This spring we continue through God’s Word together with Bible Journey. We will cross the threshold into the New Testament and begin with our study of the gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called gospels because they herald “good news.” The New Testament gospel is a royal proclamation about King Jesus and the arrival of the kingdom of God. God’s good news for the world is that God’s Son saves the world. We live in a hurting, broken, divided, and idolatrous world in need of rescue. The gospels present the person, words, and work of Jesus who saves. His salvation provides forgiveness for sins. His salvation creates new life. His salvation produces the fruit of righteousness in lives, families, and society. His salvation comes to change the culture in our city and in our nation. His salvation remakes us into the image of God and empowers us to live as God intended at creation.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is not intuitive. It must be learned. It must be carefully studied. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we find meaning, forgiveness, and transformation. We discover who we are and how we are meant to live. The way of Jesus requires self-denial to achieve happiness. The leadership of Jesus demands humility to produce honor. The teaching of Jesus demolishes our own judgments to build godly wisdom. The healings of Jesus generate compassion and cause us not to look the other way. We need to devote our attention on Jesus to grasp the life of His kingdom.

This spring we will challenge our congregation to fast for the Lenten season leading up to Holy Week and Easter Sunday. I will be fasting from all social media and news for forty days to devote my attention to Jesus in the gospels. I want to challenge you to do the same. Fasting humbles us and provides space in our souls for the Lord to fill. May the life and person of Jesus Christ fill our hearts and minds this spring. May He bless us with His presence and teach us His ways as we continue our journey of faith together.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

John 3:16-17
My Morning Quiet Time
By Steve Marosi

The Sovereign LORD … wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed (Isaiah 50:4b).

I’ve found no better approach to begin each day than to rise early and go to my study, read the Bible, write in my journal, and pray. These simple practices started haphazardly in my teenage years with the best of intentions but with little consistency or satisfaction. Over time, however, meeting my Heavenly Father every morning has become a cherished, life-giving habit. In these days plagued by turmoil, isolation, and fear, it’s especially vital to begin the day by learning God’s perspective.

If you’ve been struggling to establish this important discipline, here are tips that have made my “quiet time” a delight:

1. Choose the morning, even if you’re not a morning person. Why? Because it’s the one time of day (especially if you set your alarm very early) when your schedule rarely changes and you are least likely to be interrupted.

2. Prepare the fuel. Every night, I fill my coffee maker and set it to automatic. Freshly brewed coffee awaits me at 5:15AM so I’m ready.

3. Find your place. I go to the same spot every morning – a comfortable armchair in my study where my Bible and journal await on a homemade sidetable.

4. Follow a plan. I learn the most when studying is purposeful, digging deep into a book of the Bible (as I’m doing now with the book of Isaiah) or reading through the entire Bible chronologically (as I did in each of the previous three years). Pro tip: A great way to learn is to ask constantly this question as you read: What do I learn about God and His ways?

5. Use a journal. I jot down observations, questions, thoughts, and direct quotations as I read through and cross-reference Scripture (also, see the “pro tip” above). I often write out a prayer that draws from what God showed me in His Word that morning.

6. Pray. I finish with a time of prayer. There is never a shortage of people and situations to lift up to God and never enough words to thank and praise our Lord.

That’s it. Putting in the effort may seem awkward and unfulfilling at first. The enemy will try to tempt you with drowsiness and distractions, but you will succeed if you seek God’s help and stick with the plan. Resolve to make this your urgent, life-giving aim. There is nothing that has impacted me for greater good than this simple but consistent habit of seeking God everyday in Scripture and prayer. What on earth is holding you back?

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers, but His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law He meditates days and night (Psalm 1:1-2).

Magnify Update
By Lyle Fiore, Treasurer

Thank you all for your faithful giving to Magnify and the church in general. Magnify total giving is up to just over one million dollars, giving us $2.1 million in the bank! The plan is to start building in mid-to-late May 2021. We hope to be finished by February 2022. Our tithes have been running behind budget since September but our expenses have also been down, so we are able to maintain our ministries. Please keep supporting Kenwood as we are still doing a lot of ministry in the building and locally. If anyone in the congregation needs financial assistance, there are some funds available to help. Blessings on Kenwood and its people.

Congregational Giving

Last Month’s Giving
Regular Giving Received: $89,500
Regular Giving Budgeted: $103,667

Fiscal Year-to-Date
Regular Giving Received: $507,413
Regular Giving Budgeted: $518,335

Magnify Giving
Magnify Giving to Date $1,017,000
Total in Bank: $2,100,000

Thank you for your faithful support.
OUTREACH MINISTRY 2021

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns’ (Isaiah 52:7).

We are thankful to you for your efforts throughout 2020. Kenwood is a caring church that impacts our community by magnifying who God is! The important role you have each time you pray, serve, share, love your neighbor, tutor, donate to food drives, or Join His Mission in other ways reflects God to our neighbors, friends, and family.
The relationships we built, the introductions made, and friendships started are a blessed foundation for us as we launch into where God is leading us for 2021.

Outreach is often incorrectly identified as a hand-out. To understand Kenwood’s outreach purpose, think more of God’s hand outstretched to someone. This mindset starts reflecting the true light of hope, love, and salvation that comes only from His outstretched hand. Then think, how do I share this with others?

The needs of our neighbors are going to evolve differently in 2021, but Kenwood will continue to be there reflecting and sharing God’s light and His message through you. Each of us is a part of God’s hand extended every time you assist a neighbor, friend, serve at a church event, pray, volunteer to tutor a child, sew a mask, or deliver groceries.

Our Deer Park Tutoring initiative with extra reading and math support will continue this fall and spring. We are hosting monthly Wednesday gatherings at the Pavilion for the winter months. These events will enable Kenwood to share God, friendships, a meal, and support the message that “learning is fun!” In the summer, Books&Bites+ is scheduled for June. We are exploring additional, purposeful ways to impact our neighbors and to be a blessing to our communities.

“THINK MORE OF GOD’S HAND OUTSTRETCHED TO SOMEONE.”

JOIN HIS MISSION IN CINCINNATI- THE LORD’S GYM (FOCAS)

Kamya, 12, of Price Hill loves coming to the Lord’s Gym Family Activity Center. She’s a regular “I know she’s safe when she’s there,” said Kamya’s mother Heather. For Kamya, it’s more than just a place to “have fun.” The Family Activity Center is a place to grow in knowledge and a place to heal.

This past spring, Kamya was caught in the crossfire of a shooting while spending the night at a friend’s house. She was on the second floor when a stray bullet hit her on her side. The bullet traveled through her body and injured her small intestine, spleen, stomach, and left kidney.

The Lord’s Gym immediately reached out to Heather, offering help and prayer. When Kamya finally left the hospital, she wanted to visit “Mr. Danny and Ms. Lola” at the Family Activity Center right away. She thanked them for praying for her and for their care.

“I like it here because I get to learn more about Jesus, and I get to hear stories about what He did and how He saved people,” Kamya said.

Kamya’s favorite story about Jesus, found in John 9, is how He touched the eyes of the man who was blind and his eyes “went back to normal.”

“Jesus touched me,” Kamya said. “He helped me overcome my fears. Jesus heals.”

Kenwood is a monthly supporter of The Lord’s Gym Ministries which runs the Family Activity Center in Price Hill. This piece was written by The Lord’s Gym staff member Melissa Reinert. Kenwood member Scott Bowers, Executive Director, welcomes visits and volunteers!
KID’S MOMENT
By Emily Shiverski

A call to action is an important part of a sermon. When we worship and study God’s Word together, we are moved and encouraged to apply it to our lives. It’s easy to get caught up in how we as adults can internalize the sermon, but children want and need to do that too! Just as we teach children to tie their shoes or help them with their math homework, the Kid’s Moment is an opportunity to guide children through Scripture. Providing some key words, making relatable examples, and providing a transition from the praise songs helps young ones to be successfully engaged in the sermon. Allowing children to be an active part of the worship experience is crucial in building into their spiritual growth. When we can connect with kids on their level, it helps them to relate to the Scripture and to become life-long learners and doers of the Word!