

# THE WINDOW

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world.

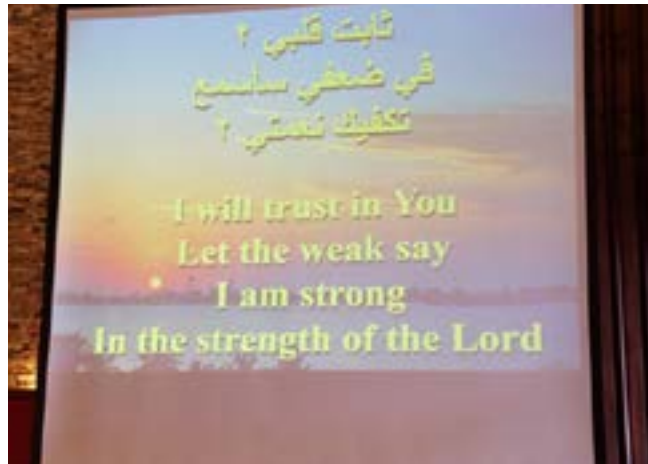
June 2024

## *Engaging with the World: God's Mission*

*By Steve Burgess, Elder for Mission*

Some of you may remember the movie *The Blues Brothers*. I know, this seems like a really odd way to start an article about God's mission but, bear with me. The movie features two ne'er-do-well brothers, Jake and Elwood who were raised in an orphanage (founded by the Roman Catholic Church). Early in the movie, while visiting one of the sisters from the orphanage, they learn that the orphanage may have to close due to financial problems. Jake and Elwood decide to get their old blues band back together for a concert in order to raise funds to save the orphanage. As they seek out the other members of the band, they begin telling people they encounter that they are on a "mission from God." Now Jake and Elwood are not what you would call devout followers of God. But God moves their hearts to help the orphanage out of its financial problems. And, in the process not only is the orphanage saved but Jake and Elwood might have learned something about serving God. After the concert, Jake and Elwood get arrested and thrown in jail. But a "mysterious" benefactor intervenes on their behalf, and they are released from jail. While we don't know who the benefactor is, I like to think that perhaps God moved another heart to help in the redemption of Jake and Elwood - literally and spiritually. I can think of no better way to grow in faith than to join with one of our

partners in God's mission. Personally, I remember a trip to Syria a few years ago where we had visited several churches and some refugee camps. Here is an excerpt from a blog I wrote while in Syria, the entry is entitled, "I am the pauper": I come from a land of abundance to a land of limited resources, only to discover that I am the pauper. For two days, I have heard amazing stories of faith from the people and churches in Syria. They are stories of needs met and sometimes unmet, stories of courage and vision that have left



*Slide from a worship song at the church in Fairouzeh, Syria.*

me awed and overwhelmed. To be sure, I have been uplifted and inspired, but I have also seen the depths of my spiritual poverty. I know this is not a competition, but I find myself wondering how I would deal with the staggering threats and the towering needs. I came to help and encourage, but I find that I am the one who needs the help and encouragement. And I have found it in the words and deeds of the churches in Syria. Nowhere have I seen a more vivid realization of Paul's words: "We are afflicted in every way, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies." (2 Corinthians 4:8-10). I listened to story after story of a church not shrinking from service, not seeking self-preservation, but seeking to reach out beyond its walls.

One pastor remarked that "This is what we must do. We cannot become a club of saints meeting once a week to pray and sing. To do so would be to fail Jesus and to fail as the church that is called to serve." I listened to dreams and plans to expand schools, enrich communities, buy buses, create new programs. Of course there are also needs of blankets, food and hygiene care, but I heard of plans to shift gears as the fighting comes to an end and to engage in a new struggle. The new struggle will not be against the ravages of war, but against ideologies of hate and isolation. If Jake and Elwood can become engaged in God's mission, surely we can as well. And we are! West Hills is engaged with God's mission in the world in a variety of ways. Locally, we partner with ministries like Abide, the Good News Bears, Heartland Hope, Intervarsity, Youth for Christ, Young Life, and the Arab Christian Fellowship. Hopefully, this last May during our Local Mission Partner Sunday when our partners visited West Hills, you were able to get better acquainted with their work. And maybe you learned of ways to join with them as volunteers in their work. West Hills is also engaged with several international ministries. Every October, we celebrate our international mission partners: Christian Women of Vision (CWoV) in Cameroon, the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC), PCUSA Middle East Liaison, Reliant Missions - Bosnia, Pastor Rafael - Ecuador, For His Children - Ecuador, and 410 Bridge - Guatemala. Now, if you are looking for a way to become more deeply involved with one of our international mission partners, West Hills is organizing a short-term mission trip to For His Children - Ecuador in July of 2025. For His Children is a Christian oriented orphanage with whom West Hills has been in partnership for many years. This trip is open to youth and adults - to learn more, please reach out to me or Jessica Scheopner.

## *Deacon Article*

*By Kathy Kerhove, Deacon*

*As we walk through the stages of life we find we must call on others for help.*

First as small children we rely on parents, teachers, and other adults to help us. As we began having our own children we call on others to help us care for our children. Again we rely on our parents, teachers, neighbors and members of our church. As we age we must rely on others to assist us. This includes help with our daily activities and transportation.

Independent and assisted living help cover our daily activities. However, transportation to and from our choice of worship is often not provided. At West Hills we are fortunate to have many of our church family help others get to church on Sunday morning. We also have a number of West Hills members that have partnered with our homebound members. Our partners make phone calls, send cards, and visit our homebound members. **What a blessing it is to have so many members that are willing to stay connected to our homebound.** This year we have added May Day baskets to the homebound as a means of saying we are thinking of you.

## *Spiritual Correspondence*

*By Jana Prescott*

2 John 1:6 - "It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father has commanded us."

Walking with truth in your life and in your heart can be quite a tricky trail to travel on. But it is the trail Christ has laid before us. So, how do we follow the example Christ has laid before us? Oh! I kind of know! Just be honest and trustworthy always. But making that promise and then keeping that promise can be, and many times is, a tough journey to travel. But you will always remember that when you keep Christ with you, you will be able to travel your journey!

# Atonement Child Care

By Gloria Zinn

"Ms. Elaine, Ms. Elaine," the sound of the children's voices brought several people to look out the Chapel windows and see a swarm of happy and excited little children surrounding Elaine Lewis as she walked onto the playground after Thursday morning Bible Study. Some of these little ones had surrounded her legs while others looked up at her with their happy faces, waiting for their turn to hug her. Elaine is one of those special people who volunteer at Atonement Child Care Center. Atonement Child Care Center needed to relocate due to changes at the church where they had been offering low cost Christian based child care for over 20 years. We have been blessed to have them relocate to West Hills Church in March of 2023. Unlike a number of child care facilities, Atonement offers a Christian curriculum,



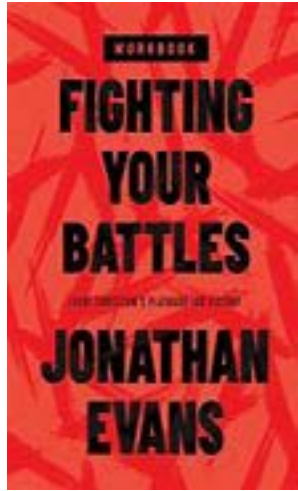
according to Executive Director Shari Boudle, including activities and learning experiences in language, math, dramatic play, science, social skills, gross and fine motor skills, music, reading and pre-writing skills for children from 6 weeks through 12 years of age. The children's attendance ranges from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The staff and volunteers are dedicated to sharing their love of God with each child. Children are served breakfast, lunch and a late afternoon snack. You may have even encountered these beautiful children as they are led by a caring staff member to one of the many activities or meals in the church on any week-day. Marti Bloes, or as the children greet her "Ms. Marti" has volunteered to teach Bible lessons to the children. With her wonderful love for God and his children, and her special teaching skills, the children are learning and growing in their love for our Jesus. Jessica Scheopner also volunteered to teach a summer class for the school-aged children to help them explore the life of Jesus and how Jesus related to their life. In talking with a number of parents who bring their children to Atonement, they have shared about their, "search for a safe environment" for their children and how happy their children are every morning they drive to Atonement. If you have an interest in volunteering at Atonement feel free to call them at 402-572-6917. You may want to assist the staff with one or more of the many activities the children are involved in, or perhaps just take an hour out of your week to read a story to them. For whatever interest you may have, one thing is certain: Your time will be well-spent! As we have read in Proverbs 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."



## Book Suggestion

Debbie Chadwick

Former NFL Chaplain Jonathan Evans has written a book that illustrates how to face life's hardships with both strength and hope knowing that God uses our trials for His glory. Evans writes that God fights our battles right along beside us. In these times, he believes, we grow closer in our faith and more importantly to God. The author hopes that *Fighting Your Battles: Every Christians Playbook for Victory* will provide "biblical encouragement, support, and perspective, empowering us to follow God into victory." Evans is a popular speaker and the sports chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys and Mavericks. He serves at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, The Urban Alternative and in ministry with his pastor, friend and father Dr. Tony Evans.



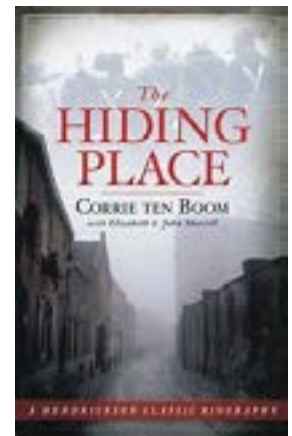
## May Session Notes

Session Approved:

- The planned kickoff for the West Hills Strategic Priorities is mid-August and mid-September.
- The Ministry Team name for "Youth and Children" has been renamed to "Family Ministries and Intergenerational Impact".
- West Hills has submitted a request to Presbytery to commission Kathy Padilla to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at West Hills Church.
- Session approved a motion to not meet during the month of June.
- The updates to the playground in our west lawn will be dedicated on June 30th.

## Calling All Book Lovers!

Are you in a book club that you thoroughly enjoy or do you want to join one? West Hills Women's Ministry invites you to participate in a summer book club meeting on Tuesday, June 25 at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. Our featured book will be a Christian classic *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom. Its message is powerful and relevant. Our discussion will be guided by some predetermined questions, but there will be plenty of time for participants to just share their reactions to the book. *The Hiding Place* is full of wise and faith-filled quotes. Perhaps you will want to come ready to share a quote that is particularly meaningful to you! A small treat will be served. For planning purposes, it will be helpful if you sign up to participate or let Patti Brownlee know that you will be attending, but if life gets in the way, feel free to just show up! You can either furnish your own book or ask Patti to acquire one for you. All you really need to do is read the book and come ready for some great discussion and fellowship! Hope to see you soon!



## Bible Quiz compiled by Gloria Zinn

1. Where in the Bible is the word "rapture" used in reference to the end times? A) Matthew B) Revelations C) Nowhere D) Luke

2. Which prophet married a prostitute? A) Zephaniah B) Haggai C) Habakkuk D) Hosea

3. Which judge in Israel led the revolt against Moabite domination and gave Israel 80 years of peace? A) Ehud B) Abdon C) Gideon D) Jephthah

4. Before the nation of the Hebrews split into two areas, where was the center of worship? A) Shiloh B) Jerusalem C) Samaria D) Judea

5. Who was Vashti in the Old Testament? A) One of King David's Daughters B) Prophetess C) Wife to King Xerxes D) Daughter of Lot

6. Who were the Hebraic Jews? A) Jews who did not follow Christ B) Jews who followed their own governing C) Jews who rallied against Christians D) native Jewish Christians

7. Who did Paul send to organize and oversee the churches on Crete? A) Timothy B) Titus C) Barnabus D) Paul did this mission himself

8. Which of the following is not a synoptic Gospel? A) John B) Mark C) Matthew D) Luke

9. Which one of the Gospel writers does not mention that the veil of the temple was torn when Christ was crucified? A) Mark B) Matthew C) John D) Luke

10. Which parable teaches that we should keep on praying and not lose heart? A) The persistent widow B) The Rich Man & Lazarus C) The Pharisee & The Tax Collector D) The Wayward Son

11. "The Lord is with you, O champion" This line is said by God to whom? A) David B) Gideon C) Saul D) Deborah

12. What king was guilty of idolatry in making two golden calves and commanding the people to worship them? A) Jehu B) Joktan C) Jeroboam D) Joram

## Happy Birthday!



### June

1- Beth Anderson  
Kim Sedivy  
2- Debra Chadwick  
5- Everly Hanna  
9 - Rosemary Frandeen  
10 - Warren Powell Jr.

28 - Stan Owens  
Rob Laughlin  
29 - Jane Power  
Terry Topolski  
Deborah Johnson  
Josh Sauer

11 - Rene Padilla  
Andy Jansen  
12 - Kathy Leach  
15 - Linda Springsted  
19 - Roger Harned  
26 - Mark Jacobsen

### July

2- Noreen Johnson  
Linda Schuchmann  
3- Alisha Sauer  
Alison Kopperud  
Caitlin O'Hare  
7- Greg Schuchmann  
Tim Weller  
Rina Degand  
9- Mike Overby  
Alex Jansen

SUMMER FUN

# WEST HILLS YOUTH

6/23 - Lunch.Play.Learn.Pray

6/30 - Summer Celebration\*

7/07 - Zoo Fun

7/14 - Escape Room

7/21 - Olympic Games\*

7/28 - Sundae Sunday\*

8/04 - Psalms in the Sandhills Retreat

8/11 - Youth Sharing + Park Dash

8/18 - Skate Ribbon

8/24 - PMRV @ Calvin Crest

\* Families invited, too!

**REGISTER HERE:**

[whcomaha.org/events/](http://whcomaha.org/events/)



**WEEKLY HAPPENINGS**

# WEST HILLS YOUTH

Summer Book Club

Ice Cream Cones + Conversation

Mondays, 6/17-7/29, 1-3 p.m.

Youth Group Chat

Build friendships & keep connected in this casual, closed, asynchronous

Marco Polo group. Email to be added:  
[jessica@whcomaha.org](mailto:jessica@whcomaha.org)

Hike & Pray\*

See God in community & creation

Thursdays, 6/20-8/8, 8-10 a.m.

\* Families invited, too!

**REGISTER HERE:**

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