

Victory newsletter

Summer 2020

Victory Homeschool Co-Op

We are excited to get started with a new Outreach/Ministry opportunity this Fall. We will host a Homeschool Co-Op on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 am to noon. Our staff, along with volunteers from our church, will be teaching classes on Apologetics, Art, Physical Education, and more. We will also have guest speakers from among the parents of the students as the semester goes along. Please be in prayer for this ministry and everyone involved. This is a year unlike any other, parents and students are experiencing new challenges in education, and this will be a way for us to help them as we also make new connections in the community!



Victory News

Things are slowly getting back to normal here at church! After cancelling all in-person gatherings in the middle of March, we began meeting in person in May with two services on Sunday mornings. At the end of June, we started observing our usual meetings and times for Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening, and some Community Groups began meeting again. The rows of chairs in the Worship Room have been spread out to allow for physical distancing. As the pandemic restrictions have loosened, our attendance is continuing to approach what it was before the pandemic. Our Sunday morning service can still be viewed on Facebook and YouTube. If you haven't made it back yet, we miss you, and we hope to see you soon!

Our students and sponsors were very disappointed that church camps were cancelled this summer. We also made the decision to cancel our Fall Fest this year. These decisions were not what was wanted, but they seemed best with the restrictions in place at the time.

Please continue pray for our nation as we navigate these times when there is so much fear and worry!

***“Behold, I am the
LORD, the God of all
flesh, is anything too
hard for me?”
Jeremiah 32:27***

Children's Ministry

It cannot be overstated—2020 has been an incredible challenge for all of us.

Over the past several months, it was an imperative to stay connected with the kids of Victory—to encourage them in God's word and to remind them that they are not alone in this difficult time. So our



kids ministry moved completely online. We posted, almost daily, words of encouragement onto Facebook. We transformed our Sunday morning worship services into half-hour long shows on YouTube. I also worked behind the scenes with our staff to make sure our main services could be streamed live for our adults. It was indeed a challenge, but we learned so much! And thankfully we are now able to meet back in our church building. We are staying as safe as possible. Seats are six feet apart. Games are fun, but have zero contact. We sanitize everything and encourage our children to

stay at home when necessary. And let me tell you, there is no feeling in the world like preaching the Gospel to a room full of excited kids. It's electrifying! Something that a screen or the internet could never reproduce. And yes, it's bittersweet that both Kids Camp and VBS had to be canceled, but now we're focusing on some other exciting developments! Each Sunday school class has gotten a fresh coat of brightly colored, kid-friendly paint, and I'm working on updating the look of our POGO room to a place that screams "WE LOVE KIDS!"

We have revamped our Wednesday Night program as well! It is to become an outreach program, where we go out into the city of Sherwood and invite kids to join us in nights full of fun, games, and studying God's word.

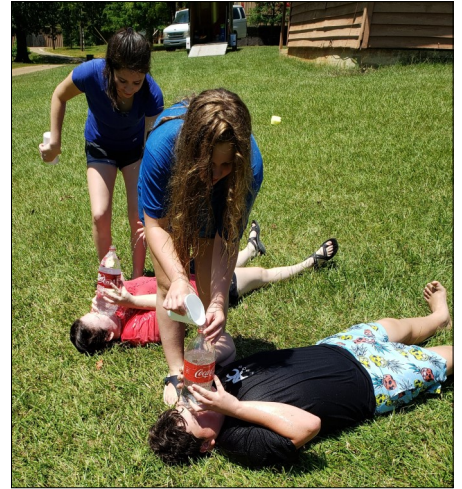
Possibly the thing I am most excited about is Victory opening its doors as a Homeschool Co-op! Due to COVID, many parents are choosing to homeschool their children for the first time. And neighboring co-ops have decided not to meet. So this is our chance to lend a helping hand. I will teach art, alongside other church staff and volunteers who are covering a wide array of subjects. It's new and exciting. It's a chance to help our community, and a chance for us to grow as a ministry. As stressful as these times are, we can rest assured knowing that God forever and always has a plan.

To keep up with our children's department, check out the "POGO - Victory Kids!" Facebook page, or read more about it at www.victory1st.com.



Teens

The summer of 2020 has definitely been the strangest one yet. That being said, we were so thankful to be able to keep a sense of normalcy by taking a trip to Bogg Springs! It was definitely weird having the entire camp to ourselves, but at the same time, it was a blast! We had a great time eating, playing games, studying the Bible, and spending time together! We were also able to go on several other outings this summer and had a great time fellowshiping and playing. The school year is back in business and we pray that it's able to stay that way. Be praying for our youth ministry as we venture into a new way of doing things and as we seek growth in the midst of all the craziness. As always, thank you for your support and prayers for myself and the Reflect Student Ministry.



Financial Matters

The church fiscal year comes to a close in August. The budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was passed just a few weeks ago with a few changes from the previous year. During the pandemic, the church staff and a few others watched the offerings to see how they would be affected. While we were not meeting in person, many people mailed their offerings, some came by the church and brought theirs, and some took advantage of our new online giving option. We were thankful to see that offerings have not lagged over the past several months! This is just more evidence that Victory is a church of people who show their love for the Lord and His church!

To use the online giving option, go to our website, victory1st.com, click "GIVE ONLINE" on the homepage, and fill out the online form.



CALL Mall: Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, so does the need for foster parents. With more children going into foster care, there is a need to provide those children with clothing and supplies. The foster parents never know if the children will come with anything, or if they do, if the clothes will even be the right size. This is where the CALL Mall at Victory and three other locations in Pulaski County come into play. It is with the help of volunteers and donations that the Malls are able to provide clothing and other necessities for these foster children. The Sherwood CALL Mall has been in operation for about 10 years. It has blessed many foster children and families, but they have definitely blessed our lives knowing we are doing work that God has directed us to do in His name!!

The Mall has gone back to its full schedule of opening every Friday and the first and third Saturday of each month.

Donations have continued to come into the Mall, and it always seems that there is just the right thing a foster parent needs for a child! Parents have been able to find the right clothing or shoes. Being a grandparent, you try to have clothing and baby items such as bouncy chairs, swings, walkers, or diapers at your house for times when the grandchildren come to visit. As the grandbabies grow, they don't need or fit into the things like bouncy chairs, and you as a grandparent begin sorting out and getting rid of things. One grandmother, Shannon, did just that. She had bouncy seats, walkers, clothing, and assorted diapers that her grandchildren had outgrown. We were very blessed to get so many items in such good shape and diapers that we know these children can use!!

We have received another donation of nightlights from Lisowe's Lights, which was founded by eight-year-old Amelia Lisowe. She felt that night lights would make it less scary for a foster child entering a new place and leaving their home!

Another donation, PreK backpacks, were given by the organization Little Rock Angels. Along with those, we were given some multi-age backpacks through the Maumelle CALL Mall that were donated by their church, First Baptist of Maumelle.

If anyone feels the calling from God to be a foster parent, please contact The CALL at 823-0607.



RIM: Remote Island Ministries

As the world began slowly opening up in May, Bro. Glen and his crew were thankful to gain clearance to set sail again! After preparations were finished—loading supplies, bunkering fuel, etc.—they left Koror at the end of June. They travelled south, back to see their friends on Tobi Island. They delivered mosquito nets, many Bibles, and a special gift of ice cream!



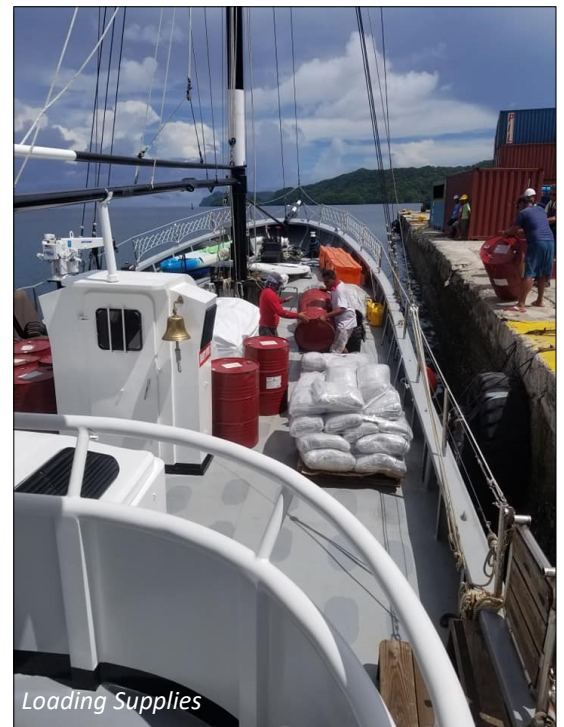
While there, they invited the island children to visit the *Nativa* for a Bible story. The children were excited for the chance to board such a large boat! After about two-week voyage, Bro. Glen and his crew made it home safely.

The pause caused by the pandemic allowed time to be spent on maintenance. The *Nativa* received new paint, new equipment, and an upgraded navigation system, all of which were needed to keep the ship running and looking her best.

As of August 2020, Bro. Glen has been working in ministry in the western Pacific Ocean for 26 years! He is grateful for all the support and encouragement he has received during this time.



Read more about RIM's work in Bro. Glen Knight's newsletters that can be found on our website, victory1st.com, under the "Missions" tab, or on his Facebook page.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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THE CONNECTION

With our virtual meetings during the spring and summer, we had to get creative when planning activities—and we did! The games chosen were fun and easy to participate in through the Zoom app. Having a speaker also worked well with Zoom.

But we were so glad to meet in person again beginning in July! Susie Fleming talked about the importance of being transparent in our

relationships. Only when we are honest about what we are going through or have gone through in life can we receive help and guidance from others or help someone in a similar situation.

Our August meeting was different; we invited the men to join us—to throw axes! (But not at each other!) Civil Axe Throwing of Little Rock brought the equipment to us and we got to try our skills at throwing axes at a target. It's not as easy as it looks!

Ladies, we hope to see you at our next gathering!

