



Spring 2017

Sad to See It Go

On Saturday, March 25, Victory had a work day to do some chores around the property. A nice gathering of faithful servants assembled to put their best efforts behind their contributions to the labor force. The playground areas received the greatest attention that day. The biggest event of the morning



was the tearing down of the old, wooden playground assembly that the kids of Victory Church and School have played on for so many years. It was on the 515 Sherwood Avenue property before the 10000 Brockington property was purchased. When the school was relocated, faithful, skilled helpers broke it down and rebuilt it on the new site. It has been the focal point of the playground for many years; however, its condition has deteriorated to the point that it needed to be removed. We are sad to see it go, but we look forward to the next phase God has in mind for His church and property!

Safety First!

Pastor Josh and Sister Harris both insist on safety when serving the children who participate in the ministries of Victory. One area of training that was noted as lacking was CPR. Voicing her concern, Sherri leaned on Steve Davidson who (as a paramedic) obtained a certification for CPR training. Steve then offered his services and connections to provide a certification class to Victory children's ministry. Darren Austin heard of the effort and was able to provide some extra, high quality CPR manikins. We now have many trained childcare workers in CPR, and soon we hope to educate our entire staff. Praise God for providing the will and the way to accomplish this!



Kids Department

LEARNING: Our kids have **learned** some very important lessons on Wednesday nights with our series “God Speaks!” They’ve **learned** that not only does God still speak to people today, but God can speak to kids just like them! They have also **learned** how to live their lives with open ears, and that how we follow God affects how well we can hear His instruction. Our next series is called “The Game of Life!” Throughout the months of April and May we will be using different board games to illustrate how to live by God’s rules.

LOVING: Our Sunday morning kids in POGO are having a blast worshipping God and learning from His word. We now have our own Praise Team! They are: Chloe Davidson, Bre Patterson, Hannah Burke, and Kaden Driggers. They have stepped up tremendously, leading their peers in worshipping God, not just in song, but in their attitudes and actions as well. As much as our kids **love** worship, the part they **love** the most is giving in their very own offering!



POGO Praise Team: Kaden, Hannah, Bre, Chloe



Abram helping with the POGO offering

The first quarter of the year the boys

and girls gave money that will go towards our shut-in ministry. They searched under couch cushions, did extra chores at home, or sacrificially gave out of their own allowance—and when it was finally counted together our kids gave a total of \$236.49! They did this without any sort of incentive or reward. They are giving with cheerful hearts, putting others first. Starting in April, their offering money is going towards Glen Knight and Remote Island Ministries!

LIVING: Life can be unpredictable. In March, we scheduled a kickball tournament on the Church lawn—but got rained out. We also scheduled a day to clean up our playground and tear down some of the older equipment. Brother Josh was visiting family in Texas and the weather was so bad he couldn’t drive back to make it in time! It also looked like the storms would prevent the playground cleanup, but the sun shined and our volunteers did an amazing job. No matter the weather, God is always good. The *greatest* news of the past few months is an addition to God’s family. Jonathan Ladd has been attending Victory for some time now thanks to his grandparents, Neil and Susan. Jonathan has grown into a hardworking leader and servant in our children’s ministry, and loves God with all his heart. On February 26, after a lot of counseling and prayer, Jonathan accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior! Join us in celebrating this wonderful young man, and keep him and his family in your prayers!



Jonathan

WINGS: Women IN God's Service

We held our annual Men's Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, February 26. It was a fierce competition of 19 entrants. However, we were all winners when rewarded with the opportunity to have a great chili lunch with all the fixings and a large variety of desserts!

Our winners were: 1st Place – Robert Harris; 2nd Place – Tyler Johnson; and 3rd Place went to Neil Ladd. With Bro. Robert taking 1st place, reigning Champ Steve George relinquished the much coveted Chili Cook-Off Apron to Bro. Harris.

Our terrific panel of judges represented the Jacksonville Fire Department. Many thanks to Steve Davidson, Mike Whalen and Cody Henley for coming out to judge the chili!

WINGS has some worthwhile projects planned for this year and we need more volunteers! Come join us on the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Room 105. All ladies are encouraged to attend!



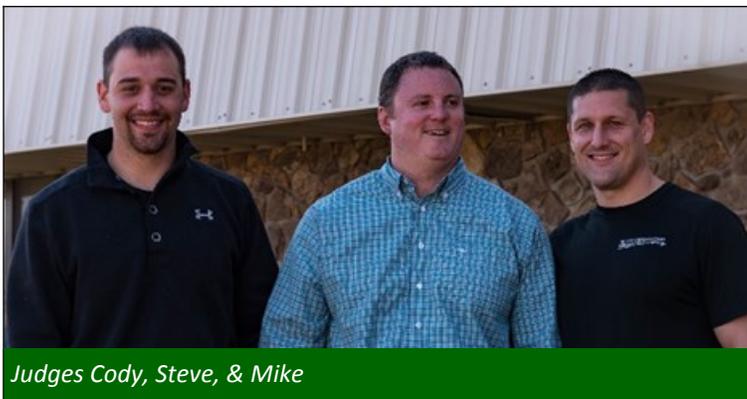
Robert Harris (1st Place) & Steve George



Tyler Johnson, 2nd Place



Neil Ladd, 3rd Place



Judges Cody, Steve, & Mike

Valentine's Day

During Valentine's week, the outreach ministry of the church had some adorable sweets to share with the dear friends in nursing homes and rehabs. These treats were conceived by Judy Whitaker who has a deep interest in blessing people in facility care. She led the Wednesday night kids to creatively assemble dolls out of a bottle of fruit juice, an applesauce cup, and candy bars! These were well received by the dear ones in the facilities and they send their love right back to Victory. Daily our church touches lives quietly throughout the community in personal ways. It is the will of God to shine a light of compassion into sad, difficult places. Praise God for His kind leadership of His people to care for others!



CALL Mall: Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime

The CALL Mall is overflowing with donations! We have been blessed by so many caring people wanting to share with the foster children!

First of all, the Greater Little Rock Chapter of Jack and Jill unfortunately had to cancel their work day in the Mall due to the one snow we had this winter. However, in February, they brought us an abundance of diapers, wipes, baby blankets, and towels! This group is an organization of women who have children from ages 2-19. They are dedicated to nurturing future African-American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving, and civic duty. We are grateful for their donation. Along with that, we have had many diapers and wipes donated by church members. Thank you!



Diapers and wipes and blankets—oh my!

We have an anonymous donor who has, since the first of the year, donated five baby bed mattresses! Wow! Thank you, whoever you are! Another donation that was received was a monetary donation from the business, Mattress Firm. The CALL Mall has truly been blessed so that the foster parents and children can be provided with what they need.

During the first week of March, once again we changed out fall/winter clothes for spring/summer clothing. I want to thank all who helped make that job so easy!!

During the month of April, the Walk for the Waiting will be promoted. Just this past Sunday, we had several sign up to walk or do the 5K race. It was amazing! We have a team called Walkers



Mrs. Elsie and Mr. Dennis

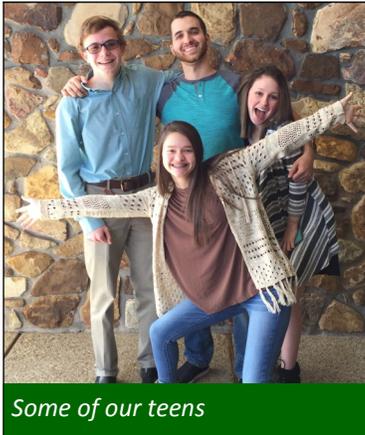


Mrs. Jeannie

for Victory. We hope to raise a lot of money for the CALL (an organization that trains foster parents in a Christian setting), Project Zero (a group that promotes the adoption of foster children waiting for a forever home), and Immerse (a group that works with foster children who are about to age out of the system). If you would like to donate and support one of the volunteers that is walking or running, you can contact Carolyn Hanks for that list(501-425-7194). Please help support this endeavor by walking, running, or donating. One sure way to support the team and foster children is to keep all of them in your prayers!

The CALL Mall is open every Friday and the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10 am to 12 pm. Thank you all for all you do for the foster children of Arkansas!!

We are finishing this school semester strong and very thankful for the many different students who have come through our doors the last several weeks.



Some of our teens

We are beginning to think about how our new room is going to come together. This room (211) is upstairs next to our current room. We want a fun hangout for our ONE Ministry students. We want to put in a ping pong table, pool table, and various other things for our students to do before and after church and on weekends! This is very important for teen life. The cost of furnishing this room is approximately \$5,000.



More of our teens!

If you are interested in donating funds or learning more, please see Nathan Harper (501-920-2559). God is generous through his people, and we know the needs will be met.

This summer, we are targeting citizens of Sherwood who need yard work, vehicles washed, and other common deeds that they cannot do for themselves. We'd love your help to point us toward people you know who could use a little help!

JOY: Cracker Barrel on 2nd Tuesday, 8 am; Potluck on 4th Tuesday, 12 pm.



Small Groups

Since the last Newsletter, the Victory Small Group effort has expanded. We began last year with one Small Group. Then we opened up two. In March, we began five Small Groups. This program has increased our Sunday night participation to over 80 people in addition to the Sunday night Worship Service. We are thankful to meet this need and watch people grow together in Christ!

Small Groups meet at 6:15 pm on the first and third Sunday nights unless otherwise posted by a group. They meet in host homes and usually share food together and fellowship until approximately 7:00. Then they discuss the Sunday morning sermon in depth and talk about how they put it into action in their lives. They wrap it up with quality prayer time. All ages are welcome, and it is showing to be extremely beneficial to the participants. If you are interested in being in a Small Group, please contact the church office (501-835-2400).

Donut Miss Sunday School!

Colossians 1:9 (NASB) “For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding”.

At Victory we realize the importance of growing in knowledge of God that is a genuine understanding. One opportunity for targeted learning with peers is in Sunday School. In March, we held a campaign to promote Sunday School to the membership by challenging the classes to get their entire class roll in attendance every Sunday. The class with the highest percentage was the nursery, with 100% for the entire month! Congratulations! They got an ample assortment of donuts from Dunkin’ Donuts as reward. Second place was the Retired Class, third place was the Gleaners Class, and fourth place was won by the LifeSong Class. Each of these classes got plain glazed from



Krispy Kreme. Good job, everybody!



Faith Sunday School class at Hideaway Pizza

Sunday school is a great place to learn. You can find a class at 9:00 on Sunday morning by talking to one of our Welcome Team. Sunday School classes make friends and take their relationships outside of the church building. The Faith Class eats dinner out together once a month and keeps in contact with a weekly email newsletter among other things. Sunday School is a great way to be connected, grow in knowledge, and make friends.

New and Improved

Over the years, we have tried to find ways to get information to the congregation. It is difficult to gain the attention and favor of attendees when there are so many things that compete for their time and consideration. Once it was sufficient to verbally share a list of upcoming events. Then printing them in the handout was a better way. Then emails, signs, and mailouts became important. During the years, these lose effectiveness. Now, thanks to the talents of the pastoral staff, humorous video promotions are being made to highlight big events at the church. They have been well received and have helped increase attendance. Soon they will be made available online to see anytime. We thank God for the talents He brings and the ingenuity to stir the interests of His people!



Josh and Jason, resident comedians(??)

Remote Island Ministries

An erratic new president and the rise of terroristic Muslim extremists have caused pastor Glen Knight to make the wise decision to relocate his mission focus from the Philippines. A one-vessel, nautical ministry is too vulnerable and expensive to leave in such a situation. Therefore, on April 10, RIM relocated to the Republic of Palau. It is a largely Americanized island due east from Davao and directly north of the center of Australia just above the equator. There is a strong American military presence there and many protections will be afforded Pastor Knight to continue the mission vision in this place. We are excited for the change and hope to see a new island nation reached for Christ.

In the picture you see Captain and Mrs. Augustin Bormeo. He is a Baptist brother that the Lord sent to help pilot the Nativa 2 on the long open-ocean journey from the treacherous location in Bacolod City to Palau. This captain is highly experienced and is employed on a 23,000-ton freighter that sails all over the world. He serves as that ship's master. Bro. Bormeo brought a young man named Geory as a Third Mate to help. God truly blessed RIM to send such a qualified captain to assist in a time of need!



Captain and Mrs. Augustin Bormeo

Upcoming Events and Dates

April 21	CALL Mall	June 14	Team Meeting
April 23	Alex Carter, missionary (PM service)	June 16	CALL Mall
April 25	JOY Potluck	June 17	CALL Mall
April 28	CALL Mall	June 18	Father's Day
May 2	Coollest CARE Team	June 19-21	ABA Meeting
May 5	CALL Mall	June 20	Most Awesome CARE Team
May 6	CALL Mall; Walk for the Waiting	June 23	CALL Mall
May 9	JOY Breakfast	June 27	JOY Potluck
May 12	CALL Mall	June 30	CALL Mall
May 14	Mother's Day (no evening service)	July 1	CALL Mall
May 16	Most Awesome CARE Team	July 4	Independence Day
May 17	Team Meeting	July 7	CALL Mall
May 19	CALL Mall	July 11	JOY Breakfast
May 20	CALL Mall	July 12	Team Meeting
May 23	JOY Potluck	July 14	CALL Mall
May 26	CALL Mall	July 15	CALL Mall
May 29	Memorial Day	July 17-21	National Teen Camp
June 2	CALL Mall	July 18	C and A CARE Teams
June 3	CALL Mall	July 21	CALL Mall
June 6	Coollest CARE Team	July 25	JOY Potluck
Jun 7-Jul 26	VBS (Wednesdays only)	July 28	CALL Mall
June 9	CALL Mall	August 2-5	KidzKamp
June 13	JOY Breakfast		

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter or are receiving it in error, please call or text 501-658-0813 and leave your name/address.

Movie Night

On April 1st at 7:00 pm, Victory hosted their first ever Movie Night on the front lawn underneath the stars of God's big sky! Tickets were printed and kids took them to their schools and neighborhoods and brought in their friends and parents. Many guests were on hand to watch "The Wizard of Oz" with us. These new friends were made to feel right at home among our Victory family. Popcorn, snow cones, and roasted marshmallows were handed out freely to the happy gathering that night. The staff was satisfied by the

success of this event and will put together another one in the future. We hope to see you there!

