

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

JANUARY 2024

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

WHY NOT ASK FOR MORE IN 2024?

Ahh...the dawn of a new year. A fresh start, a new beginning, New Year's is a great chance to plot a new course. Maybe your course is pretty good right now – great, don't change it much, just check it for any needed course corrections. Maybe you do need a major course change – ask God to show you the way. Remember: "You have not because you ask not." (James 4:2)

The longer we walk with God there is a danger of asking and expecting less from God. We risk less and tend to "play it safe". With this low-risk faith God will do little through us and our spiritual impact on the lives of others will be almost non-existent. Thankfully, the Bible records the stories of two men who were not afraid to ask God for more, who chose a new course, who were not afraid to leave their comfort zone. Two things happened with them: first, they set a great faith example for those who knew them, and second, their lives impacted others for God in a big way. Let me tell you about both of them. You know their story...

The first of the two is Jabez. It may be a bit unusual to hold-up as an example a man whom the Bible says so little about and only gets two verses about him in the Bible. Actually, there is only one verse (I Chronicles 4:10) that sets Jabez apart. I Chronicles 4:10 is known as The Prayer of Jabez. In the prayer Jabez asks God to give him a new course in life. To set him on a journey to be blessed and to have more "territory". On the surface this sounds pretty selfish. Not so, behind Jabez's prayer in asking for blessings and more territory is so that he may have more impact for God. How do we know this? Because one line of his prayer says: "That your hand would be with me and that you would keep me from evil so that I may not cause pain." Jabez WANTS to walk with God - do what God wants him to do. Jabez wants God to keep him from evil so that he does not do harm to others. Jabez tells God: "Ok God...I want to step out in faith". As you look to 2024, step-out in faith more than ever before.

Speaking of faith...let's talk about Caleb for a moment. We know much more about Caleb because much more is written about him (see Exodus-Joshua). Caleb is "famous" because of his great answer to a question from Joshua. In the final days of dividing-up the Promised Land Joshua asks Caleb what area he wants. Caleb's response: "Give me the mountain area." (Joshua 14). 85-year-old Caleb said: "I don't want to take the easy course (the lowlands), I don't want to take the easy way out - give me the mountains/the hill country". Caleb was asking for more!

Both men demonstrated not only daring faith, but they also demonstrated a positive attitude, an extremely positive attitude! I like to call it a "Positively Positive Attitude". Why don't you and I commit to having a positively positive attitude in 2024? Ask God for more in 2024. I'm not talking about more money, real estate, prestige, or material things I am talking about more faith, more opportunities to verbally witness for God. More wisdom and understanding about how to live for Him. More desire to read His Word, worship at church, more influence on others. While we are at it ask God for our church to have more territory so we can reach others. More children, more families, more who desire to be disciples. AND most of all: MORE of His power falling down on us. Ask God for more in 2024 and walk in a positively positive attitude all year long.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

PRAYER NEEDS

A Move of God on Our Church, Ron Eller, Dick and Sandy Hickernell, Donna Clickenger

Missionary of the Month – Chloe Makley: Chloe is one of our missionaries in Chang Rai, Thailand. Our youngest missionary, Chloe served a one-year internship and is presently trying to raise the funds to return to Thailand in a full-time capacity at our education center. No one can get an extended stay Visa in a country unless they identify a "job" they will have while living in-country. You cannot get a Visa as a "missionary". Chloe's job will be to help run an after-school program and develop discipleship with college-age students. Pray for Chloe, that her funds are raised and then that her Visa will be approved.

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Barb Pittenger, Trish Dolejs, Faye Cooper, Betty McCombs, Clarabell Harlan, Margaret Jewett, and Bonnie Boone

Shut-In of the Month – Bonnie Boone: Bonnie has been a member and part of Franklin Church for 15+ years. If you know Bonnie, you know her smile and soft-spoken voice. She is a Christian who has known Jesus for many, many years. Her husband, Jim, passed away several years ago, but he and Bonnie were always active members of a church wherever they lived. Before moving to Columbus, Ohio, they lived in Kansas City, Missouri. Bonnie worked into her late 70s for her son who owns multiple apartment complexes and manages properties from here to North Carolina. Bonnie has an identical twin sister that is so identical, people get them "mixed-up" to this day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 14 - February 25th Sunday Evenings 6:30 - 7:30PM: It's Finally Here! Wars, Rumors of Wars and the Return of Christ. What part does the present war against Hamas have in the return of Christ? Are Arabs really descendants of Ishmael? (No, find out why), why is Jerusalem the Holy City of 3 religions? Who is Hamas, Hezbollah, why does Iran care? Guest speakers/experts will be joining us. This is a community-wide invitation! Sign-up at church or email Pastor Mike, Mike@franklinub.org

January 15th 7:00PM: Management Team Meeting

January 26th 6:45AM: Men's Breakfast at Tim Horton's. See you guys there!

January 28th 5:30 - 6:15PM: 4th Sunday Prayer gathering!

February 18th Building Fund Commitment Sunday: Praise God that we met our 2023 Building Fund needs for the year, although some "pledges" fell short. Please continue to give to meet your "pledge". Remember, the pledge is not made to your church, but to God. On February 18th, we will ask God to provide the \$29,556 for 2024.

Women's Ministry: We will be on Winter Break during January and February. Mark your calendar to join us in March!