

WELCOME! New Life Church October 20, 2024

New Life Church Welcomes Our Guests Today!

New Life Church is a friendly community Where Jesus and His Word are Exalted! It is a real blessing to have you visiting with us today. We love welcoming and connecting with people in our community.

If you and/or your family are first-time guests at New Life Church, please complete the attached Connect Card. Each first-time guest family that completes and submits the Connect Card will receive a Gift Bag from our NLC Family.

Visit the Welcome Table following the worship service to submit your Connect Card and receive your Gift Bag. Members of the Welcome Team will be available to answer any questions you may have about New Life Church.

Our NCC family looks forward to meeting you and getting to know you!



CONNECT CARD

Welcome to New Life Church! We love welcoming and connecting with people from our community. If you are visiting with us today, please complete the top portion of this card so we can connect with you. If you are a First-Time Guest, following the worship service bring your completed Connect Card to the Welcome Table to receive a Gift Bag for your family. Thank You!

How did you hear about New Life Church?

Friend/Family Friend/Family Name:
Website Advertisement Other:
Please circle: First-Time Guest Returning Guest New Resident Would Like To Be Contacted Member Regular Attende Contact Information (Please Print - Thank You!)
lame(s):
Address:
City, State & Zip:
Phone: Email:
Family Information (Please Print - Thank You!)
ge Group (please circle): 13-18 19-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 65+
Category (please circle): Married Single Engaged Divorced Widowed Youth
children (names & ages):
FOLD HERE AND PLACE IN BASKET
have a <u>PRAYER REQUEST</u> that I would like to share with the (circle all that apply): Congregation Pastor Staff
I Would Like The Pastor To Contact M

FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARY UPDATES

Hoagland, Ed & Annita - Mexico City, Mexico

Ed begins with sharing that at a Thursday men's small group meeting, Gerardo showed up for the first time and was saved. "I've been witnessing to him for years. I buy fruit from him almost every Monday," They also had the "opportunity to visit the southern penitentiary in Mexico City and present the gospel of Jesus Christ to 232 of the over 3,600 inmates at that facility. The warden was very happy and wants us to return. There were 21 professions of faith. In our program we deal with the emotions we all have (joy, anger, fear, sadness, enby). The key to controlling our emotions is having Jesus Christ as the commander and chief of our lives. At the end, it was so sweet to see so many of our teams members individually praying for and with those who showed up." The next day, another team from their church went to 2 hospitals to pray for the sick and they had 7 more people get saved. Ed gives praise for Marcos & Nestor who have joined the family of God by believing and trusting in Jesus. "Marcos is in the military. I met him during the week and am very excited that he came to church. Our Mexican churches have more women than men, but we're working hard on changing that." Ed also shares this story "It's always sad when a brother in Christ and member of your congregation moves on to glory. I had the privilege to pray for and with Ramon before his open heart surgery. He was ready for whatever God wanted to do with his life, and God decided. The next day at his funeral 7 family members and friends prayed the sinners prayer to be saved. Death had no victory in his case."

Custodio, Maicon & Leticia - Spain

The Custodios begin by sharing about summer camps. "God never ceases to surprise us! And how good it is to see and taste the Lord's surprises. ... During the 3 weeks of camps, 60 young people and teenagers expressed their decision to give their lives to Jesus, 270 made the decision to dedicate their lives to Christ and 46 expressed their desire to go to a Bible Institute." In July, Maicon took part in The Global Cohort, an international event with leaders from all over the world, totally dedicated to teen evangelism. Anna is now in 8th grade, and Sarah is in 12th. In order to finish the school year, Sarah must present a final paper in December in front of an examining board. Maicon & Leticia ask that we pray for both girls to have a blessed school year. Maicon is in the final stages of his Master's degree. God willing, he will graduate in May 2025. Pray that the Lord may enable him and guide him in everything. Leticia has begun a session of physiotherapy to rehabilitate her arm. This month she completes 1 year of pain. She asks us to pray that the Lord may restore her arm completely. They end their update with "Praise God for His FAITHFULNESS every evening and His MERCY every morning.

Lorow, Ken & Eileen - ABWE Director of Prefield Ministries

As Ken & Eileen recently celebrated their birthdays, they reflected on "the incredible faithfulness of God throughout the years. He has provided for us in ways that continually remind us of His goodness, and as we look back, we can see how He has guided and sustained us through every season. We are deeply grateful for His unwavering presence in our lives and ministry." After celebrating their 30th anniversary with a getaway trip, they are back and recharged. Over the next few weeks, Ken will be speaking in churches, attending training events with their prefield coach team, assisting with DEMO, and preparing for their next missionary orientation. "It's a full schedule, but we're excited for these opportunities to further equip future missionaries and connect with churches." The Lorows share about striving to better equip and support their prefield missionaries and the vital importance of continuous learning. Their team is taking steps to "improve how we coach our prefielders, especially in the critical area of support raising. ... "we are attending the first step in becoming certified support raising coaches! This training will better equip us to walk alongside missionaries on their journey, helping them develop the skills and biblical mindset needed to raise the support that will sustain them on the field. Please pray with us as we take on this new opportunity, and thank you for your continued partnership in making sure that the missionaries we serve are well-prepared and fully funded. Lastly, Ken shares 3 ways we can honor our pastor year-round, not just during October for Pastor Appreciation Month. "1) Presence: Simply showing up and being present encourages pastors. They notice and are heartened by the fellowship each week. Prioritize being at church regularly and investing in your local community. 2) Prudence: It's easy to be critical, but let's exercise wisdom in our feedback. Instead of quick critiques, offer grace and encouragement, remembering the weight of their responsibilities. 3) Prayer: Pray for your pastor and elders. They face unique spiritual challenges, and your prayers for their families, ministries, and personal walks with the Lord can strengthen them in significant ways." They end with "As always, we are so grateful for your prayers and support for our ministry. Your partnership allows us to continue equipping future missionaries and serving the church in meaningful ways."

<u>Litson, Matt & Sarah - New Brunswick, French Canada</u>

The Litsons begin with 'It is a good feeling to simply be "in the way" to see where the Lord leads and how He can put things together that we never even envisioned. We have felt that numerous times over the summer months. God continues to open doors for us in the valley and even in the province. We cannot thank you enough for the prayers you offer up for us and for the tremendous financial sacrifice you make to support our efforts to preach the Gospel and build up the work of the Lord.' A special story they share is "For years we've been praying for the Haitian community that we have in Edmundston. We have several families that have been attending the French service for several years and in recent months we have seen more and more people visit. One of the men that has been faithful is a pastor that lost his church due to the civil unrest in Haiti. We've been praying with he and his wife about starting a service in Creole. This finally came to fruition on the 25th of August. What a treat to be a part of the first service to hear a group of nearly 50 people, 11 of them being first time visitors, come together to worship God in the first corporate service in their mother tongue for the first time in nearly 3 years since many of them have been forced out of their homes and country. I sat in awe at the goodness of the Lord! (On a less spiritual note, the third service has also temporarily solved the space issue in our current property. I like the Lord's way of doing things.)" Their update ends with "Thank you so very much for your faithfulness on our behalf! We are your Servants for Jesus' Sake."

Strayer, Hannah - Togo, Africa

Hannah shares the story of a church pastor in Tanzania: "In Tanzania, many church pastors lack biblical education and training. Often a pastor is selected from among the lay leaders in the church to lead. In theory, there is no problem with this, but it can lead to difficulties because without training, a pastor may not understand the Bible well and may teach improperly. This was the case for Samweli. He was chosen to fill an empty pulpit because he had been a youth leader. But he recalls how he preached wrongly because he didn't know the Bible. Thankfully, Samweli was eventually connected to the Biblical Training Center for Pastors (BTCP) course which is an 18-month program that is designed to train and equip church leaders. He has gained confidence in his own preaching and his greatest desire is to train up other leaders that can make disciples. Hannah's praises include: 1) Safe travels to Tanzania and Togo, 2) For programs like BTCP that are training leaders so the church can grow, 3) For all the work God is doing here in Africa to grow the Church. She asks that we pray for: 1) Upcoming project planning for this year and next and 2) For a location for our Storytellers Workshop during the spring break (March 8-15, 2025).

Hawes, Tim & Leandra - Papua, New Guinea

The Hawes begin by thanking everyone for their prayers for Leandra's health. They praise the Lord that he celiac disease is not flaring up. Furlough travel has been a bit of a challenge as they must continually return to PA for doctor visits. Daughter Lydia is being tested as bloodwork shows it is "highly likely" that she also has celiac disease. Despite the crazy schedule with doctor appointments, the Hawes have had meetings in 10 states and have enjoyed fellowship with their supporting churches. "Lydia and Levi have learned a lot about the States, including the mind-boggling fact that you can baptize someone in the church without the need to walk to the river." Verbal approval has been received for their registration and accreditation for the Theology program at Goroka Baptist Bible College! As the local brothers take control of leadership, Tim will step down as academic vice president by the end of the year to go full-time with the Bible Clubs in the public schools. Tim & Leandra ask that we earnestly pray as they seek to expand the Bible Clubs in Hela province, which would bring the number of children to 8,000 a week by May of next year. "Thanks again for slowing down and praying for the Bible Clubs when you come to a school crossing."

Bennett, Dan & Becky - Sao Paulo, Brazil

"We want to say a big "THANK YOU" to those of you that have been praying for the request that we mentioned in our past few prayer letters. ... God answered the prayers of His people in a wonderful way." In April, Pastor Lucas and his wife Rute, felt that God was leading them to look for another ministry in which to serve. They had been serving in a church where Pastor Lucas was saved and studied for the ministry. The Bennetts have known Rute since she was a little girl. Rute grew up in the Deaf church in Sao Paulo and she knows Brazilian sign language. There is much detail in the Bennett's letter, but the story is that Pastor Lucas has become the pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Aruja. "Glory, Hallelujah!!! Praise the Lord!!! That is a huge answer to prayer." Pastor Lucas and his family moved to Aruja in August. "We praise the Lord that we have had a part in the birth, growth and development of this church. **This is also fruit to your account!** To God be the glory!" The Bennetts ask that we be in prayer concerning a pastor for the Deaf church in Sao Paulo. "Thank you for faithfully partnering with us as we reach the Deaf in Brazil! That all may 'hear'."

Rardin, Clint & Rhonda - Mexico City, Mexico

The Rardin's letter is filled with information about VBS, baptisms, salvations and attendance at their school and Bible Institute. The end of their letter has two specific prayer requests, the first being to pray for a four-week fall evangelistic campaign beginning on October 20th and includes a new route nearer the church. The second prayer request is as follows (names have been removed—you will understand as you read): "Last of all, please pray much for a lady in our church whose sons grew up attending our military bus route, and whose husband, a police officer, was killed several years ago. One of her sons was recently shot and killed with five others who were involved in taking out a gang leader. After a message was sent to one of the other brothers, (via a decapitated head) to join up with the gang, he acquiesced to their demands and one of his other brothers went with him to accompany him. A third brother is in prison and the same gang is trying to extort money from the mother, threatening to do her son harm. Thankfully, her oldest son who attended our Bible Institute for a time, has left Mexico City to an undisclosed location far from the city. I must point out that these boys live in the same section of Naucalpan as (other families from their church). I thank God that these families from the same area were reached ad, because of right decisions, are living for the Lord. This is another sobering reminder why we came to Mexico City, to try saving kids from a dangerous life to an honorable life as well as to offer them eternal life. Thank you so much for your constant prayers and faithful support that allows us to do this work."

Rizzo, Dr. Tony & Becky - Youth Action Ministries

The Rizzos begin with "Wow, Praise the Lord! Our fall kick-off Safety Zones were a huge success. We were so thankful for the team that the Lord put together and helped us reach several dozen students during our week of meetings. Our Street Safety Zones were full force, and many were counseled about trusting Christ as Savior. Our Youth Safety Zone was well received, with several dozen students attending our meetings. Our Kids Safety Zone was such a joy to teach the gospel, and I saw many children so intently listening and praying with me in our September Safety Zone Week. Thank you so much for praying for us and supporting our work of reaching youth for Christ. You were a big part of this, and we cannot do this work without you, our supporters." Becky and Tony are both 100% feeling better. They thank you for your prayers for them this year.

Daku, Paul & Martha - Fiji

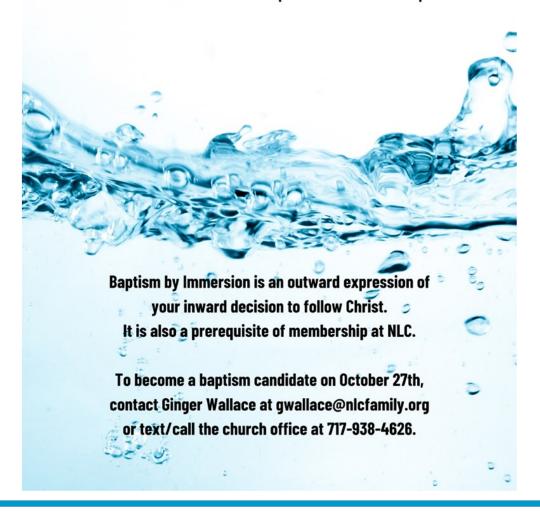
Winter in Fiji is June through August. The winters are characterized by nearly-perfect weather in the low 80's, low humidity and little rainfall. Most days are clear and beautiful. With this weather, we realize that Fiji truly is a tropical paradise. During our winter, many people choose to visit Fiji. This winter was no exception. Plans for the Sunday School building are progressing. Architectural plans were submitted to the City Council and were given back with a few more requirements. Continue to pray with the Dakus for the additional funds needed as well as workers to construct the building. "Thank you for standing with us in prayer and support, both of which are needed to keep us on the field We have many 'close calls' on the roads as we are driving, and it reminds us that someone is back home praying for us. The danger is not only physical, but also spiritual. There is a serious spiritual battle with the forces of evil going on all the time in Fiji. There are practicing witch-doctors and demon possession is common. So please pray for physical and spiritual protection."

Serino, Nick & Darianne - Alaskan Arctic

The Serinos are back in Point Hope following final tests and exams. "All I can say is GOD IS SO GOOD! Our doctor at Mayo said test results could not be any better! NO residual signs of cancer and we can begin the maintenance program. ... These victorious results are due to your faithful and fervent prayers and the mercy and grace of our Great and Loving Saviour!!!" Nick will be preaching in Barrow at Calvary Bible Baptist Church for their missions conference from the 24th through the 31st. Upon their return to Point Hope, there will be much to do as they already have snow and are preparing for a stormy winter. The Serinos ask that we pray for the Village of Wainwright as Wainwright Bible Baptist Church will be in need of a new pastor by the end of the year. "The need for Arctic missionaries and laborers is a never ending battle, so please pray with us. This was the first village the Serino family went to to start their first church and it is a special place to them. They end with "Thank you all again for your prayers and help! The churches up here continue to bring glory and honor to our Blessed Saviour, and so shall it always be by His marvelous grace and your faithful desire to pray and help!!"



October 27th at 6 pm in the Chapel



This will be an exciting worship service as we celebrate Christina Coleman, Lydia Davis, Logan Kirchner, Tyson Kirchner and Carol Page following Jesus in believers baptism.

Following the baptism service, the Davis Family invites all of the baptism candidates, their families, friends and members of our church family to an ice cream social and time of fellowship in The Gathering Place.

If you would like more information on becoming a baptism candidate, Contact Ginger Wallace using the contact information above.

OCT 31 6-8pm

Light In The Night NEEDS YOU!

NLC needs you to serve for this Community-Wide Event.

VOLUNTEERS

Are needed for the Welcome
Table, games, crafts, parking lot,
face painting, bounce house,
wrecking ball competition,
Pumpkin Gospel Story Time,
walk-through maze, and clean up.

Scan the QR code below to volunteer for an area & time slot.



DONATIONS

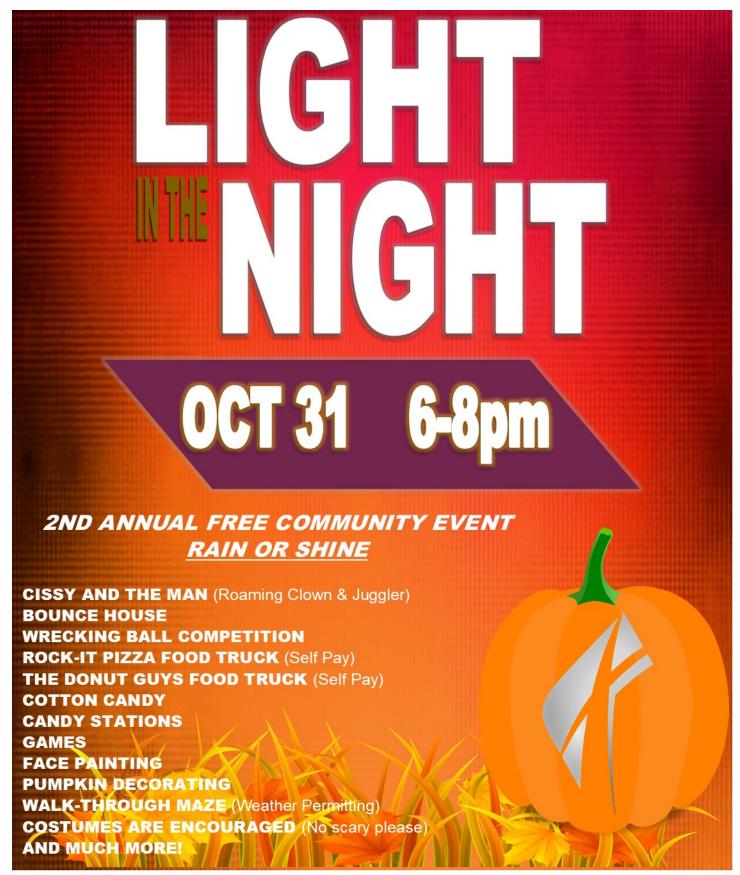
Of individually wrapped candies are needed for the candy stations.

Place donations in the collection container in The Gathering Place.

Donations are also needed for door prize drawings.

These donations should be given to Amanda Geiman or Ginger Wallace

"THANK YOU!" FOR LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE!



NEW LIFE CHURCH 530 Big Spring Road New Cumberland, PA 17070 717-938-4626 info@nlcfamily.org www.nlcfamily.org



PREREGISTRATION BY OCT 30TH IS ENCOURAGED.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER.

Preregistration enters your family in age appropriate door prize drawings.

A VERY SPECIAL "THANK YOU!" TO THE FOLLOWING EVENT SPONSORS AND VENDORS:









Anonymous Sponsor



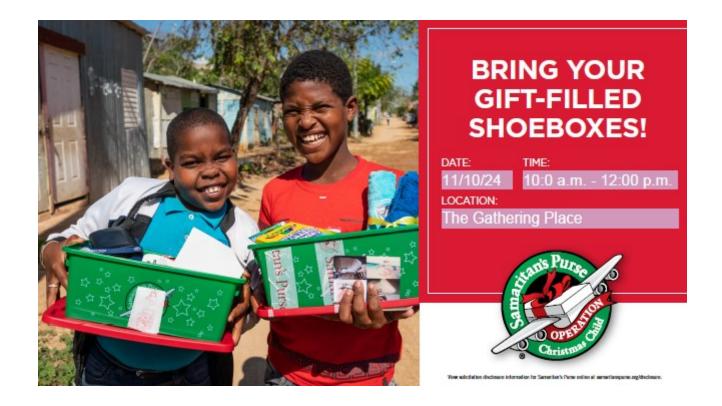
Self-Pay Food Truck



www.PeacockPeak.com



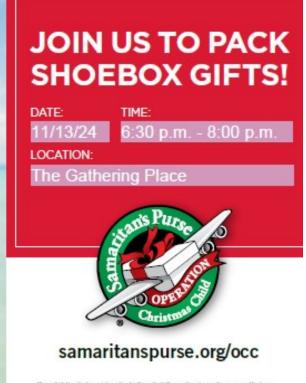
Self-Pay Food Truck



Join us for a shoebox packing party!

Wednesday, Nov 13th from 6:30 to 8 pm in The Gathering Place Donations for the packing party will be accepted through Nov. 10th Light snacks will be provided during the party







Mark your calendars for the Annual Church Business Meeting as per below.

NOTE: The proposed 2025 budget will be available on or before Sunday, November 10, 2024.



YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST!

APPRECIATION!

I want to express my sincere appreciation to both Kirk and Jeff for sharing God's Word with you while we were away on vacation. I was able to listen to both messages and was greatly challenged and blessed by the Word that God placed on their hearts. I'm sure each of you that heard them were as well. We are so blessed to have these two godly men serving as our first Elder's here at New Life!

Beverly and I sincerely thank you for affirming your love for us on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We are excited about experiencing Kitchen Kettle Village and the American Music Theater in Lancaster! Also, many of you blessed and encouraged us with cards, kind words and gifts. We love each of you dearly and are still so humbled and honored to be serving along side you in seeking to Exalt Jesus and His Word! May those new people that come through our doors each Sunday find a group of flawed but deeply committed growing disciples who passionately love God and compassionately love people! People are searching for that today more than ever! Let's be that contagious church!

ANTICIPATION!

I'm excited to let you know that this Sunday we will be starting a brand-new series from the life of Peter. We will see 3 seasons in his life and how those seasons apply to us today. We will see his season of learning in the Gospels. We will see his season of leading in Acts. We will see his season of leaving a living legacy in I Peter. Please pray for me as I prepare and for yourself that each Sunday we will come together ready to experience real Worship and a fresh Word from our Awesome God!

During this season of "gracious uncertainty" (My Utmost for His Highest, April 29th) may it be our constant prayer that God will equip and empower us to be more intentional at praising Him for the past, pressing on in the present and praying and planning for the future. We may not know what the future holds but let's make sure that we are getting to know more intimately the God who holds our future! Let us choose faith over fear! Let us choose worship over worry! Let us choose people over self! Let us choose light over darkness! Let us choose truth over lies! Let us choose prayer over panic! Let us choose God's Word over man's Word! Let us choose heaven over earth!

We choose to Thrive in `25 as we anticipate celebrating 50 years of God's Glory & Grace at New Life!

Love, Pastor Ronnie



In-Person:

Place your
Tithes & Offerings
(cash and/or check)
in the Offering Box
on the Welcome Table

Online:

Visit www.nlcfamily.org

Click on "Giving"

ELECTION DAY PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS ARE NEEDED

Election Day, which is November 5th, is quickly approaching!

NLC hosts the polls for the largest polling location in York County.

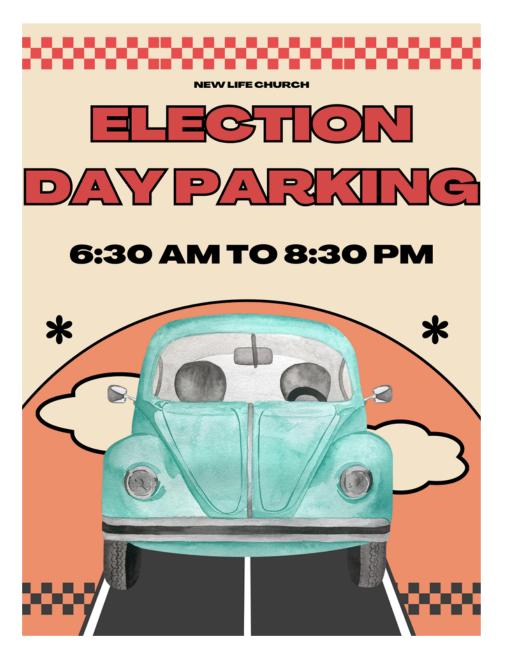
With this being a presidential election, the voter turn out is expected to be large.

Attendants for the parking lot are needed, especially in the early morning and in the afternoon and evening after folks have finished working.

To help serve our NLC local voting community, some of whom are part of our NLC family, scan the QR Code below.

If you are reading this in an email, you may also click the link in the email to help serve.

If you have any questions, contact Ginger Wallace at gwallace@nlcfamily.org.





Vote

- 1 Check your voter registration
- Make your plan to vote
 - By mail
 - At a county election office by Oct. 29
 - At a polling place on Nov. 5

Visit vote.pa.gov





2024 Election **Important Dates**



Oct. Last day to register to vote in the election. vote.pa.gov/Register



Oct. Last day to apply for a mail ballot. vote.pa.gov/MailBallot



Election Day. Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. vote.pa.gov/Polls



Completed mail ballots must be received by 8 pm. vote.pa.gov/County

Visit vote.pa.gov





The Lion And The Lamb

Verse 1

He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Chorus

Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion
and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Verse 2

So open up the gates
Make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Chorus

Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion
and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Bridge X2

Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)

Chorus

Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion
and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Great Are You Lord

Verse

You give life You are love You bring light to the darkness You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken And great are You Lord

Chorus

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

<u>Verse</u>

You give life You are love You bring light to the darkness You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken And great are You Lord

Chorus X2

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

Bridge X4

And all the earth will shout Your praise Our hearts will cry these bones will sing Great are You Lord

Chorus X2

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

Turn Your Eyes

Verse 1

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely
dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Verse 2

Turn your eyes to the hillside Where justice and mercy embrace There the Son of God gave His life for us And our measureless debt was erased

Chorus

Jesus to You we lift our eyes Jesus our glory and our prize We adore You behold You our Savior ever true Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

Verse 3

Turn your eyes to the morning And see Christ the lion awake What a glorious dawn fear of death is gone For we carry His life in our veins

Chorus

Jesus to You we lift our eyes
Jesus our glory and our prize
We adore You behold You our Savior ever
true
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

Verse 4

Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow every tongue will
shout
All glory to Jesus alone

Chorus

Jesus to You we lift our eyes
Jesus our glory and our prize
We adore You behold You our Savior ever
true
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

<u>Tag</u>

Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

We Are Yours Forever

Verse 1

O God when You spoke into darkness
And said Let there be and it was
You made us the crown of creation
To share in Your love
And when we rejected Your goodness
To follow our foolish desires
You knew that one day You'd redeem us
Through one sacrifice

Chorus

Oh what a love You have lavished on us To call us Your children daughters and sons

One with the Savior bought by His blood We are Yours forever

Verse 2

By grace You have made us Your family We're kept in Your kindness and care With boldness we know we can bring You Each burden we bear And though we are longing to see You Your Spirit within testifies That we are adopted and treasured 'Til faith becomes sight

Chorus

Oh what a love You have lavished on us To call us Your children daughters and sons

One with the Savior bought by His blood We are Yours forever

Bridge X2

What now can separate us From the hope You gave us We will be like Christ our King We are Yours forever

Chorus X3

Oh what a love You have lavished on us To call us Your children daughters and sons

One with the Savior bought by His blood We are Yours forever

Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)

Verse 1

All these pieces
Broken and scattered
In mercy gathered
Mended and whole
Empty handed
But not forsaken
I've been set free
I've been set free

Pre-Chorus

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
Oh I once was lost
But now I am found
Was blind but now I see

Chorus

Oh I can see You now
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes
Laying Yourself down
Raising up the broken to life

Verse 2

You take our failure
You take our weakness
You set Your treasure
In jars of clay
So take this heart Lord
I'll be Your vessel
The world to see Your life in me

Pre-Chorus

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
Oh I once was lost
But now I am found
Was blind but now I see

Chorus

Oh I can see You now
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes
Laying Yourself down
Raising up the broken to life

Pre-Chorus

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
Oh I once was lost
But now I am found
Was blind but now I see

Chorus

Oh I can see You now Oh I can see the love in Your eyes Laying Yourself down Raising up the broken to life

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! October 20, 2024

PETER - THE ROCK! Five Lessons He Was Learning As An Emerging Leader

1. He Was Learning That His New Name Gave Him A New Identity And Calling!

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone). John 1:42, NKJV

¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him. *Matthew 4:18-20, NKJV*

2. <u>He Was Learning That Those Closest To God Are Often The Most Broken Before God!</u>

⁸ When Simon Peter saw *it,* he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" Luke 5:8, NKJV

⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." ⁶² So Peter went out and wept bitterly. Luke 22:60-62, NKJV

3. He Was Learning To Keep His Eyes On Jesus No Matter What!

²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" *Matthew 14:28-30, NKJV*

²⁰ Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" ²¹ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what *about* this man?" ²² Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me." *John 21:20-22, NKJV*

4. He Was Learning That Complacency Leads To Stumbling!

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." *Matthew 26:40-41, NKJV*

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, Luke 18:1, NKJV

5. <u>He Was Learning That Trials Come To Refine Our Faith And Restore Our Love!</u>

³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, *strengthen your brethren."* Luke 22:31-32, NKJV

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." *John 21:15-16, NKJV*

Take Away Questions To Ponder:

- 1. Do you ever struggle with your identity? Do you know not only when, but why you were born?
- 2. Have you ever been broken over your own personal sin in God's awesome and holy presence?
- 3. When was the last time you were walking in victory and then took your eyes off Jesus and sunk?
- 4. How would you describe your private time with God in His Word and in Prayer?
- 5. Can you look back and remember how tough times refined your faith and restored your love?