

Happy Church

January Newsletter

Hello all, and Happy New Year! We are feeling incredibly blessed in this new year and looking forward to all the amazing things the Lord is doing in our midst. Here are a few updates and prayer requests!

Christmas Party

God is so good. The Christmas party was so sweet. We had a great turnout. Last year, many presents were not distributed due to lack of attendance. This year we were able to give out most of the gifts and even handed out additional gifts to give to children who came the day-of without signing up. The gym was packed. There were so many little girls that wanted to participate in the play, as angels, that we ran out of wings and halos. So many excited voices filled the gym that our speakers could hardly carry Pastor Mike's voice to the back of the room as he told the children that "Jesus loves you!" and yelled "3, 2, 1!" Wrapping paper was immediately flying through the air. So many generous gifts. So many children were blessed. To everyone who participated in making this event possible, thank you. Thank you for giving so generously. Thank you for your time. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40



Christmas Food Boxes



We were able to pass out 100 Christmas food boxes this year! So many families were blessed! Big thanks to all the volunteers that helped pack and distribute the boxes!

Clayhole Updates

Huge amounts of progress have been made on the parsonage at Clayhole. We are so thankful that some FEMA money did come through. We are planning to host future services at the Clayhole location in the trailer since it will be all shiny and new! Please pray that the Lord would provide vision and volunteers for this branch of the Happy Church ministry. Our Clayhole congregation currently consists of about 7 adults and anywhere from 10-35 children. It is so clear that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Please pray that the Lord will sustain us and help us to run and not grow weary.

Teen Night

No big updates on teen night, but we would love to request prayer. Please pray that the Lord softens hearts. We know that the Word does not go out and come back void. Please pray that the

Lord would bless the time that Alan pours into these teens on Wednesday nights. The same 5-6 teens attend most weeks. They can be a rowdy bunch and attention spans are short. We would love a few extra hands to volunteer consistently each week to help keep everyone together.

Kids Night

We have been so blessed that Oakdale has taken on and hosted Kids Night for us while Mike and Connie are on sabbatical. Our volunteers still bus the kids in, but Oakdale has taken the reins on the rest. This has provided us (and our tireless volunteers, who volunteer almost every single Thursday) with some much needed respite. Huge thanks to Oakdale for supporting Happy Church during this time!

Mike and Connie Update

In the midst of their first, and, according to Mike, “probably only”, sabbatical, they are resting and engaging some supporting ministries that



happen to be in warmer climates.

😊 Our friends at As God Leads (AGL) ministries are friends of Dr. David Bruce who is running Billy Graham Library and archives. This is DrBruce giving us a tour of the Billy Graham

archives.

One of the ministries of AGL is an impoverished child ministry that we love. Pastor Mike told the story of Jonah and had the kids do fish impressions with him.

“This really took us back to when our ministry started 22 years ago” both Mike and Connie agreed.



We have visited four churches/ministries that are connected with the Happy Church.



Pastor Mike is looking to better himself as a person during this time away and one way is that he is limiting himself to one cup of coffee per day.

😊 They will be back in March and

have plans to visit more friends and contacts of the Happy Church. Please pray they have a great time of refreshment, spiritual growth, and a refocused vision of what God may have in store for the Happy Church.

Allie and Alan Update

We are just taking things one day at a time, and looking forward to meeting our son soon! I am currently 33 weeks pregnant. Mike Shepherd just helped us run water and electric upstairs so that we can install a stacking washer and dryer upstairs. Navigating a spiral staircase with a

laundry basket is always an adventure. Feeling super blessed and can't wait to finish this project. 😊 We would greatly appreciate prayers for a healthy baby and the remainder of this pregnancy. I have struggled with hypertension at the end of my pregnancies and we are just praying that will not be an issue this time around. Also, feeling super blessed that Ned Denlinger and John Jacobson will be coming down these next few weeks to help Alan with preaching!

More to come in February! Your thoughts and prayers are so appreciated. Check out the next page for more photos from the Christmas party! There were so many sweet pictures that I couldn't fit them all in. God bless!



