

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

SEPTEMBER 2024

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

LIVING WITH NO REGRETS

Are you living with regrets right now? Is there some unfinished business in your life, words spoken in the past you wish you could take back? A relationship strained, bridges burned? Almost everyone lives with regrets of some kind. Maybe just a good deed undone.

A while back I read the journal of Jim Elliott, missionary to Ecuador, who died for his faith. Just a couple years before he was killed while on the mission field, he said this, “Be sure that when it comes time for you to die, you have nothing left to do but die.” Isn't that an amazing thought? Ponder it for a few minutes, and it should start causing you to inventory your priorities and check for regrets. Over the last 42 years, I have seen a couple dozen people take their very last breath, I have seen several dozen within 24 hours of their last day on Earth. Not once.... not one single time have I ever heard anyone say, “I wish I would have spent more time at work.” If people are in a health situation where they know they have only days, weeks, or months to live, it is amazing how much “getting their house in order” takes place. Unfortunately, most people aren't given a long warning before death and when death comes, they feel like they have so much unfinished business, maybe even some regrets. Why is this so?

The biggest reason is we allow the urgent to crowd out the important. We focus so much on the here and now and not the “hereafter”, not taking care of relationships or regrets like we should. Here and now, I have a house repair, a car repair (I literally had that yesterday), a second job, a new hobby, or a new computer to play with. Because of our here and now, we put our relationship with people and our relationship with God on the back burner. Now that is regretful.

I spoke earlier about the missionary Jim Elliott; let me briefly talk about an “almost” missionary. By almost I don't mean he kept his faith private. By no means – he led 1000 students in Bible studies at Yale. By “almost” I mean he made it to the mission field, but he died within months after arriving. His name is William Borden. Yes, that “Borden”, heir to the largest dairy company in America. William's parents expected him to take over the family business, but instead, he said God called him to a far more important business: the mission field. As a matter of fact, when he first “got the call”, he wrote two words in his Bible: No reserves. As life went on and the time came for him to wind down his studies and leave for the mission field, he wrote two more words: No retreats. He headed for Egypt and there would be no turning back. He first went to language school in Egypt, and that was the furthest he would get. Before he could even finish language school, he got spinal meningitis and died. The last two words he wrote in his Bible: No regrets.

Back to Jim Elliot, be sure that when it comes time to die, the only thing you have left to do is die. And, like William Borden, no regrets!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Joshua 1:8

PRAYER NEEDS

Mavis Baker, Joe Lee, Nick Wise, Rose Farber, Gabe Smith, Pastor Michael Muwonge, Cao and Tang Lee (coming back home), Clarabell Harlan (shut-in of the month), Huntington University.

Missionary of the Month – Brian and Rachel Glunt: Brian and Rachel from Fort Wayne, Indiana are our directors of the Good Soil Community Center and Chiang Rai, Thailand. When we had active Faith Promise mission support, we directly contributed to Milton and Erica Pacheco, Assistant directors, but we highlight Brian and Rachel because they are in a major transition. They just arrived back in Chiang Rai after spending four months “back home” in Indiana. Missionaries usually return home once every three to four years for up to six months. The Glunts came home for two reasons: it was furlough time, and it was time to take their oldest daughter, Lily, to Purdue University for her freshman year. Brian and Rachel recently put out their newsletter and said all went well but pray for them as 8000 miles separate them from their daughter.

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

Shut-in of the Month – Clarabell Harlan: It has not been that long ago since we wrote about Clarabell, but most of you know she has turned 100 years old since the last writing. What a great birthday party it was thanks to niece, Beth, and Franklin Church organizers/cooks, Tamie McVay and Dawn Dague. A few reminders about Clarabell. We all know her mind is still sharper than a tack. Walk in her room when the Cincinnati Reds or the Ohio State Buckeyes are playing and expect to talk to her only during commercials. She was married to Donnie Harlan for 53 years. Immediately after marriage, they moved to Missouri, where Donnie was from, but they only stayed a few years and moved back to Columbus, then New Albany. Clarabell had a career in the office of a trucking company but retired early for the sake of her church. She was the Church Secretary (later called Church Administrator - a title she “could take it or leave it” – you know Clarabell). Anyway... she worked in the church office for 51 years. She transitioned the church into the world of the computer. Birthday #100 was a great event, and we look forward to birthday #101.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 4th: Special “Day of Prayer” for Huntington University; the only University of the United Brethren Church.

September 12th at 3:30PM: Movie – *God is not Dead: In God We Trust*. This is a sequel to the movie *God Is Not Dead*, a highly successful, critically acclaimed, and highly regarded movie by both secular and Christian press. This is a church trip – meet out in front of the theater (Movies 16 – Gahanna) at 3:10PM. Sign-up at the Welcome Center.

Woman's Ministry: Thursday, September 19th at 6:00PM – Join us for food, fun, fellowship, and blankets!

Men's Breakfast: September 27th at 6:45AM at Tim Horton's on Fodor Road.

Looking Ahead – October 6th 1:00PM – 4:00PM: Fabulous outreach event for our church – New Albany Fall Festival. An event with up to 3000 people. We have secured a table as point of a scavenger hunt game and we can expect hundreds to visit our table. We desperately need 3 - 4 people in addition to our current volunteers. Tell Rob and Cindy Jones, Ruth Salyers, Pam Hardman, or Pastor Mike, “Yes, I will volunteer.”

One More Word About the Shelter House: Praise God for a very successful dedication day, August 18th. We had a dozen or so Scout visitors at church. On August 11th, a second Boy Scout finished off the project with the fantastic refinishing of the picnic tables.