

LIVING GOSPEL CHURCH NEWS

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Simply Living the Gospel

May 2021

A Mother's Steadfast Love

Proverbs 31: 25-31 NIV ²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. ²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. ²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." ³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

We honor you Moms and Grandmas this Mother's Day for your love that is steadfast and true. Your faithful, ever present love has shined brighter than ever before in this trying year. We know there were great sacrifices for all, whether near or far from your children. Those who are actively raising children were tasked with becoming full-time teachers, navigating online technology, trying to keep children focused and engaged, being a counselor for their emotional stressors in missing school and their friends. Do all this while keeping your own emotional stressors in balance. Many were juggling working in a whole new environment that was not conducive to *work*. This was not a year of idleness for moms in any regard. Routines were uprooted, support systems drastically changed or were cut off altogether and all that you were once certain of, became a swirling storm of uncertainty building around you.

Except for one thing, the one thing that is forever your anchor in every storm and time of uncertainty, **your hope in Jesus Christ**. We love this so much about you Moms - your great faith that holds us in prayer. For Moms with grown children and grandchildren, this wisdom and truth shining like a beacon through you was truly priceless in this time and forever cherished in our hearts. God bless you all for your love that is most certainly a reflection of the love of God.

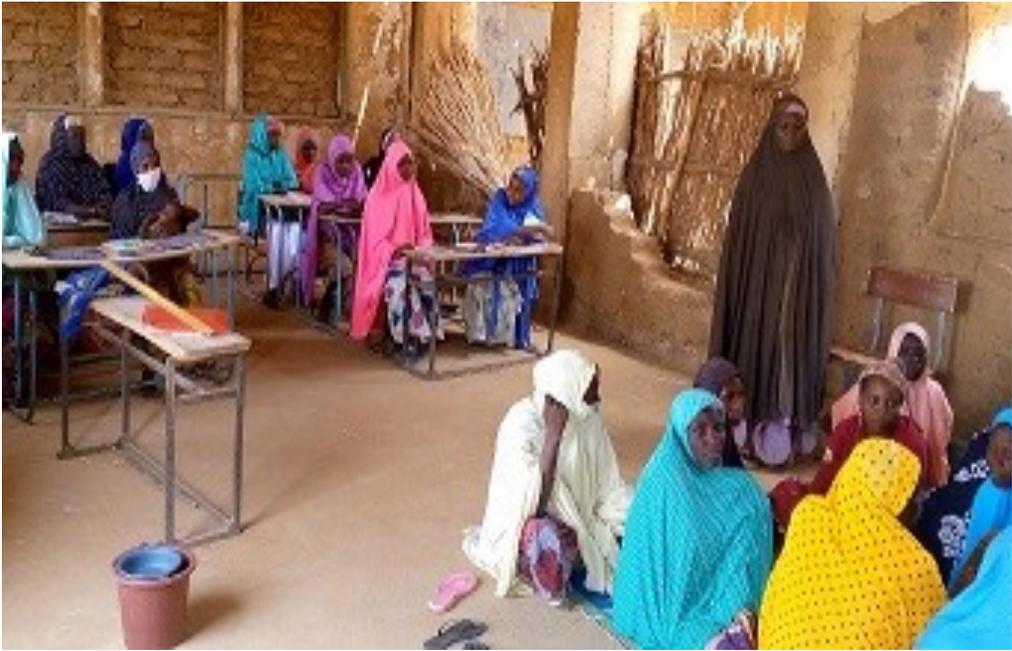


Proverbs 31:29

*"Many women
do noble things,
but you
surpass them
all."*

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Women's Literacy in Eastern Niger

**Psalm 96:3 NIV Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

Expanding women's literacy in Niger Africa has been on the heart of our missionary partners Barb and Tim Kusserow, who serve there with a main focus on Bible translation for the Makori people. They are second generation missionaries and there has been a growing awareness and willingness to now help women learn to read in remote villages.

Learning to read as you can imagine will dramatically change generations to come and increase a women's ability to provide and care for her family. We gave to this new ministry this past year to help them get a start.

Here is a recent update: Women's literacy in eastern Niger has been a growing endeavor in recent years. We wanted to add 6 new villages in a remote area last year but didn't have the funds. Those funds then became sufficient in December 2020 two trainings took place and 6 teachers have begun classes in 6 new villages. The pastors who supervise the program are already seeing remarkable openness to the preaching of the gospel in these villages. One of the teachers has started coming to a weekly Christian prayer meeting and asking for prayer for herself and her friends. Anyone interested in online giving to this specific ministry can go to www.simusa.org/give/ and enter **097519** in the select designation box.

Praise God for granting vision for His faithful servants and for obedient hearts to step out in faith to fulfill His vision. Women in this area of Niger are learning to read! How they will impact their families and continue to share this skill with children! Not only that, there will be growing access to read the Word of God! Praise the Lord!

We have the joy to contribute to this work and all of what Barb and Tim are doing in Niger. Thank You Lord for joining us together with the Body of Christ and granting us the privilege and joy to see the work of Your hands all throughout the world.

Let us be in prayer over this ministry specifically and the entire ministry efforts God has entrusted to Barb and Tim Kusserow and their teams. They will be home in the states for the next 7 months and *it is our hope to have them come share personally their testimonies in the field!*

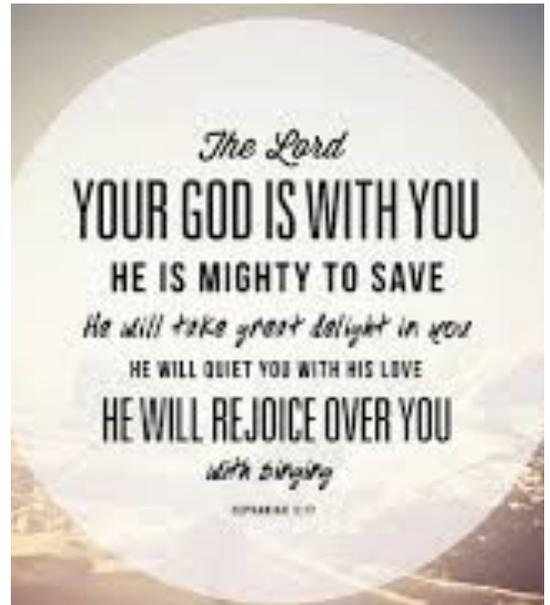
We praise You Lord for the Kusserow family and their faithfulness. Pour out Your goodness, kindness and favor upon them.

Celebrating May Birthdays

Carson Richardson	May 12
John Theel	May 26
Liz Abela	May 30
Gary Pichler	May 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Carrie and Jr Abela	May 9
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Let Us Return to Church

Oh how we look forward to the return of *all* our church family!

You are missed deeply. We long to see your face and join with you in conversations again.

You are missed as we lift up praises to our King, hearing all our voices singing together with joyful hope!

You are missed with ministries that have been sitting dormant during this year of the pandemic. Your servant heart and helping hands are a great blessing to so many.

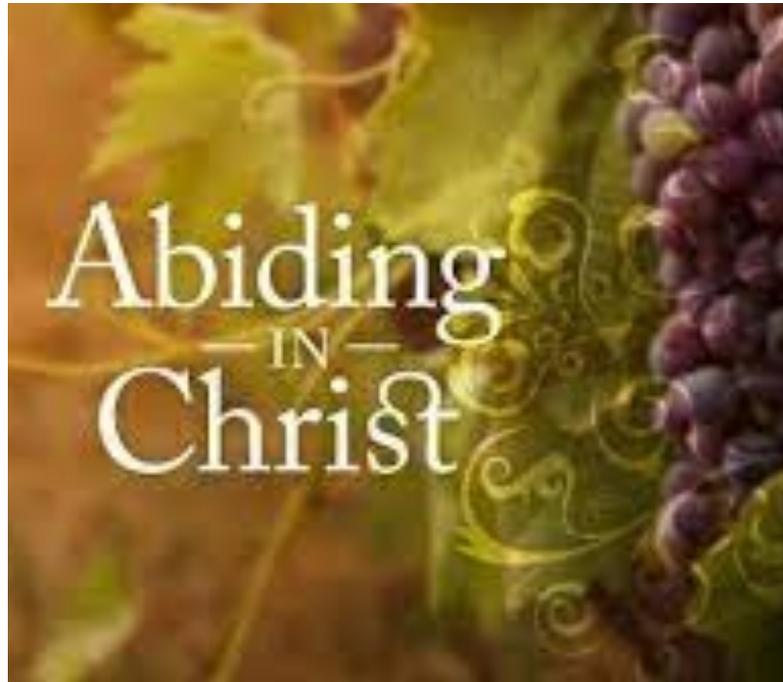
You are missed in the words of encouragement and wisdom you share with others attending church.

You are vital to the strength and wholeness of the Body of Christ. **You are vital** in the service of His people and care of His Church.

Your presence matters. Your serving and giving makes a difference in more ways than you might realize.

Let us return to church. Let us gather again. Nothing will replace **in person worship**-for this is by God's design. Let us come together and continue to build His Kingdom.

We can't wait to see you!



Abide in Christ

John 15:4-5 NKJV ⁴**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.** ⁵**“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

Let us remember Jesus is our life source and when we remain connected to Him, *abiding in Him*, there is an effortless and continuous flow of His power sustaining us in every way.

We are not meant to do life on our own. We are not designed to operate independently. We cannot sustain that and truly live. Striving in our own limited power will only lead us to break down in multiple ways.

Jesus came that we might have life abundant in Him!

When you feel times that you are reaching a breaking point, pause and ask yourself, “am I abiding in Christ?”

Jesus says in Matthew 11: 29-30 **“Come to me,** all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke** upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Let us not wait till we reach our breaking point to cry out for help from our Savior. Let us tune to His flow within us each day letting the Spirit be our guide in all ways. For in the Spirit there is life and peace.

Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. Let us abide in the One who give us life and rest for our souls. Let us abide in our Prince of Peace.

Coming Events

Thursday, May 6th National Day of Prayer. Events at Capitol in Madison 9am-3pm in 300 SE Prayer Room-changing prayer focus each hour. Main event outside 12 pm, King St. entrance. Watch for online events too and *join in prayer!*

Sunday, May 9th Special Mother's Day Service. Please join us and let's honor our mothers. Invite a mom to join us for worship!

Monday May 17 Ladies Prayer Group. 9 am online or church. Contact Pastor Karrie for a link to join online.

Go Forth in My Spirit— *Join or Start* 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: 6:30 pm Adult Study and Fellowship—*Meeting in person again!* Join in the conversations and grow closer to God.

Sunday worship will never offer what a small group conversation fosters. Both are equally important to deepening our relationships with God and others.



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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.**
I am here for you.

Contact Pastor Karrie.
Email: pastor@livinggospelchurchrio.org

Or via cell phone:
608 566-3936

PLACE
STAMP
HERE