

# LIVING GOSPEL CHURCH NEWS

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Simply Living the Gospel

December 2021

## *Come, Let Us Adore Him*

**Matthew 2: 9-11 NKJV** <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The wise men had studied the Scriptures and the stars to know of the coming Messiah, and when they saw the star shining brightly in the sky, they traveled to far away lands to encounter Him in the flesh. They brought costly gifts to honor Him and they bowed down in worship before the promised Savior. They prepared for His arrival and put forth much effort to be in His presence.

Christmas is now just weeks away. As we partake in our many traditions that are so fun this time of year, let us also make time to prepare our hearts so when the day of Jesus' celebrated birth arrives, we are positioned to rejoice, honor, and humbly worship Him as the wise men were.

Whether we are singing our favorite Christmas hymns, baking yummy treats, writing out Christmas blessings in cards, enjoying the beauty and peace of Christmas lights - may we remember Jesus is at the heart of Christmas. May our hearts be filled with love and awe for who He is and why He came to be born in a manger all those years ago.

Amid all our festivities and traditions, let us make time to be still and worship our Lord. Let us adore Him as the wise men did. For He is worthy.

*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6



## *Matthew 2:2 NKJV*

*“Where is He who  
has been born  
King of the Jews?  
For we have  
seen His star in  
the East and have  
come to worship  
Him.”*

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## Go Forth in My Spirit

**Joshua 1:9 NIV** "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

**Go Forth in My Spirit** has been our focus for 2021. Every message we have talked about brings us back to listening to, trusting in and following the Holy Spirit's leading in our lives.

God gave Joshua this charge and encouragement as He called him to lead the way for the Israelites to take possession of the promised land that was originally spoken to Abraham. Joshua was Moses' successor and if you read that first chapter, God is promising Joshua, He would be with him just as He had been with Moses; that no one would be able to come against him or overpower him. He also made it clear to stay in His favor and blessing, Joshua must study His Word daily, know it intimately and ponder it throughout his days. Joshua must be obedient to God's instructions and stay true to His teachings. This is how we learn to discern the Spirit, is by studying God's Word.

God promised He would not fail or abandon Joshua and called him to be strong and courageous. He said, "the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

*This is the presence of His Spirit who dwells in us.*

**This is the gift of Immanuel— God with us.** We are never alone and we are not left to our own limited power and understanding. *We have the power and wisdom of God flowing through us!*

**So as you reflect back on 2021,** a year that brought continued challenges as well as new opportunities—did you heed this counsel and encouragement of God? **Where did you let the Spirit lead you?**

Did you seek the Spirit for counsel in decisions you made? Did you draw from His power, peace and wisdom flowing within you? Did you step out with courage to follow where He's calling you? Let's keep going forward.

Let us boldly follow His Spirit and let us trust in Immanuel.

## Celebrating December Birthdays

Faye Hawley	December 12
Dan Batz	December 13
Jenny Tomlinson	December 16
Stacy Holder	December 22
Raymond Ebert	December 26

## Anniversaries

Missy and Joe Arndt December 30

*God bless you all!*

As we near the end of this year, if you want to be included in our birthday and anniversary celebrations going forward please let Pastor Karrie know. We love to celebrate with you!



## Thank You for Giving

Please know your gifts matter and have a direct impact in the lives of others. Every gift matters.

When we give love offerings to support various mission efforts, God sees our heart, and He multiplies our gift as only He can do to make a profound impact in those lives the mission is focused on helping.

Ken Manthey with Gideons International, followed up as he received the offerings through our church and this is how our collective giving will impact lives for the kingdom of God:

Our gift of \$577 equates to 115 Bibles or 462 pocket Testaments. They distribute these in 200 countries and over 100 languages-*all glory be to God!*

Thank you for your giving to mission efforts like Gideons, Vessels of Mercy, the Kuserows focusing on Bible Translation to the Makori people in Niger, Africa, Kids Alive in Constanza, DR, World Harvest Missions through IMA and many local mission efforts to help those right in our surrounding communities.

We are called to give generously to help the poor and needy and to share the Gospel with the nations. May we find great joy in knowing our gifts are doing just that. May God only increase your desire and ability to give to fulfill His purposes. *God bless you always.*



## Would You Like to Hear More From God?

**Jeremiah 33:3 NASB 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'**

Our God is always speaking to us; but do we hear Him? Do we recognize His voice when He speaks? Do we tune our ears to listen or is He drowned out by all the noise of our world around us?

**Would you like to hear more from God?** Would you like to receive personal direction for your questions? Would you like to discover great and mighty things about our God that you haven't even begun to understand yet?

The exciting part is God desires this for all of us! **He delights in making Himself and His kingdom known to us in greater ways; more personal ways.** Our God is very personal and we bless Him when we choose to commune with Him.

As most of you know, I have been on a journey of discovering God for the past many years and when I learned how to hear God speaking to me, it completely transformed my faith and my relationship with God. I hear from God daily in all aspects of my life. It's not because I'm a pastor. It is solely because I seek to know Him and have learned some techniques to help me hear Him speaking.

God is spirit and has His own language that He speaks. His language is spoken to our heart verses an audible language you and I speak to each other. We simply have to learn how to speak it and how to find Him. It's not hard at all; it just takes practice and desire to hear from Him.

**I would love to run a small group study and share this with all who desire to hear more personally from God.** If you make a commitment to attend and practice what is taught, you will hear more from God. **Please let me know of your interest** and then we'll determine when we meet. **Let's begin this in the New Year-a January small group.** *It will be great fun!* Pastor Karrie

## Coming Events

Monday, Dec. 20th Ladies Prayer Group. 9 am at church. Come for fellowship and leave refreshed in the spirit. All ladies welcome!

Friday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship and Candlelight Service. 4:00 pm at church. Invite your family and friends to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Go Forth in Unity in the Spirit— Be in prayer to see how you might connect in a small group fellowship in 2022. Let us spur one another on in our faith and hope.**

**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:** 7:00 pm Adult Study and Fellowship—*Meeting at church. All are welcome! Try something new!*

***Let us both receive and contribute to the blessing of fellowship with the saints!***

## Connect with PK

How good it is to gather together in fellowship and prayer. Let us be in the habit of coming together.

**I am here for you.**

Is there something troubling your heart? Could you use someone to talk to and pray with?

Contact Pastor Karrie.  
Email: [pastor@livinggospelchurchrio.org](mailto:pastor@livinggospelchurchrio.org)

Or via cell phone:  
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