

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

June, 2022

Achievement: The Love of Christ Demonstrated in Tangible Ways

ACHIEVEMENT

One thousand-nine-hundred miles as the crow flies, lies an island named Hispaniola which consists of the two countries of The Dominican Republic and Haiti, with a population of twenty-one million. Towards the middle south portion of Hispaniola lies a City named Barahona.

In Barahona, there is a single two-story resort with government plated vehicles that lies next to the sparkling blue Caribbean. This resort stands out like a jewel to the tourists who are none the wiser, but the true and pure beauty of Barahona lies in the beautiful natives who sleep on the streets and in the makeshift homes placed together with material from frequent storms that blow garbage and debris. Two and a half hours east of Barahona is Santa Domingo, a thriving metropolis which would fool the common visitor into thinking the island was something different from the third world country that it truly is.

The concrete hotel in Barahona has no coverings on the windows and has no doors on the entrances to the building. There was a security man on a donkey who would chase any thief. After turning off the flashlight in bed you would only have to count to 10

before turning it on only to watch cockroaches scatter, usually 40 at a time.

At 5:00 AM, it was time for my daily run through the city and then along the ocean. The five-year-old boys were already washing a few cars, placing windshield wipers up, waiting for the owners to come out to receive a few coins. It wasn't about twenty feet before I started jumping over sleeping bodies strewn about the streets and sidewalks like a bomb had detonated. As the sun cut through the sea slowly the bodies became less.

Christ's achievement here on earth is unparalleled. It is only by His fulfillment of the prophecies and His gift of the Holy Spirit, we now can achieve eternal salvation with Him. The world definition of achievement is a noun- a thing done successfully, typically by effort, courage, or skill.

By the world's definition the resort in Barahona had reached achievement; it was a fine building with much food, safety, and lavish materials and was placed on the shores of the Caribbean Sea. Santa Domingo was a huge city that could easily

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fool people into thinking great achievements had been made.

Matthew 16:26 says, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”

We were sent to the specific place in Barahona to build homes for Habitat for Humanity in the late 1990s. There was a clear divide between the rich and the poor and there was also a clear divide between the righteous and the unrighteous .

The smiles on the children, mothers and fathers were larger than life. Their laughter could not be contained. The homes we built were with simple concrete blocks, with a concrete roof, and one room to sleep in and one to cook in. The whole community helped achieve a little bit of stability, working in the hot sun.

Matthew 18:3 says, “Truly I tell you unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” 1 Corinthians 13:13 states: “Faith, hope and love but the greatest of these is love.”

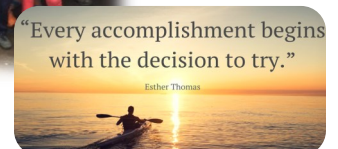
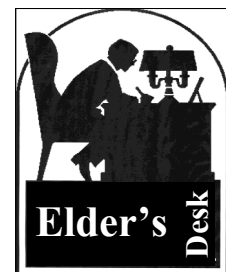
I do not remember any sadness in the community, just a love of Christ that was apparent, and demonstrated in real and tangible ways, especially in the ability to share what limited resources they had. They had big smiles, laughter and a meal that would include the whole village, combining tables and chairs that would stretch out into the

mud. All tables were joined together, as we joyfully shared a meal together. They had nothing and they gave everything!

Romans 6:20–23 says, “for when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin and becoming slaves of God, you have fruit to holiness and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

In summary, as you tread with the Holy Spirit remember what Paul said in Philippians 1:27–28; “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in anyway by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but you will be saved and that by God.” This is scripture to live by.

In Christ your brother, Erik Wiechering



Connect	Published by: Sunny Place Church of God 901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101 Church Office (630) 530-1830 Editor: Lynn Drury
	Senior Pastor: Peter Weber Treasurer: Glenda Kasza Elders: Sam Jacob, President Phyllis Clark, Vice President Nona Koivula, Secretary Ted Gehman, Director Erik Wiechering, Director

TLC

Together Loving Christ

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

Join with us in our Adult Study Group Via Zoom every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services

We are happy to announce that the COVID-19 policy at Sunny Place has come to an end. The level of risk has lowered significantly to the point where we can allow masks to be optional. There will also be no social distancing limits or roped off pews.

We are grateful to God for taking us through this unusual and challenging ordeal. He has kept us safe and provided for us in many ways so that we could continue in worship and ministry throughout the entire fourteen plus months.

We will continue using Zoom for some waiting to finish getting vaccinated or transitioning to in-person activity. If not vaccinated and have not had COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask. But the decision is up to you.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please send us an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Meeting Notes, May 4th, 2022

Attended by Pastor Pete, Sam Jacob, Phyllis Clark, Ted Gehman, Erik Wiechering, and Glenda Kasza

Prayer & Devotion: Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Reports:

- A. Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Bal? \$1995.58 Giving? \$17455 Expense? \$14288.69 2021 FP? \$15987 (of \$20020), 2022 FP Commitment \$23672, UKR \$6763
- B. Worship & Prayer: Continuing Worship Wednesdays: next at Jacob home, May 18; Prayer Chain texts going out, Cards sent out for selected needs
- C. Christian Education & Fellowship: Team met April 6. Jacob Garcia prepared a full agenda. Covered Mission Statement, current adult classes & potential youth and kids classes for future: needs for teachers, classrooms, tech, etc. Talked about how events like Church Picnic, Easter Breakfast and Lunch outings might work.
- D. Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Cards going out. Counseling/Encouragement continuing. Mother's Day handouts are ready.
- E. Outreach & Missions: Sr. Luncheon being planned for May; Mission's Fest: Ukraine Fundraiser – great team effort, food, program w/ Michaela McCurdy & John Gryparis, raised > \$6700; Faith Promise Service – Michaela McCurdy very positive, FP Comm. \$23672
- F. Stewardship & Support Services: Had a successful Work Day, April 2; next Work Day, Saturday, May 21

Old Business:

- A. Elder Shepherding calls and contacts continuing.
- B. Encouraging (gently) all Sunny Place family to resume in-person worship, etc.
- C. Regional Conference, Anderson, IN, June 21-23 (Madison Park) "Because of the 'I AM,' We Are." Pastor & Carla, Sam & Ann, and Nona are attending.

New Business:

- A. National Church Development (NCD) Survey: on its way. Will coordinate survey distribution to leadership and team members/participants.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Sunny Place Church – June Events

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

*The righteous man
walks in his
integrity; His
children are
blessed after him.*

PROVERBS 20:7



June 19th

**SECOND SATURDAY
SENIOR LUNCHEON**
June 11th, 11:30 A.M.



Come be our guest for food,
great speakers and activities.
Free event for Seniors 55+.
Space is limited so register
now at 630/398-2314

Worship Wednesday
June 22nd, 6:00 p.m.
at Ted & Kim's home



There will be games, food brought and
shared from the group, worship music
& prayer. Please let them know
if you plan on attending.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

"Jesus' Teaching for the Blessed"

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount.

Led by Pastor Pete

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



"Jesus and the Kingdom of God"

A Study of What Jesus said
about the Kingdom

Led by Pastor Pete

7:00 p.m. In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times. If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you. You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.