

SOF in Touch

SEPTEMBER 2024

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 9/2: Offices closed due to Labor Day
- 9/6: KERYX Prison Service;
- 9/7: 5K Fellowship, 8:30 a.m., theme: Labor Day
- 9/13: Ladies' Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 9/19: Lifeline Screening by appointment
- 9/21: 5K Fellowship, 8:30 a.m., theme: Hunters' Hoorah
- 9/22: Communion led by Youth
- 9/28: Ladies' blanket-tying, 11 a.m.

Inside this issue:

<i>A Message from Pastor Mike</i>	2
<i>ADUT Scuttlebutt</i>	2
<i>Youth Truth</i>	2
<i>Kids' Corner</i>	3
<i>Nursery News</i>	3
<i>Ladies' Life</i>	3
<i>An Adage from Pastor Adam</i>	4
<i>Men's Moment</i>	4

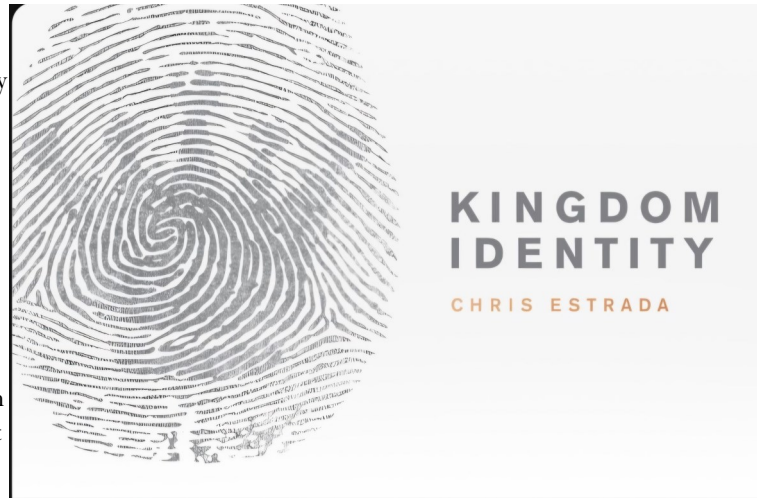
A Lesson from Pastor Lisa

Happy September!

The past month we have been learning more about our identity in HIM. That HE is our source and we belong to HIM. Join us Sept 3rd as we do an online Bible study on Kingdom Identity. The study is a 5-day plan through You-Version. Questions—feel free to reach out to me!

Love you all, and we as a church believe in YOU and the call that God has placed on your life!

Much love

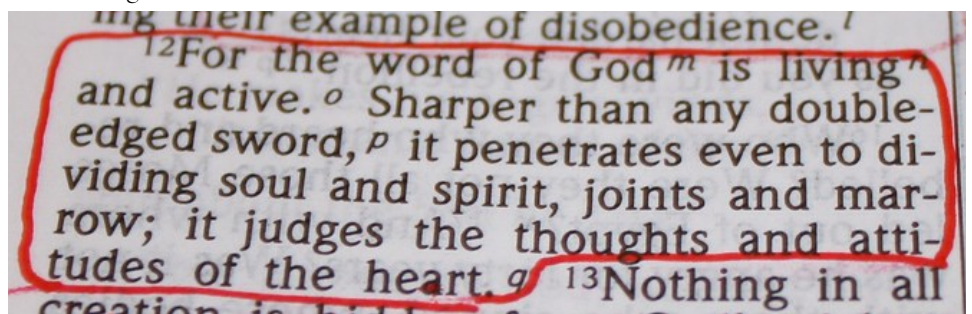
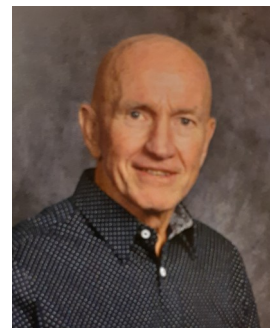


A Word from Pastor Weldon

Time to live a life of freedom. Our freedom or real freedom depends on how much of a priority we place on the Word of God. No Word/no freedom; know Word/know freedom. You see, Jesus is the Living Word that He releases when we believe what He tells us (John 1:1). When He gives us His Word, it comes to us anointed with His inspiration to be released into our lives (II Tim. 3:16). When Truth is given, it is inspired to accomplish what it was meant to be given for, and then our

role is to act on His given Word (Truth). The keys given by Jesus to us, His body, are to be acted upon in order to live an abundant life of true freedom. That is why His Word says whom Jesus sets free is free indeed. Come on, Church Families, let's get to know Jesus and the Living Word He freely gives us.

You are loved much!



Guidance from Guy—Faith-Build It and They Will Come

By Guy Roberts

If I were to ask you, “What is your faith?” what would you say?

I suspect that if I asked this question so someone on the street, he may come back with, perhaps, a religion—Baptist, Catholic, etc. Some may say money, fame, or fortune; other, position of power either in their places of employment, city or government.

But what is your faith?

Faith is the substance of things—what things—things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. By faith the elders obtained a good...testimony...and then Hebrews 11 goes on to tell of all sorts of faith.

What does your faith allow you to hope for? What is the evidence of the things not seen? Faith is the catalyst for and action of our beliefs.

Why did Jesus say so many times, “O ye of little faith,”? Was it that the disciples or His followers had no faith? No, they had faith, but to better understand, we need to look at what they had known in their lives.

The disciples were all young, so they grew up in bondage, oppression, and as second-class citizens. The people of Israel had been slaves of the Romans for hundreds of years at this point. They had not seen many, if any, miracles or healings. All they

had was the religious leaders of their time who pushed the LAW and made the law so cumbersome it added to the heavy weight of the oppression the common man and woman knew.

Then comes along Jesus, Who is a carpenter by trade and now a rabbi, but not like the rabbi of their time, He is doing and saying stuff that seems to go against the ways or traditions and laws of not only the ruling Romans, but against the religious leaders of that time—against the LAW.

He calls His disciples and teaches them to have faith...what to them was the LAW...but Jesus is now teaching them THEY can have faith to reduce fig trees to kindling and move mountains, calm storms, heal the sick, raise the dead!

And yet, again, many times Jesus states that they have little faith. Why?

A search of the word “little” gives a definition that you would expect: not much of something.

BUT what if Jesus wasn’t saying that the disciples had no faith, but rather they had a small, unbuilt, and untested faith? I think that would be more accurate because Peter got out of the boat! Granted, he was the only one who got out, but he had faith...in what, in Whom? In Jesus, okay, but why...

Because he had seen what Jesus had done to that point. Peter believed and even stated that Jesus was the Son of the Living God, so Peter and most of the other disciples had some sort of faith but not faith grown up enough to do something.

To this point they had a hope in a coming Messiah, the substance of a person hoped for and were now witnessing the evidence of the thing unseen—THE MESSIAH! They were thinking of the Scriptures of Isaiah and the prophets and matching them to Jesus...THIS HAS TO BE THE MESSIAH! By His actions they believe in Him.

Jesus sends out the disciples two by two, and they come back marveling in what they were able to do...in Jesus’ Name and authority, building their faith...without Him present—just the NAME OF JESUS and SPIRIT!

Now, they have Someone to hope in, but what did they have? They had belief.

Having belief is good, but without action faith is dead! How do we bring OUR faith alive? Well, I am glad you asked—we need to build it. Do you believe that signs and wonders will follow believers? You should because the Bible declares is, and our pastors have preached it...a LOT! Good, now you have belief. (Cont’d on page 3)



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

PAGE 2

What’s up, Shield of Faith! I’m Abby Scott, about-to-be senior and a constituent of our fine youth group. You probably don’t know much about me, but that’s cool because I’m about to tell you. ;) I’m currently playing my fourth year of JV volleyball, and playing volleyball is one of my absolute favorite things to do. When I’m not bruising my kneecaps on the court, I’m usually hanging out with my cat, taking care of 16 rabbits, sleeping (who doesn’t love sleep?), writing, or reading a book—which I do a LOT (too much, according to my parents). My future is a little up-in-the-air right now. I might join the Army when I get out of high school or go straight into college. Being a part of Revolution Ministries/Firehouse Revolution youth has also been a big part of my growing-up years, and I can honestly say Pastors Randy & Lisa and Pastors Adam & Jackie have taught me so many things

that have changed my life. For a while now, we’ve been going through the book of I Timothy and really looking into all the little important lessons that can be found there such as you should never let anyone think less of you (or think less of yourself) because you’re young. I Timothy has a lot of truths to teach believers, but rather than detail all of these for you, I’m going to suggest you check it out for yourself. Instead, I’d actually like to share with you just a few of the little lessons I’ve learned during my years in our church’s youth group. For starters life is a lot scarier inside your head, and when you step back from all the fears and worries and let God back into the picture, going forward doesn’t seem as ominous. People are just people. At the end of it, they’re like you. Don’t be afraid to reach out to them. They’re probably afraid of you, too. Getting out of the boat is scary and tough, and sometimes you sink a little because walking on water is just not as easy as Jesus made it look. Trust in God and it’ll all work out. Sometimes it’s about having faith even when you don’t know how things could ever be okay. God’s got your back, and who better to have on your side? And finally, the Bible says not to worry about tomorrow or obsess over the past. Live in the present. It really is the best way to live.

Guy's article cont'd from pg. 2

Great, now you have belief, but belief in and of itself is not enough—you must put that belief into action.

The woman with the 12-year issue of blood believed. She even stated it, but it wasn't until she put that belief into action and crawled and pushed her way to touch the hem of Jesus' garment that she was healed. Jesus told her, "Your FAITH has made you well." She could have had belief and just sat by the side of the crowd and road and watched Jesus go on by, hoping and hoping and never getting her healing.

Of the centurion who says to Jesus, "just command it and my servant

will be well," Jesus says He has not found such great faith, not even in Israel??? Why not in Israel? Because their faith was broken and weak and almost non-existent. They had lost their hope and without hope, faith and love get replace with...you fill in the blank. The centurion believed, and he could've just sat in his house believing and never sent any messengers to Jesus and his servant would've died.

The group of friends who bring their crippled friend to Jesus had belief and instead of allowing the crowds to deter them, they pushed to the roof and made a way to get their friend healed.

Faith can move mountains, break strongholds, tear down prison walls, heal the sick, raise the dead, but only if it is put into action—just believing is not enough!

How do we build our faith? Well, we do ACTIONS—believe and with that belief, do something—find something to hope for: healing, financial health, marriage health, relationship health. NOW, go and do something—do whatever God asks you to do...

Mud in a blind eye, okay;

Finger in a deaf ear, good;

Speak life to the dead, yep;

Laying on of hands to heal the sick, let's (cont'd on page 4)

Nursery News

By Judy Barnes

Kings Kids has been a small but precious group lately.

We are learning about God's unconditional love through Jesus.

We are also choosing people from the church directory to prayer for during our lessons.



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

Ladies' Life

By Lynn Ahrens

Our Ladies of Faith had their last Luncheon at Cam's Brick Oven Restaurant in St. Charles this last month. We will be going back to Uno's Pizzeria and Grill at 4960 Towne Centre Road, off Titabawassee Road on Saturday, November 9th, at 1 p.m. as well as each 2nd Saturday of Feb, May, Aug. and Nov. in 2025. We thank Cam's for allowing us to use their very functional side room. The

reason for the move is due to lack of life in the midst of the last days! So, parking spaces available at times embrace the honor, and determine requiring our ladies to walk quite a distance to be everything He needs you to be in these final hours of this age." ❤️

This is a reminder that our group consists of ladies from ages 12 to the "golden years." Come and join us next November 9th at Uno's Pizzeria and Grill.

"Think of it... God says you are always in a triumphant position in Christ Jesus! You are not a victim; you are a victor! God has gifted, endorsed, and deemed you well able to fulfill His purpose for your

🙏❤️ ... Rick Renner



SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES

10322 Swan Creek Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48609

Phone: 989-781-4668
Fax: 989-781-3766
sof@sofsaginaw.org



POINTING THE WAY TO
JESUS!



An Adage from Pastor Adam

Isaiah 40:29 tells us that He gives power* to the weak, and to those who have no might, He increases strength.

The synonyms of might are energy, power and strength. Are you finding it hard to find the energy or power and strength to keep going?

Does it feel that every day is a battle? The good news is we fight from a victorious position and we are positioned victorious.

2 Chronicles 20:17 states "You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, Who is with you." We are positioned with Christ victorious, triumphant, and we can conquer and overcome.

Church, we need to see ourselves positioned for a breakthrough, a profound shift or advancement, often in the context of overcoming obstacles, achieving victory, or experiencing God's transforming power in our lives. Because in **Isaiah 40:29** it says that He gives power* to the weak, and to those who have no might, He increases strength.

I pray your weakness turns into power and you have the might to overcome all things and see yourself positioned victorious in Jesus' Name.



Guy's article, cont'd from pg. 3

Driving out demons, with great zeal;

Speak life over you, you family, your church, your city, the world, as commanded.

See, we all do not have the same faith; we have the same Spirit; but our faiths are different because we are all different. Think of the 12 disciples and how different they were, and yet when sent out two by two, they were able to accomplish so much. AND they had limited faith and really limited authority... WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN ALL AUTHORITY!

There is a gift of faith—I Corinthians 12—seek that...right. We each have a measure of faith given to us, but it is up to us to build it...so why not start right now. Hold on to your belief and go and strengthen and build your faith—put that belief into action, and it will become faith.

Remember that testimony of the elders? Well, that is in Hebrews so that you can be encouraged to become one of those types of people—elders who move mountains, heal, raise the dead, and preach with boldness the Good News. As you build your faith, you build the faith of others because it reminds US of what is possible with faith. How is the faith of the church built? BY DEEDS and "deeds" means action must be taken.

Don't try to start big. Start small with little things just praying in faith, believing and not doubting when you have opportunities. Start with that, and then wait on God to give you more work to do. So what is your faith? Why is your faith? In whom or what is your faith? Love ya!

Men's Moment

By Richard Morrissey

Greetings from the Men's Ministry!

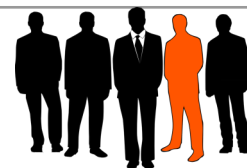
Thanks to all of you who made it to the Men's Fellowship Breakfast last month. Finding a good place to meet was a challenge after Cam's Brick Oven stopped serv-

ing breakfasts. We ended up at Miles Market Bakery & Deli, which is a "newish" restaurant at "The Point" on Gratiot. It turned out to be a pretty nice place to gather. It has a comfortable atmosphere to sit around and visit with each other, and the food was good. Looking forward to our next get-together.

Got a need? Jesus said in Mat-

thew 6:33, "**But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**" He's telling us to put God first in our lives and find out His way of doing things and He'll supply our needs. So how do we do that? Get into the Word, of course.

How about coming to Adult Sun-



day School? We meet every Sunday from 9 to 9:30. Right now, we're in Romans, where Paul teaches how God deals with us through His mercy and grace in the New Covenant. Hope you'll join us. Be abundantly blessed!