

SOF in Touch

JANUARY 2024

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 1/1: Church offices closed
- 1/6: KERYX Prison Service
- 1/14: Active Shooter and Stop the Bleed training after service
- 1/20: Ladies' blanket tying, 10 a.m.
- 1/28: Communion led by Pastor Jenny

Two Kings: One Mission

By Jenny Deweese

"I have a dream..."

Martin Luther King, Jr., gave an iconic speech that day on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. He was known for his nonviolent tactics that brought about social change at a magnificent level. He was a minister of God's Word, challenging people everywhere to consider others and take action to make communities better for all.

Dr. King reminds me of another

social activist—One who didn't go by the name but who actually was *The King*. Jesus was also a minister of God's Word and threw the known world into turmoil with His teaching of non-retaliation and "the golden rule." Both Dr. King and the King of Kings challenged those around them to consider others as more important than themselves. Both Kings were murdered in attempts to silence their life-changing messages, but those attempts failed. Martin Luther King, Jr., now has his own Federal

Holiday, and Jesus, of course, is celebrated worldwide on at least two holidays each year.

Let us live out the practice of considering others every time we leave our homes. With our continued example, this community, perhaps, will be motivated to positively answer Dr. King's famous quote, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" and in so doing, become more open to accepting Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for them and to putting others first as they live out their faith.

A Word from Pastor Weldon

Tongues! When you hear that word spoken, does it scare, encourage, excite or put fear into your lives? Because our minds (heads) can't process all that tongues do for us, we often would rather ignore talking about it. It's sad because the very thing that the Holy Spirit gives us to not only identify that He lives in us but also build us up is tongues.

If we could only recognize who it is that doesn't want us to be strong, powerful, and rested—the devil and his army of fallen demons and humans that allow him to influence them.

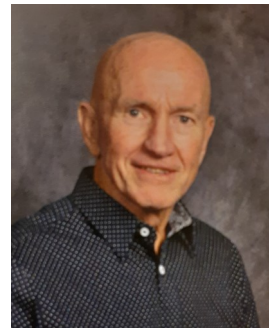
In Isaiah 28:11-12, the Bible says, "with stammering lips and tongues God would speak to His people and find rest and

refreshing, yet they would not hear." Then He tells us all the benefits of praying in the Spirit (tongues) in the New Testament, yet so many Christians still won't listen. Help us, Jesus! Free your Church from all the enemy's attacks and help us operate in fullness of power, praying always in the Spirit.

Come on, SOF Warriors, let's start praying more in tongues, building up our most holy faith, destroying the works of the devil! We are in this warfare together!

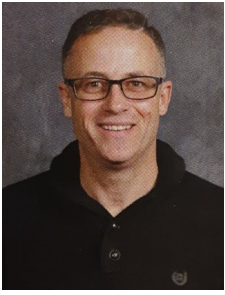
Much love, Warriors,

Pastor Weldon



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A Message from Pastor Mike

Hard to believe Shield of Faith brothers and sisters—it's 2024, and I am excited to see what God has in store for all of us this year.

You know it's easy to look at circumstances that may not be going too well and focus on the negative, but I want to encourage you to focus on the positive. Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, Brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever

things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is anything praise worthy, meditate on these things."

What a confident hope we have in the Lord. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith, and our faith is in Him. Don't lose sight of how amazing our God that we serve is. I pray

2024 is your best year ever in Jesus' Name.

The more man meditates upon good thoughts, the better will be his world and the world at large.

Confucius



*"Adults Discovering Ultimate Truth"
A group for ages 18-25ish who want to grow together in faith and fun*

ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

Our young adults have begun a study on Ruth. We'll be learning how God turned a hopeless situation for two widows into abundant blessings.

We look forward to many more fellowship activities in 2024, including possible rock climbing and amusement park trips. We will also be attending Winter Jam on February

25th in Ypsilanti and a Brandon Lake concert on May 2nd in Grand Rapids.

Mark your calendars, ADUTs, and don't miss out on these amazing experiences!

REVOLUTION STUDENT MINISTRIES

Junior and Senior High kids learning to navigate this crazy world together in a way that challenges the "norm" through Jesus' mighty power

Youth Truth

Jackie and I are excited to lead our youth! When we both heard from the Lord that this is right where God wants us, there was joy, peace, and lots of excitement. You see, we often miss the mark, probably more then we hit the mark when trying to follow God's plan and path for our lives. As the church, followers of Christ, we must build ourselves up in our most Holy Faith and pray in the Holy Spirit, and I can promise you mighty men and women you will hit the mark and

walk in God's plan and have favor in it. This year, 2024, is the year our youth will be building up their most holy faith, understanding how to hit the mark and walk boldly as warriors unlocking God's plan in their lives. Understanding that they are tent makers, we must expand our tent stakes pounding them deep into the ground, rooted with Christ with a cord of three strands fastened tightly so that it is NOT easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Church, when this is applied, your tent that is a refuge can and will withstand any storm.

As youth Pastors we will be proclaiming a word over our youth each year—2024 the word is Fire. Church, will you come into an agreement with us as you pray for our youth and pray God's Spirit will burn like Fire in and through our youth spreading like wildfire in the Saginaw area and wherever their feet tread? Jackie and I will take this mantle with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit guiding us each step of the way. May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Pastors Jackie & Adam Gilles.

Kids' Corner

By Jackie Gilles

Happy New Year!!! This year is going to be an amazing year for our class! Starting out the new year, the Young Warriors will be starting The Greatest Journey. These lessons are curriculum from Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

OCC offers The Greatest Journey as part of the ministry outreach. It is a 12-lesson discipleship course designed for OCC shoebox recipients. Children who participate in the program learn how to follow Christ and share Him with others. As they do entire families and communities are transformed by the power of the Gospel, and churches are started. Every child

will learn about God's love for them as they study the Bible. Upon completion of the course, they receive a graduation certificate and a New Testament Bible.

"Through The Greatest Journey, children are invited to trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and they learn how to prayerfully share the Gospel with family and friends." — Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse.

I know the kids will love the lessons, and it will be exciting to see firsthand what is taught all over the world while learning it ourselves.

OCC SHOEBOX UPDATE: We are very excited to share that thanks to your amazing donations and support you are helping to reach 4 children in Colombia, 27 children in Ecuador, 4 children in Haiti, and 5 children in

Peru and countless family, friends, and communities that these children will help spread the Gospel to!!! We will continue to pray for each child receiving a shoebox while also praying for protection over the shoeboxes as they make their way to South America. Mark 10:14 "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." We truly cannot thank you enough for supporting this ministry and sharing the love of Jesus!

Check out our world map hung just outside our classroom to see the countries marked for this year's boxes. We look forward to tracking our shoeboxes each year on our world map.

"Every box is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ" - Franklin Graham



Kids in grades 1-5 growing with Jesus

Nursery News

Thank you to all who give your time to minister to our youngest hearts in King's Kids at Shield of Faith!

You are making a lasting, eternal impact on

these precious little lives!

Let's keep our littles growing up with Jesus in 2024!



*"Let the little ones come to Me..."
Infants through kindergarteners' starting life in Jesus' love*

Ladies' Life

By Lynn Ahrens

How long have I been at SOF and What brought me to SOF?

The early part of 1995 PW and PK asked if I would be willing to come on board to enter academic records into the computer so student credentials can be digital. I soon transitioned into being the secretary for both the Church and the Academy, loving every moment. I was able to spend 26+ years serving the Lord in this fine place.

What do I love about SOF? From the onset I have appreciated the fact

that PW would never allow us to "complain" about local churches or pastors. We were reminded they were believers, served the same Jesus we served, and were humans who made mistakes, just like us. (In essence, girl, give them grace.)

What about my immediate family? I have been a widow since December of 2012.

I have four children, three of them living in KY, OK, and CA. One lives in Grand Rapids, and the only one I get to visit, as I no longer seem to be able to travel by air.

I have 12 grandchildren, 11 great

grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Do I have any pets? No, I live in a condo that has way too many restrictions.

What am I doing now? Since I retired in August, 2021, I've become homebound. I love facilitating a cell group, loving every sweet lady that is a part of it, and enjoy teaching, at this particular time, the book of Acts.

What do I enjoy doing in my free time? I thrive on doing research in getting to know the Bible better. I probably get more out of the research than I do in teaching.

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Down to Details

PLEASE plan to join us for the active shooter and stop the bleed training immediately following service on January 14th. Police officers from the City of Saginaw Police Department will be here to instruct us, and a nurse will be here to teach us, as well. Childcare will be provided for infants through 5th graders.



Ladies, you are welcome to join our crafty group on January 20th at 10 a.m. to tie blankets for shut-ins and veterans. See Judy Barnes or Sherri Sutton for more information.

POINTING THE WAY TO JESUS!



Men's Moment

By Richard Morrissey

As 2023 has come and gone, a Scripture from Philipians comes to mind:

"Brothers, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before" (Philipians 3:13).

The Apostle Paul wasn't saying that we should forget every-

thing from the past, which, for starters, would be impossible. We want to hold on to good memories and lessons learned. But we should forget past hurts and disappointments. Even dwelling too much on past achievements and the "good old days" can dilute what we can do for the Lord today. We can't reach forward until we get free from the past.

May you be abundantly blessed and know Him more in 2024!

