

# The Liberty Light

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
LIBERTY BIBLE CHURCH**

**PASTOR PAUL R. PHILLIPS**

## **IT'S NOT GOOD LUCK - IT'S A GOOD GOD!**

as written by Tracie Miles

When life gets messed up, it is only natural to feel like God is overlooking our sufferings and not at work in our lives. But believing God doesn't care can blind us to where He is working, or we can attribute His goodness to nothing more than good luck. I don't believe in good luck. I believe in a good God.

In the book of Ruth, we read how Naomi struggled to see God at work in her life due to the onslaught of losses and disappointments she had endured. She had to leave her home due to a famine and move to another city. And, she had already lost her husband, two sons, friends, wealth and financial security. Her heart became bitter and her faith, shaken. She believed her life was permanently void of good things and felt all she had was bad luck. Yet, despite her negativity and lack of faith, God had awesome plans for her life. When good things finally did start happening after a long season of suffering, I can't help but wonder if Naomi chalked them up to happenstance rather than giving credit where credit was due. It would have been easy because her heart was heavy, her faith weak and her spirit crushed. Yet, as you read her story, it's obvious there was a good God orchestrating a divine plan.

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*God's  
Timing is  
Perfect*

## **A GOOD GOD CONTINUED...**

We read in chapter one that Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth arrived back in Bethlehem just in time for the beginning of the barley harvest. Good luck? No, a good God with perfect timing. The harvest was God's plan for meeting their physical needs for food and nourishment. In Ruth 2:1, we find Naomi had a wealthy and influential relative named Boaz. Good luck? No, generations of planning by a good God to open doors of opportunity, provision and protection from harm. In Ruth 2:2-3, Ruth goes to pick up leftover grain in the fields, and "As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz". Was it just good luck she ended up in Boaz's field, of all fields? No, it was a good God going before her and guiding her steps. Then in Ruth 2:4, the story continues, "Just then Boaz arrived ...". Good luck? No, a good God with perfectly orchestrated timing. And who does Boaz just happen to notice? Ruth. Good luck? No, a good God working on a man's heart to prepare His plans to be carried out.

Ruth 2:12 reminds us of God's goodness: "The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." And the rest is history. Boaz later married Ruth, and they had a son together, giving Naomi a new son-in-law and a precious grand-bundle of joy. He purchased Naomi's land and secured her financial well-being. These were all divinely planned gifts from God, not just good luck. Gifts of restoration and blessing, in His perfect timing, according to His perfect plans.

As for me, I have seen God at work, and His restoration plans for my life play out day by day. I can look back at so many good things that have happened over the past few years and can't help but smile ... because I see God's miracles, not just streaks of good luck. Although many areas of my circumstances are not yet restored, and life is often still hard, I now realize God did something even better than I could have imagined. He's healed my heart and restored my strength, peace, hope, faith and joy — just as He did for Naomi and Ruth, and just as He wants to do for each of His children.

There's no such thing as chance-happenings, my friend, only God-happenings, because Scripture reminds us God has His hand in all matters under the sun. Remember: God is always in control, working behind the scenes to orchestrate good plans for our lives. This not only gives us great hope, but also equips us to live with joy — despite whatever life throws at us.



# Youth Group News

Lots of great things are happening this year within our youth group! We will be able to return back to monthly activities, destination unknowns and our favorite...youth lock-ins!



We are very excited to announce that we are working closely with the Portage County Sheriff's office to bring a youth, one-day rally to learn about Human Trafficking. Our plans are to host this event at our church and open this event up for other churches to attend. Please be praying for us and that God will lead us in this programming. If you are interested in helping to coordinate food and snacks, please reach out to Paula or Jesse. This is a much needed class for all of our youth.



Excitement fill the air when we announced that we will be bringing back our Youth Mission Trip! This year our youth will be taking part in the MAP Ministry with Joe Keim. While we are still in the beginning stages, Joe is in need of some outside work in flower beds, apartment fix-ups and help in his store. Our plan will be the last weekend in July. Please pray that the Lord will lead us as we continue to plan.



As always, we thank each of you for lifting our youth program up in prayer. God is working in so many ways. We have a unique situation, high school aspects and then college. This is such a crucial time in their lives but we see each one focused on God's will!

*- Jesse & Paula Baughman*

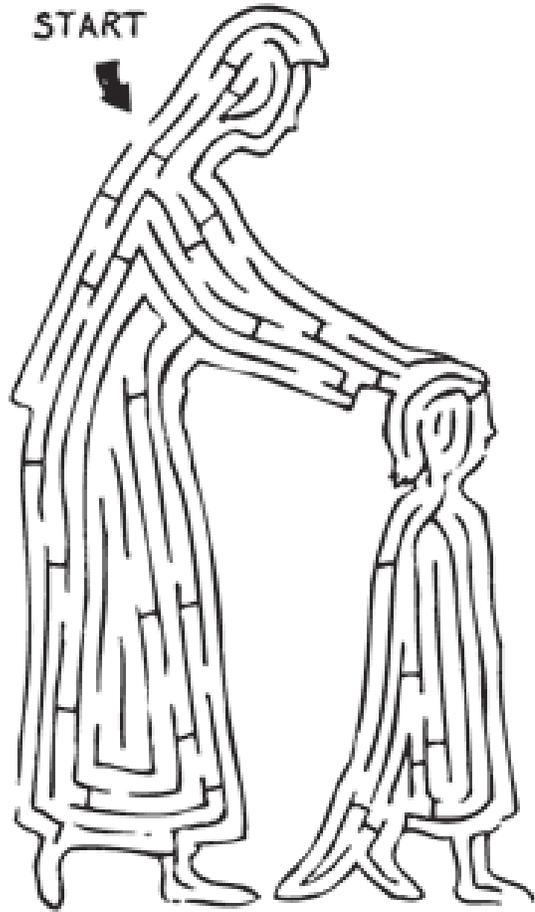
# Kids Korner!

## Let the Children Come

He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14b (NIV)



START



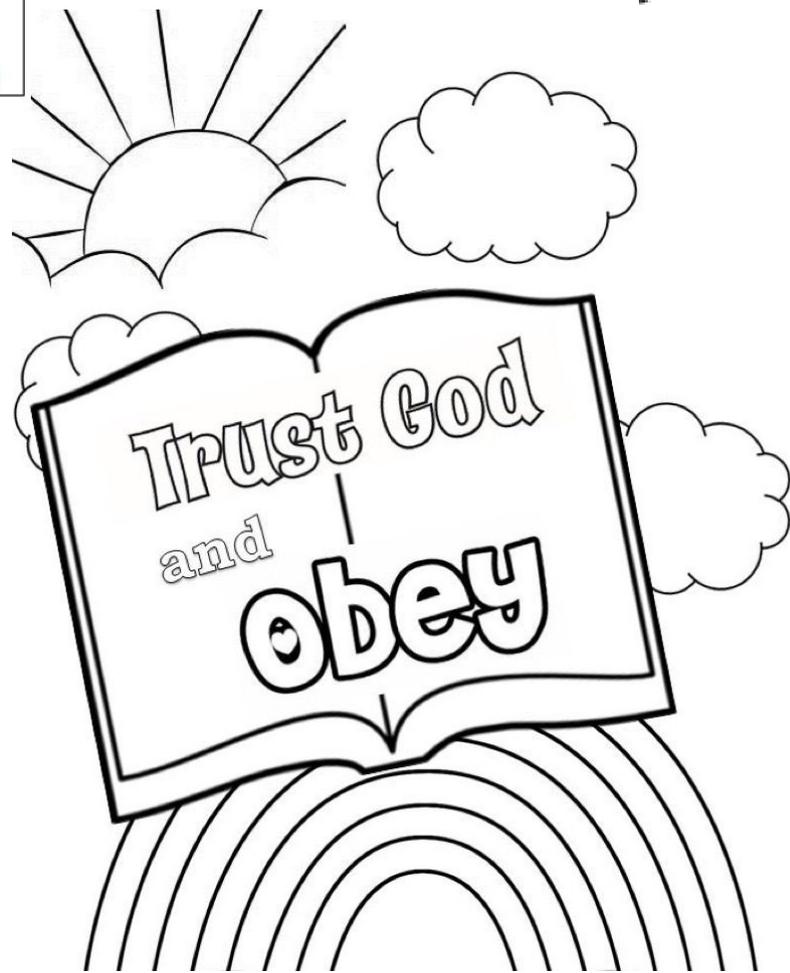
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PEOPLE	JESUS	INDIGNANT	GOD	ENTER
BRINGING	TOUCH	COME	BELONGS	ARMS
LITTLE	DISCIPLES	HINDER	TRUTH	HANDS
CHILDREN	REBUKED	KINGDOM	ANYONE	BLESSED



**Don't forget that Children's Church meets every Sunday Morning at 11:00 am and the JR High class meets right after the morning Scripture reading.**



The mid-week pick me up is an important part of Christian life. Not only does it help us get along until Sunday Worship services, but it is an uplift after what is always an exhausting beginning to a week. Being around folks who don't believe as we do, can be very trying and disheartening. Bible study gives us the chance to leave that behind and delve into the words of God and the fellowship of like-minded believers.

Here are 8 reasons why coming to Bible Study and studying the Bible is so important:

## **Cultural Literacy**

One reason to study the Bible is for cultural literacy purposes. E.D. Hirsch writes, "To be culturally literate is to possess the basic information needed to thrive in the modern world." Simply put, the Bible contains a wealth of cultural literacy. References to the Bible are found not only found in religion, but also art, music, philosophy, literature, law and more. Knowing what the Bible says is an important part of everyone's k-base. Many popular phrases and figures of speech also find their origin in the Bible including being a Good Samaritan, the folly of letting the blind lead the blind, going the extra mile, ethical maxims such as "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," manna from heaven, etc.

## **Learn What the Bible Says Firsthand**

Another reason to study the Bible is to learn what it has to say firsthand. History has demonstrated that the Bible cannot be ignored, and it is worthy of study. In addition, the recent rise of hostile criticism towards the Bible itself and religion in general also makes it worthy of study. Sometimes the critics do not always quote the Bible correctly or in context. Knowing what it says firsthand and having some knowledge of the context is helpful in understanding not only current events, but key ideas the Bible addresses such as the nature and existence of God, the human condition, the biblical pattern of redemption and salvation and ethics.

## **Personal Edification**

For thousands of years the Bible has been read not only as history and God's Word, but also for personal edification. This, of course, is a more meaningful reason for studying the Bible for those who believe in God, but the Bible is also surprisingly edifying for those who do not believe. It is full of individuals facing moral choices, life challenges, and, frankly, situations that are applicable to us even today. As Paul wrote, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17) The Bible is available for us to learn from not only on an intellectual level, but on a personal and emotional level.

## **To Help Others**

But the Bible is not just for us to keep to ourselves as individuals. It is also useful in helping others. We gain centuries of wisdom and are thus able to help others by studying the Bible. Proverbs, for instance, contain general principles and ideas to assist anyone in living their lives in a way that is helpful and pleasing to God. Studying the Bible in order to help others is not just for ministers, priests or pastors, but is something everyone can do. By knowing what the Bible says on different subjects, we can help others through difficult circumstances, encourage them and so forth.

## **Jesus**

For Christians the Bible culminates in the New Testament account of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some 2,000 years after the time of Christ, His life and ministry remain relevant even in our contemporary world. Regardless of how one views Christ, like the Bible, He cannot be ignored. Far from being a distant prophet or irrelevant figure in history, Jesus Christ is at the Christianity's foundation. Particularly studying the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John will help anyone gain a better understanding of Jesus and His mission.



## God's Word to Us

For people the world over, the Bible is God's Word to us. People inspired by God recorded the words that make up the Bible, thus communicating what theologians call special revelation. In other words, God has chosen to reveal Himself not only through creation and conscience, but also specially through Jesus and through His Word. Studying the Bible, then, is a matter of course for those who love God and desire to follow Him.

## To Know God Better

Since the Bible is God's Word, studying it is a way to know God better. Through His words we come to know not only the nature and attributes of God, but we also come to understand His plan for each of us. In a larger sense, we also come to know God's plan in history, His sovereignty, His providence, His love and more. There is only so much we can learn about God apart from the Bible. But with it we can know God better.

## Avoiding Error

Studying the Bible also helps us avoid theological error. The Bible tells us, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (1 Timothy 4:16), adding that "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." (Titus 2:1). If the Bible is our authority for faith and life, then the inspired words it contains will help us to avoid error. In a pluralistic world with many religious and non-religious ideas competing for attention, studying the Bible provides us with a firm foundation in God's truth rather than the errors of the world. Knowing the Bible also helps us respond to error and answer questions that skeptics and others may have about it.

Studying the Bible is important for a number of reasons. The Bible is not just for theologians and scholars. Rather, it is God's Word in plain language intended for everyone. Together, we explore the Bible and its relevance to everyday life. Far from being a stuffy or boring book, the Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God, helpful in building us up so that we may serve, love and glorify God and His Son, Jesus Christ, as we are intended to do.

# Missionaries Memo

## Mexico Mission, Dr. Bob Ellis - Director

The new year is off to a good start. The Mexico Missions Special Support Fund was brought into existence to provide financial help for young men who have trusted Christ as their Savior and have been called to preach and attend Bible College in Mexico and are committed to reaching their own people with the Gospel.

Since 2012 the MMSS Fund has helped 51 young men, including 9 new students this year. Three of our students will graduate this spring.

We will be getting on the road to promote the ministry in our motorhome. We ask for prayers for our journeys and as always we appreciate your support.

*In His service, Bob and Rita Ellis*

## Chaplain Tim Klink, Founder & Director

Prison Discipleship Ministry began with one opportunity to send a Bible to an inmate in 2011. Since then, God has allowed us to share the message of the unconditional love Jesus has with thousands of inmates in county jails as well as state prisons throughout Ohio. Every time I open our PO Box, there is a lesson or letter in it. Being able to mail our "Addiction Handbook by Jesus" into Ohio state prison facilities has had miraculous results.

My most recent trip to get the mail blessed me with five inmates' letters asking for help from the Bible. God directed these inmates to me as I have had no contact with them. What an opportunity I have had to reach into the lives of these people. God is so good and gives me all these opportunities. Thank you all for your prayers and financial support!

*Your fellow servants in Christ,  
Tim and Barb Klink*



- **Don't forget** that **every Friday** the **Nursing Home Ministry** meets at 10:00 am at Altercare Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Brimfield, OH. If you would like to help the ministry, please see Kay Pyles. We can use help crafting, with snacks, singing, playing instruments and most importantly, Fellowship!
- **Don't miss the midweek pick-me-up!** Wednesday Bible Studies are full of fun and learning. If you haven't come out, meet us there each Wednesday at 7:00 pm. There is Children's Church available during Bible study.
- **Our JR Church** program has made some changes...classes will now start at 11:00 am. The JR High class will still begin after the morning scripture reading.
- **Saturday March 26, 2022** at 11:30 am is the Ladies Luncheon at Kinsey's Restaurant in Atwater. Please sign up in the vestibule if you plan to attend.
- **There will be an Easter Egg Hunt** for our JR Church program. If you are able to donate plastic Easter eggs and candy, please see Paula Baughman.
- **Sunday April 3rd** the Singing Weavers will be with us during the morning worship service.
- **Saturday April 9th** at 9:30 am at Circle Restaurant is the Men's Fellowship Breakfast.
- **Sunday April 10th** we will be observing communion after the morning worship service.
- **Tuesday April 19th** the Belles & Beaus will be meeting at Farmer Boy at 11:30 am.
- **The Youth Group** will be taking on our Food Cupboard as their new ministry. There will be a collection in April.
- **An Easter program**, entitled "These Hands" will be presented on Easter Sunday Morning April 17th during the 11:00 am service. Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting wanting to take part in the program. We look forward to a blessing.
- **Service Hours:** Sunday Morning 11:00 am; Sunday JR Church 11:00 am; Sunday Evening 6:00 pm; Youth Group Sunday Evening 6:00 pm; Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Meeting and Children's Church 7:00 pm.
- Remember to keep our missionaries in your prayers.
- Remember our sick and shut ins.

Don't forget to visit our website [www.lbcwateroh.com](http://www.lbcwateroh.com) to check out the verse of the day, the Monthly Bible Reading list, videos of services, the current newsletter, the event calendar and more!

# Liberty Bible Church

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*"The Way Church Used to Be"*  
**Preaching, reaching and teaching  
throughout the pandemic.**

*You're  
Invited!*

**Liberty  
Bible  
Church**