



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

October 1, 2024

Volume 12 Issue 10 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Lakeland, FL 33810

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Park Administrator: Stan Welton
(Cell: 863 608-3982)
Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com
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Office Manager: Greg Thomas
greg.t@lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Lori Jones
lori@lightandlifepark.org

Resource Specialist
sherry@lightandlifepark.org
(Cell: 863-255-3776)

Office Hours:
November 15-April 14: 8 am- Noon
April 15-November 14: 9 am - Noon

Lots Available for Lease

There are currently no lots available to lease for a RV or Park Model.

The following lots are available for a modular home to be put on them:

5359 Beulah Land
5885 Shiloh Path

Call the Park Office at 863-858-7504 for information.

News from the Park Administrator

The last two weeks have been extremely pleasant. You know, the kind of days you think about sitting in the backyard and reading your favorite book. The sky has been Florida blue--decorated with white, puffy clouds. And, over the past two weeks we have had little rain. It is a welcome respite from the abundance of rain we had earlier.

It had rained so much here and along the Gulf coast that there has been water laying on Deeson Road for about two months. Another unfortunate impact of the very wet time we experienced; we were unable to mow many areas in the Park because the ground was simply too wet. Just when the ground and Deeson Road are drying up, we learn that there is the potential for a hurricane to develop off the Gulf coast. Depending on the path it takes, we will likely experience high winds and significant rain.

Speaking of hurricanes, I want to remind everyone that the hurricane season does not end until the end of November. If you are in the Park during that time, make sure you are prepared. That means having enough drinking water on hand, a plan for adequate shelter, extra medications on hand, and keeping your cell phones and golf carts charged. For an exhaustive list of how to prepare for a hurricane, visit www.ready.gov/hurricane.

Several weeks ago, we collected ten water samples to test them for levels of lead and copper, which is required every year. I am happy to report that all the lead & copper values were well below acceptable levels!

I have had to send out several emails reminding residents that it is the member's responsibility to trim around your residence, keep weeds under control, and groom flowers and shrubs. Please refer to the rule I.e.2 for the complete rule. If you don't have a copy of the rules, you can access them at www.lightandlifepark.org/guiding-principles. If you don't have anyone taking care of this, call the office for the names of people who may be able to do the trimming for you while you are away.

Continued from previous page.

The water Service Line Inventory that we started earlier this year is due October 16. Although the date is fast approaching, I am certain that we will complete it ahead of schedule as it is nearly 90% complete. I extend my thanks to everyone who helped by taking pictures and recording the water line materials.

After writing the opening paragraph, I realize it has been a very long time since I sat outside just to enjoy the sunshine and a good book. Now that I am facing retirement, I think I will add that to my short-term bucket list. Here's to white, puffy clouds and blue skies.

Jan

Office News

You couldn't tell by all the green outside, but fall has arrived in Florida. Unfortunately, we don't get the change of colors down here. That is probably what I miss the most. That and the cooler evenings. It's still pretty warm here.

Just as we were finally drying out, another storm is heading our way. We are praying that the Lord keeps us safe and that there is little to no damage. We are not asking the Lord to move the storm's direction away from us because that will cause others to have to deal with the destruction. We are praying he calms the storm.

Before we know it, the park will be bustling with activity. We pray you all have a safe trip south when you begin your travels. We expect a few families will be arriving this month for the winter. There will also be some coming down to prepare their place for the winter and then heading home for the holidays.

There was one closing in September. Donnie and Kathy Justice returned to the park and purchased the Ewing residence at 5833 Moriah Place.

Continued next column.

Continued from previous column.

This ended a dry spell of "no new purchases in the park". If you know of a person wanting to move to FL and is also a member of the Free Methodist church, please have them apply to the park. We still have several places for sale. And it will remain that way until we get some new FM's in the park.

The Following Places are For Sale:

1. Rex and Bethel Root, 5311 Sharon Trail
Block Home, \$120,000.00
2. Doug and Lori Jones, 5352 Bethany Way
Block Home, \$65,000.00
3. Michael Gardner, 5333 Hebron Ct Travel Trailer, \$6,300.00
4. Deano and Darlene Pulice, 5337 Ebenezer Pl Travel Trailer, \$12,500.00
5. Estate of Julia McDonald, 5315 Hebron Ct, Travel Trailer, \$8,000.00
6. Dean and Barbara Rockwell, 5319 Hebron Ct. Park Model, \$35,500.00
7. Debbie Roberts, 5326 Ebenezer Place, Travel Trailer, \$38,000.00
8. Arlie and Marva Peck, 5343 Zion Ave., Block Home, \$135,000.00

Have a blessed October!

Greg Thomas, Office Manager

Check out the park website!

Copies of the newsletter, the Park calendar, places for sale, and much more can be found there.

www.lightandlifepark.org



News from the Board of Directors

Summer has left us, and Fall is in the air. Our thoughts are on returning to the Park for the Winter season, seeing all of our park friends, and getting involved in park activities.

A special Board of Directors meeting was held Friday, September 13, 2024, using "Zoom". The purpose for the meeting was to discuss the policy of having the Park Gate open during the daylight hours. This was a request from the Church and from the District Superintendent to enable easier access to the Church by people outside the Park.

During the portion of the meeting where members were encouraged to speak, a great number of the comments received from the members attending expressed concern for the safety of our residents. At the end of the two-hour meeting, the Board voted to return to the previous policy of a "closed gate" during daylight hours, and to continue discussion of alternatives with Pastor Jeff and the Church Board.

It has been determined that a zoning change needs to be made to the property where Mike Lower's house is located, as well as a portion of our property adjacent to it on the south border. Zoning changes are a slow process, and take time, but is necessary to fully relocate new property boundaries in this area. We will be seeking help from outside agencies that are more familiar with zoning changes as well as the Hillsborough County officials.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

God Bless you all.
From the Park Board
Jim Falconer

The Board has authorized several projects to which you can make donations.

1) chairs & tables in Hood Hall, 2) the purchase of 5580 Deeson Road, 3) the improvements to the pickleball court, and 4) installation of a new tennis court.

Summer Dinners

Monday, October 7th

5:30 pm.
The cost is \$6.00.

If you are willing to help with set-up or clean up, please let Sherry LaBrie know at 863-255-3776

The main course

Cranberry chicken, hashbrown casserole, glazed carrots, gelatin salad, cake and homemade ice cream.

Sign up in Hood Hall by Friday, October 4th.

Plan to join us for a time of food and fellowship.

Note from the editor:

Thanks for all the hard work this crew has put in over the summer months and for the great meals.

Come join us for "Fellowship dinner with programs" starting next month, look for further details in this publication.

Dinner at the Max!

5:00 pm Friday evenings

Bring a dish to pass
enjoy **Dinner** at the Max
and **Game Night** immediately following.

Of course, you may enjoy either dinner or games...whatever fits your schedule!



Where to Donate your Goods

The donations given at the Park to help others are appreciated. **Please take your donations to the following places:**

Food donations for Briarwood may be left on the designated table in Hood Hall.

Slightly used linens may be donated for Senior Orphans in Hood Hall. Please refer to Senior Orphans article in this newsletter.

Jean Whipple takes several items to Talbot House weekly. See that article in this newsletter for details.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Metal Cans

There are containers over in the enclosed space by the Garbage containers for recycling your metal cans and are picked up by Errol.

Pop/Soda cans are to be placed in the bins designated for aluminum cans and are to be separated from other metal cans.

Errol uses the proceeds from the metal to support his son who is a Pastor of a very small church.

Thank you for your support.



Talbot House Ministry

The ongoing deliveries of prescription bottles, unused medicines, **good clean clothing** that you no longer use, and small household items is an ongoing project. Please continue to save these helpful items for the homeless shelter and the Good Samaritan Clinic.

Please put all clean, washed clothing as well as all other items in bags and leave it in my porch on Fridays. We will deliver on Saturdays. If it is not clean and/or bagged it will be thrown out. I am not able to do that part anymore. Thanks for your cooperation.

Should you wish to help financially or take your own items yourself the address is: 814 North Kentucky Avenue, Lakeland.

Thank you! Jean Whipple

Stamps for Missions

POLITICS!

Especially around elections you may feel inundated with persuasive mailings. Many postcards, flyers, and letters do have postage stamps, some presorted, pre cancelled, nonprofit, or bulk rate. Remember to cut these stamps (cancelled or not) with 1/4 - 1/3" borders on all sides whenever possible.

Actual stamps and computer-generated postage (with an illustration, photograph, or mosaic) and preprinted stamp pictures on envelopes are acceptable BUT no information printed on paper, no metered mail nor permit number of businesses and organizations.

I know it gets confusing, when in doubt save it. Doing so supports Spanish Christian literature efforts; we're working towards our goal of \$2 million raised.

**Save them until fall;
take them to Hood Hall.**

Thank you for your participation!

*Marilyn Stone
Coordinator*



Medical Equipment Available

Maxwell Commons at The Villa has some medical equipment available that can be borrowed by any Park resident.

Call someone you know in the Villa to help you. Please sign out the equipment you are borrowing. There are wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, portable pots, and shower seats. Please notify a Villa member when you are returning an item, so we know it has been returned. Please **don't** leave it on the porch. We are **not** presently accepting any equipment donations due to lack of storage space.

Something to look forward to

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR SINGLES

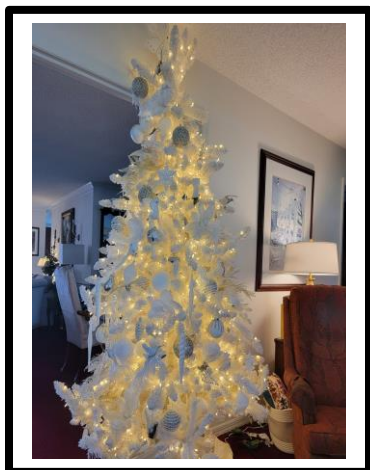
Host: Arlene Mahen

Place: 5416 Zion Avenue

When: December 7th at 6 PM

If you are single and reading this announcement you are invited.

Come enjoy great fellowship not to mention excellent food.



And beautiful decorations

Blood Pressure

As people are heading back to the Park, look for details on continuing the blood pressure clinics.

However, since I am here year-round you can still get your blood pressure taken on a regular basis if necessary.

I can come to your house, or you can come to mine, 5437 Bethel Dr.

JoAnn Willet RN
989-615-8430



Fellowship Dinner with Programs

Fall will be upon us before we know it. Our dinners with programs on **the first Monday of the month will resume in November.**

The fall schedule **begins Nov 4** with Carol Zeller planning another interesting program, then a Dec 9 Christmas event under the guidance of Carolyn Lindley. 2025 dates: Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, Nov 3, and Dec 8. **Easy way to remember** always the first Monday except Dec when we give more time after Thanksgiving dinner.

If you like to do skits, vocal or instrumental music, plan, organize, coordinate set-up/clean-up, invite new residents, post flyers, be greeters/helpers at the doors, host a table, etc. please contact me.

God bless you all and hope you join us in the fall!

Marilyn Stone, chairman jaxstone68@gmail.com



Cars and Coffee

2nd Saturday of every month

October 12, 2024
8 am to 10 am.

Vehicles of all years, sizes, and shapes are welcome at Light and Life Park, 5730 Deeson Road (at the end of the road) Lakeland, Florida.

The gate will be open. You can see cars parked in the parking lot under the trees on the left. Come have coffee and donuts. Join in the fun!

Larry Thomas 540-447-0458

Gad-About 2025

- Jan 09 IKEA Shopping n lunch
Bahama Breeze in Tampa
- Jan 23 Circle B-Bar Reserve Trolley n
Lunch in Bartow
- Feb 13 Scenic Boat Tour n lunch at
Harborside Restaurant in
Winter Haven
- Feb 27 Christian Movie n Lunch at local
restaurant in Lakeland
- Mar 13 Russell Stover's Outlet n lunch
Sumner Lake in The Villages
- Mar 27 Lake Mirror Gardens n lunch
Garden Bistro

Flo Grabowski Cell 931-797-2639
coachfllc@gmail.com

Peggy Dunn Cell 248-766-5537
pegjim2000@yahoo.com

L & L Aqua Splash Water Aerobics

Come & enjoy fun in the sun with a low-impact workout in the water to enhance health & wellbeing.

Routines are choreographed to music and designed to promote improved muscle strength, endurance, flexibility & core balance without the stress of land exercise.

Splash times are generally offered during snowbird season, twice weekly, and free of charge. Currently Aqua Splash is taking a late summer break, awaiting the return of more participants, but will resume soon. Watch neighborhood news and FB for details.

As always, remember to go at your own pace, modify moves as needed and drink water after participating

See you poolside. 🌴🕶️

Happy Swimmers!

Karen Castle-Williams
allforyum@aol.com



RECEPTION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

**ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS:**

If you haven't already done so, be sure to stop by your bank or credit union and get a few gold dollar coins to bring to Florida with you. There are four couples (so far) that are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and we want to shower them with gold coins and golden wishes. There may be a few more that we are unaware of at this point, so you might want to get some extra coins just to be safe. We will have some homemade cards available for you to sign, so you will not need to purchase greeting cards unless you choose to.

Those being honored are, Bruce & Debbie Fitch, Chuck & Annie Frankenfeld, Myke & Pamela Merrill, and Mike & Roxanne Smarscz.

If you know of any couples that will be celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2025, please contact me.

Carolyn Lindley
carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com
 50th Anniversary Chair

We are going to miss you, Marva!

I loved our golf cart ride tonight. We saw a blue heron, our alligator protecting the prayer gazebo again, the spray fields in the sunlight, our goats tucked in for the night by our green water pond, and our wood trail that is still waterlogged. We are going to miss the beauty of this Park!

Find the pictures somewhere in this publication!

Bucket Listers



Fall has arrived in the north! The leaves are bright with color and the air is definitely chilly! It must be time to head south. Don't forget to pack those puzzles!

The Bucket Listers will be sponsoring a hot dog lunch on 12-6-24. This is also the date of the Christmas Craft Show.



This January, February and March, The Bucket Listers will host Tuesday Night Movies and Tuesday Night Trivia in Hood Hall on alternating Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm. Form a team of 8 or come and join a team to make 8.



Thank you for your support! Together we can make our park amazing!



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to those who have donated to Operation Christmas Child/ Shoe Box Ministry. It is a joy to find the wonderful items you dropped in the tote at Church.

I am looking forward to boxing up 200 plus shoe boxes this year. So, we need at least 200 of everything.

You can drop off items in a specified tote at the Church, side doors are open. We have boxes available if you would like to shop and fill them yourself.

Tuesday, November 5th we start setup and organization of items for the shoe box ministry.

Monday November 18, at 9:30 is packing party day.

Sunday November 24 Pray over boxes at Church and later deliver to Bartow collection center.

Click on the link below for all the details. Use your own email.

<https://packingparty.samaritanspurse.org/party-management/08dcc6b4-8673-4efa-84a1-ef57e6877091/published>

Please keep praying 🙏 for Operation Christmas Child. We want every child to know God and to receive this blessing.

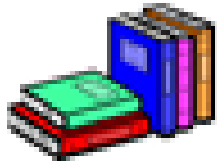
With all glory to God, I found a Barbie size shoe box and put them on a tiny tree at the Church. Photo below for your enjoyment too.



Kathy Miller
716-598-1924

Kathymiller5159@gmail.com

Library Information



Book Review

Dairy, Dairy, Quite Contrary by Amy Lillard

If you're looking for an easy, light-hearted read and enjoy mysteries, this book is for you!

Sissie Yoder was born Amish in a small town, Yoder, Kansas, where many residents are named Yoder. She moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma as a child and grew up as an Englisher. She graduated college and earned a degree in journalism, working at a newspaper writing an advice column as a 70-year-old, Aunt Bess.

Sissie was doing great until she broke up with her boyfriend whose sister happened to be her roommate. When this happened, she became homeless and decided to move back to her old hometown of Yoder. Her aunt needed her to help in her restaurant as she recently broke her leg. She was able to continue as Aunt Bess and write her column at the same time.

During the first week of working at the Sunflower Café, Sissie goes into the kitchen to take the milk inventory and finds the milkman dead with a knife from the café in his back. Since she is new and no one from Yoder, would ever kill someone, she becomes the prime suspect.

You'll find this an easy read and worth your time. You will find it in the New Book section of the library.

Grandparenting with Grace

by Larry E. McCall

In September Pastor Roger and Ellen began an eight-week small group about Grandparenting with Grace. There are several couples from the Park going and we have been blessed with the content and sharing of our experiences these past couple of weeks.

During these sessions, we review the content from the chapter, discuss what the author is saying and receive strategies to try. It is pleasant with helpful hints.

The lessons cover such topics as developing strong relationships, the importance of prayer, good communication skills, intentional grandparenting, and reaching your grandchild with the gospel. It also covers how to disciple and leave a legacy.

So far, we have learned about unconditionally loving these precious gifts from God, the importance of daily prayer and weekly communication. The book is very down-to-earth, easy reading, and full of practicality. I was very impressed, and it is a valuable asset to our library; located in the New Book section and will be placed in nonfiction 248.8, found in the middle section of the front room.

Gloria Welton
Librarian



2025 CPC Golf Tournaments!

Mark your calendar!

January 17th, 2025

Two-person (men and women) Tournament (18 holes Scramble)! Bring your partner! Men & women divisions. New date (Friday) Start time 10:00 AM

February 21st, 2025

Club Championship Tournament (two flights each for Men & Women (18 holes) (Friday) 10:00 AM start time.

(Note: closest to the pin and longest drive contest will be held as part of the Club Championship)!

March 21st, 2025

Two-person Blind Draw tournament (18 holes) Men & Women Categories (\$50 to each winning team). Plus, names on a trophy in Hood Hall.
(Friday) Shot gun start at 10:00 AM.

April 1st, 2025

Three club Co-Ed tournament (Play your own ball).
(Monday) 18 holes. 10:00 AM

FYI, the above dates are subject to change if they conflict with more important events in the park.



Library2Go

Thursday October 3rd

10 AM to 11 AM

Each stop provides an opportunity to:

- Register or renew a library card.
- Place holds on library materials.
- Pick up materials placed on hold.
- Return library materials.
- Check out from a selection of popular materials: regular print fiction & nonfiction books, large print fiction books, magazines, and DVDs.
- Use wireless Internet access for personal devices.
- Print wirelessly.

Annual Park Christmas Craft and Bake Sale

Friday, Dec 6th
at Hood Hall.

More information to follow.



Thank you,
Becky Smith
231.349.2993

Salvation Army Crafting Event

Join us in Hood Hall

Friday October 18, starting at 1:00 pm

Saturday October 19, starting at 8:00 am

Although all the tables have been spoken for this month, anyone is welcome to come and watch. Also, some of the ladies have things to sell.

All proceeds go to the Salvation Army Transitional Housing Program.

We will be collecting **TOYS** which you can bring to HH anytime during those Two days

Best Regards
Cindy Lower

The Bowling League It's getting closer!

Our next season will start January 7, 2025, the organization meeting will be January 6 at 1pm at Hood Hall. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

The Bowling Alley has a new look, which we are enjoying almost daily.



Barb Hartson, President. bhartson@gmail.com

Shuffleboard

Well, here we are in October. This year is moving by rapidly. Looking forward to resuming a regular schedule as we are now into the Fall Season. The courts are always open, and the pucks will be waxed. We appreciate the people who are members of the shuffleboard Club. Your \$10.00 support per calendar year helps to support the upkeep of the courts and the two (2) annual tournaments.

- The cost per person is \$10.00 per calendar year.
- Visitors or residents, (without an annual pass), may utilize the courts at a cost of \$1.00 per day.
- Annual and daily fees are paid at the Light and Life Park during normal operating hours.
- Children under twelve (12) must be accompanied by an adult.
- Regular Tournament: January 30, 31 and February 3, 2025
- Challenge Tournament: February 27, 28 and March 3, 2025

Thanks,

Bill Sones President

billsones@gmail.com or 717-579-9475



Beautification Committee



Beautification Parade

The Beautification Parade for 2025 will be on the 27th of February.

The theme for the parade will be.
"Individual Entrees Choice".

You decide what you want your theme to be, remembering that the scoring is based on originality, 360-degree visualization, identifiable theme, and an incorporated biblical affirmation.

If you have any questions, contact:

Tom Lake

Laket001@yahoo.com

Beautification Committee President

Newsletter Deadline

Please be sure that your submissions to **The Life and Times** are delivered to the newsletter editor, Barb Hartson by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Please use this email: bfhartson@gmail.com Email is the preferred method.

The November deadline is October 20th unless the activity is in the latter half of the month. Then check with me to see if you can still make it in.

Barb Hartson Editor

Mugs on Monday

We are looking forward to a great season of MUGS ON MONDAY the second and fourth Mondays of each month, **January through March at 8:30 AM in The Hood.**

Everyone is welcome to come fellowship, drink coffee and eat a donut, if you choose.

The purpose is to get together and enjoy our time smiling a lot and getting to know each other better. Come join in.



An Update

Thanks for making Nina Alden's birthday spectacular! Nina received almost **100** birthday cards from family, friends and people she didn't even know! Did you know she was even on TikTok? Thanks again!



Light and Life Free Methodist Church

5730 Deeson Road
Lakeland, FL 33810
Phone: (863) 858-6361
Fax (863) 858-3982
Email: church@llfmc.org

Pastor: Jeff Bellinger
Associate Pastor: Roger Haskins
Secretary: Pam Hill
Email: church@llfmc.org

The Light and Life Church Office Hours

The Church Office will be open
Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9am – 2pm

Pam Hill
Secretary

A Note from our Pastor

⁹ “This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: Judge fairly, show mercy and kindness to one another.¹⁰ Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme against each other.” - Zechariah 7:9-10

Observations:

God’s people were in a mess, living in exile, their beloved temple in ruins, the days of glory and blessing only faintly made out in the “rear view mirror.”

“How do we get out of this mess? Will God ever return to bless us once again?

And God said: “Judge fairly, show mercy and kindness to one another.¹⁰ Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme against each other.”

These words were not spoken to the world or to governments or to rulers.

They are spoken to the people of God...for such a time as this.

Dr. Roger Haskins, Bishop Emeritus

Roger.haskins.jr@gmail.com

585.301.8610 cell (US)



HOME BIBLE STUDY

Come join us in the Church Annex for this informal Bible study. **Everyone is welcome.**

Monday at 2:30

We are currently studying **Romans.**

Cindy Igel: 716-803-3961 Pam Hill: 863-808-3779

Email: church.llfmc.org

Missions Moment

Missionary Prayer Requests

Dennis and Kyle Leon - FM missionaries in Costa Rica making disciples among the surfing community.

Prayer request: They are in need of financial support so that they can continue on with their ministry.

Tim and Kellie Dorr – Wycliffe Bible Translator missionaries serving in Mitla, Mexico.

Prayer request: Pray for their health and the health of the other missionaries that work at the Mexico Center. Many of the missionaries keep getting ill. Some have had to return to the states for a period of time to get well.

Josh and Susy Fajardo – FM missionaries serving in Europe.

Prayer request: Pray for the Holy Spirit's protection and guidance for their ministry.

Tim and Andrea Ullum - New Tribes missionaries serving in Indonesia.

Prayer request: Pray for peace and wisdom as they counsel other missionaries on the field.

Philip and Charity Karnes- Missionary Flights International serving in Haiti, Bahamas, and Dominican Republic.

Prayer request: Pray for their safety.

Michael and Maria Long – FM missionaries serving in Greece.

Prayer request: Pray for the discipleship of baptized Muslim-background believers.

Blessings,

Vonnie Denton

Missions Committee

On Religious Disputes and a "Dead Man Named Jesus" by J.D. Walt

CONSIDER THIS

Thank God for "Roman custom."

Why is it that God's people crucify each other? I suppose it begs the further question, why do God's people crucify God?

Think about it. In the Bible, we see the court systems and process of Rome act far more mercifully and fair and just than do God's own people. Compare the way Jesus was handled by the high priest to the way he was handled by Pontius Pilate. Pilate would have released him. Compare the way Paul was handled by the Sanhedrin to the way he was handled by Felix and Festus and so forth. Felix and Festus found no apparent fault with Paul, yet the Sanhedrin condemned him to death before the trial even began.

Is it any wonder Paul threw himself on the mercy of the court of Caesar? I restate my thesis: the system of Caesar did not kill Jesus or Paul; the processes of his own people did.

If we are honest, it's a short, sad step from the Sanhedrin to the church as relates to the nature of people. How can I say this? Because people are people, it is the broken nature of people to believe rumors, spread gossip, presume guilt, cast judgment, and inflict punishment, and to do it all in the name of justice. I don't think I'm making a stretch when I say that church people can be the absolute worst when it comes to this.

From day one, the Creator God has intended that his created image-bearers do more than bear his name.

J.D. Walt continued

He intends us to reflect his image, embody his character, and literally become mercy at the molecular level—his holy love for his whole creation. This is why at Seedbed we talk about the "whole gospel for the whole world."

While salvation may begin with a decision to trust Jesus if it does not lead to a daily decidedness to belong to Jesus, it will mean less than nothing to the world he came to save. In fact, it will actually be worse for the church because when God's own people do not ever-increasingly reflect the depths of his nature it turns people away from God.

If I'm not doing the gut-wrenching work of actually becoming a Christian, I am among the most dangerous people in any community. I become one of those Christians whose unconverted nature is to believe rumors, spread gossip, presume guilt, cast judgment, and inflict punishment, and do it all over coffee in the name of Jesus. Here's what happens in the wake of such behavior. The watching world can't make heads or tails of what we are about. Look how Festus translated it:

"Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive."

This is why unity matters so much. Hear Jesus out: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20–21).

The converse is also true: Our religious disputes give the watching world the permission to not believe in Jesus. He remains a dead man to them.

It's why we've focused so much on the Holy Spirit these past months. The Holy Spirit is to the process of actually becoming a Christian as oxygen is to the human body. He's that critical.

It's why over and over and over and over we say the prayer.

THE PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Lord Jesus, I am your witness. I long to be like you.

I receive your righteousness and release my sinfulness.

I receive your wholeness and release my brokenness.

I receive your fullness and release my emptiness.

I receive your peace and release my anxiety.

I receive your joy and release my despair.

I receive your healing and release my sickness.

I receive your love and release my selfishness.

Come, Holy Spirit, transform my heart, mind, soul, and strength so that my consecration becomes your demonstration; that our lives become your sanctuary. For the glory of God our Father, amen.

JD Walt

Submitted by Pastor Jeff



Outreach Ministry

This has been an extremely tough Summer.

It has been thanks to donors that we have been able to continue providing food to our neighbors and fellow park members all season. Have you noticed the price increase of milk and eggs? It costs nearly 3 dollars more per family just for these 2 items.

Summer had many people heading to their other homes or taking vacation. I did that too. We are operating weekly with 3 volunteers to pack boxes each Monday. Debbie delivers to folks in the park and Randy has been making multiple trips to deliver 20 boxes outside the park as he is the only one who can lift the boxes.

We have folks that pick up from Publix every morning and some have more than one day. These efforts are greatly appreciated by recipients.

We need volunteers and outside of the box thinkers. How can we make this process the best it can be? Suggestions and help are appreciated.

We have an additional day of Publix food that can be distributed since Feeding Tampa Bay no longer takes Tuesday. This gives us more to distribute locally but means more work. Who do we give it to? That is my sob story appealing for volunteers. Asking for help is very hard for me so please consider what if anything you can do. It could be painting the walk-in cooler, cleaning the pickup plastic racking, packing or distributing food, donating food or funds you name it.

However, if none of these fit you the most important thing to do is to lift up this ministry in your prayers. Prayers essential. Please contact me for specific requests or if you would like a specific name to pray for.

Sometimes we get to help a bit more. One family was provided a microwave they did not ask for, but children talk, and Randy listened. To quote him "but how do you live without microwave popcorn?".

One parent lost their job, and we discovered they had no food in the house on Friday, we distribute on Monday, so we told her we had a bit of food

from supplies that had gone to my house. The shocked expression to see a packed cabinet and full refrigerator. She didn't want her mom to know she asked so I just conveniently had too much. Yes, they even got my open condiments.

The awesome part of this ministry is God blessing our little to make a big impact. People ask: Why do you people give us food? Speaking for myself God blesses me every day, so I like to share. God loves everyone you don't need to be good enough. You can join me on the Jesus team.

Yep, I am the crazy old lady in the park down the road and I love that identity.

Christine Aurich
Villa 15
616-402-8241

**O HOLY GOD, HELP ME
TO OBEY YOU IN FULL
THROUGHOUT MY DAY.**

