

ORRICK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 30, 2024 TO JANUARY 5, 2025



MORNING TIME ON THE PORCH

12/30 - Matthew 6:33
"Keeping Jesus First in Your Life."

12/31 - Exodus 6:6-9
"Happy New Year's Eve: Starting Brand New!" Read Ephesians 4:22-24, Romans 12:1-2, John 11:44 and Ephesians 4:28-32.

1/1 - I Corinthians 6:19-20
"Happy New Year - Resolutions." Read I Corinthians 6:9, Psalm 139 and Romans 12:2.

1/2 - Matthew 5:1-3 "Poor in Spirit but Filled with Christ." Read Ephesians 2:11 and Isaiah 66:2.

1/3 - Isaiah 25:8 "No More Tears." Read Revelation 21:4 and John 14:6.

SERMON SUMMARY

Deuteronomy 5:6-10 – Priorities, Priorities, Priorities

As church was closed due to inclement weather, Pastor Art gave a sermonette from his home entitled "Priorities, priorities, priorities," based on Deuteronomy 5:6-10. He talked about righteousness as meaning living right. We are bombarded all the time. Things begging for our attention include hobbies, work, etc. There were two points he wanted to bring to our attention. The first point was how distractions detour us. Read Exodus 20:3, this commandment reminds us to put no other God before Him. He shows mercy to those who love God and follow him. Read Romans 12:1-2. We are to be transformed and to get our priorities straight. We are faced with the challenges of a culture that favors humanism and does not honor God. Read Romans 1:18-25. The world of selfishness tries to overrun our walk with Jesus. Christ followers reveal God's righteousness. We are called to glorify God in all things. God uses us to manifest miracles in this world. Prayer is so important! Knowledge comes from the Word of God. Wisdom is the practical application of knowledge. God gives us the truth and as we share that truth we serve God. Read I Corinthians 6:9-11. Once we are born again, we begin to look like Jesus. Redemption leads to sanctification.

The second point of this sermonette is getting back on track. Read Matthew 6:33. Righteous means living right in the eyes of God but not self-righteous. Read Genesis 17:1. You are never too old to start a new life in Christ. God sees all. Turn away from your sinful past and move into a new path. Read John 3:16. Salvation

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1. If you are interested in serving on any of the church teams listed in our bulletin, please contact us at this email address and we will be glad to put you in touch with the team leader or contact them directly.
2. In our Catpack program (weekend hunger relief for students), we are preparing 70 backpacks. One in five students in Orrick Schools is food insecure (hungry). So we encourage you to donate child-friendly food (individual servings of cereal, pasta, meat, snack crackers, fruit bowls, trail mix, poptarts, etc).
3. All Church Prayer meeting will be Thursday at the church at 9:00 am. All are welcome to come.
4. Praying Day and Night for Israel begins Thursday at 4:00 am and ends at Friday at 4:00 am. Prayer guide attached.
5. Communications/Prayer Team will have a planning meeting at church on

CALL TO WORSHIP

Read Psalm 33:1-5

is for all. We need to get our priorities back in line with God's commandments. Study the Bible frequently. Study John 9:35 - 10:1-6. Read John 10:7-9. Nurture good habits. Worship on a regular basis. Church should become a priority. Jesus as our shepherd is also our protector. Read John 14:6 and John 10:10. It is time to keep our priorities right. Prayer, worship, Bible reading and church - all are part of the abundant life promised to us. Get involved! Read John 3:3. Being born again is a change of life. The challenge we face is walking as a believer. Praising God for a pastor who passionately shares the truth of God's Word and guides us closer to God in our faith walk!

Thursday, Jan 9 at 5:00 pm.

6. Church board meets Thursday at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall.
7. "Fellowship on the Farm" hosted by Drew Gill, at the Farm shop, 8804 Wollard Blvd, Richmond, MO at 6:00 am on the second Saturday of January (Jan 11). All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.
8. **Final week:** Mission Team is doing a coat drive through January 12. Any contribution is greatly appreciated.
9. Mission Team is asking you to start collecting now for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox and Kids' Christmas Store. So as you come across great clearance items considering purchasing for these projects. Collection bins in the entry way to the church.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next men's fellowship opportunity will be "Fellowship on the Farm" hosted by Drew Gill, at the Farm shop, 8804 Wollard Blvd, Richmond, MO at 6:00 am on the second Saturday of January (Jan 11). All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.



JANUARY – LOTS OF NEW BEGINNINGS

2025 is starting with a number of changes. First, All Church Prayer meeting is moved back a week because of the holiday and travels. So our first All Church Prayer meeting will be Thursday, January 9 at 9:00 am at church.

Next the Women's Wednesday night Bible Study group is starting a new Bible study entitled "Breaking Free" by Beth Moore. Let me share the first line in the study: "I once believed only the spiritually lost were captives. God pruned open my comfortably closed mind from the inside out with my life as the object lesson. I had no idea I was in captivity until God began to set me free." Perhaps this is describing your life. Here's her definition of captivity: **"A Christian is held captive by anything that hinders the abundant and effective Spirit-filled life God planned for her."** This is a 10 week interactive study with 11 sessions. Anyone taking this class will be greatly blessed. This class will be starting in mid to late January.

Our first church board meeting of 2025 will be at 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 9 in the fellowship hall. First order of business is the election of church officers. These meetings are open to anyone but only the 7 elected board members can actually vote on church business. If you want to know what is going on or what is planned for the future of this church, join us and learn.



PRAYER FROM NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE

"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we praise You. These are not attributes that we only ponder at Christmastime but every time we pour out our praise or call on the Name of the Lord. You are the God who never leaves or forsakes us, the One true God who knows all of our days, tears, desires, talents, everything about us as we are fearfully and wonderfully made by Your divine design for Your glory. Help us to Stand against the schemes of the enemy. Heal us from the wounds of the past and lift us to our feet if we have fallen and brace us to be strong and courageous in the moments and mission ahead. Thank you for another year to love and serve you. Show us Your path and priorities and we ponder how we should spend the time You have given us that we may spend our time only doing that which will stand the test of time and to You Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. In the precious name of our Savior we pray, Amen!"



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL

The essence of Immanuel- "God with us" is that Jesus comes near to it all. He is with us in sorrow as well as with rejoicing. He is with us in disappointment, as well as in victory, and He is with us in loss as well as in celebration. God comes to us in the midst of the storm. It is He alone who carries us through. Immanuel is there in the darkest of times kindling the Holy Spirit within us and imparting steadfastness, courage, and hope. Because of His Presence, we can be like Paul and Silas sitting in jail. When we feel like our lives are imprisoned by the world, He will give us a song to sing at midnight. 2025 has just begun. There will be victories. There will be defeats. Through it all, we will find we are never alone. Immanuel is there walking with us every step of the way, and He will carry us when we feel like we can't walk any further. And one day, you will shut your eyes here on earth and awaken to see Him face to face. It will be better than the JoY of 10,000 great Christmases! But for now, we walk our faith walk. We fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) **May the Lord shower you with His favor this year! May you grow in grace and truth, and may your prayer life and relationship with God deepen like never before. Happy New Year Dear Friends!**



PRAYING FOR ISRAEL NIGHT AND DAY

Well, Winter Storm Blair (so strange to name our storms) has changed how we will handle our next 24 hr prayer vigil for Israel. Since we could not meet physically to circulate a sign up sheet, I am attaching the prayer sheet to this newsletter. I encourage all of you to use it and pray for Israel sometime during that 24 hour period. The vigil is scheduled for Thursday, January 9 beginning at 4:00 am and ending Friday morning at 4:00 am. If you have questions, contact Barbara Britt at pray4occ@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your prayerful intercession for Israel.



OCC COAT DRIVE

This project wraps up next Sunday! Cold weather is upon us and Mission Team wants to reach out and help those in need. So if you have new or good used coats, please bring them to church. A barrell is set up in the landing between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall as a collection point. Hats, gloves, mittens and scarves are appreciated, too. Mission Team plans to distribute them as needed. Collection continues until January 12.



ASHES TO BEAUTY WOMEN'S ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

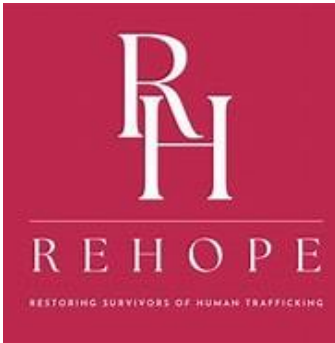
Ashes to Beauty weekend is designed for every women 18 years and older. It is about encountering Jesus at the Cross in a new and personal as well as intimate way. There are 12 sessions that relate to a woman's life. Each session will include praise and worship, personal testimonies, teachings from God's perspective, and a time of reflection. First weekend encounter in 2025 is February 21-23. Contact Laura O'Dell (816) 868-3875 if you are interested in attending. She will assist you with making arrangements.

NEW HOPE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL



Rejoice with us. Pastor Duckson texted, *“I greet everyone in the name of Jesus. We just come from a good time at Biley Church. I would like to share with you 26 young boys and girls who accept Jesus in our service. The best gift of the New Year for us. To God be all glory. This year we are going to baptize them. We also say a happy New Year to all friends who are the family of New Hope.”* Before Christmas vacation, he texted, *“I am sending you a picture of the children raising the flag at the school. The flag is our pride. Each morning we sing of our freedom and our strength. Haiti did a big battle to win the freedom {we now celebrate}.”* Empowered by the Holy Spirit, may we all “thrive in 2025” bringing glory to God. Our prayer for you: *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24

RE-HOPE FREEDOM GALA



Join us for a special night as we celebrate our 11th Annual Freedom Gala on Saturday, January 25 at Fiorella's Event Center. Not only does your ticket include a delicious meal plus inspirational program, but join us for a Pre-Event Social Gathering from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Take time to peruse the silent auction, get a preview of live auction items plus learn more about the problem of human trafficking and the mission and work of REHOPE. Dinner will begin at 6:30 followed by the program. The evening concludes around 8:30pm.
Valor Ranch Fundraiser

VALOR RANCH FUNDRAISER



We are excited to be hosting the 5th Annual Wyatt Childress Memorial Poker Tournament on Feb. 1. It's in memory of an amazing young man, who died by suicide in 2020. For a minimum donation of \$100, your business name (or individual) will be on every table at the tournament, featured on our social media, and featured on our new Sponsor tab on our website, for the whole year! In addition, you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card to Grand Street Cafe on the Plaza, which is where Wyatt worked. Who wants in? Registration to play is also open at ValorRanch.org. 🇺🇸❤️♠️♦️♣️

ANSWERED PRAYER



No updates received this week. Please continue to lift the individuals on our prayer list. Your prayers do make a difference!

COMING UP IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Jan 20-24 - Global Celebration of Prayer
Jan 24-26 - Men's Encounter
Jan 25 - ReHope Freedom Gala
Feb 1 - Valor Ranch Fundraiser
Feb 21-23 - Ashes to Beauty

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tune in for "Morning Time on the Porch with Pastor Art" each weekday on facebook.
- Monday, Jan 6 - Epiphany
- Tuesday, Jan 7 - 6:00 pm - Outreach to Cedars in Liberty. Contact Phil Boude if interested in helping to teach a Bible study at this center.
- Wednesday, Jan 8 - 6:00 pm - Men's Bible Study with Tim O'Dell.
- Wednesday, Jan 8 - 6:00 pm - Women's Bible Study with Connie Langdon.
- Thursday, Jan 9 - 4:00 am - **Prayer vigil for Israel begins**
- Thursday, Jan 9 - 9:00 am - All church prayer group meets to pray at church. Everyone is welcome!
- Thursday, Jan 9 - 5:00 pm - Communications/Prayer Team meeting at the church in the fellowship hall.
- Thursday, Jan 9 - 6:00 pm - Church board meeting in the fellowship hall.
- Thursday, Jan 9 - 7:00 pm - Celebrate Recovery Lexington Group, First Baptist Church, 525 S Business 13, Lexington, MO. Contact Tamara Lane (660) 570-3761 for more information.
- Friday, Jan 10 - 4:00 am - **Prayer vigil for Israel ends**
- Saturday, Jan 11 - 6:00 am - "Fellowship on the Farm" hosted by Drew Gill, at the Farm shop, 8804 Wollard Blvd, Richmond, MO at 6:00 am All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Sunday, Jan 12 - Coat Drive ends!
- Sunday, Jan 12 - 8:15 am - Traditional worship service. Nursery available (birth to 5).
- Sunday, Jan 12 - 9:45 am - Sunday School classes for all ages.
- Sunday, Jan 12 - 10:45 am - Contemporary worship service. Nursery available (birth to 5).
- Sunday, Jan 12 - 5:00-7:00 pm - OCC Doctrinal study begins with Pastor Art (childcare provided)
- Sunday, Jan 12 - 5:00-7:00 pm - Youth groups meet at OCC

<https://www.orrickchristianchurch.com>