

ROMANS 15:21 BUT AS IT IS WRITTEN, TO WHOM HE WAS NOT SPOKEN OF, THEY SHALL SEE: AND THEY THAT HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND.



### The Move to Evansville...

In August of this year, we started our new journey with Evansville Baptist Church.

We had a lot of obstacles to overcome before the work could begin, **"But God"** saw us through them all.

First obstacle, where to park our motorhome? Within two weeks of praying and seeking, God provided a place to park it in a safe & clean trailer park about 20 minutes away from the church.

We ran into a few problems though: lot rent was very expensive, and we had to move by the end of October because of winter.

Well, my God is much bigger than that! They lowered the lot rent to \$600 and they decided in October to let us stay during the winter months because they really liked us, or could it just be that **God is our helper?**

**Romans 8:31** What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?



### The Seeds of Kindness...

The next obstacle was the lack of funds to purchase church bus #1. Even though the church is small, they decided to go big expecting BIG things from the Lord.

20-25 kids are a good number for them right now, but if God gives the laborers according to Pastor Harris's vision and faith, more buses will be needed in the future. **Please pray** that God will move the waters for this church to be able to reach more children and parents before satan destroys them completely.

Late August, we set a bus fund goal of \$3000 and to God be the Glory, it was raised in 3 days. Man, I just had me a glory fit. He's really good at raising things up in 3 days! HALLELUJAH!!!!!!

Bus Them In Ministries from Bowie MD sent additional \$2000 to help on the purchase of the bus. Their ministry is to partner with like faith churches to supply buses. Thanks Bro Scott Coggins for the great find.

To all those that gave for this cause, whether by prayer or monetarily, we thank you from the bottom of our heart and may God bless you for it.

But no matter who gave, **God gets all the Glory and praise!!!**

**Philippians 4:19** But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.



### The Bus Mission...

#### A Path Led by the Master's Hand

We searched high and low, but never had complete peace about bus #1 until one day...

On Sept 18, Pastor Harris and I flew to Atlanta Ga, took an hour uber ride, bought a 72 pass bus and drove it back to Niles, Ohio. We had a few curveballs along the way, **BUT GOD gave the great victory once again.**

One of those curveballs was a 4-5 hour breakdown in the middle lane of the interstate in Knoxville TN during rush hour traffic. This was truly an experience of a lifetime and **a divine appointment set by God.**

Thanks to Pastor Dent of IMBC of Alum Creek, we had the chance to meet Kevin the mobile mechanic.

Kevin was such a blessing to us. He spent about 4 hours working on our bus and then refused to take payment. More importantly, we had the privilege of encouraging him in the Word of God!!!

**Watch the video** for more of the bus story:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ebcniiles/videos/283981451093580/>

**Psalms 31:3** For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

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## The Start of the Ministry...

October 1st was the official kickoff date of the bus ministry at Evansville Baptist Church. We visited the community prior to this, but nothing really happened until the 23rd of September and...

God opened Heaven and showered us with some very special blessings that day. He gave us 10 precious youngens that wanted to know more about this man named Jesus! Believe this or not, all of them lived on the same street.

We had been begging the Lord to open those doors where He wanted to show mercy next, and He proved Himself, once again, to be Faithful.

But what we didn't know, that very same day, there was a mama on the other side of a door begging God to show her which church to go to. And God, in His goodness and faithfulness, answered both her prayers and ours.

Three more parents signed their children up that day and all we could say was, **PRAISE GOD!!!**

The very next day was Sunday, but kickoff wasn't until Oct 1st because the bus wasn't quite ready. However, to God be the Glory, that mama which was praying for a church, brought her kids to Sunday School anyway and came back for the regular service. And she's still coming faithfully. AMEN AND AMEN!

And 9 out of those 10 are still faithfully coming and one of them has stepped up to serve. **It's still worth it folks!!!**

It's been many years since the church has had youth Sunday School and now, it's ALIVE!!!! **God has done some amazing things to and through this local body of believers!**

## The Delayed Bus, but Not Us...

October 1st came, but unfortunately the bus wasn't ready! But thanks be to God, Truth Baptist church in Atwater Ohio loaned us a 12 pass van for the day! **Praise God** for these dear Saints!

## The Operation...

Since October, we've been fully operating the bus ministry, visitation and Sunday School while the church prepares themselves for the work.

Very soon, Pastor Harris will be the new bus driver / captain so **please pray** for his strength and endurance.

We have a 12 year old bus teen that's in training to take over Ms Christina's spot on the bus. She'll be singing songs with the kids and helping where she can. **Please pray** for her to continue being faithful and for continual growth.

The Sunday School & Junior Church teachers are about ready to assume the responsibility as teachers. **Please pray** for their confidence to build and to just trust in the Lord for their strength.

So, with all this being said, they are almost ready for complete take over. They are still in need a few more servants that are willing to serve instead of retire. So, **please pray** with us that hearts will be ready and willing.

## The Reward..

The last 3 months has been full of prayer, labor of love, hardships, fun, challenges, excitement, faith building, disappointments, salvations, baptisms, growth, and lots of kids.

I'd be lying if I said that it's all been easy, but I'm telling the truth when I say that it's all been worth it!

We have **21 kids coming** now and 1 adult lady which has recently accepted the Lord. She's always there and always faithful. Like I said earlier, 20-25 is our max until the Lord gives more laborers.

We've seen **7 youngens put their faith and trust in the Lord for salvation** and 3 following the Him in baptism.

The Lord is truly worth serving and these precious souls are worth being reached with the Gospel.

I ask, **does Bus Ministry still work???**



John, Christina & Gracie Bates

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## Prayer Request...

Since **"the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"**, please bathe the following in prayer daily:

- God to be glorified
- Souls to be saved
- God's leading hand
- Open doors with soft hearts
- Favoritism with parents
- Churches to stay committed
- Parking for motorhome
- More Opportunities to help churches
- Health Concerns
- Financial Needs
- Motorhome Mechanical Issues

**Thank you** for all who have prayed, given, sacrificed and offered! You shall be rewarded one day!

**1 Cor 3:8** Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.