

# Newsletter

#11|April 1, 2024



## Kirkville First Assembly of God

Christ-Centered, Bible-Engaged, Spirit-Empowered, Missions-Participating

### From Bobbie's Desk...

#### Finishing the Race

I saw a meme on Facebook the other day that read something about, "Life isn't a race." Immediately, the verse from Hebrews 12:1-2 came to my mind: "Therefore, since we are encompassed with such a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Let us look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." For us Christians, life is a race. A race, that unfortunately many aren't finishing. Somewhere along the way something causes them to stop and veer off. Whether it's from defeat, hurts, past mistakes, etc., the endurance to finish the race isn't there.

To be honest, this is part of something I have struggled with for a long time. I, of course, know this race isn't an easy one. My heart hurts to see pastors, church leaders, and others walk away. For the last six years I have blamed the church for letting non-Christians down - due to what I experienced myself from hurt in the church. But, recently, I was talking to a friend about how I felt the Church has been a huge disappointment to non-Christians, and things she was saying to me resonated with me. She was talking about how we don't always know what's going on in a person's life and with some churches (even denominations) openly practicing what the Bible says is wrong, it's difficult for today's Christians.

I've been a Christian for 38 years and of course I knew all of what she was saying. But, even us seasoned Christians need those reminders. It suddenly dawned on me that yes, she's right. The enemy of this world has such a hold on not only, those who aren't Christians, but those who are and are blinded by what's happening around them. In my mind, it should be cut and dried. But, if we're not seeking the Lord and His word daily, we will be led astray. False idols, false teachers and false preachers surround us. So, in reality how can the non-Christians who don't have the Holy Spirit to discern what is of God and isn't, be reached in a confusing world? I simply can't put this out of my mind.

So the question is, how can we reach those who are blinded and confused on what is surrounding them? I'm constantly be reminded that I have to change the way I've always done or even thought about how to reach others for Christ. Paul wasn't joking when he told us in Ephesians 6:10-12 to put on the Armor of God: "Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

#### What's Inside

- Ministry Updates
- Pastor's Thoughts
- Dates to Remember
- Calendar



Continued



## Finishing the Race continued...

"For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." In these last days we truly are fighting against powers, the rulers of darkness and spiritual forces of evil.

I had chosen not to accept this reality (fully) up to this point. I now see WHY Jesus leaves the 99 to chase after the one that was lost. I thought I got it before, but it has deeper meaning to me now. We need to chase after our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been blinded and confused by the enemy of this world. We need to rally around them and protect them from the enemy who wants to draw them away from the Savior.

I am so glad I finally came back to the Church. We need each other in this race. We're not in competition with each other. We're to help each other reach the end. When we see one fall behind or veer off, we need to reach back and pull them along side us. I believe then, and only then, we'll be able to reach the non-Christians because of how we treat each other.

Have you been like me, struggling to come to terms with what has been happening in the world around us and frustrated at why it seems much more difficult to reach the lost? Or are you like one of the ones who are struggling to stay on the race and need those to reach out and pull you along side to reach the end? Whatever your place in this race, you're not alone. Let's continue this race together. If I see you fall behind or veering off, I'll reach out and pull you along side with me so we can finish together.

I have a renewed sense of why I have burden for those who are struggling to stay in the race. My prayer is that God teaches me more and helps me to understand how I can help and minister to them. My prayer for you is that you'll put on that armor in Ephesians 6 and continue on this race with me. Hebrews 12:2 says to look to Jesus - He's the author and finisher of our faith. If He will leave the 99 to run after us who left to bring us back, can't we do the same for our fellow brothers and sisters? Let's not leave anyone behind.



# Ministry Updates

## *Kid's Ministry*

Kid's Camp is coming!  
Mark your calendars for  
**July 8-12.**

## *Youth Ministry*

Youth Camp is coming!  
Mark your calendars for  
**June 24-28.**

**"The goal of a church leader is not to do ministry for people, but to do ministry with people."  
- Eugene T. Wilson -**

## *Missions/Outreach Ministry*



**We officially have a ministry name, a prayer and a mission statement for this ministry!**

**Name:** Beyond Borders

**Verse:** Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

**Mission Statement:** Beyond Borders Ministry exists to motivate and organize Christ-centered outreach in our community and faithfully support missionaries who go beyond the borders to reach those we cannot physically reach.

**Missions: Who Are We/What Do We Do?** Beyond Borders Missions oversees and promotes the U.S. and World Missionaries/Ministries of our church under the direction of the Pastor and church board. Kirksville First Assembly is a very mission minded church. We faithfully support over 20 missionaries and ministries.

**Outreach: Who Are We/What Do We Do?** Beyond Borders Outreach communicates and demonstrates the outreach needs in our community. By partnering with local agencies, businesses and other churches, our goal is to not only to meet the physical, mental, and emotional needs of our community, but to also meet the spiritual needs. Our passion is to be Christ by our deeds and our love for others.

Go check out our website pages for all this ministry does with missions and local outreach!



# Pastor's Thoughts

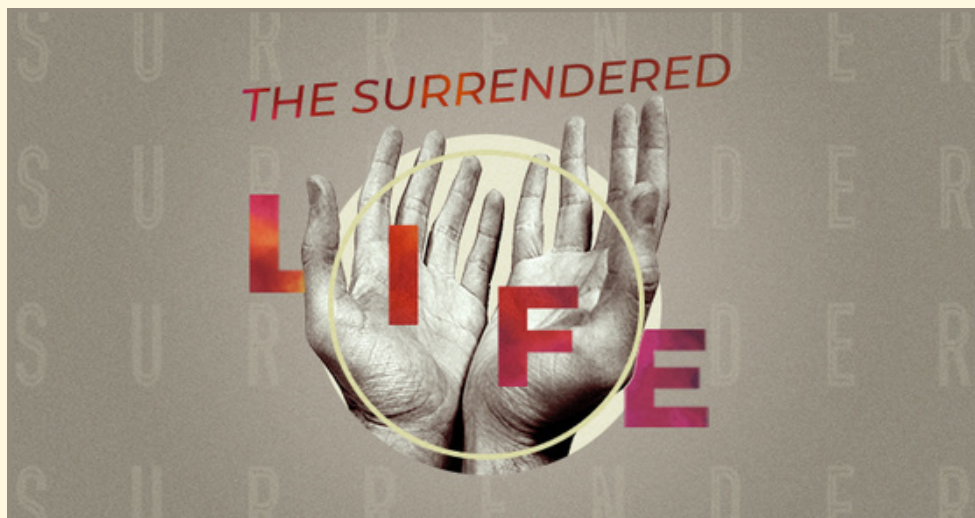
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God wants to redeem our shame. In Judges 6:1-6 we learn that the Midianites had invaded Israel and totally destroyed the land stripping it bare. The Israelites were completely defeated. They were totally humiliated being reduced to starvation. Out of this shame they cried out to YHWH for help. YHWH answered by sending a prophet in verse 8 who scolded them for their disobedience and the evil they did in the sight of YHWH. Then the angel of YHWH went to Gideon and said "Mighty hero, YHWH is with you!" (:12)

Mighty hero? Gideon disagrees. He says "My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!" Not only is he the weakest, he is the weakest of the weak! His current occupation was "hiding" (:11). So of all the shame of Israel, and its weakest tribe, and the weakest member of that tribe God calls his "Mighty Hero."

Often we can find ourselves feeling like Gideon; we have a problem with low-self esteem, weakness and shame. This can come from our past, our self image, our family, or playing the comparison game. Gideon was hiding and doing his job ineffectively. You might feel like that is you too. Just trying to get by, but knowing that its not really working out. But this is where God steps in. He will give us a new name. Not Weakness. Not Shame. But when we trust in Him he will call us "Mighty Hero". Why? Because God is with us. Other names? Loved, Strong, Adopted, Complete, Redeemed, Not Alone, Created For a Purpose, Victorious, Healed, Fearfully and Wonderfully Made. God wants to redeem our shame and make us into a new creation. Will you trust his view of you today?

-Pastor Shawn



# Dates to Remember



**Sunday, April 21, 2024:** Missions Convention

**Tuesday, April 23:** Office Closed



**Sunday, April 28:** Primrose Adult and Teen Challenge

**Sunday, April 28 , 2024: 6:00 p.m.** Fellowship Meal



## Birthdays

- **RaeLynn Kelso** 4/5 • **Jenifer Robbins** 4/11
- **Matt Ellis** 4/13 • **Gerald Helton** 4/18
- **Evelyn Castro** 4/19

## Anniversaries

**No anniversaries.**

## Missionary Birthdays

- **Dora Osborne** 4/3 • **Rebekah Panzetta** 4/18
- **Melanie Guerrero** 4/23 • **John Davis** 4/25

## Missionary Anniversaries

**No anniversaries.**

### Armour of God

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:13 KJV).

**Belt of Truth**  
(Ephesians 6:14)

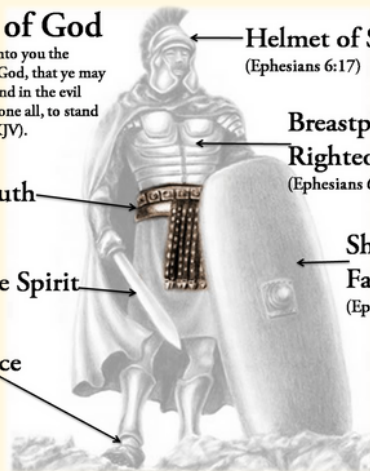
**Sword of the Spirit**  
(Ephesians 6:17)

**Feet of Peace**  
(Ephesians 6:15)

**Helmet of Salvation**  
(Ephesians 6:17)

**Breastplate of Righteousness**  
(Ephesians 6:14)

**Shield of Faith**  
(Ephesians 6:16)



2024

April

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Beyond Borders Mtg. 5:30 p.m.	2	3 Dora Osborne Family Night 6:30 p.m.	4 Beyond Borders Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	5 RaeLynn Kelso	6
	7 Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Groups 9:30 a.m.	8 College/ Career 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Family Night 6:30 p.m.	11 Jenifer Robbins Beyond Borders Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	12	13 Matt Ellis
	14 Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Prayer Mtg. 6:00 p.m.	15 College/ Career 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Family Night 6:30 p.m.	18 Gerald Helton Rebekah Panzetta Beyond Borders Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	19 Evelyn Castro	20
MISSIONS CONVENTION	21 Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Groups 9:30 a.m.	22 College/ Career 7:00 p.m.	23 Melanie Guerrero <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	24 Family Night 6:30 p.m.	25 John Davis Beyond Borders Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	26	27
PRIMROSE	28 Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Fellowship Meal 6:00 p.m.	29 College/ Career 7:00 p.m.	30				