

A New Year's Prayer

Author Unknown

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

New address: Pastor Warren will be staying with his daughter Beth for a time this winter. His address will be % Gordon & Beth Baker, 1924 Liberty Court, Pekin, IL 61554.

Year-end reports for 2013 are due on Sunday, January 19. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports to the church office for inclusion in the 2013 Annual Report. The congregational business meeting to approve the 2013 Reports and the proposed 2014 Missions Budget is scheduled for February 23, following the morning Worship Gathering.

SIM Missions Trip: A work team is scheduled to go to Charlotte, North Carolina on February 9-15 with an additional roofing week planned for February 2-8. Help is needed in the following areas: roofing, vehicle/equipment maintenance, carpentry, new concrete, wallpaper removal, sorting shop and warehouse inventory, food preparation, and archives. A detailed list of potential jobs is on the bulletin boards across from the kitchen and in the Missions Center. Please contact Frank Boehm at 567-371-9541 if you would like to join the team this year.

It's Power Time! Nine weeks until the Power Team Rally! (February 26-March 2) Help will be needed in the kitchen, selling products, stage, greeters, and most importantly for those who accept the Lord. Sign up will start in January. Be praying where you can help. - *Power team Coordinators, Kevin and Gina Burkholder.*

Anyone willing to donate a deer or any type of wild game for our 2014 Wild Game Event, please contact Joe Alt at 419-234-1247. Thank you.

~ THANKS ~

Dear Ebenezer: I wanted to write and express my gratitude for the generous gift sent to Samaritan's Purse for our relief efforts in the Philippines. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas and may God richly bless you. - *Sincerely, Franklin Graham*

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- Jan. 10-12** Junior High Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)
Jan. 12 Haiti Missions Trip Meeting (*4:00 p.m., FH*)
Jan. 13 **MOPS** (*9:00 p.m., FH*)
Jan. 19 Haiti Missions Trip Meeting (*4:00 p.m., FH*)
Jan. 27 **MOPS** (*9:00 p.m., FH*)
Jan. 31-Feb. 2 Senior High Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)
Feb. 2-8 SIM Missions Trip (*Charlotte, North Carolina*)
Feb. 9-15 SIM Missions Trip (*Charlotte, North Carolina*)
Feb. 12-19 Adult Missions Trip (*Haiti*)
Feb. 26-Mar. 2 **Power Team** (*CMC*)
Mar. 29 **Wild Game Event** (*5:00 p.m., CMC*)
May 3 Senior High (*7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Mission*)
June 29-July 6 Youth Missions Trip (*BMHC, Black Mountain, NC*)
July 18-20 Family Camp (*Chain O'Lakes, Albion, Indiana*)

~ HOW TO CONTACT US ~

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December 29, 2013

Ebenezer Emissary

We welcome you with sincere joy on this last Sunday of the year 2013. Let us follow the instructions of the old hymn: *Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy LORD; Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word; Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.*

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

- 9:00 a.m.** Adult Bible Fellowship
Sunday School (*2-year-olds - High School*)
10:00 a.m. The Good News Hour (*2&3 year olds-B10, 4 year olds-K-B11*)
10:15 a.m. Worship Gathering - Pastor Jim (*CMC*)
God the Giver of Good Gifts-The Gift of the Spirit
~ **No Evening Fellowship Service** ~
~ **Senior High small groups will not meet** ~

2014 Birthday/Anniversary Calendars are ready. The ushers will hand them out following the Morning Worship Gathering.

~ BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT ~

Congratulations to Nathan & Kimberly (Kurtz) Schultz on the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Clara-Mai on Saturday, December 14, weighing 7 lbs. & 1 oz.

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

Our Sympathy to the family of Donald Moser. Donald, the son of Betty, passed away on Thursday, December 19. Services were held on Monday, December 23, at Chiles-Laman Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Our Sympathy to the family of Nadean Epp. Nadean, the mother of Ron, passed away on Wednesday, December 25. A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. tomorrow at Monroe Evangelical Free Church in Phillips, Nebraska. {Memorial gifts may be designated to Ebenezer's Missions Fund or to Gideons International.}

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 22:

Christmas Service (10:15 a.m.) 464

Attendance on December 24:

Christmas Eve Service (6:00 p.m.) 285

Giving on December 22:

\$18,695.45

Benevolent 75.00

Building Fund 1,275.00

Christian Education Fund 1,520.00

General Fund 9,926.45

Missions Fund 5,349.00

Youth Fund 50.00

Power Team 500.00

Memorial for Virginia Geiger – Missions Fund \$500.00

~ OUR MISSIONARIES ~

Missionary of the Week: *Laverne Busenitz* serves with Biblical Ministries Worldwide and lives in Kansas. He is thankful for our faithfulness to them since they left for their first missionary assignment to Germany back in 1969. Meanwhile the ministry at Emmaus Church near Whitewater continues. Laverne is seeking to be faithful in teaching and practicing the Word of God. Please send a note to encourage Laverne at: 14569 N.W. Prairie Creek Road, Newton, KS 67114 or e-mail at: lbusenitz@elbingsks.com.

~ MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY ~

Nursery workers are needed for the Sunday School Hour and during the Worship Gatherings on Sunday mornings. We are down six workers for this upcoming quarter. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Melissa Hilty by e-mail at hilty.melissa@gmail.com, text or call 419-357-5823. Thanks!

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Nicki Biery, Brittany Reigle – Missions Center
Marvin & Karen Garmatter – Crossroads Ministry Center

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 5

Tuesday 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Party (CMC)

Wednesday **Church Offices Closed – Happy New Year!**

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Stephen Ministries (112)

Sunday School & ABF (Various classrooms)

10:00 a.m. The Good News Hour (2&3 year olds-B10,
4 year olds-K-B11)

10:15 a.m. Worship & Communion Service (CMC)

11:30 p.m. FaithFull Singles Luncheon (FH)

5:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting (103)

6:00 p.m. Disciple Singers – Acting tryouts for
spring musical (Room 115)

7:00 p.m. Evening Fellowship Service (Sanctuary)

Disciple Singers – Choir Rehearsal
(Room 118&119)

Senior High Small Groups (Various locations)

~ HELPERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 ~

Good News Hour:

Janet Brauen, Alton Burkholder, Conner Dawson,
Marti & Melina Meza

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

Junior High Ice Camp January 10-12: We will leave the church on Friday, January 10, at 4 p.m. and return Sunday at 4 p.m. Registration is happening now, forms are available in the Junior High Sunday School class and at the Information counter in the Missions Center. The cost is \$100. Please make checks payable to Ebenezer Mennonite Church. Contact Ben or Collin at youth@ebenezymennonite.org for more information.

Attention all kids in Grades 1-6: Come join Disciple Singers as we begin practicing Sunday, January 5, for the spring musical, *I Can Only Imagine*. Tryouts for acting parts will begin that evening at 6 p.m. in Room 115 with the choir rehearsal starting at 7 p.m. in Room 118 & 119. Contact Renea Zimmerman or Angela Steiner if you're interested in joining the choir or have any other questions.

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

New Year's Eve Party: The Maranatha class will host a New Year's Eve party Tuesday starting at 7:00 in the Crossroads Ministry Center. Join us for a potluck meal by bringing something to eat and a two-liter drink. Come play a game, watch a movie, shoot hoops, or just visit. Come, bring a friend – all are welcome!

Please note: All loose offerings taken during the Morning Worship Gathering next Sunday, January 5, (in connection with communion) will go towards the Benevolent Fund.

FaithFull Singles: The deacons and pastors would like to invite our widows, widowers, and *all* singles age 50 and older to our next gathering scheduled for next Sunday, January 5. A luncheon will be provided following the Worship & Communion Service. Hope to see you there!

Family Camp News: Information for registration for Family Camp, **July 18-20, 2014** at **Chain O'Lakes**, Albion, Indiana will begin next Sunday, January 5. Please pick up your packet where you will find registration options as well as campground and cabin information. The registration window opens exactly six months prior to your first night of camping. The Family Camp committee members will be available to answer your questions and collect your registration on January 12 and 19. Link up with your camping friends and start the registration "chain."

The ladies of St. John Mennonite would like to invite the Ebenezer ladies to join us Sunday, January 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the St. John's Fellowship Hall, for a service project. This is for the Mission Possible trip to Haiti in February. We will be sewing, cutting, tracing, and pinning items for the hygiene bags. Please bring your scissors and/or sewing machine. Lunch will be provided. If you have any questions, please call Bettina Schroeder at 567-204-1615 or Gera Bixel at 419-358-1678.

Assistant Receptionist/Secretary: We are searching for a person to provide vacation and sick time relief for Deb Hilty. This person needs to be proficient with telephone communication, computer applications including Word and Excel, scheduling, database entry, and e-mail correspondence. Stop by Kathy Brauen's office to pick up a job description with more detail. We would like to conduct applicant interviews in January.