

# LIVING GOSPEL CHURCH NEWS

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Simply Living the Gospel

February 2021

## God IS Love

**1 John 4: 7-8** *7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

**We are only able to love because God first loved us.**

What is most amazing is God loved us as sinners, not because we strive to be good people. Nothing we can do on our own would be considered “good” before our holy God, and yet, He loves us completely with an everlasting love. He didn’t wait for us to offer our hearts to Him first before He extended His love towards us. He didn’t choose to love certain people and withhold love from others. He doesn’t love us more when we are “good Christians” or less when we fall hard in life. He loves us wholly when we are right in step with Him and when we stumble. It’s not that God *has love* to give; *He is love itself*. So everything He does comes from a place of love. We can trust in this truth.

**God IS LOVE.** When we view the world through this truth that God is love we can begin to see our circumstances through a different lens.

When we walk in the truth that we are wholly loved by God and it is not based on our performance, we can cease striving for approval and enjoy the fellowship and comfort of His love that fills us each day.

When we understand God is love and through His love He created all humanity, we position our hearts to let His love flow through us to others.

If we want the world to know and experience God we have to first understand who He is. **God is love.** And since He is love, we, who are in His image, are to love one another as He loves us. Let us stop *trying to love others* and simply call on God to release His love through us towards others. Love is from God.



### 1 John 4:7

*7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.*

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## **The Ark is Building a Library Constanza Dominican Republic**

**Proverbs 11:25 <sup>25</sup> A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.**

Kasandra O'Brien shared great news of continued building at The Ark site many of us have visited and served at.

**They are building a new building to be used for a library, computer lab and offices!**

Construction is under way as you see in the photo above.

The yellow and blue building in the background is the school and their media/meeting space and their cafeteria. They have continued to add on classrooms, work space and educational resources throughout the years.

It is wonderful to see in these times God is ever faithful and continuing to provide the means to help strengthen ministries like The Ark and the impact they have in their communities.

Fred and Kasandra O'Brien are doing wonderful things in Constanza to shape young lives so the future for their community is full of hope and families will truly be changed.

Your gifts and donations will be part of this new project. We originally requested love offerings to help clothe their children who live at The Ark full-time, but God had already provided for that need. Kasandra shared the timing of our gift was perfectly ordained by God to assist in covering expenses for this great project.

Thank YOU for your generosity and willingness to invest in missions. It is to our great joy to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and bring hope to all nations! It is to our great joy to give from what we have to make an eternal impact in communities like Constanza, DR.

Let us pray over this project and their work for God's continued favor in all regards and for this to be a great blessing to all who enter this building for years to come. Let Your anointing be upon this building and may Your love flow through the hands of every worker who brings this vision to reality. May You provide their every need Father and bless this ministry abundantly. May their impact in Constanza go deeper and reach farther, to Your glory and praise! Amen.

*1 John 3:18 <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

## ***Celebrating-***

### **February Birthdays**

Sandy Ebert	February 7
Erna Manweiler	February 10
Aubrey Benisch	February 13
Helen Buckley	February 15
Don Hessler	February 15
Jonathan Landsverk	February 17
Amanda McPhearson	February 25

Please let Pastor Karrie know if we missed your special days so we can add it to our database. Thank you!



## **2021 Annual Budget Meeting**

**Sunday, Feb. 28th**

It is that time of year again. We need to set our annual budget for 2021.

There are no board positions up for election this year so discussion and voting will be focused solely on projected expenses and income for 2021.

We understand we are still working through this pandemic and we want *and need* the voices of our members heard.

Being part of voting and committing to uphold our annual budget is important for all of us, and part of our role as members of Living Gospel Church.

We ask that you please mark this date on your calendar and know the meeting will begin following worship service.

There is plenty of space to sit distantly and all will be wearing masks.

If you want to join in online please let Pastor Karrie know so we can send a link *before Feb. 28th*.

If you can't attend on this date, please contact Bob Dreifke to review a copy of the proposed budget ahead of time and *let your vote/questions be shared prior to the meeting*.

Thank you so much for your engagement. Let us pray for God's favor, wisdom and blessing in all we do to further His Kingdom! To His glory and praise!



### ***Love One Another as God Loves Us***

**John 13:34 NLT <sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.**

I wrote this in last year's newsletter and it is equally timely right now for us to remember **Love is the only way to unity**. Love is the only way to overcome hate. Love promotes peace over division. Love is the only way to bring healing to broken relationships. **Love is the place we must begin** to extend grace in our differences and forgiveness to those who have wronged us. **Love enables us to continue to hope**. Love sets aside selfishness and pride; instead choosing humility and sacrifice for the good of others. Love joins us together and breaks through the hardest of hearts. Love casts out fear reminding us we are not alone and we will overcome because we have others walking with us.

1 Peter 4:8 NLT reminds us **"Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins."**

**Just as God has loved us with grace unending**, with mercies anew each morning, with tremendous sacrifice for our well-being and with a genuine love for who we are, **let us love one another**.

We always have a choice in our responses and actions. Let us choose love and believe as we do, love will never fail.

Let us give praise to our God who loves without end.

*How amazing is His love!*

## Coming Events

Sunday, February 14– Board meeting following worship service

Monday February 15- Ladies Prayer Group. 9 am online or church with masks. Contact Pastor Karrie for a link to join in the time of fellowship.

**Sunday, February 28th– 2021 Annual Budget Meeting** to follow worship service. Masks are required and there is plenty of room to social distance.

## Go Forth in My Spirit– Join a Small Group and Let the Holy Spirit Guide You into Greater Truth

**Real Moms. Real Jesus.** Once per month. Talk with Britt Sugden for dates and online meeting space. Join in any time! *You are welcome!*

**Wednesdays:** 7 pm Adult Study and Fellowship-*Meeting online.* Contact PK and join the conversations and fellowship!

**Create a new small group-***"Where 2 or 3 gather there I am"*

**Zechariah 4:6 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.**

***May the Love of God flow through you in every way.***

## *Let Us Encourage One Another*

Let us purpose to connect and encourage one another. Let us purpose to pray together. Let us purpose to build one another up in the faith. **Let us be in the habit of coming together- even virtually or via the phone.**

Contact Pastor Karrie.  
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