

EXCITEMENT IN EKWENDENI

It all started with a Heavenly Father who blessed a congregation with material riches and generous hearts who wanted to give as the Bible prescribes. This giving eventually led to excitement in Ekwendeni.

While there may be many congregations which have had to tighten their budgets because of decreased giving during Covid, we are moving forward in the cause of Christ because you have not only met our budget, but surpassed it! We did not simply want to continue building a cash reserve since the Lord's money should be used in worthy efforts to further His kingdom. Research for a promising work to support began. When a small South African country by the name of Malawi came onto the radar, interest began to build. Excitement increased as research continued.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa, but yet with one of the highest densities of the Lord's church anywhere. Its population totals around 18 million predominantly young people. Having earned the nickname, "The Warm Heart of Africa", it also is one of the safest places in Africa. English is the official language and is taught from primary through secondary grades. On top of all these qualities that would make for profitable missionary efforts, it was discovered that Bear Valley has a preaching school in the northern region, 12 miles north of Mzuzu, near the town of Ekwendeni. They currently have 19 students, entering into their second and final year of studies. The school has been there for 6 years and hopes are to put down permanent roots. Through the course of their studies, they conduct evangelistic campaigns in the area. **Last year there were 202 bap-**

tisms and 36 restorations! The graduates of the program serve the host of congregations there and continue evangelizing their communities. After multiple contacts with stateside directors, we are convinced that the potential there is nearly unlimited. The school's highly trusted, on-site director is a Tanzanian master's program graduate of the Bear Valley branch in neighboring Tanzania. We want to help relieve the budget restraints that the school is under so they can fully maximize the potential there. The whole school is currently being operated on \$2,000 per month, which includes student support, salaries for teachers, rent, and utilities!! The U.S. dollar goes a long way there. We want to help train preachers to reach their own people. This is why there is excitement in Ekwendeni! This is why there should be excitement among us here at Hillcrest! As of this week, Hillcrest support has begun for this tremendous work.

The Lord's kingdom knows no borders, recognizes no international boundaries. That's why programs like WBS, support for faithful preachers in Honduras, and now, helping to train preachers to reach the citizens of Malawi is so important! Keep reaching out to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers here. Keep living a Christ-like example that can be so attractive to those around you. Jesus' gospel is just as powerful as ever and our responsibility to share it is just as necessary. "...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who disbelieves shall be condemned." Mark 16:15-16.

Tim Murray

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Rick Hyder
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Charles Collinsworth
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Website



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Steve and Judy Bryan, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Steve and Irma Cornell, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Wilbur Dabbs, Jaiden Fisher, Betty Fogarty, Vern Foster, Joe and Teresa Freund, Gael Jackson, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Monwell Magee, Sherry Merrill, Mebyl Privett, Andy Rasbury, Baelyn Rasbury, Rylee Schroeder, Edith Toney.

Cheryl Williamson fell on Wednesday and broke her ankle. She had surgery on Friday and is home recovering.

Congratulation and Welcome: Sylaia Keith was born on Saturday to Taylor and Victoria. Sophie is the big sister. Her grandparents are Jason and Sarah Giebler. We welcome her to our church family.



every **ONE** counts!

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts is canceled for this Tuesday morning due to wintry conditions. 

This Sunday's edition of the **bulletin** is being sent to you early, electronically, since there will be no church on Sunday due to the weather and the 'skating rink' we usually call our parking lot. Be safe.



Today's Sermons

A.M. 10:00 - Caleb Boggs

P.M. 6:00 - Zane Berner

Join us **Sunday** morning at 10:00 am on Youtube (you can assess it from the website). Caleb Boggs will be presenting the lesson. Sunday evening at 6:00, you will have the opportunity to hear Zane Berner.

Tri-State Youth Series has been canceled for this month.

The **elder-led family prayer** time on Thursday evening at 7:00 on Facebook Live will be lead by Bill Reiboldt.

If you did not pick up your copy of the new **Hillcrest Ministries Manual**, it is on the table in the foyer. Please complete the involvement form and return it to the office or welcome desk. You will be contacted by the ministry leaders so that everyone can be involved in the work of this congregation. Make sure to mark all areas where you would like to participate, even those where you are currently serving.

Guys Night and **H.O.P.E.** will meet February 23. More details coming soon.

You are invited to a **celebrate** with Mike Kidwell on his retirement. There will be a come and go reception on Saturday, February 27 from 1:00-3:00 in the activities center.

Ladies' Seminar is March 12-13. Donna Faughn will be speaking on "Shelter in a Time of Storm". There are flyers on the welcome desk. Invite your friends and coworkers.

A **welcome basket** will be prepared for our Ladies' Seminar speaker, Donna Faughn. If you can help with this, please give cash donations to Coralee.

Pray for everyone's safety in this wintry weather. Join us Sunday online.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

This Wednesday

AM Opening Prayer:
AM Closing Prayer
Communion Prayers:

Announcements: Stuart Anderson
Singing: Casey Flint
Invitation: Carl Cobb

PM Opening Prayer:
PM Closing Prayer:

Opening Prayer: Rick Hyder
Closing Prayer: Harold Speir

RECORDS

2-7-21

2-7-20

Bible Study	102	162
AM Worship	154	216
PM Worship	63	157
Wednesday	110	snow
Contribution	\$7,917.91	\$9,051.93
Budget	\$8,000.00	\$7,864.15