



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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## MEET THE FAMILY

### Mike and Geri Duffy



Mike and Geri Duffy moved to Kentucky from Wisconsin in the summer of 2010 and have been members here for 13 years.

Their life in full-time ministry was fruitful for more than 25 years, traveling together in itinerant evangelism, preaching and teaching. For 12 years they served at Camp Chetek, a Bible Camp in the Northwoods of Wisconsin where Mike was the Camp Director while Geri managed the food service. They also served at Bible Tracts, Inc., a printing and distribution ministry, and at Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown, WI. Along the way, Mike started a ministry called Eternal Vision, teaching Biblical Financial Stewardship in churches and building endowments for Christian ministries. Both continue to serve at

Bluegrass, where Geri has taught Sunday School, led women's Bible Studies, and has done much decorating of the church building.

Mike currently serves as a Deacon and does occasional preaching and teaching. He is a published author under the name Dr Mike Duffy and has a web page ([www.drmiokeduffy.com](http://www.drmiokeduffy.com)) where you can access many original articles, videos and links to his books.

The Duffy's have three adult children, 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Their son is a pastor and their two daughters, and their families, are all active in ministry.

## John & Carla Pribble

John is from Georgetown and Carla was raised in Frenchburg, Menifee County. They met at a singles social event in Lexington and were married in 2013. Both were saved as children—John when he was a teenager and Carla at about the age of 10.

John was a farmer and retired from tree service work. Carla is retired from the USDA Farm Service Agency. She has a married son and granddaughter living in Florida; her married daughter and two grandsons live in Versailles.

Carla's family has three generations of pastors! She was raised in an independent Baptist Church, so after marrying John they looked for a Bible-preaching church near their home in Georgetown and were happy to find BBC!



## Joe & Bekah Garcia



Our church is blessed to have many young couples—Joe and Bekah are the newest to join! They grew up far apart; he is from New Jersey, and she is from Lexington, but they met through mutual friends on Facebook and were married in October 2023.

Joe was saved in Junior Church at the age of 10; Bekah was about six years old, at a church camp with her parents. The couple moved to Lexington in January this year to be closer to family. Now Joe works as a maintenance technician at Cintas and Bekah starts teaching at a Christian school in August.

They were attracted to our church “by the truth taught from God’s Word, and the warmth of our fellowship.”

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### The Land That I Love

Pastor Samuel F. Smith wrote in 1832 the great hymn, "America!" better known today as "My Country 'Tis of Thee". The fourth stanza is a wonderful affirmation of the Christian faith at the heart of America's Founding:

*Our fathers' God to Thee,  
Author of Liberty,  
To thee we sing,  
Long may our land be bright  
With Freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by thy might  
Great God, our King.*

Scripture resonates with a resounding "Amen" to this song! It would be comforting if such a godly perspective was always evident in America, but spiritual decay is everywhere we look. The founding principle of soul liberty has given way to license and lusts that are consuming us. Freedom to do right has become freedom to do whatever feels good. Rather than pursuing what is objectively right, Americans increasingly seek what is subjectively convenient, forsaking the better way set before us in Psalm 33:12-21.

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.*

We can take heart from these words of wisdom and encouragement, and find in them three things that believers in America must do to keep alive the bright light of God's holiness in the heart of our nation:

**33:12** We must have God as our LORD! He must be first in our lives, reflecting His love and His life to those who live in chaos and darkness.

**33:18** We must demonstrate our respect for God as we confidently wait on Him to show His gracious favor.

**33:21** We must always trust in His holy name.

Our deliverance lies in following these simple steps. America's problems will not be fixed by politicians, through protests, or in powerful lobbies. Our hope is in God, as it was at the beginning, honoring Him by our daily obedience and engaging with Him in our society and culture.

The day in which we live may be dark, but we must see the darkness as a backdrop to enhance the brightness of Christ's light shining in our community. On this July 4th, let us declare our independence from sin, Satan, and self, and live as those who trust in the holy name of the God of All Comfort!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### Summer Camp



Nineteen teenagers, three adults and one baby Kirchner enjoyed a great week at The Wilds summer camp early in June.

## Two Weddings



Alec and Audrey Neff, June 1.

Chase and Abigail Swanson, June 18.

## Imaginative Evangelism

Personal evangelism is a key component of our role as a light bearer in our community. We have several forms of outreach, and some that are quite imaginative!

Several years ago, Victoria Lanter and Jenna Vance decided to reach out on horseback from farm to farm in Stamping Ground!

Ladies, if you don't live on a farm and don't own a horse (!) you could still go out during the week, mornings or afternoons, with Pam Lindner, visiting neighbors in Georgetown. Men, let Edward Thal know if you would like to go with him.



## Vacation Bible School (June 24-28)



Our annual VBS excitement saw the church transformed for a fun week that took a jungle journey from Creation to the Cross. Our many adult volunteers were worn out by the end of it, but for 50 happy children it was a week to remember.

## ENCOUNTERS: LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

In this section we share anecdotes from church members about their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is increasingly hostile to Jesus Christ. Written submissions should be 200 to 300 words in length, or you could simply tell us your story.

Last month Scott McCracken told the story of meeting David Foster on a construction site—an encounter that led to the salvation of David, Stephanie and their son, Corbin. This month's story is from Stephanie's perspective.

It was the Fall of 2021 as I sat with David on the porch of the home we were building together in a rural part of Georgetown. Our dream was coming true!

Since the days when we were high school sweethearts, we had talked about marriage and raising a family at a home in the country. Now we had just welcomed our fourth child and everything felt complete. Except for one thing. On that very special day as we sat together on the porch, we shared our mutual feeling that one important part of our dream picture was missing – we needed to find a good church to attend. Less than a week later, God answered our unspoken prayer and sent Scott McCracken to work on bulldozing soil on our property, where he met David and invited him to visit Bluegrass Baptist Church. We walked through the doors on the next Sunday.

By the end of the service, David and I looked at each other with tears in our eyes, knowing that this was exactly what was missing from our lives. We had known about God, but here for the first time we sensed something deeper—the presence of God! It was a strange and wonderful experience. David had been raised in a Baptist home and my parents were active Roman Catholics, but neither of us understood the point of it all. Now it seemed that a seed had been planted in our hearts that grew over the next several months until we prayed for salvation – David, and me, and our son, Corbin, our oldest child. Baptism for all three of us followed shortly after.

Soon, God’s perfect timing in our lives became evident as His strength and mercy carried us through what seemed like an impossible series of trials. Our son was hospitalized and diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Then David broke his leg and our middle daughter, then four years old, broke her arm in a separate incident, shortly before I was involved in a serious car accident, with our two youngest daughters in the vehicle. None of us was injured but our car was a wreck. A few weeks later, David died suddenly from a blood clot.

As each event unfolded, the awareness of God’s superintending presence was so strong that I drew closer to Him, trusting and resting in a way I could neither explain nor describe. But it was real, and it strengthened me for the ultimate trial of my husband’s death. Nothing else could have prepared me for that moment, except that God was close to me. At the very end of myself and my own power, I found His greater power, and with it a peace and joy that is not of this world and cannot be taken away by earthly sorrows. The Lord of Psalm 23 truly is my Shepherd and I need nothing more! He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul and leads me also in paths of righteousness, for the sake of His great name.

## BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Life comes at us in a hurry, sometimes making it difficult to get timely answers to questions that confront us while reading the Bible or wondering how to apply Bible truth to real-world problems. Here we aim to answer your question while also providing a resource for our church family.**

**This Month's Question:** How can I share the Gospel without being pushy?

**The Answer** from Pastor Zach Kirchner acknowledges that throughout history, Christians who desire to obey Christ's commands to spread the good news of the Gospel (Matthew 28:20 and Acts 1:8) often find difficulty in the fact that, from a temporal perspective, the message we received and now steward is not a popular one. Everyone wants "heaven," and many are even willing to acknowledge God after a championship win, but few want to hear about the depths of their depravity or to repent and put their faith in Christ alone.

There are several insufficient ways to follow the Great Commission. The first is what many refer to as "lifestyle evangelism." Those who follow this method may strive for a holy lifestyle in the hopes that someone will ask, "Why are you different?" Others recycle the old "WWJD" ("What Would Jesus Do?") bracelets with a new addition of "HWLF" ("He Would Love First") on the reverse side of the band. But the problem with WWJD/HWLF is that it pits "love" against "truth", when the Bible way is to demonstrate true love by always telling the truth! Christ never showed any tolerance for sin in His ministry.

Other witnesses for Christ may get "spiritual tattoos" or wear a cross necklace to let the world know who they are. A variation of this approach is to avoid "intrusive" outreach by just being "nice" to everyone we meet. But Christ called us to more than "living out our faith." We must actively share the truth that can spare souls from eternal judgment. Anything less essentially ignores the clear commands of Scripture and the hellish eternity that lost souls are facing.

This is not to say that we should be obnoxious in our witness. Some professing Christians punch back at what they see as spiritual passivity by adopting a brash approach in sharing the truth, no matter the consequences. This is what I call "Fire and Brimstone" evangelism. If we look to Christ as our example (as we should, in everything) we will notice that while He always spoke the truth He was never unkind. Although some might have perceived Him that way when he used harsh language (usually against religious hypocrites), His motivation was to expose sin that hid under a cloak of duplicity.

*(Next month, Pastor Kirchner answers the question: How can I stand up to sinful people without being mean or harsh?)*