

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

May, 2018

## Our Journey in God's Kingdom

What is the Kingdom?  
Do you wish to enter the Kingdom?  
Do you have what it takes?

The Kingdom of God is not of this world as it is a spiritual kingdom that cannot be compared to the Earth that we live upon. Our physical world, Earth, was designed by Jesus to be perfect in every way. Adam and Eve witnessed and enjoyed that perfection until the day they rejected God and followed the devil into sin. From that time forward the Earth was cursed and has become separated from the Kingdom of God. Earth has become a fouled and desecrated place. Therefore, it cannot be considered God's Kingdom. Everything created by God is perfect and remains so until the flesh of man takes over and then God no longer claims ownership.

His Kingdom is a spiritual one...it is not of this Earth. Those who believe and follow the teachings of Jesus do become a part of His SPIRITUAL KINGDOM immediately when they believe. As we live out our time on Earth, we are simply passing through on our journey to heaven. Our time on Earth is just a stepping stone to the heavenly Kingdom.

*1 Peter 2:4-5 As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

*1 Peter 2:9 -10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

We all have a choice to make.

*2 Peter 2:10-11 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fail, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

God has called all of us to enter his kingdom. He has not made any distinction between which peoples to offer this gift. It is offered to all who inhabit this Earth. All were created in God's perfection with the ability to enter his kingdom. It is our choice, our "election," to decide if we want to receive such a wonderful gift. Do you want to receive the gift of eternal life and all of the wonders of heaven? I cannot imagine anyone who could possibly say no to this question. The alternative to choosing his kingdom is to spend eternity in the pain and terrors of hell.

Okay, so let's assume that you want to spend eternity in God's kingdom in Heaven. You have made your election, and now must take the actions necessary to insure your welcome

(Continued on next page)

THE KINGDOM

into the eternal kingdom that Peter is talking about.

*2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

What is everything that he has given us to make our journey into his heavenly kingdom possible? To enter the kingdom we must do so as perfect spiritual beings without sin on our souls. Sounds like a tough job, and indeed it is. Without Jesus and the Holy Spirit we would be doomed and never be able to achieve our goal.

Here is how it works.

*Romans 3:22-26 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice for atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

At the time we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and accept all that he teaches, our past sins are swept away and forgotten, as if they never existed. We have reached a level where we would

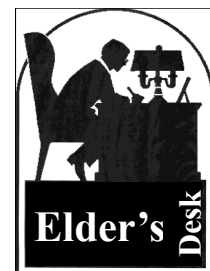
be accepted into heaven if we were to die at that exact moment. We are perfectly pure at that point. A good example is the thief on the cross next to Jesus. He expressed his belief in Jesus and accepted him completely. He was purified and justified and told by Jesus that they would meet again in heaven.

This is wonderful except that by his skills alone, man cannot defeat the flesh and continue to live in purity. He must be pure to enter heaven! So, there is a bit of a hurdle to face here, but all is not lost. By accepting Jesus Christ we are given the help of the Holy Spirit to guide us through this sinful world, and power to overcome our flesh with the intention of remaining without sin. However, we must listen to and follow the words of the Spirit. Relying on Him to counsel and guide us is the only way to remain in a pure state and therefore be worthy of entering the heavenly Kingdom.

However, if we should fall away from a pure state and sin, Jesus is our high priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses. We must confess our sins to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. If we are sincere, our sins will be forgiven and we will be back on a righteous path.

To obtain a complete look at His Kingdom we must be ever cautious to not sin, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and keep our minds and hearts focused on Jesus. Our time on Earth is limited as we are simply passing through. We are travelers with the goal of reaching His Kingdom.

In Christ,  
Bob Hettlinger



**Connect**

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# TLC

Together Loving Christ

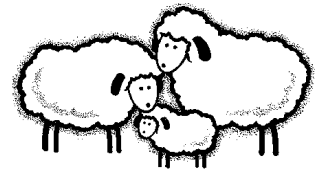
**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

**Grow in the Word!**

## Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine  
*Nursery Services Provided*



*Happy  
Mother's  
Day*

**Come join us for a special  
Mother's Day Service  
Sunday, May 13th, 10:45am**

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

**Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ**

# Minutes from the Elders Retreat April 8, 2018

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Tim Kasza, Sam Jacob, Bob Hettlinger, Phyllis Clark and Nona Koivula

Prayer

Review of the Sunny Place Church of God Purpose, Vision, and Mission

Ephesians 1:9-10 “he made known to us the mystery if his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.”

Pastor Pete prepared several possible structures for the Elders and Ministries. There was discussion and it was agreed that Pastor Pete will bring together the ministry team leaders and elders to discuss the possible structure.

There was discussion about each ministry reviewing the team mission, objectives and update as needed. Sam mentioned that each team’s mission is listed on the Sunny Place web site. Teams should pray, seeking to identify Christ’s direction. The written objectives should be a guide to evaluate the effectiveness of the team. Pastor Pete suggested the fall is a good time to do this review when the next year activities are being planned and the budget is discussed.

The church health and natural church develop was reviewed. Pastor Pete showed a comparison of the last two years this survey was conducted which showed great improvements in several areas. He is searching for another organization that would provide a survey similar to the previous surveys.

Leadership and discipleship were discussed at length. Pastor Pete showed two videos of speakers from the global leadership conference held last year. Mark Miller offered a definition of leadership; Psalm 78:72 the integrity of heart and skillful hands. To see a picture of the future, a vision, and to engage those you select, to invest themselves fully into the vision of the future were ideas. There were five questions asked about leadership. They were to define, to teach, to practice, to measure and model leadership. Sam Adeyemi from Nigeria spoke about leadership from the inside out. He emphasized seeing people, not as they are, but as they can be; and helping them to become what they can become in the vision of the church.

Pastor Pete is committed to bring leadership and discipleship teaching or training to Sunny Place and the Elders have complete agreement with these efforts.

The next Elders meeting will be May 2.



Kid's

# Connection



BibleWise

## Jesus Said . . .

What did Jesus say before he returned to heaven? The answer is in the cloud below. Starting with the first letter, write every other letter on the lines below.



G	S	O	T	I	B	N	R	T	Y	O	M	A	P	L	W	L	C	T	Z	H	N	E	L	W
Q	O	V	R	G	L	S	D	T	A	V	N	A	D	W	P	Q	R	M	E	U	A	D	C	X
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Mark 16:15

Bible Activities For Everyone by Betty De Vries and Mary Cutler. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books Publisher, 1999.



“Let the little children come to me,  
and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.  
As in Mark chapter 10 verse 14.

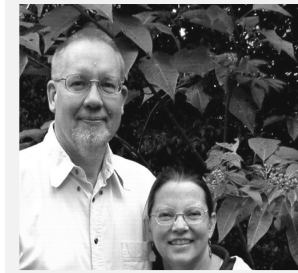
# Mission Fest, 2018

## "Until the Whole World Hears"

**Saturday and Sunday, May 5th & 6th**

Saturday, May 5th: Sharing in Mission's

Sunday, May 6th: Ernie and Lori Nicholas, Missionaries to Kenya  
International Dinner



Ernie serves alongside the staff of Kima International School of Theology (KIST), providing administrative consultation and teaching support. Lori serves alongside the staff as the school's nurse, providing healthcare for students and staff through the clinic at KIST. She also helps coordinate the missions experience groups who visit KIST.



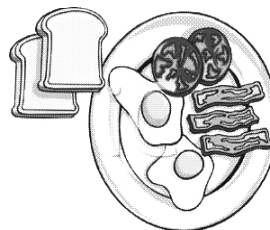
The Nicaragua Christian Education Foundation (NICE) mission is to improve the lives of disadvantaged Nicaraguans by providing them with the tools to meet some of their long-term needs in the areas of salvation, medical care, education, and employment.

We will be collecting donations including: new and used school supplies, sports equipment, and household items to bring down to the NICE Foundation this summer. Please place your donation items in the room across from the office. There is a full list of needed items in the room.

Thank you for caring for these children and families in need



**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00a.m.**



Come and join us for breakfast, made and served by the Ladies Ministry, at 9:00 a.m. **Y u m !**

Then join us in fellowship as we assist the Stewardship Ministry who work so hard in maintaining our church and grounds.

We always feel the satisfaction and reward, as we work together for God's church and family.



## 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, May 12th, 11:30 a.m.

Please join us for a free Senior Luncheon! Come be our guest for food, great speakers and activities. Free event for Seniors 55 & up. Space is limited so register now at 630/398-2314

## AFTERNOON OF PRAYER

Sunday, May 20th, 12:30 p.m.  
At Sunny Place Church

Come be a part of the plan that God has for us as participants, to pray for each and serve all of His children and their needs.

Then join us for

**A LIGHT LUNCH AND  
A Church Game Day**



## Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult  
Bible  
Study

### “Difficult Texts”



The Scriptures that you may have wondered about, or wrestled with.

*Led by John Gryparis*

## Children’s Classes

Led by Carla Weber

***Nursery services are provided***

Thursday Evenings  
7:00 p.m.  
at Sunny Place





## “Making Your Calling and Election Sure”

A Bible Study  
Through 1st & 2nd Peter  
and Jude

*Led by Pastor Pete*



2018  
May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3  Service at 7 pm at Sunny Place	4	5 Mission's Fest: Sharing in Mission's 9:30 a.m.
6  Holy Communion Mission's Fest: Faith Promise & International Dinner	7	8	9	10 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	11	12 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
13  HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!	14	15	16 Christian Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	14 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	15	19  ARMED FORCES DAY Combined Ladies Breakfast & Church Workday, 9am at Sunny Place
20 Afternoon of Prayer 12:30 p.m. Lunch & Game Day following	21	22	23	24 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	25	26
27 Worship Get-Together 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	28  Memorial Day Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives	29	30	31 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place		