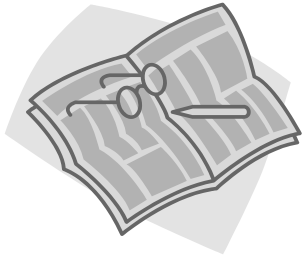


The Elkins Exchange

Volume 20, Issue 4

February 2019



If anyone would like to receive the newsletter via email please send a note to Ruth at:

firstchurchofchristelkins@frontier.com

Please keep the church updated with address and phone number changes! Can give to Ruth Morgan or email.

Please give any news, pictures, happenings, etc. that you would like to see in the newsletter to Ruth Morgan by the third Sunday of the month.

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From the Preacher's Desk

I've been asked "How was your trip to Israel?" quite a bit, and I appreciate so many people taking such an interest in my excursion. Unfortunately, "Good!" seems such an inadequate answer, but often I don't have much time to answer anything else. The plan at some point is to do some sort of

presentation for the church, a slideshow on the screen or something like that, but in the meantime allow me to give a bit longer answer than "Good!" here in our newsletter, answering the most common questions I've been getting.

The climate of Israel and Palestine was chilly while we were there, because it's winter there as well. Temperatures were mostly in the 40s and 50s; not quite as cold as West Virginia, but still colder weather. I'm told it's solidly over 100 in the summer, so I think the January trip was a good choice.

The geography of Israel was spectacular. You could be in a desert one minute, and a five minute drive could take you to lush olive groves or fertile fields. Of course, Israel is around the size of New Jersey, and I guess I had never realized how small that is, or how much is crammed into such a little country. The Sea of Galilee, for example, would be to us a moderately sized lake. That was something I did not expect. Much of Israel was some of the rockiest terrain I have ever seen. It is as if God created a land that was half green and half rocky but thoroughly mixed together. I've never seen anything like it before.

We were very safe. The Palestinian people were very pleasant and were quite kind and happy to see us. Bethlehem falls within the territory of Palestine, and in addition to driving through Palestine and seeing a few locations of note, we spent some time specifically within Bethlehem and stayed with a few



of the families there. It was very safe, and at no point did we experience anything that made us in the slightest bit worried for our safety.

The Palestinian people (a mix of Muslims, Christians, and Jews) have a pretty tough existence. They have limited supplies, many of them are on a permanent water rations, and most of them cannot leave the Palestinian territory, which has been almost completely walled in by the Israelis. Life for the Palestinian people is very difficult.

Many of the places that we went had archeological significance, like Caesarea or Megiddo. Unlike the U.S., where everything would be behind Plexiglas, many of the sites we went to were surprisingly accessible, and you could walk around and explore pretty freely. Some of the sites, like Magdala or Capernaum, had locations like the 'traditional site of Peter's house.' I always took those with a grain of salt. For nearly two thousand years, Christians have accorded such places as significant, and maybe they are, but we also have to acknowledge that this may not be the case. One of the exceptions to this was the Pool of Bethesda. Being able to walk among the colonnades surrounding the same pool where Jesus heals a man (in John 5) was a very powerful experience.

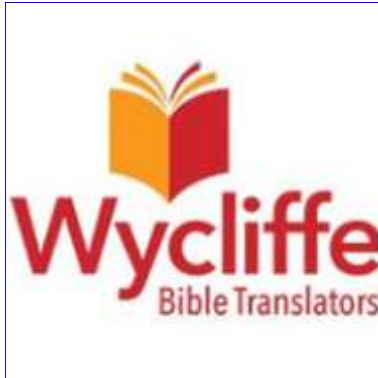
Our schedule was very full, and it was a lot to take in. I'm even still processing the trip, mulling over what I saw and heard and experienced. It was very powerful, and I am glad I went, but I will also confess that it was exhausting, both physically (because it was a trip for the college students, and they have the energy for such a trip), but also emotionally. Different cultures and languages, different foods, the current of tension between Israel and Palestine, and being away from my family made it a trip that was appreciated more once I had returned home to Elkins. I'm so grateful that the our church allowed me the opportunity to go; I'm also glad to be home again.

Mission of the Month

For more than 70 years, Wycliffe has helped people around the world translate the Bible into their own languages.

In 1917 a missionary named William Cameron Townsend went to Guatemala to sell Spanish Bibles. But he was shocked when many people couldn't understand the books. They spoke Cakchiquel, a language without a Bible. Cam believed everyone should understand the Bible, so he started a linguistics school (the Summer Institute of Linguistics, known today as SIL) that trained people to do Bible translation. The work continued to grow, and in 1942 Cam officially founded Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Over the following decades, Wycliffe celebrated many milestones — from the first translation completed in 1951, all the way to the 500th translation completed in 2000. Around the same time, Wycliffe adopted a new



challenge — a goal of seeing a Bible translation project started in every language still needing one by 2025.

In 1999, our leaders realized that at the speed we were going, it would be at least 2150 before a Bible translation could be started for every language that needed one.

As they thought about the people perishing around the world every day without receiving the Good News of the gospel, they felt God calling them to adopt a new goal for accomplishing this mission.

Our leaders committed to do everything we could to see a Bible translation program in progress in every language still needing one by 2025.

Today, at least 2,000 languages are still waiting for a Bible translation to begin, and Wycliffe is working faster than ever to reach those languages as soon as possible.

News



We are again participating in "Toasty Tuesday" at D&E College on February 19th. It is providing snacks and an outreach opportunity on that day to the students. If you are able to donate any snacks or wish to be part of the outreach please see Jason.

Facts and Figures for January

AM Service 59

PM Service

Weekly Budget need: \$2,558



Life group/Bible Study on Thursday evenings.

- Mark Morgan at his home, Beverly/Dailey area. 7 pm studying Hebrews.



Kid's Own Worship: each Wed. 6:15pm @ Church.


We are now providing a light meal for the children on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 before Kids Own Worship. We need volunteers to sign up in the vestibule to provide the meals for 40 children and adults. You can turn receipts in to Ken Cooper for financial reimbursement. The signup has menu suggestions. Please see Nancy Messer or anyone that helps Wednesday for further details.

Game & Tame Dinner 2019



Calendar of Events

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> *Patrick & Helena Morgan	<i>2</i> *Brady Hinkle
<i>3</i> *Michael & Chandra Robinson	<i>4</i> *Dinah Williams	<i>5</i> Board Mtg 7pm	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> *Roger & Terry Morrison	<i>11</i> *Ken Cooper	<i>12</i> Guild 6:30pm *Thom Kendall	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>  *Bob & Loretta Hart	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> *Mark Morgan
<i>17</i> Mission Sunday	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> *Collene Smith	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> *Roy White
<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Elders Mtg 7pm	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> *Christa Licwov		

Church Flowers given this month

If anyone would like to donate flowers in memory or for a special occasion, please make your own arrangements with florist and let Mary Ann Kyle know. Thanks to Sandra Lilly for silk flower arrangements!

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

300 Main Street
Elkins WV
26241



Phone: 304-636-1590

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Preaching Minister Jason Brandon
Bible School Sunday 9:30 am
Worship Service Sunday 10:30 am
Choir Practice Sunday 5:00 pm
Youth Meetings. Sunday 6:00 pm
Evening Service. Sunday 6:00 pm
Kids Own Worship. . . . Wednesday 6:15 pm
Small Group. Thursday 7pm



Visit your
church
website
at:

firstchurchofchristelkins.com

Scripture Readings for February

		1 st	Matt. 10:21-42 Acts 15:22-41 Psalms 24 Exodus 1--3	2 nd	Matt. 11:1-19 Acts 16:1-15 Psalms 25 Exodus 4--6
3 rd	Matt. 11:20-30 Acts 16:16-40 Psalms 26 Exodus 7--9	4 th	Matt. 12:1-21 Acts 17:1-15 Psalm 27 Exodus 10--12	5 th	
7 th	Matt. 12:22-37 Acts 17:16-34 Ps. 28 Ex. 13--15	8 th	Matt. 38-50 Acts 18:1-17 Ps. 29 Ex. 16--18	9 th	Matt. 13:1-23 Acts 18:18-28 Ps. 30 Ex. 19,20
10 th	Matt. 13:24-43 Acts 19:1-22 Ps. 31 Ex. 21--23	11 th	Matt. 13:44-58 Acts 19:23-41 Ps. 32 Ex. 24--26	12 th	Matt. 14:1-21 Acts 20:1-12 Ps. 33 Ex. 27--29
14 th	Matt. 14:22-36 Acts 20: 13-38 Psalm 34 Exodus 30, 31	15 th	Matt. 15:1-20 Acts 21:1-26 Psalm 35 Exodus 32, 33	16 th	Matt. 15:21-39 Acts 21:27-40 Psalm 36 Exodus 34
17 th	Matt. 16:1-12 Acts 22 Psalm 37:1-22 Exodus 35-37	18 th	Matt. 16:13-28 Acts 23:1-11 Psalm 37:23-40 Exodus 38-40	19 th	Matt. 17:1-13 Acts 23: 12-35 Psalm 38 Leviticus 1-4
21 st	Matt. 17:14-27 Acts 24 Psalm 39 Leviticus 5-7	22 nd	.. Matt. 18:1-14 Acts 25:1-12 Psalm 40 Leviticus 8-10	23 rd	Matt. 18: 15-35 Acts 25: 13-27 Psalm 41 Leviticus 11-13
24 th	M Matt. 19:1-15 Acts 26:1-18 Psalm 42 Leviticus 14, 15	25 th	Matt. 19: 16-30 Acts 26: 19-32 Psalm 43 Leviticus 16, 17	26 th	Matt. 20:1-16 Acts 27:1-26 Psalm 44 Leviticus 18-20
28 th	Matt 10:1-20 Acts 15:1-21 Psalms 23 Gen 50				