



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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## MEET THE FAMILY

### Mark & Debbie Woods



Charter Members Mark and Debbie Woods explain their involvement at Bluegrass from day one and rarely missing a meeting or a chance to serve since then, with the simple statement: "It just seems right."

Always cheerful, they're involved everywhere, but you will seldom notice them. They're just a quiet

and happy part of our life here. Both born and raised in Kentucky, their blended family has two married sons (one in Kentucky, one in North Carolina) and a married daughter with three children. The grand babies are located two hours east of Georgetown in Louisa, KY.

Mark worked at a bank for 18 years before moving to Toyota. His banking experience prepared him for his vital church job of tracking all financial giving, to prepare annual statements for each financial contributor's tax returns. In keeping with our church policy that our giving should always be strictly confidential, he is the only one here who is trusted to know how much anyone gives each year.

The picture on the right was taken earlier this month as Mark was about to pass through Toyota's security gates for the last time, retiring after 26 years of faithful service.

## Troy & Kami French



They recently joined us after attending here for several months. Troy is from Southern Indiana; Kami is from Greensburg, Kentucky.

A mutual friend introduced them. They were married in 2022 when Troy moved to Georgetown, where

Kami worked for Toyota before retiring. Troy works in construction. Their blended family has three girls and one grandson, but the only “baby” living with them is their 100 pound German Shepherd, Jakx.

Their search for a Bible-based church brought them to BBC, where they found “good preaching and great people!”

## PERSPECTIVE

### Return Blessing for Cursing

*By Edward Thal*

“If you can keep your head when all about you men are losing theirs and blaming it on you, if you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too...you’ll be a man, my son.”

Those were the words of Rudyard Kipling, 18<sup>th</sup> century English poet and writer perhaps best known to American children in a different context, as the author of “The Jungle Book” that tells the story of a young boy adopted by wolves who makes friends of bears and tigers.

In 21<sup>st</sup> century America, wolves, bears and tigers are closing in on the Christian community. The pulse of our Christian heritage that has beaten at the heart of our nation since the beginning has weakened in recent times because Christians have grown lazy in their faith.

The consequent disdain for Christ among those who know Him only as a label is evident in local opposition to plans for expanding our facilities, expressed towards our church and our Pastor by members of the public at a recent town planning meeting.

Our reaction, should always be in line with Scripture that exhorts us to be tenderhearted and polite, not returning insults but instead blessing others because we are blessed (see Matthew 5:43-45; 1 Peter 3:8-11).

We should also put feet to our faith by reaching out to our community at every opportunity, sharing God’s Word and God’s love by being kind and welcoming to our neighbors, and through organized activities like neighborhood evangelism.

(P.S. Our plans were approved at the meeting! Now follows a busy three months of work that includes final architectural drawings and design and the first major expenditures).



## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### A Visit From Hope Children's Home

Located in Tampa, Florida, the facility is a Christ-centered haven for abused, abandoned or homeless children of all ages (even newborn babies), until they are old enough to attend college or find a vocation. Similar homes are located in New Mexico and Honduras. The ministry is funded entirely by bequests and donations.



*Matt Higgins, Executive Director, (right), and Denise Wilson, Operations Administrator, (left rear) with some of the children. A group of the children sang for us, some shared their testimonies, and Matt Higgins delivered a message from Matthew 1:23—"Emmanuel, God with Us".*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bluegrass Kids Skating Party



*And a good time was had by all!*

*Nearly 70 people attended the event, with 51 lacing up a pair of skates. Pizza was added to make for a fun and exciting day, as kids and adults zoomed (or tumbled). This event is the kick-off for many more fun filled activities in the year ahead.*



## Fun and Fellowship for Ladies



*Our auditorium was transformed into a temporary playground for ladies to share the enjoyment of good food and lots of laughs with a game called Bunco!*

## HomeBuilders LifeStage

*Pizza, games, and fun oh my! After a long winter hibernation the Homebuilders reconvened for their 3rd annual Minute-To-Win-It game night. The evening pitted four teams of both kids and adults battling it out in games of wit and skill in contests such as "Cookie Face," "Fruit by the Foot," and "Balloon Waddle." The night provided wonderful fellowship and plenty of laughs as evident by the ever popular game "Chubby Bunny." In the end it was team "Eagles", captained by Brother Ken Au, who emerged victorious. If you would like to know more about the Homebuilders LifeStage please see Shane or Erica Colvin for details.*



## **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 from Glenn Le Page, our missionary to the island of Guernsey, tells the remarkable story of a childhood friend's dramatic encounter with Jesus Christ.**

Glenn took his family back to the birthplace he had left to live in America where he met and married Cher, and then both met their Savior. Soon, Glenn felt God calling him: "Go home to thy friends and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee" (Mark 5:19).

It has not been easy. The island is socially isolated, its people are hardened to the Gospel, and Glenn had left behind a reputation for antisocial behavior (to put it politely). Yet there have been some notable highlights, not least of which was the salvation of his 90-year-old mother, who died four years later. Glenn had the joy of preaching her funeral, with all the members of his large Guernsey family in attendance. More than 20 other Gurns (yes, that's what the locals call themselves) have been saved under their ministry, and Glenn recently met a close friend from the wild days of his youth who shared the following story of his own salvation.

Gareth was born into a Christian family but by the time of his teen years had drifted into a lifestyle centered on pubs and partying. The only thing he took seriously was "shore fishing" from the rocky coastline, often fishing all night long in all weathers. On December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1980, one of those overnight fishing trips with three friends changed his life. Nigel was a newcomer to the group and around midnight went off on his own to find a better fishing spot. The friends left with Gareth started talking about life after death, a topic that made him uneasy. Later they noticed Nigel making his way back to them by the light of a lantern. As he sat beside Gareth he said, "I want to talk to you about Christianity".

"I was absolutely gobsmacked (stunned)!" Gareth recounted. "I told him we had just been talking about life after death. He responded by saying he had been praying for me and felt that the time was right to talk to me. One of his first questions was, if I died that night would I go to heaven?"

I said I was brought up in a Christian home and he replied that my lifestyle showed I wasn't a Christian. I didn't know Jesus as my personal Savior. At that point I said I wanted to stop the discussion. A few hours later I went home to bed."

He hardly slept. It was New Year's Eve, and Gareth had planned to see the new year in at a local nightclub. Instead, he went to a church and joined their midnight service! "It seemed a strange place to see the new year in, but it also felt so right," he commented. When the pastor made an altar call, Gareth was the first to respond, praying the sinner's prayer just past midnight. Later, he went back to his local pub and told them he would not be attending there anymore because he would be attending church instead. A year after getting saved, he went to the New Year's Eve church service and there he met the woman he would soon marry!

Gareth and Glenn have renewed their friendship and rejoice in the fact that once they both lived to party, but now they live for Jesus Christ!

## **BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Answering your particular questions while also providing an information resource for our church family. This month's topic is the Holy Spirit. Pastor Zach Kirchner shares his insights.**

If I asked which member of the Trinity you feel you know the least, the answer would likely be, the Holy Spirit. The reason may be that Scripture contains less explicit revelation regarding the Holy Spirit than either the Father or the Son.

Yet it's important to know about the Holy Spirit because He makes the Trinity personal to the believer. For you and me today, He is the member of the Trinity who is with us. Jesus no longer walks the earth, the Father is on His throne in the heavens, but the Spirit resides *within* every believer!

From our perspective, the Holy Spirit's work is the most prominent and is *very* consequential for believers. But we must note that both secular and sacred culture emphasize experiences which ultimately stem from mysticism, and that's not how the Holy Spirit operates. So who is He, and what does He do?

We must begin by acknowledging that the Holy Spirit is God, and He is a unique Person within the Trinity.

In Acts chapter 5:3-4, Peter asks Ananias and Sapphira why they lied to the Holy Spirit, and then Peter adds, “thou hast lied. . . unto God.”

Other references make it plain that the Holy Spirit is not a mysterious “essence” of either the Father or the Son—He has thoughts (Romans 8:26–27), He has emotions (Ephesians 4:30), and He exercises his will (1 Corinthians 12:11).

Just as we often identify ourselves by what work we do or what sports we play, we can identify the Holy Spirit based by what He does. His work in the Old Testament (e.g., Genesis 1:2, Exodus 35:30–35) is less often revealed than His work in the New Testament. Today He still works in tandem with the Word of God to give us wisdom and direction (John 14:26, Romans 8:14), and convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and pending judgment (John 16:8–11). The Holy Spirit also is the one who helps believers to understand Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:10–14), who seals and assures believers of their salvation (Ephesians 4:30, Romans 8:16), and who intercedes for us when we pray for help (Romans 8:26–27). A final major role is that the Spirit is the one who distributes a unique combination of spiritual gifts to every believer.

Some people have turned the Holy Spirit into a mystical being who is the source of “other tongues” and communicates in visions and “promptings.” But the truth is less sensational and more wonderful! For every true believer, the Spirit resides in us and His work is not mystical. When we appreciate the breadth of who the Spirit is and what He does for us every minute of every day, we will not have extra-biblical expectations but will rely on Him to be our Comforter just as Jesus promised us (John 15–17):

*If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*