

# THE ENCOURAGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF HUDSON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

***Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. - Mt. 6:33***



*Photo courtesy BibleVersesOf.Faiith*

What does it really look like to seek the Kingdom of God first and foremost above all else? Jesus' famous command was given in contrast to worrying about and running after the things of this world. Even common things like food, shelter and clothing! But the reality is, a large part of our day is going to be dealing with the basic employment. Whether it be a job we punch in at, or the regular jobs of laundry and lawn care - there is just a lot in this world that will take up a large portion of our time. Jesus wasn't saying to ignore the regular demands of this life, but getting at our priorities and our passion. What is it that drives us?

His comment is really the same as the first and greatest commandment to:

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mk 12:30***

Are we seeking the Kingdom of God above all else? Are we striving every day to grow in righteousness? To put off sin, and to put on radical, alien, out-of-this-world love? Are we longing to spend time with Jesus? Does our heart delight in prayer? Worship? Do we go through our day with a simple trust and gratitude aimed personally at our Heavenly Father?

***What are you pursuing? What is the next big thing? Paying down debt? Chasing a promotion or a different job? Do you pass your days counting down to your next big vacation? Saving up for a home renovation? These are all fine and good, but do they occupy more of our thoughts and energy than simply seeking Jesus?***

Are we as zealous to grow in our understanding of the storyline of Scripture? Have we zeroed in on the next area of our lives that need to be submitted to Christ, the next sin to crucify, the next fruit of the Spirit we are longing to see manifest in our lives through God's grace?

Maybe just getting through it? At the end of the day, you just want to check out and plop down in front of the T.V., or internet, or Sudoku, or solitaire, or ...well, you tell me? What eats up your time until the next day when you do it all over again? Perhaps life has become a journey just to get back to bed. We've all been there. What is most dangerous during these times is they parallel spiritual idleness. Spiritual sloth. We're fine. We're doing the right stuff. We aren't doing the wrong stuff. But if Jesus were to ask us, are you seeking me first? Really seeking me? Are you laboring for my Kingdom? Are you battling sin? Waging the good fight? Are you loving me with all your energy and your entire mind?

Well, who of us could answer yes? That is why the faithful, long journey of faith is marked by continual honest assessment, focus, and re-focus, and daily repentance. And that is why we need one another. Always and often. We need to see each other seeking after Christ on the days when our love has grown cool. We need to confess our complacency, our compromise, our entanglement in the interests of this world. Our spiritual laziness. And we need to challenge one another to keep seeking. And seeking first. Seeking more and above all else.

Jesus made a radical demand, but he meant it by way of encouragement. All that is in this world, both that which we actively seek, and that which we passively slump into, is empty, vain, fleeting, and ready to be burned up. He reminded us that we needn't be wrapped up in the cares of this world, because our Father in Heaven cares for us. We must seek him, because he loves and sought us. What greater joy is there than to throw off every stressful entanglement, every dead-end pursuit, and to run the race marked out for us?

To pursue Jesus and his Kingdom is to pursue glory, joy, fulfillment, and rest. It is to pursue love, holiness, fellowship, compassion, humility, and self-sacrifice. It is to be like Moses and throw off the comfort and opportunities our birth in a land of prosperity can afford us to labor among the slaves of God. In that pursuit is found freedom. True and full freedom. *May God show us each what it is to seek him first in all things.*

- Brandon



Photo courtesy NewSpringChurch.com



## Summary of the Deacons & Elders Meeting August 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. The members present were Brandon Current, Dave McGraw, and Larry Dowden. The meeting was opened in prayer by Larry Dowden. The May 30, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. The financial reports were reviewed and approved.

### Team Reports:

- Worship – 3 cordless microphones were purchased to clear the crowding on the stage
- Education – report reviewed (Appendix 3)
- Building –
  1. Baptistry – D&R have agreed to take on the baptistry repair.
  2. Mowing – is now being done by John Brown and he has been doing a good job.
  3. There is new edging on the north side of the church.
- Missions – For the Ecuador mission trip money has been received in the offering beyond expenses, \$500 was given by Ladies Aid. Additional money was approved to be given from the Benevolent Fund and a tithe from the anticipated Farm Trust income. These amounts will be given to the Ecuador mission on the September mission trip.
- Food Pantry – no report
- Farm Trust – no report

Brandon gave a report of his activities since the last meeting.

### Old Business:

- Recycling – a report was presented regarding the products we use at HCC, and it was agreed that the environmental impact and recycling should be considered in all purchases. It was agreed that we would begin by phasing out disposable coffee cups and that we would purchase cups printed with HCC for the church for use and to put in the visitor gift bags.

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m. and closed in prayer by all.



Photo courtesy eggcouncil.com

**HUDSON CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY**  
 Occasionally Midwest Food offers eggs to their food pantry customers. The eggs are usually available in 30 egg flats. These are very difficult for our families to safely transport them to their homes. It would be appreciated if you could donate **empty** cartons that hold 12 or 18 eggs to our food pantry. You may leave them in the kitchen or either entrance to the church. Thanks for your help! - Dale Hussemann

### Prayer Requests

*Linda Kearfott is the HCC Prayer Coordinator!*

*If you have a prayer request to share or an update, please speak with Linda, write your request on the prayer card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate, or contact her at the following number or email.*

Linda Kearfott  
(309) 232-4528  
lindakearfott32@gmail.com



Image courtesy trinitywesternuniversity



### The Potter's Kids

The Potter's Kids will resume September 18 at 6:00 p.m!  
Hope to see you there!

All children are welcome to join us as we study the Ten Commandments. We'll see glimpses of God in His laws, as well as very good rules to live by.  
See Terry Dowden for more info!

### Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

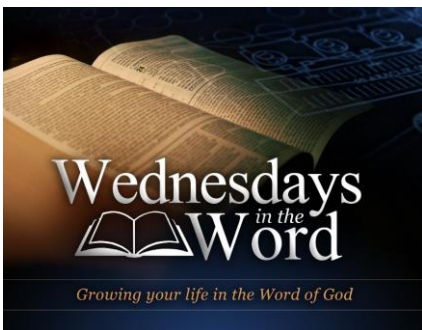


Photo courtesy of Zion.org

Bill Brown will be leading a Bible study on several interesting topics this fall. Our study time together will help us to "dive deep" into God's Word and help us to see how we can apply it to our lives.

Our mid-week Bible studies are one of our primary avenues of discipleship here at HCC. I hope you all will arrange your schedules to not miss out on this opportunity for God to shape our hearts!



Photos courtesy Little Galilee Christian Assembly

### News from Little Galilee Christian Assembly

Bob Phillips is concluding his ministry at LGCA after 21 years of service as Development Director.  
LGCA has a new executive director, Rob Shoaff, Jr.





Photo courtesy of SMC.com

**Join the Adult Sunday School Class at 11:00 a.m. downstairs to discover what the Bible teaches us:**

***Simplicity: Finding Contentment in a Busy Life***

**A Centered Life – Matthew 6:25-34**

**A Daily Pursuit – Philippians 4:4-9**

**The Key to Contentment – Philippians 4:10-20**

**Godly Contentment – 1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19**

**Mission of the Month  
New Life for Asia**

Along with her children, Grace Daniels oversees the mission of New Life for Asia which she founded with her late husband, Sam. The main arms of the ministry are Royal Gospel Academy which trains young men to be church planters throughout India and Nepal, and a fellowship of churches throughout India organized for support and annual training conferences.

For more information about their ministry, email Sam and Grace at: [nlfasamg@yahoo.com](mailto:nlfasamg@yahoo.com). Our HCC Coordinator for New Life for Asia is Jason Collins.



# September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																						
<p><b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>Sunday School 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>11:45 a.m. <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Fellowship Potluck</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Food Pantry Preparation Day</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>10:00 Food Pantry Distribution Day</b></p>																						
<p><b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>Sunday School 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>5:30 p.m. Deacons/Elders Meeting followed By Spiritual Focus Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>																						
<p><b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Ladies Aid</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. The Potter's Kids</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>5:45 p.m. Worship Team Practice</b></p> <p><b>6:30 p.m. Helping Hands Meeting at HCC</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>																						
<p><b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. The Potter's Kids</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>																						
<p><b>29</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>September Birthdays</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td><b>Merriann Leininger</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/1</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Roger Wolf</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/3</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Harrison Wilkinson</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/5</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Jan Wills</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/7</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Charlotte Geshiwl</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/9</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Lauren Wolf</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/13</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Don Beverage</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/14</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Pat Dowden</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/21</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Jamie Current</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/24</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Becky Hussemann</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/24</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Theresa Miller</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>9/26</b></td></tr> </table> </div>					<b>Merriann Leininger</b>	<b>9/1</b>	<b>Roger Wolf</b>	<b>9/3</b>	<b>Harrison Wilkinson</b>	<b>9/5</b>	<b>Jan Wills</b>	<b>9/7</b>	<b>Charlotte Geshiwl</b>	<b>9/9</b>	<b>Lauren Wolf</b>	<b>9/13</b>	<b>Don Beverage</b>	<b>9/14</b>	<b>Pat Dowden</b>	<b>9/21</b>	<b>Jamie Current</b>	<b>9/24</b>	<b>Becky Hussemann</b>	<b>9/24</b>	<b>Theresa Miller</b>	<b>9/26</b>
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