

Dear Western Springs Baptist Church,

There is a story about a monastery in Europe perched high on a cliff several hundred feet in the air. The only way to reach the monastery was to be suspended in a basket which was pulled to the top by several monks who pulled and tugged with all their strength. Obviously, the ride up the steep cliff in that basket was terrifying.

One tourist got exceedingly nervous about halfway up as he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed. With a trembling voice he asked the monk who was riding with him in the basket how often they changed the rope. The monk thought for a moment and answered brusquely, "Whenever it breaks."

This is possibly how you are feeling on this COVID-19 journey. It is disconcerting to be on a journey that seems so strange and precarious. Will we make it to the top? Are the supports of our lives strong enough to last until things get back to normal – whatever that is? Do you sense that your ropes of support are old and frayed? Let me suggest that now may be the time to change the rope.

Isaiah writes, "He (the Everlasting God) gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:29-31).

There is the answer. A renewed hope in our strong Lord gives us a renewed strength for the rest of the journey. Hope for the Christian is our expectation for the future based on the nature and character of God. We must regularly renew our strength by renewing our focus on a loving, faithful God and a Savior who provides for us. He promises that he will be with us "always, to the very end of the age." Our example is the Psalmist in Psalm 42. He looks around and his soul is downcast, disturbed, frayed and worn, and then sings this refrain: "Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

Let me urge you to spend time with God in these days when things seem a little bit frayed. Replace the rope of his strength in your life. Put your hope in God. Then you will soar like eagles, run and not get weary, and walk and not be faint. Be assured that I will be praying for you as we continue this strange journey.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dean



**** ON-SITE WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sundays at 9 and 11AM
Pastor Dean Monkemeier

August 2

Come and Rest
Matthew 11:25-30

August 9

A Merciful Lord
Matthew 12:1-21

August 16

Goodness and Mercy Will Follow
Psalm 23
Pastor Joel Sisson

August 23

Timothy Abbatacola

August 30

Watch Your Words
Matthew 12:22-37

**** Reservations, please: wsbc.info/worshipRSVP**



ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday at 9AM

<https://wsbc.info/online-stream/>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WSBCVillageChurch

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/wsbcvillagechurch>



IN LOVING MEMORY



Harry G. Rohde

May 6, 1929 – June 22, 2020



POST-HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Your church family wants to remember you in prayer. **Please provide your name, school name, and year in school to the church office (wsbc@wsbc.info) by Wednesday, August 12.** Beginning Sunday, August 16, one student per week will be highlighted in a Sunday bulletin and subsequent weekly prayer guide. *Even if you have provided this information before, please resubmit it, as often times students change schools and/or take a semester or two off, etc. Thank you.*



Due to COVID-19 and the limitations of the park district, with much disappointment, Fellowship Chair Mark Wittkamper announced the church picnic has been officially cancelled for 2020. There is simply no practical and safe way to host this event this year.



2020 CHURCH FAMILY DIRECTORY

If your contact information has changed and/or the information published is incorrect, please submit the corrections to the church office on or Monday, September 14, for inclusion in a separate attachment to the directory.

Thank you.



FROM THE DIACONATE COMMITTEE

The Diaconate Committee would like to enlist you to reach out to our shut-ins. A quick reference would be those listed on our weekly Congregational message in the section *Pray for and Individuals needing continued strength and healing*.

Please check this list or go through your directory and send a card to ones that you have missed seeing at church.

These past four months have seemed extremely long for all of us even with getting out to run necessary errands.

There are two individuals that are currently quarantined: Ann Boer and Doris Daggy. Both are feeling isolated and would really appreciate a word of encouragement.

Thanking you in advance for reaching out to our church family members that haven't been able to attend church.

A card letting them know you are thinking about them and praying for them would be very much appreciated.

Treasure Sanderson
for the Diaconate Committee

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

via ZOOM

7PM

July 21 – September 8, 2020

The Tuesday Evening Ladies Bible Study will continue to meet during the summer via Zoom.

We will start an eight-session study, *Prayers of the New Testament* by Lynne M. Baab. The book is available through InterVarsity Press. If you are interested in joining us for this time of Bible discussion and prayer, please contact Linda Peters.



YEAR-TO-DATE Nine MONTH FINANCIAL REPORT as of June 30, 2020

	GENERAL FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$636,000	\$639,900	(\$3,900)	(1%)
Expenses	\$596,000	\$640,000	(\$44,000)	(7%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$40,000	(\$100)	\$40,100	

	MISSION FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$217,200	\$244,100	(\$26,900)	(11%)
Expenses	\$209,300	\$244,200	(\$34,900)	(14%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$7,900	(\$100)	\$8,000	

Note: all amounts rounded to nearest hundred.

MISSIONARY PARTNER NEWS BRIEFS

For security purposes, please do not distribute, post, or share this information **without** individual permission from the partners to do so.

Jean and Joy Thomas

My heart has been laid heavy by the situations happening in my home country of Haiti and the United States (my place of residence). In Haiti, 59% of the population live on less than two dollars a day (even less in most rural communities). This isn't even due to COVID-19; this has been an ongoing fact for a very long time. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, the sixth poorest in the world, and lies only 700 miles off the coast of Miami. The effects of COVID-19 are deteriorating an already egregious situation. There are hundreds of new cases everyday; even with very limited testing, and famine is being brought on by low imports of aid, goods, and food.

There are about 70,000 people who live in Fond des Blancs, and Haiti Christian Development Fund has been working hard with the community to bring about a brighter, more self-sustaining and prosperous future. There are no ands, ors, or ifs about it, I love and appreciate our donors and supporters like Charlotte Craig, Dave and Judy Wagner, Dixie Noble, and so many more who truly believe in what we are doing and want to see reconciliation live out in its fullest in Fond des Blancs, see a community rise to self-sufficiency, and become an example for other communities.

We, however, need more supporters and donors and we need everyone's help. Famine has been a mainstay in Haiti, which has been caused by many external and internal historical factors, but it is getting worse due to COVID-19 and severe droughts. Right now, our Jubilee Farm is the only farm with growing crops. Every other farmer's crops in the surrounding community and beyond are dead or dying.

Good news is we have raised \$185,000 but we still need over \$75,000 to cover the cost of purchasing 130 acres of farmland currently farmed as part of the co-op with local landowners. Purchasing this land will help us make real significant land improvements and increase each crop's yield.

Chris and Rebecca Hirt

This month, Chris planned and led his third software developer mini-conference this year for



over 50 people across three continents. It's a whirlwind of presentations, discussions, and



celebration of what God is doing through the software we develop and support.

COVID-19 couldn't stop us from sharing an update with churches about our

Wycliffe ministry – we took our sharing online with Mission Moment Zooms.

Our children had never experienced springtime before this trip. We all watched in amazement as the snow and cold gave way to buds on trees and green popping up everywhere. It was wonderful to witness God's creation come alive.

Luis has become quite the fisherman when given the opportunity.





My very first *KitchenAid* stand mixer was a gift from my mother while I was in my fellowship at UC-Irvine. It sat on my kitchen counter collecting dust for well over a year-and-a-half. But when I finally used it for the first time, I couldn't understand how I had lived without this amazing invention all my life. It's an essential for any serious baker. This summer, my mixer gave out and I was forced to purchase a new one. It took me a few minutes to figure out how to connect the various attachments that came with the new mixer before I could use it. But one thing I didn't have to figure out was that the mixer had to be plugged into a power source in order to work. Unplugged, it was of little use. There was nothing wrong with it—it just needed power. As I was making the first batch of chocolate chip cookies with my new mixer, I thought to myself: that's exactly how it is with the children of God. If you are a Christian, you already have the Holy Spirit. But just like that mixer, you have to be plugged in to your power source to be able to harness his power.

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead now lives in you. The better we know the Holy Spirit, the more we can be empowered by him. Wherever you need the power of God today, the Spirit is the answer to your need.

Walking through the book of Acts, we see the power of God at work on every hand. Three thousand are saved at Pentecost; a crippled man is healed; fearful disciples are now preaching boldly to the Sanhedrin; Saul of Tarsus is converted; thousands come to Christ through Paul's ministry. It's miracle upon miracle.

Can God really do today what he did then? Can we have the same power in our lives that they had in theirs? The answer is absolutely YES! But we must be filled with the Spirit and submit to his control. The book of Acts provides us with biblical, practical steps to the abundant life of Christ.

We want to extend a special invitation to each woman at WSBC to join ***Women's Life*** as we begin our fourth year this coming fall. We will be studying the book of Acts using Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Acts*. This is a 10-week study which begins Thursday, September 10 from 9-11AM.

Our mornings will look a little different this year as we adhere to the IDPH guidelines for COVID-19 prevention. ***Women's Life*** will begin with a time of instrumental music, followed by a large group study of Acts. Small group discussions will follow the corporate time. We will be taking every precaution to socially distance throughout the morning and face masks will be mandatory. Temperatures will be taken prior to entering the building and all participants will be asked to sanitize their hands and complete a health survey upon arrival.

Women's Life is a community study open to women of all faiths and backgrounds, so please invite your friends and neighbors as well. A children's program is available for nursery to kindergarten age children (IDPH permitting). Registration/payment is available online: [WSBC.info/womenslife](https://www.wsbc.info/womenslife). The cost is \$20.

We hope to see you Thursday mornings this fall as we open God's Word together learning what God did for the earliest Christians and discovering what he longs to do for each of us as well. We know you won't want to miss this life-changing study of the book of Acts.





Calling all WSBC women!

We would love for you to come and join us for prayer in the month of August as we plan to begin our fourth year of Women's Life on September 10. We will meet each Thursday morning from 9-10AM starting August 6, to pray for the Lord's guidance as we begin to gather again this fall. Our first meeting will be on ZOOM. Call Audrey Ridlen if you have any questions.

Topic: Women's Life Prayer meeting

Time: August 6, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5526349366?pwd=a2Z4S2FGSXNEeJ1L3Jlc1hyUUy3QT09>

Meeting ID: 552 634 9366

Passcode: WL2020

WOMEN'S LIFE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

A children's program is being offered for nursery to kindergarten age children (IDPH permitting). Their fall session begins on Thursday, September 10 at 9AM. Paid childcare workers are needed from 8:45-11:15AM on Thursdays through November 12. If you are willing and available to provide this service, please contact Bri Hueber for details. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSIONARY PARTNER BIRTHDAY

Anita Lewis

August 10

anitalewis10@comcast.net



COMMUNION SERVICE

Sunday, August 9

6PM

WSBC Parking Lot

We will gather outside in the parking lot for a brief service of communion. Please bring your own communion elements to share with you and your family. The length of the service is about 20 minutes; if you want to sit outside of your vehicle, we ask that you bring your own lawn chairs.

