



Parkway Baptist Church

The Messenger

August 2018



PASTOR KEVIN'S WELL OF LIVING WATER:

TOP 10 HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO CINCINNATI, OHIO

As many of you know my wife Tracy, Rob Gaines and Johannah Welch and I traveled to the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati area with our youth group to give them an opportunity to grow stronger in their relationship with God.

The organization we went with was GROUP MISSION TRIPS. There were six churches from a variety of denominational backgrounds including Lutheran, Episcopal, Evangelical and Non-Denominational with a total of 77 youth that came from PA, MD, OH and NC.

Here are my TOP 10 HIGHLIGHTS from the trip that took place July 15 – 22.

#1) WATCHING MY WORK CREW RECEIVE 5 “GOLDEN TICKETS” FROM THE PIERCE TOWNSHIP OF OHIO POLICE DEPARTMENT for changing a tire for an elderly couple that was on their way to a doctor's appointment. We just happened to be on our way to our work site at Woodland Lakes Christian Camp in Amelia, Ohio.

I wrote a review on the Facebook page to commend Officer Philip Gammon that issued the “tickets” as well as the Pierce Township Police Department. Officer Philip took pics of our kids to post on the same webpage and I was informed that they should be posted by the time of this publication at: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PierceTownshipPoliceDepartment/reviews/>

It was also touching to see our young men invite the elderly couple and officers to pray with us in a circle while holding hands next to the road where we could visibly be seen by passersby. What a great witness!

#2) MEETING 5 GREAT YOUNG MEN IN MY WORK CREW in which we jelled, bonded and experienced instant chemistry from day 1. These young men (Connor, Will, Elijah, Zavier and Patrick) have overcome things like contemplating suicide, breakup with fiancé for pulling them away from God, lost a sister (who was also his best friend) to a brain tumor when he was 9 and she was 15 and one was fearful of what they would do after high school.

“I thank my God every time I remember you” (Phil. 1:3). I will forever treasure the memories that were created and experienced with these awesome young men that love God.

#3) ONE OF OUR YOUNG MEN FEELING CALLED TO MINISTRY BECAUSE OF THIS TRIP. One of our youth from Parkway shared with me that this mission trip was one of the best trips he had ever been on and wants to become a preacher and lead mission trips one day.

#4) WATCHING MANY OF OUR YOUTH BEING TRANSFORMED through the hard work, heat and being taken out of their comfort zones. The signature word and theme for the week was GRIT and the organizers purposely put us in settings that would take each of us out of our comfort zones in order to grow our faith and relationship with God and others.

#5) AFTER A THREE HOUR RAIN DELAY...WATCHING THE PIRATES BEAT THE REDS 12-1 at Great American Ballpark. I have never been at a MLB game that finished at 1:30 am. We saw pre-game fireworks and J.T. Keever get a ball thrown to him from All-Star Joey Votto.

#6) GOING TO DAIRY QUEEN at the end of the day that was located across the railroad tracks from where we stayed in downtown Covington, Ohio. We had to wait for about 15 minutes and 100 train cars carrying an assortment of military vehicles one night on our way back. But it was worth it for two reasons: 1) It made me appreciate the military man that had 15 tours of duty and our military in general in what is required to get the job done and 2) Dairy Queen is always worth the wait.

The trip to Coney Island (a water park) was pretty cool and refreshing as well in letting the kids get a break from the heat and hard work.

#7) THE NIGHTLY WORSHIP SERVICES AND “GOD-SIGHTINGS” SHARED by different individuals and work crews.

#8) OUR WORK CREW WINNING THE LIP SYNC/KARAOKE CONTEST that we had no business doing and probably should not have won. While you could tell other groups had practiced during their performance, our group simply got in a huddle and decided what we would do only at the very moment we went up to perform (in case you are wondering, we won it on Katy Perry’s song “Firework”).

#9) BEING A PART OF A KINGDOM ENDEAVOR that made a huge difference and impact on the lives of countless children and adults in the Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati area.

#10) WATCHING GOD WORK THROUGH MY WIFE AS THE STEERPERSON behind the whole trip in the visioning, planning, organizing and all the GRIT and hard work she was willing to put into it to make it such an overwhelming success.

“Nothing great was ever accomplished without making sacrifices.” –Unknown

#11) OH YAH! WE CAN’T FORGET ABOUT SEEING A LIFE-SIZED NOAH’S ARK. Our kids and adult leaders were privileged to experience an “Ark Encounter” in Williamstown, Kentucky which features a full-size Noah’s Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible of 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high. This modern engineering marvel, costing at \$100 million, was built using 3.3 million feet of wooden boards (standing dead timber) in part by skilled Amish craftsmen has the ability to accommodate 6,000 guests per day and is the largest timber frame structure in the world.

The Ark is an architectural and engineering wonder containing three decks of world-class exhibits.

Thank you Parkway (the people of God) for all you have done in giving these youth and adult leaders an experience of a lifetime. Thank you as well for all the donations, funding and prayer support that could only have made this trip possible. We saw God at work in amazing ways that week.

From Your Pastor,

Kevin VaLeu



THE CHURCH ON MISSION: KNOWING AND DOING MISSIONS

Christmas in August

This is the time of year when we collect supplies for North American missionaries as a part of Christmas in August. This year we will collect supplies for **missionary Alan Berthiaume, a church planter in Quincy MA.**

Please purchase the items listed below throughout the month of August and place them in the boxes marked “Christmas in August” at the top of the stairs, sanctuary level. (Please do not donate items not listed below, as storage space is very limited for these ministries.)

Pencils

Children’s scissors

Nontoxic glue or glue sticks

Crayons

\$20 gift cards from Walmart

Construction paper

Prayer & Ministry Group

The Prayer & Ministry group will meet on **Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 10:45 am** in the **Conference Room**. Please bring **\$1.00 for Mercy & Grace Ministries and any of the items on the Christmas in August list for missionary Alan Berthiaume. We will prepare care packs for female military service members.**

Cardiac Care group will provide lunch after the meeting. (You will recall the switch with God’s Handiworkers this time round.)

Meaning in Life

Everyone needs meaning in their life. A mature discovery for anyone is to learn that life has meaning even in the most miserable and challenging of circumstances. Motivation for living comes from our allowing God to direct us in finding that meaning. Everything can be taken from us except one thing: the freedom to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances. When life offers us a slate of circumstances that we cannot change, it is up to us to change ourselves. We will understand the thought that life offers purpose and meaning but does not promise fulfillment or happiness.

Finding meaning in life can be accomplished any one of three ways: by creating something or doing a meaningful deed, by experiencing something or encountering someone, and by learning that unavoidable suffering and circumstances requires a higher level of discipline and order allowing us to rise above the situation. None of this is easy and all of this is a spiritual discipline developed over years of life with God where we look beyond our own existence, focus on a greater good that is beyond our control, and surrender our life to something that is bigger than our existence and situations.

Mature Christians know how to focus away from themselves toward other people (therefore becoming less self-absorbed), how to actually face fears rather than giving in to them allowing the fears to become the controlling and paralyzing agents in their life (courage is more real than fear), and the healing energy to seek an answer rather than giving in to an excuse. Meaning and a purpose from God’s will can be available when we create something, develop relationships, find purpose in the pain of the present, understand that life is not fair, give our self the freedom to find meaning, and focus on others. Life loses meaning when we ignore community, repel relationships, become self-absorbed, stop creating, and let the small things become the large things.



Susan's Scribbles

I recently spent some time camped out at the hospital with my Mom. It gave me some time to reflect on the importance of little kindnesses in my life. Watching the medical personnel interact with my mother I was aware that the job could be competently done without the personal connection that kindness brings to the same act. Vitals can be taken and blood can be drawn in a very accurate and efficient manner but what a difference it makes when the medical personnel do it all with kindness in their voice and demeanor. When you are frightened, uncertain and totally out of control a little kindness goes a long way.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." Kindness is mentioned as a fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in your life. In Colossians 3:12 Paul writes, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility and patience."

We can't all be great preachers or evangelists drawing thousands to Christ. We can't all be missionaries dedicating our lives to reaching others for Christ. However, we can all be kind to others that we encounter in our everyday life. Being kind is a way to demonstrate in an obvious way the change that Christ has made in our lives. Because we belong to Christ there should be a difference in us as we navigate the challenges of life. It is not always easy to be kind to others. We often encounter people who make it hard for us to be kind.

Sometimes it just appears that they aren't very good at their job, they don't seem to care or they don't appear to be thinking about their tasks. These kinds of situations usually trigger judgment and self-righteousness in me. Usually the first thought that crosses my mind at these times is "What is the matter with you?" Instead, perhaps I should be thinking, "They are doing the best they can with the tools they have been given." There is so much that we don't know about the individuals that we encounter every day. I can't begin to know all the struggles or difficulties that each person I meet has to deal with. I can't know what insurmountable problem they may be facing. If I allow myself to think they are doing their best, it makes me give them the benefit of the doubt and it makes it easier for me to be kind even in difficult situations.

As Christians, let's commit to being kind to others as a way to show Jesus to the world. Let us take pleasure in the special moments when people are kind to us.



Director Of Music and Worship Ministries

Much thankfulness to all the efforts in getting the new offices finished. It is so nice to be down on the same floor to everything that I need to get to.

I saw this recently saw these statistics about what its like being a Pastor.

97% of pastors have been betrayed falsely accused or hurt by trusted friends

70% of pastors battle depression

7000 churches close each year

1500 pastors quit each month

10% will retire a pastor

80% of pastors feel discouraged

94% of pastor's families feel the pressure of ministry

78% of pastors have no close friends

90% of pastors report working 55-75 hours per week

Looking at these statistics it doesn't seem like a desirable way to have a happy life does it. Its not only a job, it's a calling, it's a lifestyle and its who we are. I say we because I am a part of the family of God to whom He has called as a part of a church staff serving in the area of music and Susan in the area of discipleship. We always covet you prayers for us that God will show us the things we need to do for our congregation.



WE'VE
MOVED!

New Address for James and Meda Howell: Countryside Manor Room A-7,
7700 US Highway 158, Stokesdale, NC 27357.

Our phone number has changed (336-298- 7653). We will welcome visits, phone calls, and cards!

Mobile Meals-We have a new name and a new location! We are now called **Meals on Wheels** and our new location is right beside us at the Senior Recourse Center of Greensboro! Our mission is to deliver meals, which are prepared by Golden Corral, to those in need. We are in need of more servant helpers. If you would like a permanent route or to serve as a sub when someone is not available. We need those who want to drive their own car and those who would like to take the meal to the door. We have several people who have done this for over 10, 20, 30 and 40 years. We serve 4 times a year, on the 5th Friday of the month. Routes may take as little as 30 minutes or an hour of your day. We pick up the food at the Senior Resource Center at 9:30am. Our next delivery is August 31st. I hope to hear from you! This is another way to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those less fortunate! Please contact Georgia Gaines @ 336 282 0590 for more information.

August. 2018

Christmas in August

Sunday

9:30am Sunday School (Birth-Adults)
 11:00am Celebration of Worship
 Evening Activities (Check Calendar)

Wednesday

7:00-8:00pm Adult Choir Practice

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			1. 6-8:00pm K-12th Grade Night Fun F.H. Summer Bible Study	2. 6:30pm CEF Meeting Conference Room	3.	4.
5. 8:00am Deacons Meeting	6.	7.	8. 6-8:00pm K-12th Grade Night Fun F.H. Summer Bible Study	9.	10.	11.
12. 1:30pm Finance Meeting	13.	14.	15. 6-8:00pm K-12th Grade Night Fun F.H. Summer Bible Study	16.	17.	18.
19. 3:00pm Church Council Meeting	20.	21.	22. 6-8:00pm K-12th Grade Night Fun F.H. Summer Bible Study	23. 10:45am Prayer and ministry	24.	25.
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31. 9:30am Mobile Meals	

**1411 Benjamin Parkway
Greensboro
North Carolina
27408-4518**

Phone 336-288-2710

Email info@parkwaygso.org

Website www.parkwaygso.org

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 104
Greensboro, NC**

Return Service Requested

Our Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Pastor Kevin VaLeu
kevinvaleu@parkwaygso.org

Administrative Secretary

Libby Boggs
info@parkwaygso.org

Financial Secretary

Amber Bolling

**Director of Music & Worship
Ministries**

Chip Holden
chipholden@parkwaygso.org

**Director of Discipleship & Church
Ministries**

Susan Small
Susansmall@parkwaygso.org



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR GENERAL GREENE

As part of our ongoing outreach to the community we would like to collect school supplies for the students and teachers of General Greene School throughout the month of August. Providing the necessary supplies can be a huge expense for some families and often teachers have to provide their own teaching supplies throughout the year.

If you are unable to shop, you can make a donation. Please earmark the money for “Back to School supplies.” Thank you for all your help and support for the children and teachers of General Greene.

Here are some items that are needed:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------------|--------------|
| 3-ring binders | composition books (marbled black & white covers) | pocket folders | |
| pencil pouches | Ticonderoga pencils | jumbo glue sticks | Clorox wipes |
| pencil cap erasers | notebook paper | colored pencils | wet wipes |
| pocket folders | quart Ziplock bags | gallon Ziplock bags | tissues |
| dry erase markers | ink pens (black/blue) | antibacterial handsoap | |