

# **The Manbeck Messenger**



*"Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me" (Malachi 3:1a)*

## **FEBRUARY 2026**

### **Monthly Newsletter of Manbeck's Zion Evangelical Congregational Church**

***"Seeking to know Christ and make Him known"***

110 Wild Cherry Road  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
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[www.manbecks.org](http://www.manbecks.org)

#### **MANBECK'S "ZION" SERVICES**

**SUNDAY**  
WORSHIP...9:00 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL...10:40 AM

**WEDNESDAY**  
Adult Small Group  
PRAYER...6:00 PM  
THE CHOSEN ...7:00 PM

**"4<sup>th</sup> FRIDAY"**  
Praise Nights...7:00 PM

*Contemporary praise for all ages, followed by time of fellowship*



## ***“Real Love that Changes Lives”***

I've been reading Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. (For the next couple weeks, we're looking at Paul's ministry there, from Acts 18.) Talk about a church with issues! They're surrounded by a wicked culture in a city known throughout the empire for their gigantic "red light district." And Paul tells them that the sin they tolerate is even considered offensive to the pagans around them!! Yikes. *Is there any hope for a church like that?*

Of course there is. Jesus said that "the gates of hell would not prevail" against His Church. Paul warns them about Satan's attacks and redirects them to be grounded in Christ, who brings the victory. But Paul also points out **the real source of the problem – *spiritual fatherlessness*.**

*"I am not writing these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children. For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father... that's why I have sent Timothy...he will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus, just as I teach in all the churches wherever I go.* (1 Corinthians 4:14-15,17)



In order for the church in Corinth to thrive and overcome outside influences they needed faithful, solid Christians who could invest their time in helping younger believers to grow in their faith. The big Bible-word for this is "discipleship." It comes from Jesus' command to all followers in Matthew 28:19

*"[Since I have all authority in Heaven and Earth], go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them.... and teaching these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."*

Yes, we have to share the Gospel, to let people know about Jesus. But we are also commanded to help them grow. Expertise is not required. No seminary degree needed. Just time and a willing heart.

Lately it seems like there has been an epidemic of people leaving the church for various reasons – *"irrelevant to my life," "too judgmental," "people don't really care," "don't have time," "can't worship a God who allows suffering,"* etc.

What if those who are disappointed or discouraged with what they are missing from church, actually found some people committed to helping them experience the treasure of love and wisdom in God's Word? With the mother/father-like love and commitment of spiritual caregivers, newborn believers can really thrive! Paul says to the Corinthians, "let me show you a way of life that is best of all --" LOVE God's way (1 Cor. 12:31). Please pray about how you can lovingly invest in the spiritual growth of another person. It's how Jesus uses us to change the world! **-- Journeying with you, Pastor Kyle**



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Building Fund Offering will be received on February 8. This offering will help with any future building projects.

The Monthly Special Offering will be received on February 25. This will be going to the E. C. Denomination's Church Planting. Please give as the Lord leads you to support these ministries. Envelopes are provided in your weekly bulletin. You may also mail your offerings to:

Deborah Reiter  
159 Spittler Road  
Pine Grove, PA 17963

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## OFFICIAL BOARD NEWS

The Official Board did not meet in January due to snow cancellations. We had to postpone the Annual Congregational Meeting to February 1. In lieu of that, the next Official Board meeting will be held on February 17. Election of Board Officers will be held at that meeting.

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## Wednesday Evening Services

Most Wednesday evenings a small group gathers in the downstairs the church building 6:00 PM. We are currently "Praying through the Psalms". Each week we read and discuss a Psalm. Currently, we are on Psalm 19, so we'll be in the Psalms for quite a while. Join us.

At 7:00 PM we have a second gathering, same place. We just finished "The Chosen" and are eagerly awaiting the next season. We'll be beginning a new session. For more information on this, see Pastor Kyle's news in this Newsletter. Join us, we'd love to have you.

And if you're lucky, Ardella may have another brain teaser for us.

i.e. "What do you call an old Snowman?"

**WATER!!!**



## **PINE GROVE AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The Food Pantry is collecting cookies as we can no longer get bread, pastries, fruits, vegetables and frozen products from Helping Harvest. The tub will be placed in the foyer.

We are collecting any brand of ink cartridges and used batteries. You can either give them to Cathy or put them back on the desk in the fellowship hall. We will use them for either buying ink for Church School or purchasing church supplies at Staples.

Please continue to pray for the Church School and Council of Churches and all it does for the community.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **CHURCH CLEANING**

A cleaning schedule is posted for 2025 on the inside of the church door in the vestibule. Church cleaning is done by individuals in our church who volunteer for a month. If you would like to volunteer, just sign your name on the sign-up sheet behind the month you would like to clean. Thank you!

\* \* \* \* \*

## **GOOD NEWS CLUB**

Good News Club is moving right along. Club is held on Thursdays, from 3:10 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. If you would like to help financially with snacks, please see Cathy Nagle.

Please continue pray for this very important ministry.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **LADIES LUNCHEON**

The monthly Ladies Luncheon will be held on February 26. Place and time will be decided later and will be put in the bulletin.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

A

Feb. 1 – Lily Flynn  
Feb. 8 – Deb Reiter  
Feb. 15 – Flutes  
Feb. 22 – Judy & Ardella

Mar. 1 – Rosa Roth  
Mar. 8 – Ardella & Cathy  
Mar. 15 – Eve Kurtz  
Mar. 22 – Chris Nickel  
Mar. 29 – Lisa Dillon

If you are unable to fulfill your obligation throughout the year, please contact Ardella or Judy. If you would like to be added or taken off for special music, please see Cathy Nagle.

\* \* \* \* \*

## USHERS

Feb. 1 – Deb & Ernie  
Feb. 8 – Kurtz family  
Feb. 15 – Flynn family  
Feb. 22 – Chris & Cathy

Mar. 1 – Sandy & Bill  
Mar. 8 – Carol & Harold  
Mar. 15 – Lois & Lisa  
Mar. 22 – Wayne & Bob  
Mar. 29 – Betsy & Willis

\* \* \* \* \*

## JUNIOR CHURCH AND NURSERY

The children will be dismissed for Jr. Church which is taught by Lori Roth. The nursery schedule for five and under is listed below. We are looking for more volunteers to serve. Please see Lori Roth.

Feb. 1 – Ardella Newswanger  
Feb. 8 – Wayne & Donna  
Feb. 15 – ~~Cathy Nagle~~  
Feb. 22 – Sandy Hrichak

Mar. 1 – Laura Fritz  
Mar. 8 – Chris Nickel  
Mar. 15 – Kelly Brown  
Mar. 22 – Lisa Dillon  
Mar. 29 – Jen Flynn

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## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

8      **Kerry & Larue Troutman**

12      **Rob & Kelly Rohrer**



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# UPCOMING EVENTS in FEBRUARY



## New Small Group Study

Wednesdays at 7pm – What does it mean to “Fear the Lord?” This 8-week video study with John Bevere, will help you grow in confidence to boldly serve God.



## Praise Night - 2/27

Join us on the “fourth Friday” for a night of informal worship, prayer, and fellowship.

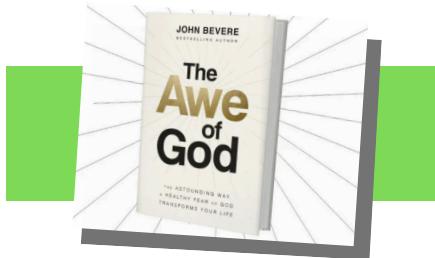


## V.B.S. -- June 22-26



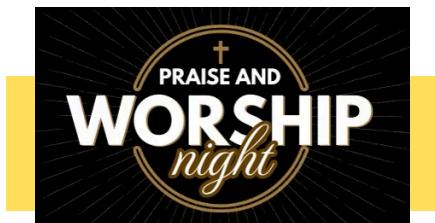
Scan for more info

Watch weekly bulletin for planning meeting this month. Most resources will be available to download.



## Fellowship Brunch - 2/22

Join us after church on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> for a covered dish brunch.



## MANBECKS YOUTH

NEXT YOUTH GROUP: T.B.A.  
(Watch bulletin or BAND app)

SPECIAL EVENT – “Winter Jam Concert”, Thurs. 2/28 in Reading.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

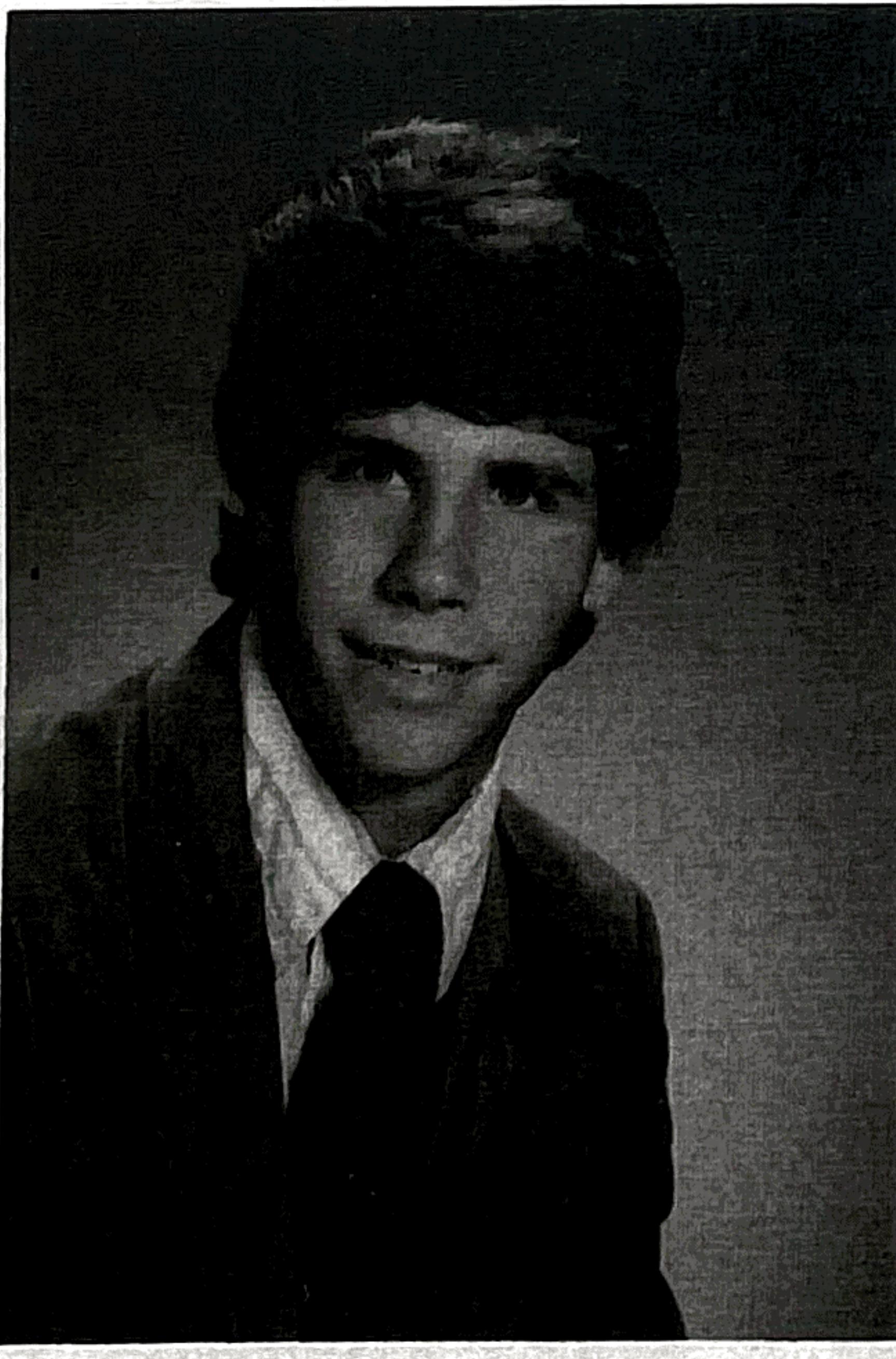
1	Bonnie Hasenauer
2	David Lehr
19	Eric Reiter
22	Nicole Hardenstine
25	Jonathan Flynn



### *My Valentine Wish*

A year has rolled by, and it's  
 Valentines's Day  
 So I'm sending this wish for you,  
 In hopes that the day will bring  
 joy of the best  
 With enough to last your life through.  
 May the days as they pass,  
 a sequence of song,  
 Bring love, that is true  
 to your heart,  
 Which will weave all your dreams  
 in a pattern of hope  
 And a fullness to life impart.  
 So with Valentine's Day,

and all that it means,  
 I shall offer my love and my best;  
 May fortune's bright smile shine  
 forever on you  
 And God grant your slightest request.  
*Marian L. Moore*



Do you know

who this

young man is?

Academy

THINK RIGHT WAY  
 INIT



# News from our Missionaries

## Brian & Missy Wagner

# RIFT VALLEY ACADEMY

### Happy New Year from our Crazy Crew

As we ended our first school term at the very end of November, we welcomed over 200 AIM members who live and minister in Kenya and Tanzania to campus for our Spiritual Conference. WHY do we gather together each year? We're glad you asked! We gather to be rooted in Christ, renewed for service, so that we may return to our areas of ministry with a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, empowered to bring transformative impact to the lives and communities we serve, for the glory of God. During our times of teaching, we were challenged from the Book of Daniel as we reflected on the theme of Heartfelt Mission in a Hostile World. What a wonderfully encouraging time of worship and fellowship. After conference, we packed our bags and headed to winter weather in Pennsylvania where we spent time with each of our grown children, their spouses, and two grandsons, along with extended family, friends, and several church groups. What a blessing to have this gift of time together. We even got to enjoy some SNOW!

### Finding a New Way Home

After an unexpected airport adventure from Washington to Lagos (Nigeria), then Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), we arrived back in Nairobi (Kenya), only three hours later than our original flight through Brussels (Belgium). Thankfully, our four pieces of checked baggage kept up with our new itinerary and arrived with us! It was so good to be home!

### Back in the Saddle

Five days later, life and excitement returned to campus as we welcomed students back from all around the world for the start of our second school term. Our boys were happy to see their friends and quickly unpacked and settled back into dorm life. As we ended we three, all our

K-6th grade students enjoyed a

water-themed field day! Below the equator, we are happily enjoying sunny days and temperatures in the mid-70's! Visitors welcome!

### Here are some ways to PRAY for us this term:

**CAMPING TRIP:** We'll be taking our Titchie dorms camping this weekend! It's always a time getting our seven guys and six girls off campus. PRAY for good health, safety, and as we make new memories together.

**AP CLASSES:** These next twelve weeks of teaching and learning are critical as our students prepare to take their AP exams, which will happen in early May at the beginning of our third school term. PRAY for Brian and all our AP teachers as they teach and work with our students to help them feel ready for these exams.

**MUSIC TOUR:** This year's three-day high school choir and band ministry tour will travel to schools in Nairobi at the end of February. The theme, Light in the Darkness, is focused on John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." PRAY for the students and directors, as well as Missy (choir accompanist), through these weeks of learning music and finalizing tour details. As we gathered together in preparation for the term ahead, the liturgy below was read over our staff, those who have been called to live and serve together in this school community that sits high above the Great Rift Valley in Kenya.

**A Liturgy for Labors of Community**  
**Every Moment Holy, Volume 1, written by Douglas McKelvey**

Our lives are so small, O Lord,  
Our vision so limited,  
Our courage so frail,  
Our hours so fleeting.  
Therefore give us grace and guidance  
for the journey ahead.

We are gathered here because we believe that we are called together into a work we cannot yet know the fullness of.  
Still, we trust the voice of the One who has called us.

And so we offer to you, O God, these things: Our dreams, our plans, our vision. Shape them as You will. Our moments and our gifts. May they be invested toward bright, eternal ends.

Richly bless the work before us, Father. Shepherd us well lest we grow enamored of our own accomplishment or entrenched in old habit. Instead let us listen for Your voice, our hearts ever open to the quiet beckonings of Your Spirit in this endeavor. Let us in true humility and poverty of spirit remain ever ready to move at the impulse of your love in paths of your design.

You alone, O God, by your gracious and life-giving Spirit have power to knit our imperfect hearts, our weaknesses, our strengths, our stories, and our gifts, one to another. Unite Your people and multiply our meager offerings, O Lord, that all might resound to Your glory.

May our acts of service and creation, frail and wanting as they are, be met and multiplied by the mysterious workings of Your Spirit who weaves all things together toward a redemption more good and glorious than we yet have eyes to see, or courage to hope for. May our love and our labors now echo your love and your labors, O Lord.

Let all that we do here, in these our brief lives, in this our brief moment to love, in this the work you have ordained for this community, flower in winsome and beautiful foretaste of greater glories yet to come.

O Spirit of God, now shape our hearts. O Spirit of God, now guide our hands. O Spirit of God, now build Your kingdom among us.

**Amen.**

May this be your prayer, too, in whatever community the Lord has you planted at the beginning of this New Year.  
With our love and thanks,

**Brian and Missy**

## OPEN AIR MINISTRIES.

Joe Toy, Jr.,

Joe grew up in Shillington, PA, and attended First EC Church of Reading. He is a 1978 graduate of Governor Mifflin High School. In 1982, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Millersville University. In the spring of 1982 as a senior in college, Joe committed his life to Jesus Christ. Upon graduation, Joe began his career as an accountant in Trenton, NJ. During this time, he attended Newtown Community Church in Newtown, PA. While attending this church, Joe felt the call to full-time ministry. He left his job to attend Moody Bible Institute for a 3-week seminar on Urban Evangelism with plans to attend Evangelical Seminary in the fall of 1984. When Joe returned from Moody, he began a street ministry in the city of Reading called Inner City Campaigners. From this street ministry, an outreach to children and teens began at First EC of Reading called The Source. This ministry continued from 1984 to 1988 when Joe moved to Philadelphia, PA. Joe began his theological studies at Evangelical in 1984 and ended in 1987. During this time, Joe became a commissioned missionary and a licensed preacher in the Evangelical Congregational Church in May of 1985. In 1985, Joe and Wendy met at Evangelical Seminary while he was working on his Master of Divinity Studies and were married in 1986. Joe and Wendy have five sons. Jared(1987), Seth(1989), Ethan(1989), Aaron (1991) and Adam (1994). The boys were home-schooled from 1991 to 2013. Joe and Wendy have been blessed with four daughters-in-law and eight grandchildren.

In 1988, Joe and Wendy moved to Philadelphia to begin work full time with Open Air Campaigners which lasted until 1992, when Joe began to serve as an associate evangelist with them until 2000. Joe now serves on the board of directors of OAC, Inc. In 1992, Joe became one of the few Evangelical Congregational Church denominational missionaries, which is a status that continued until 2008. In 2009 Joe formed his own 501c non-profit corporation called Open Air Ministries, Inc. Joe's ministry is primarily evangelistic by nature. Outreach has been conducted at bus stops, subways, college campuses, center city, parades, events, neighborhoods, parks, and other areas in and around the Metro Philadelphia Area. In the past, Joe was involved in the Philadelphia Port Ministry, outreach in inner-city neighborhoods with children, and was a co-pastor for Metro Kids, an outdoor kid's church in various locations in Philadelphia from 2007 to 2011.

From 2013 to 2021, Joe did weekly outreach in Camden, NJ, Upper Darby, Frankford, and Olney in the Philly area. In the summer, He was involved in outreach at the New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware beach resorts. During the school year, outreach was also done on various college campuses. In May of 2021, Joe and Wendy have transitioned to the Raleigh, NC area where Joe will continue to do outreach with various organizations and other evangelists at abortion clinics, bus stops, the bar strip, the streets of Raleigh, college campuses, and wherever God may lead. Already, event outreaches have been conducted at the NC State Fair, NC State football games, Comic-Con Festival, and Myrtle Beach Blitz He will continue to travel to national events such as Mardi Gras, Indy 500, Spring Break Florida, Senior Week in Ocean City, MD, sporting events and other venues to share the gospel.

## Open Air Ministries...Joe Toy

**\*“Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation”\***

As I was preaching the gospel in Miami Beach at the convention center during the College Football Championship Fan fest, a young man approached me and asked, “How do I know that God is real?” Like many of the younger generation his mind is filled with evolutionary teaching on origins. By the grace of God, I was able to focus his attention on God as creator through the cause and effect argument and the argument of design. Lastly, I focused his attention on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as it points to Him being God. I could soon tell that he had to go as he began to look at his watch. He shook my hand and thanked me as he headed down the street. We were blessed to have three powerful days of ministry as a team of men from GA, NC, SC and FL including three local men from Miami who came to assist us for a day and they sure did pass out a lot of gospel tracts. One thing that I noticed was that because the game was in Miami and the University of Miami was in the game, this brought out many more football fans to the convention center. This was awesome, because it brought out large crowds to hear the gospel. We did have some opposition from the police on the first day, but it was resolved by a codes officer who was way more friendly and helpful, which allowed us to proceed unhindered. Game day at the Hard Rock Stadium was like a massive street party, as not only were there many football fans, but also a lot of local people enjoying themselves. It reminded me a lot like Mardi Gras, without the lewdness. I saw the Lord open up many opportunities for me to share my testimony of salvation with groups of young men. I can still see in my mind one young man with tears in his eyes as he admitted to me that his life is falling apart, because of an addiction. I challenged him to repent of his sins and trust in Christ as his worldly pleasure had pulled him away from the church. I was blessed to be able to pray for him. After some time off during the holidays to spend time with Wendy, friends and family, we are back to our usual routine of campus ministry, bus station outreach and etc. This past Friday we were short-handed, because some of our team was either sick or out of town. As we began to proclaim the gospel, I was approached by a woman with a smile beaming on her face. She asked, “Do you remember me? I have been clean for a year and I am following Jesus. It is all because of you guys being out here.” To be honest, I did not remember her, because we see so many people, as some we see with frequency and then they disappear. These encounters are a big encouragement to us to stay at the task. God’s word reminds us “that our labors are not in vain.” The body of Christ has been very helpful in this work by providing Bibles, food, water, and winter gear for our various friends at the bus station. We have been back on the campuses of UNC and NCS for three weeks already. It has been good to interact with some of our believing friends and also share the gospel with those who come to us with questions. A young woman approached our team at UNC and said, “I see you preaching here all the time. How do I get right with God?” Encounters like this remind me of things that we read in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. Needless to say she came to the right folks to answer her question. It is good to see that our consistency on campus builds a trust factor for some who are seeking answers. Yet, there are those who wish that we would stop coming, but the Lord is already working through others on campus and we are just there to fit into whatever the Lord is doing. Many young people are seeking truth. First night in Raleigh is always a great event for outreach as it is very family friendly. We were blessed with a great team of men working the first shift from 7pm to 10 pm and then the late night guys took over. Surprisingly, many people stopped by to listen to the word of God. We were able to pass out much literature and had some brief gospel conversations. One Christian man who was running a food truck blessed some of our guys with some hot chocolate, which was an awesome treat on a cold night. Like many others, I rang in the new year asleep in my bed, after a tiring night sharing Jesus with folks.

**\*Pray for us in 2026 to be about the Lord’s work. God Bless.\***

### EVENT OUTREACHES

<b>Mardi Gras (New Orleans)</b>	<b>February 11<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>QuiltCon @Convention Center</b>	<b>February 21<sup>st</sup></b>

## NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES Joe Toy, Jr.

### month of *Open Air Ministries in Pictures*

"And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch me

Pray for us as we proclaim the gospel and stand for life at the Jones Franklin abortion Mill this morning. There have been a lot of issues with police in the last week so keep us in your prayers.



We have been working the bus station here in Raleigh for well over 4 years on a weekly basis. Today, a woman approached me and said, "I have to tell you this, because of you guys I've been clean for one year and I am walking with the Lord." As the scripture say, our labors are never in vain.

PTL



The gospel goes forth on game day in Miami. Lots of gospel tracts going out and many good conversations. PTL



Blessed with another good day sharing the gospel with students at NC State this afternoon. The Lord is working in a lot of the students' lives. We are meeting many young men sold out for Jesus.



The Lord blessed us with a lot of great gospel conversations today at UNC. May much fruit be born and may the kingdom of Jesus grow.



"How do I know God is real?"



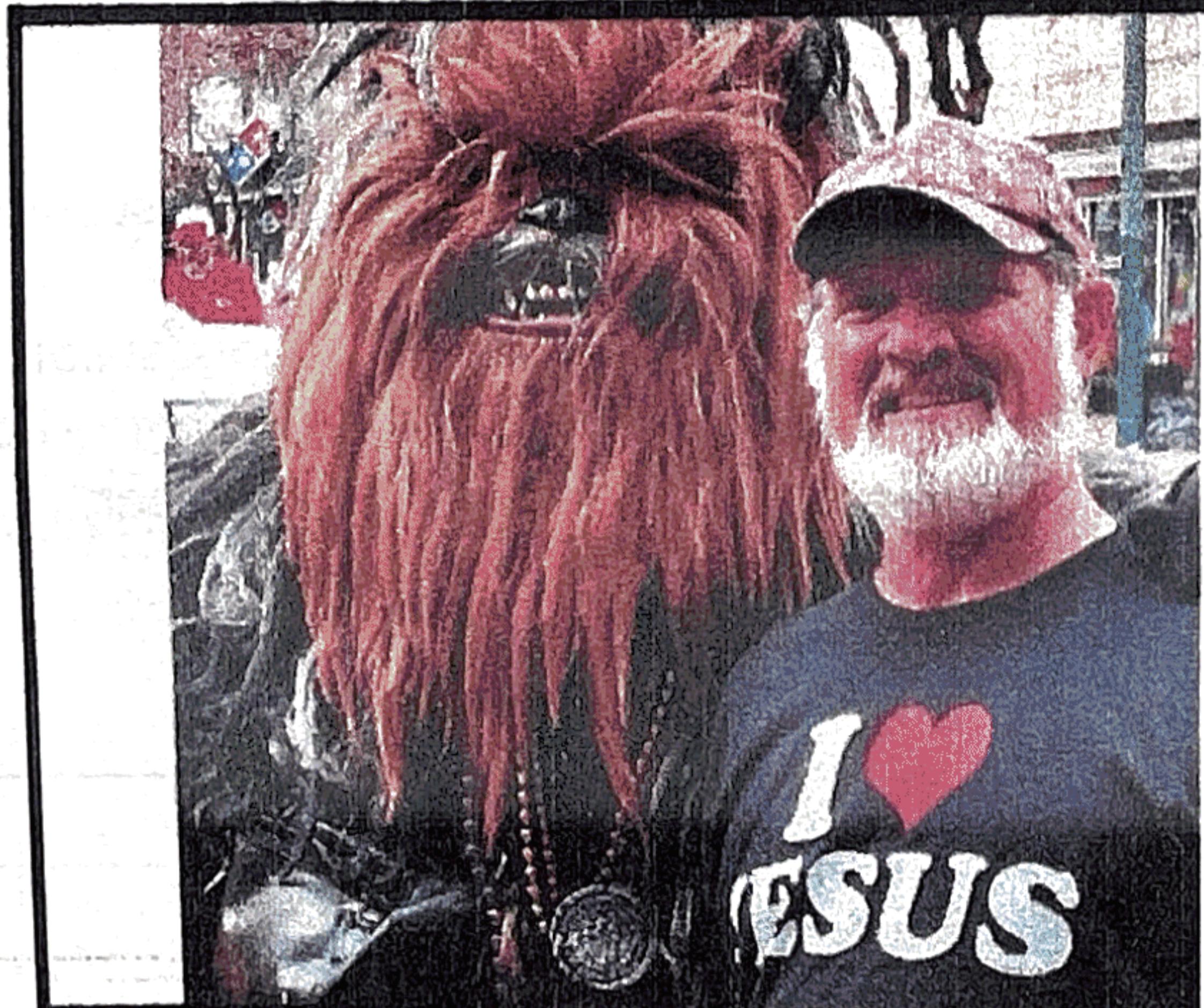
**Another Bible goes out at Sam's Club today !**



Pray for us as we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the Moore Square bus station in Raleigh this afternoon.



## COMMENTS FROM FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS.



>**"Joe, your beard is not quite up to Chewie's standard!"**  
>**"Which one is Joe?"**  
>**"Who's on the right?"**  
> **"Blessed to see you my brother!"**  
**(Poor guy. He gets little to no respect.)**