



Winter 2021

Snow!

February 2021 brought an amount of snow that central Arkansas has not seen in many years. Along with the snow came record-setting low temperatures. While it's not unusual for schools and businesses to close for a day or two because of ice and/or snow, most people can't remember snow causing closings lasting a whole week in Arkansas. But that's what happened for many people when we had two snowstorms within about three days! Because of the amount of snow we received, the roads were very slick and many people were not able to leave their homes. However, some were apparently able to, because there were stories of grocery stores being sold out of food staples such as bread, milk, and eggs!

There were also stories and pictures of snowmen, snow igloos, sledding, and snowball fights. Everyone did their best to make the most of the snow while it was here! And, eventually, the snow did stop, the sun came out, and the roads were soon drivable again. We were all happy to get back to church!



Our new Christmas decorations!

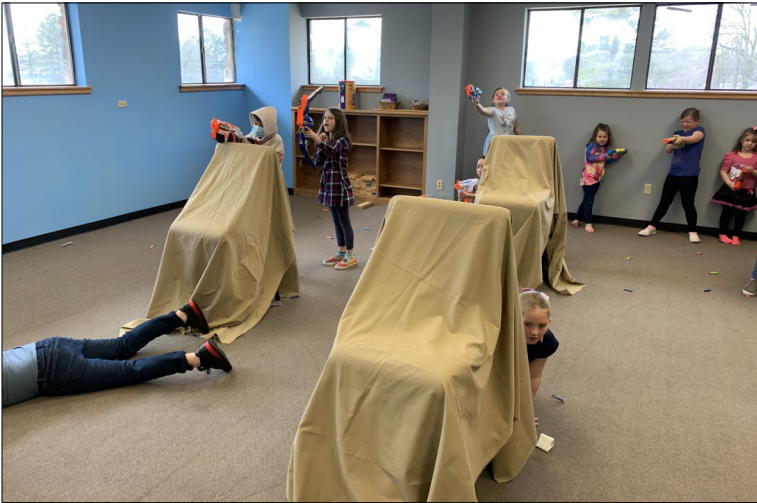


Children's Ministry

Is it already almost spring?? The holiday season seems to have flown by in record time!

Last year was an uphill struggle for so many people. Every day brought a new battle. So, we thought it would be appropriate to study some of the biggest battles of the Bible (say that three times fast)! Every Sunday for the past two months, our K-5th graders have been in the "BATTLE ZONE!" In this NERF

gun themed series we learned lessons from such stories as David and Goliath, Jericho, Moses parting the Red Sea, Israel facing the three armies in 2 Chronicles, and more! Our main takeaway was that yes, you will have trials and troubles in this world. But God has already won the ultimate victory with JESUS! To cap it all off, we celebrated with a massive NERF WAR! That day was an absolute blast. The kids played hard, played fair, and showed great sportsmanship. It was an event that we will DEFINITELY be bringing back!



And speaking of events coming back—we are excited to announce that this year will be the return of the "Summer of Fun!" Each Wednesday night during the summer we will have a fun event for our POGO kids. VBS and Kids Camp will also be making a triumphant return! Want your K-5th grader to join in on the fun? Be sure to join our "POGO - Victory Kids!" Facebook page to stay on top of all of our upcoming events!

Would you like an idea of what our Sunday morning Kids Worship Service is like? Then we have something coming up just for you! On March 14 we will have "POGO Day!" This is a special service in our main worship area for all ages! It's a chance for parents to be kids again and get a taste of what goes on in our kids ministry. There will be fun music, games, giveaways, and a message all about seeking God's wisdom. Plus, an offering going towards the finishing of our upstairs children's worship area. If you can't make it in person, then be sure to check us out our Victory Baptist Sherwood YouTube channel! We will record the service and post it the following week.

Thank you all for your continued prayer and support. It's an honor to serve the kids of Sherwood!

Teens

Wow, what a winter it has been! From quarantines to "blizzards" we sure have missed a lot, but we are still praising God for what we have been able to experience. We are continuing in our study from Answers in Genesis, and after a semester of looking at the Bible as an overview we are taking this semester to dive into the creation account. Students are being given the tools necessary to defend their belief in the Biblical account of creation against the secular theories that are pressed on them each day. Pray for our students, that they would be defenders of the Faith, and that their time in our student ministry would serve to train them for that purpose.

Fun is never in short supply with this group! Although we missed our more traditional Christmas activities, we have had a game night, went to a trampoline park, and played various silly games during our mid-week meetings. We are looking forward to some hiking during Spring Break, and a weekend retreat in April!

God has blessed us with growth! Our number of students has more than doubled, and we are praising God for that! Pray for our ministry, that God would use it to equip and grow these teens, that our leaders will be great examples and friends to our students, and that I would be the leader that God desires. As always, thank you, Victory, for your love and support!



CALL Mall: Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime

I pray that everyone has had a good start to the New Year of 2021! With it being February already, the year seems to be moving quickly. The CALL Mall has been busy over the last several months!

With the generous help of Victory members, the Mall sponsored its first Santa's Toy Shop! The Toy Drive was very successful! On December 5th, Santa's Toy Shop was opened and over 40 families were able to shop for Christmas presents for their foster children. Each parent could shop for two presents per child plus get some stocking stuffers! One parent had five children and another one had seven. We had very few toys left over! Again, thank you Victory family!



The Mall was closed on Friday, February 12, and Friday, February 19 due to the ice and snow that Arkansas received that week! The Mall opened on Saturday, February 20, amid some snow still on



the roads. Even though the roads were still slick from the snow, we had eight families come to shop, plus one on Sunday. We try to set up times for families to come and shop when it is convenient and

necessary!



Through the month of February, the CALL Mall has sponsored a diapers, wipes, and pull-ups drive for the foster babies. Thank you, Victory family, for your generosity! The CALL Mall could not operate and provide so much for foster families without your support with both prayers and volunteering!

WINGS: Women IN God's Service

WINGS (and honorary participant Bob Hanks) put their culinary talents to use as we made homemade vegetable soup, cookies, and treats on Saturday, February 13. Over 60 pints of soup were made and delivered with the other goodies to shut-ins, Clint Harper's, and Jennifer Keys' classes. Thank you to all who helped! A special thank you to Samantha Key for helping in this special time.

This past Christmas, WINGS prepared Christmas bags for our shut-ins. The bags included beautiful homemade lap quilts by June Owen, homemade banana and spice breads, masks, and poinsettias.

WINGS loves to serve our Lord and others. We would love to have you join us! Stay tuned—we are working on more projects!



Workday

We are thankful for the wonderful property God has provided for us to use as we share His love with our community!

As with everything God has given us, we have a duty to take care of it. In January, we had a workday to give the church yard some needed attention. Several volunteers came to help rake, blow, and mulch the leaves, and everyone worked hard. We have a large yard with many trees on a good portion of it, so it was a big job! Thanks to everyone who came to help, we got most of the leaves taken care of, and actually had fun doing it!



New Members!

Meet our newest members, the Keen family: Nathaniel and Audra, and five of their children, Elijah, Eliana, Noah, Abigail, and Benjamin.

We first met the Keen family when they joined our Co-op last year. God prompted them to visit our church services, and then to join our church! Bro. Larry baptized Benjamin in February, and the others are joining by moving their membership. If you haven't met them, introduce yourself and say hi!



Elijah, Audra, Nathaniel, Benjamin, Abigail, Eliana, Noah

Homeschool Co-op

Our Homeschool Co-op has been quite a success!! Fifteen families signed up to join us in September 2020. Some of the families are members of our church, but most of them heard about our co-op through social media (where we advertised) or from someone at our church. The staff have really enjoyed getting to know these children and families, and one family has even joined our church! (See "New Members!" above.) A few families were unable to continue this semester, but we still have a good group!

When parents signed up to be a part of our co-op, they agreed that one parent/guardian will stay on site for the duration of each class and help as needed. We have at least one parent in each class. The classes are pre-school, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade, 3rd-6th grade, and 7th-10th grade. Bro. Larry teaches Apologetics to all classes, Bro.

Matthew teaches PE to all classes, June Owen teaches Art to the kindergarten and 1st-2nd grade classes, and Bro. Josh teaches Art to the older two classes. The day begins with everyone in the Worship Room for announcements, pledges, and prayer, and the day ends in the Worship Room again with any closing announcements and prayer.

The Co-op meets on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 am to noon. Please continue to pray for this ministry of our church!



Digital Newsletter

This will be the last Victory Newsletter to be mailed. It will still be produced, but in the future, we will email it. All Newsletters can also be found on our website, victory1st.com. If you want to make sure we have your correct email address, call (501-835-2400) or email (victoryark@sbcglobal.net) the office. If you don't have email and would like to continue receiving the Newsletter in the mail, please call the office and let us know.

RIM: Remote Island Ministries

Bro. Glen Knight, Summer, Juli, and the rest of the crew spent another Christmas on the *Nativa* in Palau. They shared a picture of the ship decorated with Christmas lights in celebration of the birth of our Savior. What a beautiful picture of a tool being used to share God's love and Good News to people who haven't heard!

In the middle of December 2020, Worldwide Literature and Missionary Supply in Hamburg, Arkansas, sent a container to RIM, and it arrived in Koror about a month later on January 15, 2021. They were excited to receive the supplies that will help them in their mission work!



Several items were upgrades for the ship: a new crane, the Achilles RIB (an inflatable boat), and a high-resolution thermal imaging navigation camera (to help with navigation at night). The crane was unloaded and mounted on the *Nativa* using the dock's crane truck. The new crane will expand their capabilities as they continue their mission work.

In the middle of February, about the same time the snow storms were moving out of Arkansas, a different storm was moving towards Palau. The *Nativa* and crew had



The unloaded container



Mounting the new crane

several very windy days and nights. At one point, Bro. Glen, Juli, and crew member Jhobert dove down to check on the mooring anchor on the seabed. After the inspection and a slight modification to the chain, they felt better. They safely weathered the storm, praise be to God!

Bro. Glen plans to attend the ABA Messenger Meeting to be held in West Virginia in June. He planned to attend the Meeting last year, but because of the restrictions brought on by the pandemic, they stayed in Palau. (Soon after they cancelled their trip, the Messenger Meeting was also cancelled.) They are looking forward to this year's trip, and the opportunity to see family and friends they missed last year. Please pray they will make it this year!

Bro. Glen publishes a newsletter about every two months. You can find them on our website, victory1st.com, under the "Missions" tab. You can also follow Glen Knight and Summer Knight on Facebook to learn more about their life in Palau.



First sunrise of 2021 as seen from the Nativia in Palau



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THE NNECTION

We took a couple of months off for the holidays, and we were so ready to get back together after the new year! At our January meeting we played some fun games. We heard from Amanda Thomas about what the Bible says about our words, and how they affect not only those we speak to, but also ourselves. We'll hear more about the importance of our words at our March meeting.

The aim of The Connection is to form positive connections among women that will bring out the best in us and point us to Christ. It's not just for church members—we want you to invite your family and friends! Our meetings are once a month; we don't always meet at the same day/time to allow those with different schedules the opportunity to make at least some of our meetings. Ladies, we hope to see you at our next meeting!

