



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

Mike and Kathy Lewis

Both were born and raised in Frankfort, Kentucky. Mike received Christ as his Savior in 1970; Kathy in 1981.

Their parents were close friends and later began attending the same church. On August 18, 1984, Mike and Kathy were married. They now have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Mike is retired from the US Army, later retired from Kentucky Retirement Systems, and then retired from the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Kathy homeschooled their children. She now works for the Legislative Research Committee. They eventually moved back to Frankfort to be close to their aging parents.



Stephen and Charity Iocco

Stephen and Charity Iocco (pronounced “eye-o-cu”) have four children (two boys and two girls), 23 sheep, 16 chickens, three dogs, a cat, and a pony. They’re expecting a fifth child in November.

In his spare time Stephen works as the manager of the hoof stock at the Ark Encounter Zoo.



In her spare time, Charity homeschools their children. In their spare spare time they also run a sheep milk soap business called Appalachian Shepherd, while living in a fixer-upper house that Stephen is fixer-upping.

The couple met at a home church in Vermont when Stephen was 11 and Charity was four years old. They were both blessed to be raised in Christian homes, and both knew Jesus as their Savior when they married, on a dairy farm in Vermont.

They moved to Corinth, KY, in 2019 in response to a job opening, and to be close to Stephen's parents who live in the area. They're happy to have found a Bible-believing church at BBC.

PERSPECTIVE

BEARING FRUIT ON THE MISSION FIELD

Part of our life as a church in Central Kentucky is to support a Gospel outreach all over the world, through 18 missionary families (plus three national pastors) on every continent. We have enjoyed a close relationship with the Goins family since our earliest days — and their earliest days in Honduras, South America.

This month's Perspective by Matt Goins tells a story of bearing fruit on the mission field, as seen in the transformation of a family, and a husband who was once literally lost in a foreign land and came home to find a calling that he could not have imagined.

In late 2005, our church meeting place in El Progreso, Honduras, transitioned from a borrowed home on Sunday mornings to a rented space. One of the neighbors near our new location was Lily, the mother of three young children. As she attended our meetings and we got to know her, we understood that she was spiritually very confused, having attended a charismatic church with friends and a Mormon church with her mother-in-law. Neither satisfied that for which her soul was seeking.

We learned from Lily that her husband was living illegally in the United States, leaving her to make her own way with their children. That way came to include continuing fellowship and spiritual growth with our church, until a surprising turn in 2011 when an elated Lily came to introduced us to her husband who had suddenly returned after an eight-year absence!

My first impression was that Luis was not interested in Lily's newfound spiritual life. It wasn't necessarily his outward appearance—although he did stand out with his shoulder length hair and shorts! It was more his demeanor that communicated a desire to keep his distance; sitting in the back row, arms crossed, with an aloof attitude. I later visited him at his home, where I found that he was much more open to the Gospel than I had originally perceived. Luis explained that he had made a profession of faith in Christ as a teenager, at an evangelical church in the area, but strayed from attendance as he grew older. Now he was ready to attend our church with his family and added that his ability to speak English would be useful as a translator for a visiting medical team.

I didn't feel comfortable with him in that important role because we were just getting to know him, so I suggested that he could help with organizing patients as they waited to be seen. Changes in his life soon became apparent. He cut his hair and dressed a little better when he came to church, showing an interest in the teaching and moving from the back row to near the pulpit. After a few months he asked to be baptized as a public profession of his faith in Christ, becoming an active member of our church, finding areas of service, and studying to increase his biblical knowledge.

Luis served faithfully for many years, most recently as our song leader and children's ministry director with his wife. When he had an opportunity to preach, he was a gifted teacher who displayed a passion for precise biblical exposition. It became clear to me that God was calling Luis into full-time ministry, but he resisted the call until he was challenge by the preaching of a Honduran missionary about the need for more laborers on the harvest field.

A further impetus was the death of our son Jadon, who had surrendered to the ministry but was taken before he could fully realize his potential for service with his Savior.

Luis continued to grow in his devotion to God, until the glad day after several years of watching his faith in action, and his successful defense of his doctrinal statement, we were proud to recognize him as part of our pastoral team on April 27, 2025. A second member of our church, Marlon Sierra, was ordained into the Gospel ministry at the same time.

For Pastor Luis Ruiz, the moment was at least twenty years in the making!



Before and After!

The caption on the picture is from 2 Corinthians 5:17:

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

The Bible Adventure Club Choir

Take 20 to 30 children aged four to twelve, add two teenage girls—McKenna Clemons and Hannah Kim—to provide leadership and inspiration, and the result is a choir that sings hymns with joyful enthusiasm and clarity. They sang for us on a Sunday evening in May and it was a joy to behold and to hear!

(Note: BAC Awards at the end of May will be featured next month).



Primetimers Take a Tour

At the other end of our church spectrum we have a lively group of senior saints who remain active throughout the year. This month they enjoyed a horse history tour.



Women For Christ Serve Our Community



30 women and girls met on a Saturday at church to make up 100 packed meals for the Ronald McDonald House and enough supplies for over 40 more meals, plus four tie blankets; ten extra large baby blankets for the children's hospital; and 30 Onesies for the Not Alone Pregnancy Center. In addition, numerous letters and encouraging notes were written to our missionary families, and to ladies in our own church.

The picture above shows various tables with ladies hard at work; on the left is a picture of some of the finished products ready to be delivered. Below left pictures



the lunch break, and the small picture is of some of the little-uns who helped.

ENCOUNTERS:

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

Here we share anecdotes from church members about their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is hostile to the Gospel. **This month's story is from Brian Lawson.**

My mother was a faithful Christian who made sure I grew up in church. I did all the things I was supposed to do until the age of 12, when I rebelled and began doing a lot of very bad things.

Shannon and I were married in 1990. Two years later Shannon was working with a girl named Holly who invited her several times to attend church. Neither of us was interested, but we decided to go with Holly so that she would stop asking. The Sunday we chose featured a guest evangelist who preached a great message on the awful truth that hell is home for those that don't trust Jesus as Savior. As I listened the conviction grew in me that I did not want to spend eternity in that place! At the end of the service, when the preacher gave an invitation for people to come forward to receive Jesus Christ as Savior, Shannon turned to me and said, "I want to be saved!"

"No, let's wait," I answered, looking around at the large crowd. "We will come back for the evening service when there will be fewer people."

At that precise moment the evangelist added: "If you think you have a later opportunity, you could be sadly mistaken!"

He followed up with a story about a young man who had rejected an invitation for salvation, saying he wasn't ready, but might do it later. That very evening he was killed in a motorcycle accident. I needed no further prompting! No longer concerned about what others might think, I walked to the front where a man met me and showed me from Scripture how to call on God for salvation. Then I testified in front of all those strangers about what I had done. Shannon was beside me, giving the same testimony.

This side of heaven, I don't know if I'll meet again the preacher who introduced me to Christ, but I am so glad he was there that morning. I know I will see my mother in heaven, and we'll have eternity together to praise the One whom she taught me about as a boy, and the seed of knowledge and faith that she planted, and the many times she prayed for me to place my trust in Jesus. I thank God for saving my soul!

(About five years after our salvation, I saw Holly again, working at Pandora where I bought Shannon a Christmas present, and I thanked her for the persistent invitations to church. I had to keep our meeting secret from Shannon until she finally opened her present, to avoid giving away the fact that I got her something from Pandora for Christmas).

BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Answering your particular questions while also providing an information resource for our church family. Following the installation of a new Pope in the Roman Catholic Church last month, Pastor Zach Kirchner shared his insights on the papacy in the first of a two-part message. This is the second part.

Last month, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC), Pope Francis, passed away, and Robert Francis Prevost of Chicago (now Leo XIV) was elected by a majority of Cardinals to be his successor. In light of great chatter about the Pope and the RCC, we looked at how the Pope came to power as we know it today. The primary categories of incidents that contributed to papal power were writings of church fathers taken out of context, church councils, and precedents set by several bishops of “noteworthy” cities.

There are two major problems with the papacy. The most glaring problem is the papacy’s reliance on Peter as the first bishop of Rome. That’s a problem, first and foremost, because the argument for papal authority hinges on a misinterpretation of Matthew 16:18–19. The “rock” that Christ speaks of is not Peter. We know this because the Greek word for Peter means “little stone,” and Christ says that he will build his church on this “rock,” which is literally, “boulder” or “rock bed.” This implies that the Church is not built on Peter, but on Christ himself. Christ is drawing a contrast between Peter, the little pebble, and Christ, The Rock. Second, Peter himself does not claim supremacy. On one occasion, he refers to himself as a mere “fellow elder” (1 Pet 5:1), and on another occasion, Cornelius bowed before Peter, but Peter retorted, “Stand up; I myself also am a man” (Acts 10:26). Finally, Peter may never have stayed in Rome for any length of time. If Peter had been the bishop of Rome, then why did Paul interfere in Peter’s supposed territory by writing the book of Romans (Romans 1:11)?

A second key problem regarding the legitimacy of the papacy is the biblical data for and against the papacy. There is no clear basis in Scripture for the concept of such a hierarchical structure of Pope, Cardinals, Archbishops, and lower bishops. On the contrary, there is great support for the priesthood of every individual believer (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 4:14–16, 7:19, 12:18–24).

However, having noted the illegitimacy of the papacy it would be a gross overgeneralization to say that the pope has always been a wicked false teacher. Christians today can and should acknowledge that many of the bishops of Rome effectively defended the Christian faith. Leo I, for example, presided over the Council of Chalcedon in 451 that codified Christological doctrine we use to this

day. On the other hand, the papacy has slowly mutated to become a nasty system of wickedness and spiritual destruction. The Council of Trent is the primary example of anti-biblical stances because it condemned explicitly-biblical teachings such as justification by faith.

The pope is at the pinnacle of this man-made organization. Today we can assert that the papacy is unbiblical, power-hungry, immoral, corrupt, and the foundation of many false teachings. While we cannot know for certain the beliefs of the former Pope Francis, based on his life and teaching he is likely eternally separate from Christ. We should be righteously indignant over the lies of Roman Catholicism, and we should use that righteous anger to motivate us to illuminate those steeped Catholic beliefs to the freeing person and work of Christ alone.