



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEETING THE FAMILY

Gary and Gerri Humphrey



Gary is from Paducah in Western Kentucky and Gerri hails from nearby Russellville Kentucky. They met at Paducah drag races in 1981 and were married in January 1982. Now they have three children, five grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and Gerri declares they love each other more than when they first met. Gary heartily agrees!

They were both saved at 12 years old. Their move to Georgetown came in 1988 after Gary took a job at Toyota. Roy and Delores Wood became

friends, inviting them to visit Bluegrass Baptist Church.

“We had been looking for a place to worship and fellowship where people lived the way they believed, and we found it right here!”

Both Gary and Gerri have struggled with ill health in recent years and plan to move eventually to live permanently in their Paducah vacation home. We will be sorry to see them go.

Kim Fulcher



Quiet, helpful and cheerful are the characteristics that identify Kim. Born in Beckley, WV, she had the privilege of growing up in a godly Christian pastor's home and received the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior at six years of age.

A love for teaching led her to qualify as an educator at Crown College in Tennessee. She then moved to Georgetown to be closer to her older brother and family and joined our church in 2013. Since then her servants' heart has touched every area of church life, working with children of all ages, singing in the choir, cleaning, involvement in special events, missions trips, and active in outreach activities.

After 21 years as an educator she is now employed as a teacher of individuals with disabilities, recently recognized as Employee of the Year at her place of work. She also enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and especially her five nephews and two nieces. Her approach to life is simple: "I love the Lord and wherever I see a need I'm happy to lend a hand." We're grateful that she chooses to make a difference here.

Levi Johnson



Born in Jackson, Tennessee, Levi suffered the misfortune of his father's death when he was four years old. The family had been attending Chapel Hill Baptist Church in Milan, TN, and as Levi dealt with a feeling of loneliness he turned to Jesus for comfort and salvation. At the age of seven, after talking to the pastor of their church, he prayed and asked Jesus to come into his heart. "I don't know if I used the right words, but God knew what I meant!"

After his mother remarried the family (including an older brother, Luke) moved to Georgetown. Levi was going on 13 and heading for eighth grade, already well over six foot tall. He met Micah Shelton while playing basketball. They became friends and Micah invited him to church. After attending here for several months, he joined BBC. Now he is taking dual credit classes at Owen County High School, playing basketball, and praying about next steps. “I’m not sure about what God wants me to do,” he says, “but I am sure about the truth of Romans 8:28, that all things work together for good to them that love God.”

PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

On Grace—To Receive and to Give

Active grace is usually seen as giving to others, but grace is a two-way street. Jesus said, “**freely ye have received, freely give**” (Matthew 10:8b). The implication is that we have received grace from God and should exercise that grace towards others. The principle applies equally to churches and to society as a whole. If you are going to be a gracious giver, you must also be a gracious receiver.

I was once given wise counsel that stated the principle in a slightly different way. “If you cannot properly accept grace you will never be able to properly give grace.” The statement is biblically true, but when Bluegrass was in its infancy Jessica and I struggled with the idea of receiving anything from the few generous people (less than 10 families) who made up our congregation. We thought it was wrong, lest we “take advantage” of them.

It is not uncommon for “ministers” or “pastors” to guilt people into giving them stuff or to do work for them and we wanted to avoid any semblance of that. We still hold to the part about not wanting take advantage of anyone or to misuse our position in any way, but we have learned that kind people often want to do kind things for us, simply as an exercise of their graciousness.

I have also witnessed through the tragedies, setbacks, and difficulties in the lives of many church families that others in our church love to exercise grace towards those in need. To my knowledge, in the last decade and a half dozens of families have been greatly helped by other families within the church, and the number is probably much higher because so many exercise grace in a way that the left hand does not know what the right hand does (Matthew 6:3).

I would urge you, if you are a recipient of another's kindness, to allow your fellow church member to exercise their graciousness. It brings joy and satisfaction and draws us all closer to the likeness of God. Additionally, receiving grace will encourage you to be even more gracious to others.

A church filled with members who have the grace to receive and to exercise grace in giving is a wonderful thing to behold, and I have rejoiced in it for 15 years as Pastor here.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

The Joys and Challenges of Attending Public School

by Levi Johnson

Christians usually see homeschooling as the best way to educate their children, and while I would not disagree with them, I know from experience that public schooling offers unique rewards for someone willing to honor Jesus Christ in a distinctly non-Christian environment.

My approach to the people and circumstances I encounter every day is to remind myself that we are all sinners, with the important difference that I am saved and forgiven and know where I am going, while most of those around me are confused about what really matters in life. There are plenty of annoying events in a place where people live life just for the moment, and although it does not surprise me to see unsaved kids my age acting like fools, what does get under my skin is to see those who claim to be Christians acting in a way that turns unbelievers away from God. On the other hand, it reminds me that in the real world we are all hypocrites at some time or another, doing things we know we should not do.

Persecution is another reality one must face in a non-Christian world (2 Timothy 3:12) and experiencing it from time to time reassures me in a way that I am trying to live for God. In my mind, evidence for God is confirmed by the reaction to Him of the ungodly.

Regarding the friends one chooses at school, I think it's not bad to have unsaved friends if your intention is to point them towards the truth found in the Bible. God can use you to be a light in the world.

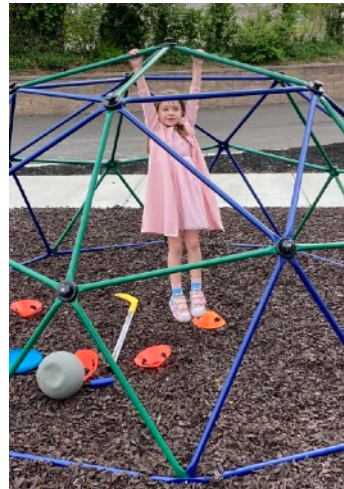
But it's a double-edged sword of constant pressure to draw you away from Christ while forcing you think about what you believe and why you believe it.

So, in a nutshell, attending a public school allows me to see all these different perspectives and to understand how many lost sheep there are. A great bonus is to occasionally see someone get converted and to remind that person about the need to decide each day to live like a Christian and not like an unbeliever. Seeing someone in a public school make a choice for Christ is a pretty amazing thing!

LifeStage / Homebuilders Don't Take a Hike

by Jolie Preston

A park closure caused by possible wildfires and/or rain cancelled plans for a fun day of hiking at the Red River Gorge. Jason and Jolie Preston lead this LifeStage for parents with teenagers and their younger siblings, a group accustomed to



adapting quickly as circumstances change! So instead of hiking they enjoyed Nacho Night with food, fun, and fellowship at the church after a Sunday evening service. As you can see from the accompanying photographs, adults and teens focused on the nachos while younger siblings exercised for the next possible hiking adventure. If you have teenage children (with or without younger siblings), be sure to get involved with the Homebuilders Lifestage. Keep an eye on the church bulletin for future actives and for the rescheduled hike.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GREAT REVIVALS

A Continuing Series

HIDDEN REVIVALS

Revivals are not all the same. Some of the most spectacular are hidden from view while they impact the lives of thousands, sometimes millions of spiritually hungry souls.

An estimated 1 million Christians were in China when communists under Mao Tse Tung took control of the country in 1949 and expelled foreign Christians who had labored there since the arrival of the first missionaries in 1807. While it is difficult to establish exact numbers, estimates put today's total at somewhere between 100 million and 300 million converts. The increase that followed the departure of all missionaries is recognized as a sovereign act of God that may be the biggest revival in Christian history.

House meetings across China are marked by intense prayer sessions which may continue for hours while believers kneel and cry out to God. The ground is often wet from their tears as they engage in fervent intercession. Christians leaving those meetings openly preach the Gospel despite the constant threat of arrest and torture.

The Muslim world is another area where God's sovereign will in exalting Jesus Christ is manifest. From Morocco in North West Africa, all across the Arab states bordering the Mediterranean Sea to Egypt in the East, through the Arabian Peninsula (including Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Jordan), then Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Iraq, to Iran in the far East and on to Afghanistan, stories are told of Christian converts who respond to dreams and visions about the Savior, Jesus Christ. In other cases, Muslim visitors to western countries have been introduced to Christ and carried the Gospel back to their home countries.

Given the need for secrecy because of harsh penalties imposed on Christian converts from the Muslim faith, the size and full scope of the revival will not be known until Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth.