

DISCIPLE DIGEST

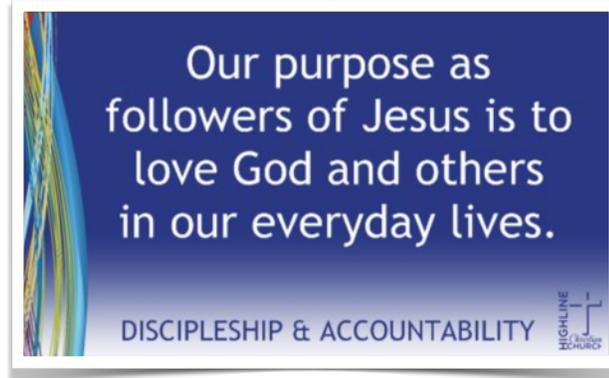
Highline Christian Church, 14859 1st Avenue South, Burien

Help Wanted!



The Elementary Ministry is in need of an occasional volunteer that can do Sign Language.

If you know some basic signs and would be available at the 10:40 service if a student needs support, please contact Katie Taylor at katie@highlinechristian.org.



Third Saturday Church Work Party

January 15th
8:30-Noon



All are invited to join us for the Third Saturday Work Party. We will be doing general grounds maintenance & fix-its and could use your help. Meet us here in the HCC Parking lot. For questions, contact Gregg at 206-391-0113

Food for Thought

The mind justifies what the heart has chosen.



Training Not Trying

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2022. At this time of year it is common to reflect on your life and to make plans, goals, wishes, dreams, and resolutions for yourself in the new year to come. I'm sure you are also aware of the many different studies that show how few people actually stick to their new year's resolutions past the first couple of weeks. It's a sad but true fact that many, myself included, have set new resolutions for better health, new habits, a deeper spiritual life, and so on only to miss a few days and end up giving up on the new and returning to the old way of life. This is not a good situation for any of us, especially in the realm of our spiritual formation.

Before moving on, let's go back to reflecting on our spiritual life, or as Pastor Tim preaches about, life in the Kingdom of God today. As children of God who live in His strong and unshakeable Kingdom, we should be ever growing in our relationship with God. How well do you know the Father? (John 17:3) In what ways are you growing in following the example of Jesus? (John 13:15, 34) Do you have ears to hear the gentle leading of Holy Spirit inviting you to join in kingdom living? (John 16:13) Are you living more like a child of God now than you were a year ago? (Romans 12) Did you read more, or more deeply, the written word than you

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Training Not Trying...

did the year before? How much of the word did you hide in your heart so you wouldn't sin against God this past year? (Psalm 119) These are not questions to make us feel guilty or to cause us to be afraid. They are questions to help you reflect on your spiritual life in a real way. Too often we come to Jesus for salvation and assume we will automatically be transformed and have a better, or more godly life. The reality is transformation is not automatic and it doesn't just happen with the passing of time, with church attendance, or more information.

Here are a couple more questions to think about as you reflect:
 What do you think and/or feel about Jesus?
 What do you think Jesus might think/feel about you?
 Are you happy with the person you are/are becoming?
 What are you gaining by staying the way you are?
 What would you need to give up in order for you to change/grow?
 At the end of the year when you ask yourself these questions, what do you want the answers to be?

Now, how are we going to change? If the majority of people who set new year's resolutions drop their resolutions a couple of weeks in to the new year, how are we going to go about transformation all year? Try harder? Nope. I'm sure most of us have been told to "just try harder" before. For some things we may be able to accomplish something if we try harder, but this is not going to be the solution to our transformation. Think you can? Though that made for a good slogan for the little train that could, just thinking you can do something is not going to do it either. There are some things you just can't think yourself into no

matter how much you think about or want it. Spiritual formation, growth into the likeness of Jesus requires training into a life of training to become like Jesus. This training process is something that is done in partnership with the leading of Holy Spirit as He reveals opportunities for us to grow and change; I suppose we could call Holy Spirit our Trainer. Training with Holy Spirit requires discipline, time, commitment, and consistency. Although our Christian life is an every day moment by moment kind of living, formation and growth may not be every day at first. This is a relationship not a law so treat your relationship with Holy Spirit as a best friend you want to be with rather than a law you have to obey.

One area of the training process is learning through biblical study, classes, conferences, books, videos, podcasts, sermons, and more. William Paul Young states "Teachability is allowing what is being communicated to challenge what we assume to be true already. We need to let what is being communicated come in and speak to us. We do not need to accept it, but we do need to engage with it." Be open to what Holy Spirit is teaching you through your studies, think through things especially if those things challenge things you already think. You do not need to accept everything but you do need to be open to change as the spirit leads.

Another area of training is practicing, or spiritual training exercises. We are not formed by information alone, we must put ourselves in learning environments where we can practice Christlikeness. Spiritual training exercises help us partner with Holy Spirit to bodily train our faith. Faith is to be lived out, there is no way to separate our everyday lives from our lives in Jesus, therefore we need to begin intentionally practicing the Jesus way of living in our everyday lives.

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Training Not Trying...

A third area of training is community. Something most people who succeed at their new year resolutions has in common is accountability; they don't try to accomplish change alone. Jesus did not invite us into an individual faith, we are invited into a faith community, a new family. We need each other for fellowship and for accountability.

As you reflect on your life from this past year and what you desire for your life in the year to come, I encourage you to also think about and pray for people to partner with in your training this year. May you be blessed as you partner with Holy Spirit and a few other faithful followers in your training in righteousness this year.

(Spiritual Formation points adapted from *The Good and Beautiful God* discipleship series by James Bryan Smith. I lead this series on a regular basis. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the next cohort.)

Moment by moment with
Jesus,
Bret Thorson

The Christmas Tree Stand

The CHRISTMAS TREE STAND was a SUCCESS once again!!

2021 was another successful year for the Christmas tree stand. We only had 300 trees to sell this year (we usually sell around 600). We opened the stand the day after Thanksgiving (as usual) and had all our trees sold by the end of Sunday 10 days later. We were open the same number of days as last year. Our profit to be shared among short term mission projects was a few dollars under \$10,000.00. FABULOUS!!



Once again things were different due to Covid but many things were the same and it was just as fun as ever. Our sales were strong from the first day of opening and never really let up until we were out of trees. The tree stand is only successful each year because of many of you!! We were able to share the excitement of Jesus, Christmas, family and "Church" at Highline Christian Church. THANK YOU!! Once again special THANKS to: Santa John for once again being at the stand each day and Tony B was there most days to open the stand and work a shift (or three) - THANK YOU!! To the others of you that took time to "work" the stand - THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU!! To the crews that took the time to make the trip to Onalaska and back to pick up and deliver trees. To the many others that set the stand up and then took it down before the rains hit - THANK YOU!!

MAY JESUS, the baby of Christmas and our Resurrected LORD and King be lifted up and shared by all our efforts this year!!

May you have a BLESSED and MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Young Adults

Our Young Adults meet every Thursday 7:30 - 9PM and we would love for you to help us get the word out! YA is open for 18 - 28 year olds who are looking to worship, build community and grow with other believers! We play games, pray together, worship together and of course have good Bible teaching that is Christ - centered, focusing on the important things of life, we meet in the South building, Youth and Young Adults Worship Center, 3rd floor. We did take the last three weeks of December off but start back January 6th.

Youth

We took the last three weeks of Wednesday night Youth services' off for students to finish school and enjoy family and/or friends. We start back up January 5th!

Our last event of 2021 was a Christmas movie night.

The Christmas party was a blast, 35 + students with tons of desserts, coffee, Italian sodas, hot chocolate, etc. It was a lot of fun! We had several games with marshmallows, a scavenger hunt and Christmas dancing. Such a great way to end the year with our Youth ministry.



SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, January 22nd, 8AM - 10PM | Leavenworth Day Trip

Wednesday, January 26th, 6:30 - 8:30PM | Encounter Night (During Youth Group hours)

February 18th - 20th | High School Winter Camp at Lakeside Bible Camp

March 4th - 6th | Jr. High Winter Camp at Lakeside Bible Camp

Early Childhood & Early Elementary

Elementary News:

Our Wednesday Night group will begin back in January for students in 3rd through 6th Grade. We will start on January 5th from 6:30-8:00. Doors will open at 6:00. Wednesday nights are a deeper dive study for students to engage with God's word in a different way. We will be learning to use our Bibles well!

Save the Date:

On Presidents Day Weekend, February 18-21, Students in 4th through 6th Grade have the opportunity for a weekend retreat at Pleasant Valley Christian Camp. Camp begins at 3:00. (Many local schools are out that Friday, but come late if you cannot get there at 3:00) Parents will be transporting students to camp due to health screens at the check in.

Registration is coming soon!



We have spent the month of December looking at the Nativity! We have made many ornaments and crafts to help remember what our lessons were on. As we move into January, the Elementary kids will be continuing to match what the adults are hearing in the main worship center. The Early Childhood (for both services) and the Elementary kids (at the 10:40) will be continuing with the Big God Story. We will do a Remember and Celebrate in January and review our lessons on the Mosaic Covenant through the Nativity, then we will go back to the Old Testament and continue learning about God's Chosen People.

We had our Family Christmas Night and there were some amazing gingerbread houses built! We enjoyed our time laughing and playing Minute to Win it! We ended our evening with a Christmas Devotion and declared who Jesus

is! The children said that Jesus is our Savior, Jesus is love, and Jesus is our light! We will do another family night in a few months!





Operation Christmas Child

In case you missed the great Operation Christmas Child news last month, we are pleased to announce that Highline Christian contributed **681** boxes to children worldwide. The gift-filled shoeboxes that were packed will share God's love in a tangible way and can impact not only the child who receives it, but also their family, friends, and community.

I found out that my box for a girl was sent to **Madagascar** and that my box for a boy was sent to **Ecuador**. Another family at Highline had their box sent to **Ecuador** too! If you find out where your box was sent, I'd love to know.

Most importantly, please remember to **pray for the child** who will receive your gift.

We are already beginning to collect items for the 2022 Operation Christmas Child boxes. It can be helpful to be a year-round shopper for the boxes because you can find good deals and you can spread out your own finances, I suggest looking at After-Christmas sales for some great items that children would enjoy. Below you will find a guide to what we are focusing on collecting for this year, but feel free to purchase and donate almost any item on any month. (Please don't buy soap or batteries too early. They don't store well for a whole year).

January: Socks (for girls or boys that will fit children ages 2 - 14)

February: Toys for Girls (ages 2-14)

March: Toys for Boys (ages 2-14)

April: Dolls and Stuffed Animals (sized to fit in a shoebox)

May: Soccer Balls & Pumps

JUNE: Toothbrushes

JULY: Wash Cloths & Bar Soap

AUGUST: Flashlights and Batteries

September: School Supplies

October: Full Boxes

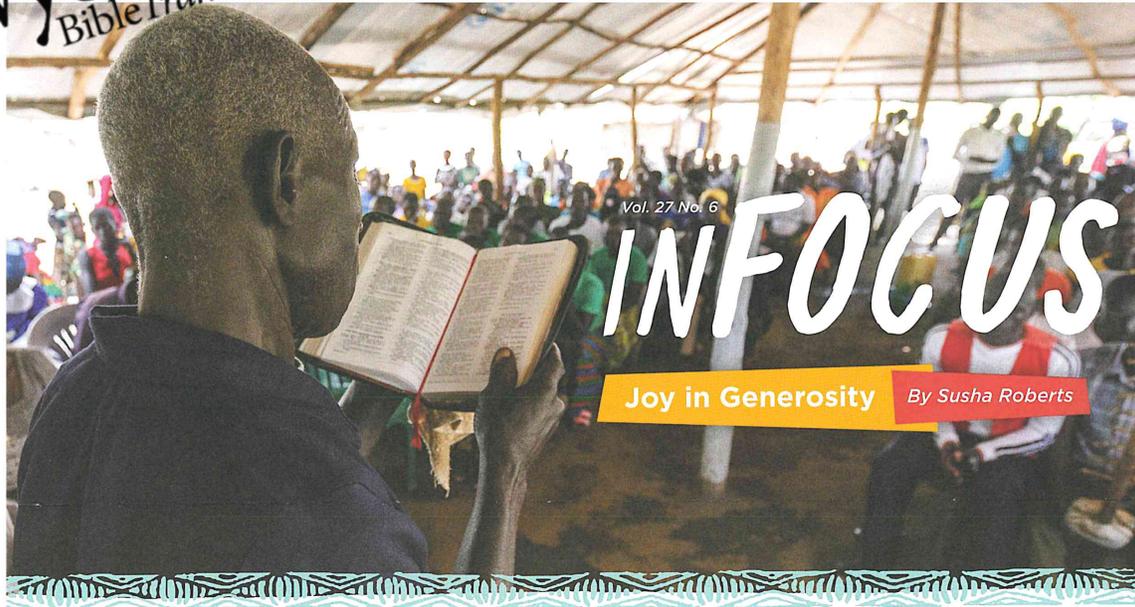
November: Full Boxes

Thank you! If you have any questions about Operation Christmas Child, please contact Tammie Lindblom at 253-670-2386.



World Outreach

Wycliffe®
Bible Translators



The service is packed. Men, women and children — well over 100 people — are sitting in plastic patio chairs and on long wood beams in an open-sided tent made of plastic tarps and branches. More people look in at every opening. And around the circumference a larger crowd is seated under any shade available.

For the Keliko people of South Sudan, church is a joyful gathering of believers.

The newly translated Keliko New Testament is read, prayers are uttered, announcements made, sermons given and worship exuberantly led by the youth and accompanied by spontaneous dance. And of course, like most churches around the world, this church takes an offering.

But what exactly do people living in this refugee settlement give to the Lord?

Everything.

When the offering begins, worship and dancing resume. People get out of their seats and dance to the front of the church. They cheerfully put whatever they can into a wide, bowl-shaped basket held by a child.

According to translator Bishop Seme Nigo Abiuda, everyone in the church desires to give something: Many sell portions of their food rations or take small jobs in the host community in order to give back to the Lord.

Some who have no way to make money still come forward in the same fashion: dancing, singing and smiling. But then they do something unexpectedly beautiful — they joyfully bend toward the offering basket, stretching their empty hands into it. It's a simple but sacred gesture that can't be overlooked. Perhaps from the depth of their hearts these worshippers are saying, "If I had something to give, I would place it here."

Even deeper than that, their actions demonstrate a life that is all in for the Kingdom of God. This generosity among the Keliko believers doesn't end with a church service or translation work. They live out a culture of hospitality for guests and each other. After church, resources are pooled and willing hands join together to provide a community-wide picnic — a love feast resembling the fellowship of the early believers in Acts 2:42-47.

Whether at tea during a literacy class or a large gathering, the Keliko spread out table covers and set meals out with care. There are moments that you feel, as they're making the best of whatever food is available, that there's a very special guest in attendance. And there is.

The King of Kings is there among them.

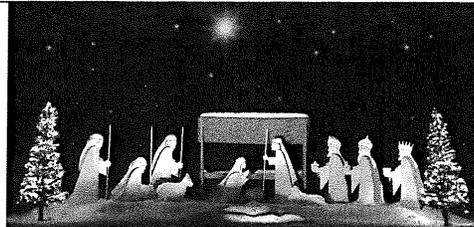
Community Outreach



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www.AudioBookMinistries.org

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Winter 2021



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14

Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Together, we are keeping the mission of our organization alive. Because of you, we can continue to give hope to those who use our services, especially during the holiday season. Christmas is a special time of the year where families come together and celebrate long-standing family traditions as well as the birth of Jesus. During this season we hear joyful songs, eat festive foods, and enjoy all the lights that remind us of Jesus, the light of the world. It is a magical time of the year for many.

As we celebrate Christmas we find ourselves grateful for you. Because of you, we are continuing to accomplish a great deal. We are serving more patrons, producing more frequent newsletters, creating more fundraising opportunities within the Seattle – Tacoma area, and continuing to revamp our database system to better serve our organization.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, we want to thank you for always being there for AudioBook Ministries. Our future looks bright and we are hopeful for a healthier 2022. We pray that we all find peace, comfort, joy, and good health during this holiday season.

Many blessings to you and your families,

Martin Moore, Executive Director

Community Outreach



December 2021

Dear Care Net of Puget Sound Family,

It is the end of 2021 and Christmas is upon us. What joy it is to remember that the Savior of the world came to us as a newborn baby. Our trust is in Him and, in this ministry, we all strive to do His work, His way, and for His glory. You are an integral part of God's work through Care Net. You have helped Care Net of Puget Sound bring rest and security to mothers, fathers, and families facing difficult situations.

One client who was blessed through your support (we'll call her Jocelyn) came into our center to find out for certain if she was pregnant. She already had an appointment scheduled for an abortion at a local clinic. We listened to Jocelyn's story of heartache and abuse. Her family situation was toxic, and she thought the best solution to this unplanned pregnancy would be to save this child from being brought into such a dysfunctional world. However, when she came to our center, she found hope—hope that her family's history didn't need to be her story and hope that she had the resources and support she needed to bring her child into a safe, loving home.

Your efforts this year have made stories like Jocelyn's possible. You have enabled Care Net to continue essential services in our medical clinics, while re-introducing our family support services as COVID restrictions have relaxed. And that is only the beginning.

Healing Tide: As you know, our Healing Tide program offers support for women and men who have had an abortion experience. Over the past few years, we have been researching, developing curriculum, and preparing to expand our Healing Tide program to serve clients grieving all types of pregnancy loss. Now women who've lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS or an adverse pregnancy diagnosis can find support at Care Net. We recently finished a pilot group to test these new program offerings and received very favorable reviews and the feedback we need to launch this program before the end of this year.

Smart Programs: Our school presentations were presented virtually throughout the spring of this year. This new strategy for presentations has enabled us to reach far more students in each school than in previous years. In one school, we gave three presentations, presenting to over 300 students instead of the 50-60 students we would normally reach in person.

Puyallup Center: Due to a generous grant, our board made the decision to pay off the mortgage on our new Puyallup center in June rather than over the next two years. This made it possible for us to utilize what would have been monthly mortgage payments for program enhancements and



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Community Outreach ~ Care Net continued...

other equipment that was needed. In August of this year, the patio was completed at the new location giving the property an atmosphere of rest and peace. We are full of gratitude for all those who supported us through the Puyallup building project.

2021 Fundraising: During the COVID pandemic, we safely held numerous fundraisers both in-person and virtually. We held three baby bottle campaigns, a Light & Life Celebration Dinner (online and in seven local churches), and the most well-attended and successful Swing for Life Golf Tournament we've ever had! The Lord's people continue to support Care Net in so many ways and we are thankful.

Increased Clients: Through working with Vitae Foundation and other marketing agencies, we are seeing far more abortion-minded and abortion-determined patients this year. We've also expanded our client communications to now include texting which has opened many more opportunities to serve women and men throughout their decision-making process. The abortion pill reversal protocol is in operation and we are grateful for our medical professionals' involvement in this new program.

Afghan Refugee Support: We put out a call for help as our Federal Way, Auburn, and Kent communities saw an influx of refugees from Afghanistan. Our Federal Way center became a hub for refugee mothers and their small children to find support services, parenting classes, and referrals in the area for other necessary support. This too was made possible and continues to be possible through the generosity of donors, churches, and agencies. What a blessing to share God's love for young children in this way.

The future is bright and we will keep our eyes fixed on the Creator of life while carrying on His work with you for unborn children and their parents.

Every one of us involved in this ministry will truly never know the impact of our efforts until we meet our Lord in eternity. How like Him to let us live with the knowledge that our greatest gifts are not of this world. God bless your Christmas and may our Lord give you His greatest gift—more of Himself—in the year to come. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, and the volunteers at Care Net of Puget Sound, we thank you.

With joy and gratitude,



Kim Triller
Executive Director



Prayer Request



If you have a prayer request our Prayer Team would like to pray for you.

You may enter your prayer request through our APP, the [HUB](#), or by email at office@highlinechristian.org.

How Are You?

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those



experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation and more.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

If you would like to receive a Stephen Minister or would like more information regarding Stephen Ministry please contact the church office by [email](#) or phone, 206-243-4333.



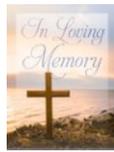
Congratulations New Member by Baptism



Michael Kemplin

In Loving Memory

Ted Lawrence moved on from this life into the presence of our Lord and Savior December 8th, 2021. Please remember his daughter Lori and family in your prayers.



Worship Service Times

Saturdays - **6:00pm**
Sundays - **9:00am & 10:40am**

Contact Us

Phone:
206.243.4333

Website:
highlinechristian.org

Email:
office@highlinechristian.org

Office Hours

Sunday - Wednesday 8:30-2:30
(Out for lunch 12pm - 1pm)
Thursday 8:30-Noon

Next eNewsletter Deadline

January 16, 2022

Sunday, January 23rd HCC Outreach Dinner Transform Burien



Serve a meal and provide food and clothing services to those in need in our community.

The 4th Sunday of each month:

2:30 to 3:30 PM - Set Up and Serve
3:30 to 5:00 PM - Serve
4:45 to 5:45 PM - Clean Up

Opportunities:

Set Up
Kitchen-Cook/Prep
Meal Server
Food Bank
Clothing Bank
Hall Monitor
Prayer and Conversation with Attendees
Clean Up

Location:

Sunnydale School
15623 Des Moines Mem Dr
Burien WA

Contact

Don Berg
206-243-4333

2021-2022 Elders



Bruce Ernst, Elder Chair



David Cowan



Les Fader



Tim Knight



Konrad Lindblom



Gregg Louvier



Dave Rogge



Paul Smith



Bret Thorson

HCC Staff



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