

We are a church with one mission: to grow followers of Jesus through grateful worship, genuine community, and generous service to each other and our world. We believe by loving God and loving people we can have an impact that really matters, and would like to tell you more about that. If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing with us, or just have some questions, **fill out the contact card** or ask the person next to you. **Please feel free to call or email too if you have any questions.**

FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

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GOD'S FAMILY TIMES

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—9:30 am Sunday

WORSHIP
Building—10:30 am Sunday

GROWTH GROUPS
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday
Irwin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—7 pm Wednesday

Family Covered Dish Dinner: TODAY after services.

Family Game Night: Friday March 17th at 7 p.m. at the building. Bring snacks and drinks to share and your favorite game. Please note time change from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Dinner before Class: Wednesday March 29th at 6 p.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan on attending and what food item you can bring to share.

Check your mailboxes for new phone lists and address sheets. Please edit these and let Paula know if there are any errors to your phone number or address so that we know that they are accurate.

Communion preparers needed for July and December. Also people to coordinate the Wednesday meal before class are also needed from April forward. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can serve the body in one of these ways.

Please remember to give your Betikara donations directly to Sally Duriez if you desire to help with the monthly support of our lamb, Toavina.

<u>Happy Birthday</u>	<u>Happy Anniversary</u>
3/1 Sharon Mack	3/15 Ray & Fay Umbaugh
3/11 Cliff Brown	
3/17 Marvel Fasanya	
3/19 Carol Morandi-Delimpo & Callie Grose	
3/20 Gary Minser	
3/21 Ray Umbaugh	
3/24 Paula Irwin	
3/28 Ron Duriez & Alexis Stutzman	

Announcements for family news can be written on the back of an attendance card and placed in the collection basket or a hand written note can be given to

Doug, Paula, or CJ.

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

March 12, 2017

Making Connections with Scattered People--How can we reach the immigrants in our community? By Sadiri Joy Tira

I regularly frequent the coffee shop in my neighborhood. True, I can have a cup of coffee at home. Why then do I head out to the coffee shop on a near daily basis?

As I write this post, I have already said “good morning” to some other morning regulars of our neighborhood café—a couple of middle-aged South Asians and a table of South Americans. “Good to see you again. How is life?”

It may seem easy to connect with the “scattered people,” but I have often heard the question, “How can we reach the immigrants in our community?”

To clarify, migrants are ‘scattered people’; some are voluntarily, while many are involuntarily. For this post, I refer to international or global migrants or ‘externally-displaced’ people; however, every community has internally-displaced people who must also be reached. Immigrants are specifically people who have arrived in a country from another country.

So what do we have to do to reach people in our community? Allow me to propose three initial steps:

1--Ask God for open eyes, an open heart, and open arms. Obvious? It is unfortunate that this step is often overlooked, but it is the most important. How can we propose to reach others with the love of Jesus Christ if we have not been inspired to do so? We will need to seek the heart of Jesus before moving on to the next steps.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nathan Irwin and family as they are in Lyon, France for language training, and for the direction of the Lord in their search for new teammates, a place to settle and a purpose for their mission among the Muslim world.
- For Mary Fasanya's asylum request to be granted and for the girls as they are in the USA without their husband and father. Also for Ezekiel as he is in Nigeria without his wife and daughters.
- For Mayleen Niehenke's visa approval to come to the United States from the Philippines and for a co-sponsor so that the procedure can be quickly expedited.
- Bill Tonkin who is at Indiana Square Personal Care Home, 1703 Warren Road. Lois says cards and visits are always welcome.
- Jason Canose for healing. Thanksgivings that he is now at home recuperating and receiving physical therapy.
- Louanne Brown for healing of her vision in her right eye which has been impeded by at least 50%. Also for peace and acceptance that the eye may never get back to "normal" since it is no better or worse at this time.
- Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley's step grandson, who had another round of chemo in his treatment for leukemia in January.
- Kathrine, Lin & Jo Broadway's (former members) daughter-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer and anticipating surgery in February.
- Janet Anoyke's mother in Ghana who recently suffered a stroke.
- Jay Stenman, Louanne Brown's husband, who suffered a concussion the week of January 15th.
- Hailynn Magas has been diagnosed with Type1 Diabetes. Pray that the family can learn and adjust to a new diet and insulin testing and injections.
- Linda Biller Post, Jimmy Biller's mother, whose leukemia is no longer in remission. She will be receiving chemo treatments.
- Fran Mumau, Tyler Mumau's grandmother, for comfort and peace in her decision to stop chemo treatments for lung cancer since she is down to 97 pounds and surgery on her brain tumors is not an option. She is very frail and weak.
- Dixie Kirk, sister in law of Dan & Debbie Kirk, who was recently hospitalized with pneumonia. She is at home but is to have further testing done on March 1st for two spots that were discovered on her lungs.
- Cliff Brown was recently hospitalized. He came home March 5th but still deals with heart problems.
- Karen Plowman, Brenda Antonio's cousin, for healing of broken bones in her leg due to a recent fall.
- Marilyn Magas who still is "not up to speed" as she adjusts to new medications.

2--Throw out the stereotypes, particularly in this time with the news highlighting the plight of millions of asylum seekers (refugees). Appreciate the lives beyond the stereotypes. We may meet visible minorities in our community who look different, come to the conclusion that they are immigrants, and proceed to communicate with faulty preconceived notions of their backgrounds. A couple of years ago, my surgeon was a recent immigrant from Armenia. His assistant was a PhD student from Iran. They were educated and influential. In my city, I have met many immigrants from all parts of the globe—India, China, and Somalia, Ireland, Serbia, and Poland. Many immigrants are needy and some come from developing regions. Others are highly educated and may be quite sophisticated and wealthy. Immigrants come from varied backgrounds with a myriad of experiences that cannot be condensed into easy generalizations.

3--Put yourself out there. When I suggest that the world has come to our doorsteps and to our backyards, I do not mean for us to sit at home waiting and watching through our windows. We need to go to our community centers—local libraries, parks, or neighborhood cafes. We must be available to make connections and friendships.

May we Christians be known for our love of our neighbors, and may we welcome scattered peoples in Jesus' name.

(You may think an article like this irrelevant in a place like Indiana, but I beg to differ. If we are 'out-there', we will have contact with more of such people than you realize)

Sermon for March 12, 2017
"Lively Lessons from the Least Likely"
1 Samuel 28:3-25

Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book