

† The Zion Bell †

Zion Church of Kurten

Kurten, Texas, USA

October, November, December 2015

Volume 3, Issue 5

A Final Message from Pastor Kevin

Thank You Zion Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a blessing it has been for our family to serve and be served here at Zion for the past six years. Of all the joys and blessings of being called into ministry we have learned that it is the relationships which are God's greatest gift to us. Our children have been blessed with truth filled instruction, joy filled fun, and unconditional love. I can truly say they weren't treated like "pastor's kids" they along with all others were treated like "God's kids." Thank you.

Rachel and I have been blessed by your prayers, encouragement, and the opportunity to walk with you through the peaks and valleys of life and ministry. We were blessed and overwhelmed when a contingent from Zion arrived unannounced to support us at my mother's service. The unexpected love offering taken up will be a seed of faith sown in our new ministry that we pray will bear much fruit.

We commit to pray over this body of believers and your elders as you discover the next man to lead and guide Zion. We hope that many of you will sign up for our newsletter and cover us in your prayers. We look forward to returning someday to celebrate the continued faithfulness of God through Zion.

MEN
of ZION

Upcoming Men's Breakfast Dates

October 10th - 7 am (Aggie football bye week)



Women of The Word: Women's small groups in homes have launched this Fall. Ladies who signed up to participate are doing Armor of God by Priscilla Shirer for 7 weeks. They will conclude the study as a large group in the new ministry center on November 17th at 7pm.

Fellowship: Women of Faith conference, Ladies from Zion caravanned together to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, worship and digging into God's Word with some amazing speakers at Women of Faith October 2-3. A big thank you to Jodi Josey who blessed us by organizing this weekend for the ladies.

A huge thank you to Betty Cotton for organizing the fun Fall painting night with the talented Jamie Bomnskie. We hope to bring her out again for more fun and fellowship!

Craft night, November 13 at 6 pm. Wreath making with a Christmas theme. RSVP by Nov. 6. Please make checks for \$15 payable to Ashley Brunson. Only thing needed is centerpiece/embellishment. There will be 3 free lottery spaces available. Enter the drawing to get a free spot! Contact Ashley for more information 979-777-9191.

Service: Meals of Love are ongoing throughout the year, usually the 3rd Wed of each month. Women who would like to sign up to assist with Bereavement meals when they are needed, can send their contact info to Di Kurten (979) 229-7302 dikurten@gmail.com.

Betty Cotton has taken on the role of 'Relief Meal Coordinator.' If you know of someone in our Church family or community going through a challenging time who may be blessed by some 'relief' meals from the loving folks of Zion, please contact her to help coordinate (979) 218-9575 blcotton@tamu.edu.

Please contact us with any questions, concerns,

Millicent Tausch
(979) 595-5676
tmjg.tausch.family@hotmail.com

Di Kurten
(979) 229-7302
dikurten@gmail.com

Ashley Ward
(979) 324-9734
Ashc1226@hotmail.com



WOW what a beginning to the 11th year of Awana here at Zion! We are starting our second month and are experiencing some growing pains in our T&T (3rd through 6th grade) class. They have almost one half of the entire registered clubbers this year.

Another area of growth is our Junior-High and High-School group which has just about doubled in size. In all we have over 106 clubbers this year and still growing. Clubbers can join us anytime during the year. We could not do it without all the volunteers (servants) including directors and leaders for each club, listeners, scribes, office and kitchen staff. This year we even have a couple of our youth participating as Student Leaders in training. Those servants add up to about 66.

We opened with our kick-off carnival had a wild water night, then a canned food drive, had missionary night with Kenny Bendiksen and then had teddy bears (or another stuffed animal) and pj night. Lot's of "creatures" were at Awana that night. The next months will surely be just as exciting.

Your prayers and support are always appreciated for our Awana program. If you have a Kroger card, please link our program to it. Kroger is great about supporting our community and we definitely benefit monetarily from their program. Instructions for doing that along with all the other information you could want, and more, can be found at <http://kurtenchurch.org/family-connect/awana>.

If you have questions, want to volunteer or know someone interested in joining us, please give us a call.

Your Awana Co-Commanders,

Albert and Carol Jean Rhodes

Dominican Mission Trip Update from Montana Hammack

I want to start by thanking everyone for their prayers and support for the Dominican Republic mission trip that Tamerat and I took back in July. I can honestly say that this was the trip of lifetime. We traveled with members from Grace Church in Allen, Texas, and stayed at three different places in the Dominican Republic. The highlight of our trip was the 3 days we spent at a youth camp. We knew we were going to be at a youth camp but we were surprised to find out that the youth were in fact high school and college age students. Even though we had a language barrier, we were able to communicate through translators and acting out words. We made a big impression with them since we were all so close in age and able to relate to one another. We also had several opportunities to pass out gospel tracts. It amazed me that the people really looked at them and read the information. Some people even asked us questions so we got to have more interaction with them. Homes in the area we were in are primitive. A lady's house exploded a few streets over from where we were passing out gospel tracts one day. Fortunately nobody was hurt, but they lost everything they had. Our group rallied together and made donations to help her get back on her feet. It was emotional to see all of this first hand. In closing, I would like to encourage others to pray about participating in a mission trip. This trip has been life changing for me and I look forward to my next mission trip.

Council Update

The council has been working with the elders and getting a contract for the interim minister. Please remember to send in expansion pledges and offerings as we will move to permanent financing soon. The more we collect up front the less we pay interest on. We will be needing new council members as we term out and move into next year. Please send the council or elders your recommendations.

Pat Shields

Elder Update

The Elders continue to request prayer as we work with Interim Pastor Ministries to complete the call of Dr. Tom Burris to serve as our interim pastor. We also request we all continue to pray for wisdom as we seek God's will for Zion and for the man that God is preparing to serve as our next senior pastor.

Regarding the Burris' moving to Zion, we are gathering needed furniture and other needed household items to prepare the parsonage for their arrival. Please contact Carol Jean to learn what may still be needed and how and when to bring your items for the Burris' to borrow while serving here at Zion Church.

As we move into Fall, we will soon be asking you the congregation to provide names of potential men to serve as an elder and men and women to serve on council. We have members of both the elder board and the church council who have faithfully served two consecutive terms. Our church constitution dictates that one can only serve two consecutive terms and then must step down for a minimum of one year before again being considered for future service. Your prayerful consideration of whom God is calling to serve in one of these leadership roles is highly coveted.

Finally, remember that the Elder Board is here to serve you as we all serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are all called to glorify Christ in all we do. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of the elders.

Monty Dozier

Missionary Update from GW and Amy Fuqua

Our time in the U.S. has come to an end. We had a baby. Multiple trips to the doctor for all of us. Road trips all over Texas—and from Texas to Florida and back, and back again. It's all been quite a good time. Our girls have been doing really well and our new daughter, Ariana, has been the easiest baby so far actually. She sleeps through the night, has started rolling over, and is full of smiles like her mama. We consider this a blessing in view of the long travel and big transition ahead.

Packing is nearly complete. We have bags and bags of stuff. Even though we took stuff over last time, we find ourselves loaded down again. We're packing clothes for both really cold and hot weather, clothes for growing kids, shoes, consumables like food, medicines, even gifts. After a while it all adds up.

We fly out of Jacksonville, Florida, on August 25, at 6:30 PM Eastern Time and arrive in New York at 9:00 PM. Then at 1:45 AM we fly out of New York on a 16 hour flight to the other side of the world, with yet another 4.5 hour stopover on the way to our city where we arrive around 1:25 PM local time on August 27, which is about 3:25 AM EST on August 27. Please pray for us with the long travel ahead—it will be exhausting. Please pray for us as we transition back to life there. And please pray that we'd find favor with the police as we'll begin the search for a new place to live soon after getting back.

Thank you for your care for us as we venture out, and we are thankful for your prayers. When we get there, this email will be one of the preferred methods of communicating securely with us. We'll also have a VPN so will be able to sometimes communicate via Skype or FaceTime, depending on our internet connection. After today, our two US cell numbers that we've had this summer won't work anymore. Instead, we do have a US based number through Skype where we can talk and receive calls (214-377-0467).

GW & Amy

With Elena, Adele & Ariana

PS – If you missed the last three updates that we shared about loving Muslims and Amy's perspective of living as a wife and mother overseas, let us know and we'll email it to you.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 18—ZYM Potato Bake Fundraiser following the service

Oct. 25—Evening of Joyful Praise 5:00 pm

Nov. 1—Children's Christmas Musical Rehearsals begin 4:30-5:30 pm

Nov. 28—Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent 9 am

October Birthdays:

1 David Weiman
5 Slaton Caffey
Tommy Gilley
Brian Gueck
Nicole Gueck
Kennady King
6 Chuck Shaddox
9 Meri Wigley
11 Ken Dooley
13 Philip Mundine
Jim Vitulli
15 Shannon Carroll
Paul Petty
16 Robert Whitwell
18 Conagher Rouse
20 Glenda Kurten
23 Kailey Weiman
25 Carrie Shields
28 Calista Moats
29 Carol Jean Rhodes
31 Kelley Sanders

November Birthdays:

1 Linda Bendiksen
Bentley Wells
3 Betty Cotton
6 Jordan Januse
7 Bill Pine
9 Connor Cravey
Susie Weatherly
10 William Marden
11 Monty Dozier
12 Braden Stasny
14 Aislynn Houston
16 Jackson Caffey
Cash Conrad
Jackson Conrad
Bobbie Couch
Rossy Marden
17 Claire Hammack
18 Jodi Josey
20 Tammy Conrad
Mandy Rutledge
23 Lillian Holubeck
25 Anna Clark
26 Edward Gibson
27 Kathryn Cox
28 Amy Bond
Greg Cox
Bobby Kurten

December Birthdays:

1 Alyssa Cox
4 Hailey Dubec
7 Jason Williams
9 Gerry Dunlap
11 Tom Little
Barbara Vitulli
13 Brayden Fraley
16 Shirley Kindt
Heather Simmons
Tucker Wells
17 Glenda Metzger
18 Matt Ward
19 Callahan Rouse
Doug Sinclair
20 Holly Brown
Natalie Lester
21 Dean Schieffer
22 Sherry Carter
Hudsen Stasny
23 Taylor Anderson
Allyson Sargeant
24 Marie Wager
25 Kristen Eixmann
26 Ashley Ward
27 Mark Bendiksen
29 Mason Schieffer
30 Grace Cox

Please be in prayer for:

Denise Burch
Buddy Weatherly
Marie Henderson
Peggy Kindt
Janie West
Sherry Fikes
Allison Ellis
Bea Heartfield
Elizabeth Castillo
Louise Woodard
Judy Irick Greer
Everett Martin
Dawn Bratton
Dennis Fraley
Richard Tedder
Doris Marek
Mike Welch
Aaron Staab
Regina McDonald's Parents
Fran Leifheit
James Stasny
Elo Mertz
Don Estes
Jim Bailey
Nancy Weiman
Ellis Burch
Melissa Ruffino
Jordan & Brock DeWald
Charlotte Bobbitt

Condolences:

Our condolences and prayers go out to the **Buck and Debbie Mitchell** and their family following the passing of their son-in-law **Joey Welch**. Also to the family of **Ray Darling** following his passing.

Praises:

We celebrate the Baptism of **Burk Brunson**.

Congratulations to **Rick and Nora Thompson** on the birth of their grandson **Gaits Ryne Thompson** born Sept. 10, 2015 to proud parents **JD and Tiffani Thompson** and big sister **Charli**.

Announcements:

Web-based Calendar

With the Zion Bell's transition to quarterly publication, we will no longer include a calendar. To keep everyone up-to-date we have added a Calendar of Events to our web-site. Please stop by <http://www.kurtenchurch.org/calendar-of-events> or look under the Tools tab on the web-site for a listing of events. Please email Kristen at info.zionchurch@gmail.com with corrections or additions.