayer	22
23 Blessing of the Backpacks	24 First Day Of School	25 9:30 Morning Bible Study 7:00 Evening Bible Study	26 6:30 Praise Team Practice	27 6:00 – 8:00 Preschool Orientation 6:30 Administrative Leadership Team Meeting	28 9:00 McPrayer	29
30	31					

Bethany Preschool

Back to School

— Open House
— **August 27th**
— 6pm-8pm
—
— School Starts on
— **September 8th**

For More Information
Please Contact us!

252-473-1235



BETHANY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



DURING THE PAST MONTH, THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF BETHANY CHURCH HAVE DISCUSSED THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN (LUKE 15:8-10) AND THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP (MATTHEW 18:12-14). BOTH OF THE LESSONS REMIND US HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO REPENT AND FOLLOW GOD. WE ARE NOT WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US OR EVEN HOW POORLY WE MIGHT THINK OF OURSELVES. GOD DECIDES OUR VALUE AND WE ARE ALL VALUABLE TO HIM. WE SHOULD BE GOOD SHEEP AND WALK WITH GOD.



**Bethany Church Children and Youth
Crossroads Kids & His K.R.E.W.
Pizza Picnic and Jockey's Ridge Boarding Fun
Friday, August 14, 2026
5:30PM Bus will depart from Bethany
8:30PM Bus will return to Bethany
Please bring a board if you have one.**

Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'

Just so, I tell you,
**THERE IS JOY BEFORE
THE ANGELS OF GOD
OVER ONE SINNER
WHO REPENTS.**
(Luke 15:8-10)

**VISIT THIS LINK TO REVIEW THE SCRIPTURES DISCUSSED AND COLOR PAGES SHARED -
[HTTPS://CANVA.LINK/BETHANY-CHILDREN-YOUTH-PRAYER-JOURNAL](https://canva.link/bethany-children-youth-prayer-journal)**

Our Prayer List... *In Your Mercies Lord. Hear our Prayers*

NEW PRAYER CONCERNS

Gregory Austin	Edith Gaskill
Carol Copeland	Deanna Hekking
Karl Daniels	Kay Mihovch
	Rusty Stetson



Logan Bonner	Unspoken
Elizabeth Chabay	Unsaved
Jason Galloway	Caregivers
Kyle Gaskill, Jr.	Haiti
Darren Gibbs	Our Nation and Leaders
Dylon Griffin	in Nursing Homes
Vova Lebediev	The Peace of Israel
Colby Moore	Those in Prison
John Snider	Ukraine
Jonson Utz	

ONGOING PRAYERS

Roy and Sharon Ambrose	Dionne Glover
Dylan Baker	Siobhan Hall
DeLana Barkley	Kristine Hamilton
Wayne Barnett	Ruth Hayes
Walter Baum	Ted Hemilright
Tatum Beale	Vova Lebediev
Mike Beasley	Linda Mann
Freddie Blackmon	Karen Martin
G. G. Bonner	Babs Meekins
Nathan Boone	R. S. Meekins
Glenn Bradley	Paul Midgett
Jimmy Bulfin	Ted Midgett
Eric Craddock	Brandy Flynt Moore
Michelle Cribb	Linda O'Neal
Jennifer Delio	Missy Ogden
Katy Dettmer	Holly Presgrave
Joe Doak	Sharon Ralph
Linda Dunn	Johnnie Robbins
Karen Etheridge	Scott Sawyer
Sharen Etheridge	Stan Sawyer
Pat Fields	Ashley Seay
Jordan Ford	Gayle Tillett
Dawn Gerakaris	Lacy Williams
	Joe Willis



LOST LOVED ONES

HAITI MISSION

For quite some time now, Sonson has been looking for a job, but there are none where he's living. He lives in the far northern part of Haiti, called Cap Haitian.

Cap Haitian is the town next to Laberde which is where the cruise ships go. Most people who cruise there don't realize they're actually going to Haiti. They think it's a country of its own.

Back at the end of May, Sonson went to the police station and asked how he could join the police force. He was told that if he wanted to join, he would be sent to Port-au-Prince for six months of training. He joined and has just completed his third week of training. After training he will be sent somewhere for four months. He said he probably won't be able to see his family for a year. It seems like a lot of time, but thinking about my military days, I can certainly understand.

Back when we were traveling to Haiti building the orphanage, one of the original orphans, a girl named Jenny was really special to us. Sonson had a child out of wedlock that had a lot of problems. Jenny was one of the main caregivers for the little girl who later died. Jenny aged out of the orphanage and has been out on her own trying to make a life for herself. She had a house she was renting, which in Haiti is usually one room. About a week ago she contacted me and said bandits (gang members) had come to her house the night before and put a gun in her face and took everything, which wasn't much. Then they told her run or they'd kill her. She said she ran out in the street and saw dead bodies. So right now, she's homeless living place to place. Jenny has asked us to ask people if they can help her. She needs to rent a new place because she's not going back to where she was living.

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who has helped with Haiti over the years.
Chetty & Craig



The church has scheduled a time for pictures to be taken for a new **CHURCH DIRECTORY**. Pictures will be taken on Friday, September 25, from 2:00 pm to 8:30 pm and Saturday, September 26, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. You can sign up online Monday – Friday. For those who prefer signing up on paper, that can be done at church on Sundays. This information is on the table in the sanctuary near the entrance doors. **We need everyone to sign up as quickly as possible to make sure we have enough time slots.** If we need more slots, they will add a third day for appointments.

To sign up online go to www.ucdir.com

Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled photography appointment scheduling login

Enter your church code **nc629**

Enter your church password **photos629**

You can also use this QR code to get to the web site



The more pictures we have taken, the more credits we get to have extra church group pictures. There will also be an up-to-date roster with names, addresses, and phone numbers.

Each family will get a free 8 X 10 picture and a directory. You do not have to purchase additional pictures.

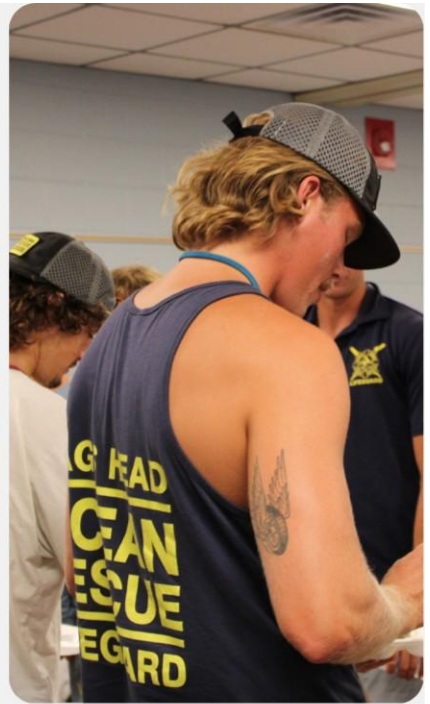
31-Day Scripture Writing Challenge

August

God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|--------------------|
| ☐ Aug. 1 | 1 Peter 2:24 | ☐ Aug. 17 | 1 Corinth. 13:12 |
| ☐ Aug. 2 | Luke 18:42-43 | ☐ Aug. 18 | James 1:27 |
| ☐ Aug. 3 | Genesis 4:7 | ☐ Aug. 19 | Romans 1:17 |
| ☐ Aug. 4 | Romans 5:8 | ☐ Aug. 20 | Revelation 3:21 |
| ☐ Aug. 5 | Ephesians 1:7 | ☐ Aug. 21 | John 8:12 |
| ☐ Aug. 6 | Mark 11:25 | ☐ Aug. 22 | James 2:17 |
| ☐ Aug. 7 | Psalms 103:12 | ☐ Aug. 23 | 2 Corinth. 12:9-10 |
| ☐ Aug. 8 | Romans 10:9-10 | ☐ Aug. 24 | 1 Chron. 16:10 |
| ☐ Aug. 9 | Proverbs 19:11 | ☐ Aug. 25 | Isaiah 6:3 |
| ☐ Aug. 10 | Lam. 3:31-32 | ☐ Aug. 26 | Habakkuk 3:3-4 |
| ☐ Aug. 11 | Psalms 119:28 | ☐ Aug. 27 | Zechariah 2:11 |
| ☐ Aug. 12 | Habakkuk 3:17-18 | ☐ Aug. 28 | Revelation 1:7 |
| ☐ Aug. 13 | Isaiah 33:2 | ☐ Aug. 29 | Psalms 19:1 |
| ☐ Aug. 14 | 2 Thess. 2:16-17 | ☐ Aug. 30 | Job 38:4-7 |
| ☐ Aug. 15 | Psalms 147:3 | ☐ Aug. 31 | Genesis 12:2-3 |
| ☐ Aug. 16 | James 1:2-4 | | |

Come back next month for a new Scripture writing challenge!



Feeding the Lifeguards

UKRAINE MISSION UPDATE JUNE 2026

It has now been one year since our last full update on the Ukraine Mission support, and I want to begin by saying thank you. I am deeply grateful for the continued prayers, generosity, and encouragement of Bethany Church. Your support has helped make real ministry possible through our partners in Ukraine, especially Myroslav Volosetsky, Pastor Tolik, Shalom Church in Izmail, and the ministries connected to them.

Over the past year, your support has helped strengthen youth ministry, first responder chaplains, and support believers who are faithfully serving their communities during an incredibly difficult season for their country.

At the end of December, Myroslav was hospitalized with an inguinal hernia caused by physical strain. He was in significant pain and was facing surgery during the holiday season, at the same time he was helping plan major ministry efforts, including nationwide youth ministry development and work connected to veterans' ministry.

While in the hospital, he shared a powerful observation. As he listened to the conversations around him, saw the worries of patients, and observed the needs of people with very little support. Afterward, he wrote:

"It becomes frightening to imagine what the world would be like without God. And at the same time, you realize even more clearly how important it is for us, as the Church, to continue being light in this dark world."

That sentence has stayed with me. It explains why this partnership matters. Bethany Church is not simply helping with fund projects. We are helping brothers and sisters continue to be the presence of Christ in places where people are lonely, weary, and in need of hope.

In January, Myroslav sent a detailed update and thanked everyone for their trust, support, and partnership. He emphasized that this work has been possible because of a shared vision and a shared responsibility for the future of young people and Ukrainian families.

- Approximately 10 educational platform events, reaching more than 150 young people;
- An ambulance purchased by partners from the Netherlands was delivered by Myroslav's team to a remote region of Ukraine, helping local residents gain faster access to emergency care.
- Mentoring at the annual 'Hackathon' in Kyiv with around 200 young participants from churches across Ukraine. The goal is to group with strangers and brainstorm a ministry effort. The best group idea wins a monetary grant to carry it out
- More than 10 First Responder Chaplaincy training sessions
- Laptops provided to 8 talented young people
- 15 laptops equipped for a computer science classroom at a Christian school
- Distribution of 800 Easter cakes to soldiers
- Participation in a Baptist Youth Festival with about 1,000 young people, where he spoke on a panel and led daily practical seminars
- Regional team development work in Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi, involving around 10 teams
- A regional conference for leaders of children's and youth ministries, including a master class for more than 50 leaders
- A marriage retreat for 20 families, during which one family decided to stop their divorce
- A retreat for 24 families, including leaders from probation services and correctional institutions, most of whom had never previously had meaningful contact with believers.

Myroslav wrote:

"Behind every number are real people, transformed stories, restored families, and young leaders who have received new opportunities and renewed confidence. All of this has been made possible because of you."

That is the heart of this update. The numbers matter because the people matter. Behind every event, every laptop, every retreat, every training, and every act of kindness is a person being reminded that God has not forgotten them.

One of the upcoming projects is in August. Myroslav and his team are partnering with a church in Romania to organize a camp for children of military personnel and police officers who are currently serving on the front lines.

About 30 teenagers, ages 12–16, are expected to attend. The camp will include experienced psychologists, along with activities focused on encouragement, healing, friendship, and support. Many of these children are carrying emotional burdens connected to separation, uncertainty, and the responsibilities their families are facing.

This camp is not simply a few days of recreation. It is an opportunity to begin meaningful, long-term relationships with these children and their families. It is a chance to show them Christian love, give them a place to breathe, and help them experience encouragement and care in a difficult season.

Nearly all of the camp expenses have already been covered, which is a tremendous answer to prayer. The remaining financial need is transportation. They still need approximately \$4,000 to cover the logistics of bringing the children and team members to Romania and back.

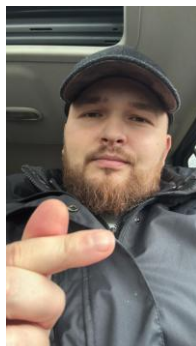
Please continue to pray for Myroslav, Pastor Tolik, Shalom Church, and all those serving with them. Pray for the young people being discipled and equipped. Pray for the families being restored. Pray for soldiers, police officers, veterans, and first responders to know the hope of Christ. If you feel led to donate, please reach out to me or Denise.

Thank you, Bethany Church, for continuing to pray, give, encourage, and stand with this work. It is an honor to help share these updates, and I am grateful to be part.

“Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

— Galatians 6:9

Best, Isaac Simonsen





PUZZLE

Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



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Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

Bible Quiz

Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lampstand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."

Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.



Answer: (Matthew 5:16 NIV)



Make a postcard PUZZLE

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.



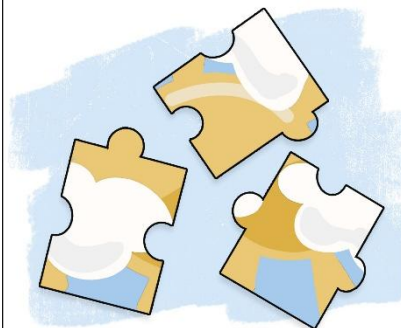

What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)



What you do:

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



Puzzle!



Use the Scripture verses below to locate the places in the puzzle. (If a verse mentions more than one place, only one appears in the puzzle, so choose carefully.) Circle each place as you find it.

Answers go: → ↓ ↘

Genesis 2:15	Isaiah 23:1	Luke 24:13
Genesis 11:9	Isaiah 23:2	John 2:1
Genesis 35:1	Isaiah 23:3	Acts 8:5
Exodus 13:18	Jonah 1:2	Acts 11:22
Ruth 1:1	Matthew 3:6	Acts 17:16
1 Kings 18:19	Matthew 4:18	Romans 1:15
1 Chronicles 11:4	Matthew 26:36	

S	I	D	O	N	G	N	I	L	E	S	O
J	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R
E	S	G	A	A	R	C	A	N	A	A	M
R	A	E	T	B	D	C	D	B	E	O	O
U	M	T	H	B	E	T	H	E	L	F	U
S	A	H	E	T	N	E	A	T	N	G	N
A	R	S	N	Y	O	M	N	H	I	A	T
L	I	E	S	R	F	M	T	L	N	L	C
E	A	M	D	E	E	A	I	E	E	I	A
M	F	A	R	S	D	U	O	H	V	L	R
G	H	N	O	A	E	S	C	E	E	E	M
I	J	E	M	B	N	A	H	M	H	E	E
T	O	W	E	R	O	F	B	A	B	E	L

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, Bethel, Red Sea, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, Nile, Nineveh, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Emmaus, Cana, Samaria, Antioch, Athens, Rome

Return Service Requested



IN EVERY SEASON, TURN TO GOD

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*