

February 2024

THE APPLE PRESS

Appleton Christian Church Annual Meeting January 28, 2024 Minister's Report

This last year has been an incredible year for the Body of Christ here at Appleton Christian Church.

We began the year averaging 129 people each Sunday in January and ended the year averaging 160 people attending in December. Our lowest attended Sunday saw 107 gather together on a snowy first day of the year, and our highest attended Sunday had 180 thanking God together the Sunday before Thanksgiving week.

Our mission is not about numbers attending Sunday services... it is to "Glorify God as we grow fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ." The numbers are important though. More people gathering in fellowship together hopefully more people growing in Christ.

This last year we had 4 baptisms, and 14 people joined the church.

One of my favorite numbers though shows how amazing you are at showing the difference between the world and the body of Christ... His church. Of the 38 visitor cards we received (not every visitor fills them out), 20 have continued to attend... either regularly or occasionally.

There have been so many people involved in ministry this year. Appleton Christian has been busy. You have really been creative in helping and loving each other (letters, calls, dinners, and visits)... and that is ministry. You have prayed for each other and our ministries. You have given foster children in our valley an amazing Christmas through participating in the Project 1:27 Polar Express event.

You greatly blessed our Christmas family of seven... and you have shared the love of Jesus and sent gifts to 279 children throughout the world through the Christmas boxes.

You have cooked for each other, participated in ministry through various opportunities on Sunday morning, and you have encouraged your pastors and staff (and yes, that is ministry too).

In all, when we counted it up (and we may have missed some), 150 members/attendees of Appleton Christian Church have actively participated in some ministry this year. That is roughly 86% of those who have attended regularly this year (175). That is the highest number of participation since I came to Appleton Christian, and that is why we are growing together.

Paul writes in **Ephesians 4:11-13** what is expected from Alan and I (elders as well). Paul wrote, "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

This year, more than any other year in my ministry, I have seen this scripture fulfilled. As you have been doing the works of service (ministry), the church has grown both spiritually (becoming mature) and closer in fellowship (unity in the faith). And together we are beginning to attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ... What Jesus truly wants for and from His Church. This is such an exciting time.

I am so very blessed to be part of this family of God... and I pray that all of us become excited to share His love with others so that His church at Appleton Christian can reach the loss and grow His body.

I love you all, Dan

Monthly at a Glance

February 2024

2-Seniors on the Go - games, 2:00 PM 4-Worship Meeting, 12:00 PM see Levi 6-Bible Studies 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM 7-Deacon Meeting 6:00 PM 7-GriefShare, 1:00 PM -3:00 PM 10-Meal Prep, 10:00 AM (if you signed up) 11-Mission Team meeting, 12:00 PM 12–Elder's Meeting, 6:30 PM 13-Bible Studies 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM 14-Valentine's Day 15-ACC Women's Meeting, 6:30 PM 17-Clothed in His Love, making clothes for shoeboxes, 9:00AM 18-New Member Class, Lunch Provided, 12:00 noon 20-Bible Studies 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM 21-GriefShare, 1:00 PM -3:00 PM 24-Journaling class, 10:00 AM 27-Bible Studies 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM 28-GriefShare, 1:00 PM -3:00 PM

WEEKLY

Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Worship Service

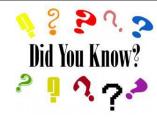
- Staff meetings, Tuesday, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday 6:00 PM meal, 6:30 PM Family Night, Men's and Women's Bible Studies
- Wednesday 1:00 -3:00 PM, GriefShare

March 2024

- 1-Seniors on the Go games, 2:00 PM 5-Bible Studies 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM 6-GriefShare, 1:00 PM -3:00 PM 9-Meal Prep, 10:00 AM (if you signed up) 10-Mission Team meeting, 12:00 PM 11-Elder's Meeting, 6:30 PM 12-Bible Studies 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM 13-GriefShare, 1:00 PM -3:00 PM 19-Bible Studies 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM 26-Bible Studies 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
- 30-Easter Cantata, 3:30 PM

Office hours are: 9:00 AM—2:00 PM, M-Th.

For more information on any event, go to our website and click on calendar. Then click on the event to get more information. http://www.appletonchristian.org/calendar



WE HAVE A WEBSITE?

https://www.appletonchristian.org/

You can access all kinds of information? Photos of past events; the monthly calendar; *The Apple Press* newsletter; contact information; previous sermons; and information about the missionaries ACC supports.

You can even donate to ACC online! -When you look at our online calendar (see website), if you click on a specific event you can get more information.

WE HAVE A WELCOME CENTER? All

kinds of information: directories; missionary prayer planners; a current newsletter (or ask to be added to the email list); *Daily Bread* devotionals (available in large print also); bookmarks with elder and diaconate contact information; and ACC pens. Also, this is where all of our sign up sheets are.

WE HAVE AN EDUCATION PROGRAM?

-Adult Sunday School classes at 9:30 AM -Nursery is available for children up to age three for both services. -Children's Church, 10:30 AM, for first grade through fifth grade

WE HAVE PRAYER EMAIL? Prayer is an important part of our Christian walk here at ACC. You can include your prayer request on Sunday morning by card OR call Nancy @ 970-241-0858 OR email your prayer requests to prayers@appletonchristian.org and they will get the request started.

THAT ACTIVE MEMBERS CAN USE THE BUILDING FOR FREE? (birthday parties, family dinners, baby showers, etc.)? Contact the office for available dates. To secure the date, complete the building use contract with the refundable \$50 cleaning deposit. You can use the building for non-personal use for \$150 per day per event (some restrictions apply), along with the cleaning deposit. Contact the office to check availability.

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IN THE APPLET AND NEWSLETTER is Wednesdays at 11:00 AM



I recently watched a short documentary on someone who used artificial intelligence (AI) to compose a worship song that would sound like a contemporary Christian song. Now I am not going to spend our time talking about the dangers of AI or critiquing Contemporary Christian Music. Instead, I was struck by how something that has no soul, no heart, no mind, no spirit can, at the push of a few buttons, imitate the worship of the saints.

I was struck by this for several reasons. First, it is amazing that we live in an age where that is even possible, secondly how easy it

was for the computer to do it, third how even though it fooled people into thinking a person had written it, there seemed to be something about it that all who heard it were uneasy about, and finally, how I spent some of my life acting just like AI.

Let me explain. I grew up in church. Now, I love and adore the church, the traditions, the rituals, all of it. But there was a time when I was doing nothing more than imitating the authentic without really understanding or experiencing what this faith is all about. I could answer the questions correctly (it was always Jesus), I could sing the songs, and even act like a good Christian kid. Looking back, it is obvious that I was doing it with no real intelligence, no real soul, no real connection.

I had learned that if you give me the proper input, I could fake the output, not only that, but I could fool most people while doing it. Then I spent time around some Christian's that seemed to know that something wasn't right. I was on a mission's trip, and without going into detail, they seemed to be able to look right through my artificial spirituality and even more importantly were willing to challenge me. They confronted the façade and made me listen to them proclaim the gospel as I had never heard it before. I began to realize that I may be able to fool a lot of people, I may be able to gain my earthly satisfaction, but it was costing me my eternal soul. I still rejoice in those hard conversations and moments of repentance. My faith came alive as those precious saints stooped down and spiritually washed the feet of a wretch like me.

After many years in ministry, I have discovered that my experience of artificial spirituality is not uncommon. There are many who simply go through the motions, they have the right answers and do the right things, but in their honest moments they know that they do not feel close to the Lord. They're not sure why people believe that their faith is strong, they are just faking their way through it.

If that is you today, then let me encourage you. The one you are looking for is not hard to find. The pressure of performance is something that you can drop right now. Your Savior has already done all the work needed for you to experience the fullness that he has to offer. Just drop the artificial, take a bold step and admit that you are faking it, repent, confess, and cry out to the Jesus and he WILL answer.

Jeremiah 6:16 says, "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it and find rest for your souls."

Over the next several months, the Discipleship Institute will be offering several one-day trainings, where we will learn to walk together on the ancient paths. If you are ready to experience your faith more fully, then let me encourage you to join as many of these as you can.

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The full calendar will be published soon, but for right now, take the first step and sign up for the Journaling course being offered February 24th. Start taking some small steps in your faith journey today and see how those steps are multiplied as God blesses your journey.

If you need more information, want to talk about potential classes, or just want to talk please feel free to contact me anytime.

Blessings, Alan

You can watch the video here <u>https://youtu.be/M2zxbuP5aNg?si=R0mv5RUdq_tgN7Ky</u> PS. I really like the art at the top of this article. It too was generated by an AI image generator.

Fellowship 3

God had designed the church as a family that knows and supports each other in a world that is increasingly against us. Our Appleton Christian Church family has taken the responsibility seriously and we have continued to grow closer as a body.

However, with the enemy actively against us, we need to continue to offer opportunities to grow in fellowship and support of one another.

This February, we are organizing a fun, food, and fellowship event (Fellowship 3). This event would help you get acquainted with others in the church in a small home group setting. We would like to set up groups to share a meal and socialize.

We would like to do this quarterly with you meeting different people each time. The host would set up the time, date, and what people should bring for the meal.

If you have questions, please contact Jeanne in the office. Sign up sheet on the welcome table.





We are looking for a volunteer to head up ShareFest 2024 (APRIL 27-28)

https://gjsharefest.com **Purpose (adopted 4-30-08):** "A community-wide event demonstrating the love of Christ in a practical way."

Participating churches and their volunteers decide which day(s) they are going to serve, Saturday or Sunday, April 27 or 28.

Volunteers get together in groups, adopt a project, and choose a team leader who, with someone else, visits the project site to evaluate the project. The group leader then works with the volunteers to set the time they will meet, determine tools and supplies needed, and logistics for the project.

We are excited to be a part of this community outreach. Would you consider being the Sharefest coordinator? Meetings are once a month with other church volunteers at First Presbyterian Church. Contact Bob Labig or Jeanne Baker

If you are in need of a project *to be done*, please go to the ShareFest website https://gjsharefest.com which should be open on April 1 and submit your project.

Tuesday Bible Study

The Bible Studies for the women, men, and youth activities are meeting every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. A meal is at 6:00 PM if you are interested.

The men will be studying the book of Nehemiah. The men meet in the lower building with the class being led by Alan Dyson. Contact Alan @ 928-580-9856

The women will meet in the upper building and will be studying the book of Ezra. The class is led by Kari Dyson and is also available by Zoom. Contact Kari @ 928-581-2735

The children will be led by Heather DeBolt in the lower building. Contact Heather @ 970-371-9895

If you want to help with the meal on Tuesday night, please contact Jeanne Baker 970-242-7380 or Donna Ward 970-623-3665



NEW ACC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies (ages 18 - 98), do you long for connection with other women and want to have some fun along the way? If so, please join us for a wonderful evening as we kick-off our new Women's Ministry on Thursday, February 15th at 6:30 P.M. in the lower building We hope to see you there! Questions? Talk with Karen Herman or text her at 618-201-9109.



For Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for February, we are collecting accessories: watches, sun glasses, hair items, necklaces, etc.

February

Other items for the shoebox are always appreciated.

If you have any questions, please see or call Donna Jean Ganss 970-640-8396.



Fashion Accessories

The next Meal Prep is

February 10, 2024

Sign up by February 4, 2024

The meals are:

- 1) Creamy Italian Chicken
- 2) Mediterranean Pork Chops
- 3) Italian Mozzarella Meatloaf
- 4) Pork Chili Verde
- 5) Lemon Garlic Chicken Thighs
- 6) Brunswick Stew

If you write out a check, make it to ACC.

The cost is \$35.00 for 6 meals for 2 people, \$70.00 for 6 meals for 4 people, \$100.00 for 6 meals for 6 people.

Contact Heidi Waggoner @ 970-250-0588



Journal Keeping

Do you want to grow in your attentiveness to God? Are you ready to begin a new spiritual discipline? Journaling is a practice that can enrich your prayer life and help you connect with God's deep love. Sign up and plan to join us on Saturday, February 24 at 10:00 AM to learn more.

This group will meet one time only in the upper building.



FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH



Ministry: Driven by a desire to provide tangible expressions of God's love and provision, Casas por Cristo began building homes along the U.S. / México border in 1993, first in Ciudad Juárez. We have since expanded to Ciudad Acuña, México and San Raimundo, Guatemala. Casas por Cristo (Homes because of Christ) creates important partnerships among various groups across international borders. Although we've provided thousands of families with homes, we go beyond building. We are dedicated to growing Christ's church one home at a time by helping meet the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors.

The Summerlot family praises God for the many builds Chris led in 2022 with teams from Missouri, New Mexico, Indiana, Arizona, Colorado, South Dakota, Texas, Mexico, El Paso and our own staff. Two of the teams were new. Praise the Lord for over 400 salvations and a total of 240 builds across Casas por Cristos' five locations in 2022! Praise Him for all of our supporters and the increased giving. God has provided more than we asked! Praise for our sons making new friends and for Chris' improvement in Spanish. (he leads two co-workers who are Mexican nationals who didn't know English but now are learning some through classes with Becky.

Prayer Requests: That God would allow us to find property in the east part of Juarez to build a new dorm facility to house teams who build closer to that area.

Appleton Christian Church's goal has been to send a housebuilding team to Mexico every other year to build a small home for a family in need, usually during Spring break.

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

New Ministry at ACC - Clothed In His Love

Donna Jean Ganss, Elizabeth Kovarovics and Connie Fudge are organizing to make simple clothes to add to our annual Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes. The idea is to make simple dresses, skirts and pants ahead of time so that we will have plenty to put into the shoeboxes. These items of clothing will be for children ages 2 to 14 years. We seek your prayers as we begin this new adventure. We are hoping to possibly expand it beyond the Shoeboxes, eventually.

Many hands, talents and levels of interest are needed:

HANDS-ON:

We are calling for people who know how to sew AND people who would like to participate in some way, but do not sew. Sewers are asked to bring their sewing machines and basic sewing needs: scissors, machine needles, pins, etc. If you don't have a portable machine, we can work with that. Just let us know. Those who do not sew can do many other things for this project – cut out materials, hand sew, iron, etc.

On Saturday, February 17th, from 9 to 12, we will be holding 2 workshops in the big building. One will be for teaching sewers how to make a simple dress. The other will be for instructing those who do not sew, how to cut out the materials for the items of clothing.

Sewing Workshop: If you are bringing a machine, please arrive 15 minutes before 9 so that you can be all set up and ready to go by 9. We will have ironing boards and irons on site, so you don't have to bring those.

Cutting Workshop: If you own a good pair of scissors for cutting fabric, please bring them with you, especially if you are left-handed! We will have some available if you don't own a good pair. We will be instructing on how to lay out the pattern pieces, pin, and cut the materials. We will also be teaching how to use a rotary cutter for those who are feeling confident in their ability to use these very sharp tools.

If you are interested in either of these workshops, please **RSVP** to one of us. It is **IMPORTANT** that you let us know what you are interested in doing so we can plan for space and equipment. Connie – Email: fudgeconnie@gmail.com Cell (text or call): 208-755-2873 Elizabeth - Email: ermcbroom@gmail.com Cell (text or call): 970-361-6778 Donna Jean – Email: donnaganss@yahoo.com Cell (text or call): 970-640-8396

BEHIND THE SCENES:

If you'd like to contribute towards this new ministry in other ways you can:

*You can donate new, solid color (no prints, pictures, etc), t-shirts for ages 2 to 14 years old – boys and girls! Please drop these in the Shoebox donation box in the lobby of the big building.

*As you do your "Spring Cleaning", keep us in mind. We are interested in bed sheets in VERY GOOD condition and cotton fabric (1/2 yard minimum cut, VERY GOOD condition, washed). Please speak with Donna Jean, Connie, or Elizabeth before bringing these items to the church. We may need you to hold onto these items until we can be prepared to receive them.

* You can donate towards the ministry. Please note the name of the ministry – *Clothed In His Love* - so that our treasurer knows how to earmark the funds.

| Feb 2024 (Mourtain Time - Deriver) Satt 3 10:30am - DOK training @ lower | Craig.Areta Beastin Meal Prep | 9am - Clothed In His Love, Sewing | Journaling class - 1 day |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fri 2 Groundhog Day Jm Lawson 2pm - Sentors On The Go - game 5pm - Counseling m 3 6pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal 6: | 9 Building in use - Meal Prep Debbie Coffing 5pm - Counseling m 3 6pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal 6: | 16 Clothed in His Love set up, lower 5pm - Counseling m 3 5pm - Praise Team Practice 6pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal 6: | 5pm - Counseling m 3 6pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal 6: 2pm - Seniors On The Go - game 5pm - Counseling m 3 6pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal 6: |
| Thu 4pm - Praise Team Practice | 4pm - Praise Team Practice | ACC Women's meeting, 6:30 -8:10 | 22 Kath Bradley Wasshington's Birthday 4pm - Praise Team Practice 4pm - Praise Team Practice |
| Wed 31 1pm - New GriefShare class 4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3 | 1 1pm - New GriefShare class 4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3 6pm - Deacon Meeting | First Day of Lent Valentines Day Ipm - New GriefShare class 4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3 | 21 1pm - New GriafShare class 4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3 7pm - Beading Group, Ark room 28 Matt Ward (29th) 1pm - New GriefShare class 4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3 |
| Tue 30 1:30pm - Staff meeting 6pm - Meal at 6 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Youth Group | Rancy Hagerman 9am - Desert West Chapter 1:30pm - Staff meeting 6pm - Ment at 6 6:30pm - Worrer's Bible Study 6:30pm - Youth Group 6:30pm - Youth Group | 13 Wanda Archer 1 pm - Desert West Stitch-in 1:30pm - Staff meeting 6pm - Meal at 6 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Youth Group 6:30pm - Youth Group | 200 1:30pm - Staff meeting 6pm - Meel at 6 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Youth Group 1pm - Desert West Stitch-in 1pm - Desert West Stitch-in 1:30pm - Staff meeting 6pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study 6:30pm - Youth Group |
| Mon 29 4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, mm 6pm - Stand for the Constitution, | Eddie McClure Eddie McClure 4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm 6pm - Stand for the Constitution, | 12 Elder's Meeting, 5:30 PM Lincoins Birthday 4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm 6pm - Stand for the Constitution, | 19 4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm 6pm - Stand for the Constitution, 4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm 6pm - Stand for the Constitution, |
| Sun 28 28 Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am 12pm - Annual Meeting, potluck | Choisimond DeVinney Don Solomon Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am 12pm - Worship Ministry meeting. | 11 Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am 12pm - Missions Team Meeting | 18 18 Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am 12pm |

Go to our website and click on calendar. Then click on any event to get more information.

Contact Us:

Senior Minister Dan Baker pastordan@appletonchristian.org

Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson pastoralan@appletonchristian.org

Music Minister willis.levi.t@gmail.com 3 three

ways to send **Prayer Requests**: <u>Prayer card on Sunday (check the box</u> to be included in the weekly email distribution); OR email

prayers@appletonchristian.org/

OR <u>call</u> Nancy @970-241-0858 or the church office @970-242-7380

For **shut-in communion**,

please call 970-242-7380 during office hours or contact person listed below:



February 4– Alan Dyson 11–Dan Baker 18– Chris Weber 25– Kathy/Kelly Messamer

Clip and post in your home as a reminder when you serve

| Communion & Offe | | SUNDAY GREETERS | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| First Service February 2024 4-Bob Labig 11-Alan Dyson 18-Heidi Waggoner 25-John Wilson March 2024 3-Dan Baker 10-Alan Dyson 17-Heidi Waggoner 24-John Wilson 31-Levi Willis | Second Service <u>February 2024</u> 4-Bob Labig 11-Alan Dyson 18-Jenny Nichols 25-John Wilson <u>March 2024</u> 3-Dan Baker 10-Alan Dyson 17-Jenny Nichols 24-John Wilson 31-Levi Willis | First Service February 2024 4-Keith Kump 11-Chris/Larry Ramseyer 18-Char Zangerle 25-Connie/Tom Fudge March 2024 3-Keith Kump 10-Judy Devine 17-Linda/Dick Mann 24-Connie/Tom Fudge 31-C.Ackerman/M. Miller | Second Service <u>February 2024</u> 4-Helen Caldwell 11-Kathy/Kelly Messamer 18-Donna Jean Ganss 25-Cris Hoche <u>March 2024</u> 3-Connie/Louis Martinez 10-Lisa O'Connor 17-Helen Caldwell 24-Jenny Nichols 31-Kathy/Kelly Messamer | |
| FEBRUARY PRAYER FAMILIES & SCHOOLS 4- Cris Hoche Gloria Hollermeier Fruita 8-9 School 11-Steve & Mindy Jelinek Ed & Janie Johlman Fruita Monument High School 18-Thomas & Angie Keenan Jim Kellogg Grand Junction High School 25-Russ & Robin Kendall Grant Kinkade Palisade High School | | ALWAYS REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR GRAND JUNCTION, FRUITA, PALISADE, CLIFTON, AND ORCHARD MESA COMMUNITIES & SCHOOLS THE STATE OF COLORADO THE GOVERNMENT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | | |

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

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4. Enter the assigned password into the app to begin synching.



You can also access the directory on your computer.

Go to: https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/ to create an account using the email address you have listed in the directory. You will receive a confirmation email and once you click on the link, your email address will be validated. You will then need to log in, just as an email account, every time to access the directory. You will be able to view the information, but the phone numbers and email are not hyperlinked as with the smart device app.



The Apple Press 2510 I-70 Frontage Rd Grand Junction, CO 81505

FEBRUARY 2024 Our Mission

To grow fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20

8:00 AM, 10:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages

A CORE OF TRUTH -WITH A LOT OF APPEAL

Unsubscribe: If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us with your address or email with UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject line. Thank you.

Connect with us:

970-242-7380 970-242-3682 fax Senior Minister Dan Baker pastordan@appletonchristian.org

Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson pastoralan@appletonchristian.org

Music Minister

<u>willis.levi.t@gmail.com</u>

Elders: elders@appletonchristian.org

To sign up for Applets, Newsletter, or Directory PDF updates, please send an email with Subscribe to Applets, or Newsletter, or Directory PDF in the Subject line.

prayers@appletonchristian.org

To sign up to receive prayer requests, please send an email with **Subscribe in the Subject line.**

The Bible affirms the power and importance of prayer and we, as a church, are committed to pray for each other. Let us know your request and we will lift you up in prayer.

appletonexchange@appletonchristian.org

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