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Issue
Summer
2021



An Insight to the Gilkey's Journey: Living in God's Purpose

Moved on **FAITH**



Pictures



What Now?

Continuing in our journey...

In our previous newsletter we shared that we were at the end of our journey in school at S.I.B.I. We were about done with classes and preparing for finals and graduation events. The celebrations to close out our time in Lubbock, TX were memories that will forever be cherished and etched in our memories. We are so thankful and feel extremely blessed for the opportunities given to us over the last couple of years. We intend to take what we have gained and share it with others. In case you missed our last newsletter, we are presently serving the Riverwalk Church of Christ, in downtown Wichita, Kansas. C.J. is serving as the youth minister and myself as the children's ministry director. Our goal is not only to teach and promote the spiritual growth of the children and youth but also to provide resources and connect with the parents as well. Spiritual formation begins at home and the spiritual foundation is stronger if it is emphasized in the home. Children and Youth ministries are there to help guide, support and reinforce. We are so excited to continue getting to know the families that are presently at Riverwalk as well as those families who we will meet along the way.

Our intent is to send newsletters to those who wish to still follow our family and journey in the life of ministry. I can't guarantee that these newsletters will frequent but my aim is to at least send updates once a quarter with the hopes of perhaps from time to time sending one between the gaps. Though I am no longer busy writing 12-page papers with various other assignments, I must be transparent and realistic. These newsletters may not come at the beginning of every quarter, they just might be sporadic. Business still has a way of finding me. However, it is our desire to allow those who supported us along the way to know just how fruitful the financial assistance, prayers, encouragement and even our S.I.B.I. family that poured into us has been. We are so excited to see how God continues to work in our lives and the lives of all those we meet along the way. God is good!

C.J. and the Youth Ministry



C.J. has been teaching the youth on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. He has been going through lessons that the teens can apply directly in their lives. As a congregation we have been studying Psalm 23 on Sundays. Each Sunday we look at one verse, so this is what C.J. has been basing his Sunday morning classes on. Last Wednesday evening, he did a lesson over Genesis and the Creation and how we should be mindful of taking care of the earth and all that we are given. The youth then joined up with the children and went outside to pick up trash on the church grounds. It is C.J.'s desire to encourage and teach the youth to constantly be mindful of others. God created us to be in community, but we live such individualistic lives because of the culture of today.

We are all excited to be taking about 10 teens to a youth rally in Neosho, MO called Jumpstart. It will be the first youth trip since we have been here. I'll get to reminiscence a little bit since it is an event that I attended a couple of times as teenager myself.

All About our Kids

Christopher has had a wonderful summer. He has been enjoying spending time with family as well as his free time. He was able to attend church camp (Camp Connect held at OCU campus) for the first time ever. He had a blast! So far, he loves his new school and his teacher. Some things that he is presently filling his time with: Learning sign language, YMCA basketball, and art.

Jon started Pre-K!! Such a bittersweet moment for this mama. He did not want me taking pictures on the first day. However, I think he is enjoying going to school and making friends. All I can get out of him when I ask him about his day is that they went to the park. 😊 Go figure! Jon has been spending his time playing and practicing basketball any chance he gets! We signed him up for the YMCA league for his age. He can't wait to start practicing and playing games. He also has new soccer shoes that he is waiting to use on a "real" team as he says. We hit a fun milestone with him- Jon taught himself how to ride a bike without training wheels! He wouldn't let us help or assist him at all. We weren't even allowed to touch the bike. He did it! And I am in awe of his determination!

Joy has had a blossoming personality. She's starting to hold conversations. She loves to clean; I hope this is a love that sticks! 😊 She also absolutely adores following and interacting with her brothers.



Children's Ministry



I have spent the summer getting to know families and trying to make sure I know which kids belong to which families. I've had the luxury of having the retiring Children's Minister around this summer and he has been a huge source of knowledge and advice.

At the very beginning of summer, I had the opportunity to take 4 of our boys to a church camp in Edmond, OK on Oklahoma Christian University's campus called Camp Connect. The kids had a blast. It was such a great time and I hope that in the years to come we will be able to take more of our children along.

I've spent most of the summer looking at possible curriculum, putting together lessons for the fall, organizing, and reading. My hope for this ministry is to be able to not only teach the children but also encourage parents and families to study the Word of God together. Truth is, I only will see these children about 2-3 hours per week. Majority of the children will spend most of their time at school and home. My desire is to provide resources throughout the week and videos that the kids can watch throughout the week that will continue to guide them in learning more about God and our Savior outside of the church building walls.

Note of Encouragement...

We have spent the last couple of weeks calling and video chatting our S.I.B.I. brothers and sisters and it has been necessary! We were in a spiritual "bubble" for two years. We were with people who loved studying the Word of God just as much as we did. We were with people who would engage in spiritual and biblical conversations at the drop of hat. We were with fellow Biblical students 24/7. It was amazing!

However, leaving that has also left us facing reality and really missing the environment we were in. However, the truth is that we were not meant to remain in that bubble. In fact, no Christian is meant to remain in the "Christian Bubble" 24/7, we were meant to go out into the world and spread the Good News. That task is challenging, why? Because there are so many obstacles that lie in the way.

When you attempt ministering and serving strangers, in today's world you have that obstacle of building trust. We live in a society that has become so leery of trusting others, and rightfully so. But trust takes time to build, so we must be patient. What about attempting to minister and serve family and friends? There are obstacles there as well! I think the obstacles that come with family can be proven to be the most difficult at times. Mainly, because they are the ones that throughout life, we may have shared some of life's greatest and most precious moments and so we desperately wish to share in those intimate spiritual moments as well. Those spiritual moments that give us a glimpse and taste of eternity.

However, we must come to acceptance and understand not everyone will choose Jesus and not everyone will walk in the light in the same way or at the same speed. Realizing this and remaining steadfast while working in the world requires us to check-in with those who are "all-in" on this journey of faith. This is where the importance of fellowship among the saints comes in to play. It is necessary and helps us in remaining steadfast.

I am grateful that we have strong relationships with fellow saints that we can turn to who help us remain encouraged. My prayer for you all is that you are apart of a body of believers that you can call your family, a body of believers that you trust to walk alongside you in **all** areas of your life, and a body of believers that will love you, encourage you, and even correct you in the same way that Paul loved, encouraged, and corrected the 1st century church.

If there is anything that my husband or I can assist or encourage you in, please don't hesitate to reach out to us!

May God continue to bless you all! Love from our family to yours!

~C.J. & Alaina Gilkey



Scriptures:

"5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one purpose and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:5-7 (NASB)

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The Gilkey
Chronicles

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