

The Witness

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Newsletter

July 2024

Need a Bit of Bahai Grass in Our Lives

(ESV) Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Bahai Grass will stand forever.” That is not exactly how that verse reads. But it could.

Bahai Grass is invincible in summer. Around my house, everything will start to die or go dormant now that that summer has begun. But not Bahai. The hotter it is the better. Rain? Not necessary. Mow it? I think the stems see me coming and lay down, only to pop back up after I go over it. And those stems are hard as steel. Just ask my mower blades. And vigorous in the face of adversity? I am sure the stems grow about 6 inches a day. How can it produce seed heads in less than a week after being mowed down?

I did not know that you can actually order Bahai seeds for your lawn. Are you kidding? And in the advertisement, it gives all the characteristics that make it great: Full Sun – grows best in summer to early fall. Drought resistant, only needs a little humidity to prosper. Grows readily in poor sandy soil, acidic with little nutrients. It may not be very pretty, but boy is it hardy in a land where nothing else can grow.

You know, maybe we can learn something here. What if we were resistant to harsh conditions – able

to prosper when times were hard? What if we refused to be deterred by opposition and just stood right back up when we are mowed down? What if we didn't need to be pampered all the time? What if we quickly produced fruit over and over again? What if we always prospered, and even more so during tough times? In fact, that is what occurred in early Christianity.

But how? I don't know the secret of Bahai grass, but I do know the secrets for Christian living. Psalms 1 describes the man of God. The one who feeds off the Word of God. (ESV) Psalms 1:3 “He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Being filled with the Word of God. Meditating on what the Lord has said: Offering His presence, His peace, His encouragement, His promises, His forgiveness, His living Word that changes us, His Spirit that energizes and empowers. And then embracing and yielding to all He says. Prosperity when all else is withered and dead.

Let's prosper this summer. Let's engage with the Lord. Hear Him. Respond to Him. Make Him the focus of our life. We can stand strong like Bahai Grass. And be much more useful as well.

Pastor Danny

July Outreach

It is July. That means – hot and dry – and youth camp. Thanks so much for supporting and giving toward these life changing events. Now is the time to engage in prayer. Adopt a kid and pray intently that the Lord would do great things in his/her life. May He orchestrate events that will be foundations / memory moments for their future life. Prayer is as much of an outreach as giving/going. Dates: July 8-12, Youth Camp.

A bit of twist and a different type of outreach activity comes on July 7 at 5:00. This will be an ice cream social followed by a quarterly business meeting. Plan to attend, bring some ice cream, and enjoy the fellowship. But also use this as a tool to invite someone. Who doesn't love ice cream? The business meeting side will be separated so that visitors may stay or go. Oh! And if you can bring some ice cream (homemade?).

Stay faithful as summer is now in full swing. Enjoy the summer distractions (vacation, family, etc), but keep Christ a priority.

Pastor Danny

June Newsletter

June has flown by, and we're now just a few short weeks away from camp!

This month has brought an exciting change of pace for us in our Authentic Youth Ministry. For the summer, our goal was to shift from rigid programming to more relaxed and unstructured time, allowing us to build deeper relationships. We've been enjoying Bible studies and hangout sessions at our houses, with plenty of time to play games, chat, and roast marshmallows together. It's been a fun and rewarding experience for all of us.

We'll be heading to camp in Newton, Texas, on July 8th. Even if you're not coming with us, we would love your support. As we take these teens to camp, we ask you to join us in prayer. Please pray for our leaders to have wisdom and patience, and also the opportunity to focus on their own relationships with Jesus. Pray for our students, especially those who haven't yet responded to the Gospel; this could be a pivotal time for them to hear the life-giving message. Others are already believers but may be struggling with sin or other challenges—pray that the LORD will help them during the week. Overall, pray that everyone attending will develop a deeper and more sustainable relationship with Jesus.

My prayers for this trip reflect what Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:15-23, where he shared his hopes for the church in Ephesus. He prayed that they would know and understand God more deeply and intimately, and that His power would be evident to them.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and supporting our youth on this meaningful journey.

- Dennis Wagner

FBCY Sr Adult Cooking Video

The One Year Anniversary Video on June 20th was a fantastic event! Sam Wagner prepared her Homemade Salsa and Kathi Hakes made a Blueberry Cake and a Squash Casserole. Sheryl Jobe had a Sopapilla Cheesecake she had prepared in advance.

All the monthly recipe contributors were on hand to present samples for everyone who attended the Anniversary Event. There were over 30 folks who came to be part of the audience. Everyone had a great time fellowshiping and of course sampling all the delicious food.

The Cooking Video Team also put together a cookbook of all the 1st year's recipes that everyone in attendance received a copy.

The Cooking Video will be taking a break in July with no video. The next Cooking Video will be Thursday August 15th at 11am in the Family Life Center. Be sure to tune in, or even better, come be a part of the audience and taste some awesome samples.

Watch on our Facebook page: Facebook.com/fbcy1870 or You Tube or come be part of the audience and enjoy samples of all the tasty goodies!

Music Ministry

Update on our Piano player, Sherri Jackson: She had her right hip replacement surgery on May 21st. The surgery was a great success and is anticipating returning on July 14th.

Pat Brown has been fantastic with her outstanding playing. Also, I want to thank Janice Parker for her help when needed. I appreciate all these ladies stepping up when needed, sometimes at the last minute.

I have given the Praise Team a break for the summer. We plan on them returning this fall.

On June 23rd we had Ronny & Mary Lou Warren from Fairgrove, Missouri, as our very special guests for the Sunday night service. What a great night! Ronny played a multitude of instruments including a rendition of "How Great Thou Art" on his 'hand saw' which was amazing. We are going to work with them for a time. We can have them return next year!

Thanks
Bro Steve

At-A-Glance:

May's Gifts: \$19,960.⁰⁰
2024 Gifts : \$102,117.⁰⁰
2024 Budget: \$287,870.⁰⁰

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