

The Air Hill Breezes



2023

Air Hill BIC Church
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Office Hours Mon.— Fri. 8-12

AIR HILL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

“To Follow Jesus Christ through the Wind of the Holy Spirit”

One Sunday morning, a Palawano woman came to our house for the first time. Many years earlier, she had heard some of the Word of God, but for a long time, there hadn't been any missionaries in her area. We had just built a house and had started teaching God's Word in a location about a two or three hours' walk from her home. She came to see us and said excitedly, "I have been out of God for 10 years, but now I want to come back into God." By this term "out of God," she meant that she hadn't been attending Christian meetings and doing all the things she associated with being a Christian. By the term "come back into God," she indicated that she was going to attend the meetings once again, sing, pray, and listen to the teaching of God's Word.

I talked with this woman on several occasions about Christ and His death for sinners, and I asked her about her own personal faith in Christ and His death. She said, "Yes, I am trusting in Christ." Nevertheless, her emphasis was on the fact that she had at one time been in God, had been baptized, and that she knew many hymns and prayed. She no longer had a New Testament, but she wanted another one because she was coming back into God. Unless specifically asked, however, she never spoke about the death of Christ for sinners.

I said to her, "All of the things you speak of are good in their place, but they will not save you. Only Christ can save you." Again, and again when speaking to her, I emphasized Christ's death for sinners.

She answered, "Oh, yes, the previous missionary told me He died. Yes, I believe that."

I thought, "Maybe she is truly saved."

When she returned a week or two later, she said, "I am so happy to be able to sing the hymns, pray, and attend meetings. I am so glad to be back in God."

Once again, I reminded her of Christ's death as the only way back to God.

She answered, "Yes, I remember that." But then she asked the new believers in the area if they had been baptized. When they said that they had not been baptized, she told them that they hadn't even started on the way. Each time she visited and boasted of her good works, I reminded her about Christ's death as the only way to God. From her attitude, it was clear that Christ's death was not meaningful to her. It seemed as if she thought, "I will be all right if I can only remember that part about Christ dying for sins and rising again."

On several occasions, my wife heard me reminding this woman of Christ's death for sinners. Finally, Fran said to me, "I can't understand you. You are doing the very thing you would tell other people not to do."

I questioned, "What's that?" She replied,

"You keep telling that woman the Gospel, but she is not prepared for the Gospel. She doesn't understand her need of the Gospel. She is not thirsty. She is not hungry. Her heart is not prepared for the Gospel."

My wife was right. I determined that when this Palawano woman returned, I would not remind her

again of the Gospel. She needed to be taught the Law in order for her to comprehend her great need of Christ, and Christ alone, as her righteousness.

Shortly after this, she returned. I sat down to talk with her at about one o'clock in the afternoon. I began in Genesis and reminded her of the main stories in the Old Testament which provide the foundations for the doctrine of God, man, and sin. Because she had been attending the meetings, she needed only to be reminded of most of these stories.

As we went through the stories, I emphasized the holiness of God, His hatred of sin, man's sinfulness, and especially the fact that God's Law requires death as the payment for sin. I wanted to make it clear to her that God would accept no compromise. I applied these truths to her personally by telling her that baptism, hymn singing, church attendance, reading the Scriptures, or any other thing that she could do would not pay for her sin.

About five o'clock that afternoon, she was frustrated and desperate and began to cry. Although Palawanos do not like to be seen crying publicly, she cried because she was so overcome by the hopelessness of her position before God.

While she was crying, I was silently praying, "Lord, give me wisdom. What should I say to her? I don't want her to mentally agree with what I have shared from your Word but not trust only in Your Son and the Gospel. Lord, save this woman! Bring her to that place where she sees her salvation is only in Christ, so she will put her faith in Him and never again in herself or anything that she can do."

Finally, I said to her, "God requires death, but isn't there somewhere you can find the payment instead of you dying? Isn't there someone who could pay it? I can't pay it for you because I, too, deserve to be separated from God because of my sins."

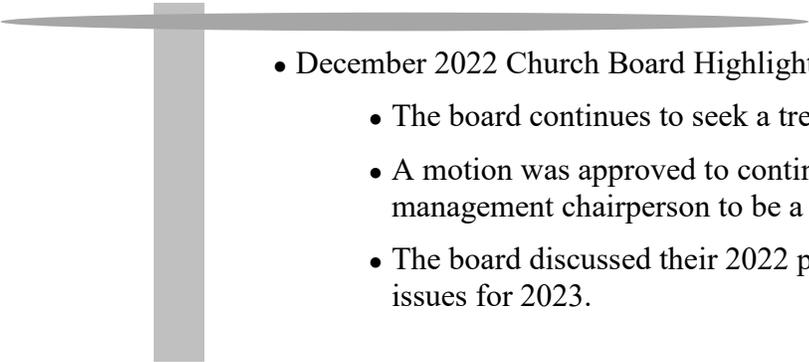
For a time, we sat there in silence. Finally, she looked up at me through her tears and answered, "Jesus."

Joyfully, I replied, "Yes, Jesus. He's the only One."

This is a story from Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ by Trevor Mcilwain. He wrote it with the belief that many "Christians" have been falsely taught and do not know Jesus. In fact, he believes that the way to teach a person is through the Old Testament. In the Old Testament we see our problem, our sinfulness. In the New Testament we see the answer, Jesus Christ. If we don't know the problem, can we really trust the answer?

We are beginning a year long journey exploring from Creation to Christ. This is an experiment, for I do not know if I can turn this curriculum into a sermon series. The goal is to make sure we have our firm foundations in Jesus. The last thing we want is to be a church founded on sinking sand.

Pastor John



- December 2022 Church Board Highlights

- The board continues to seek a treasurer.
- A motion was approved to continue with the current policy for property management chairperson to be a member.
- The board discussed their 2022 praises for Air Hill and also their biggest issues for 2023.

January 2023 BIBLE READING PLAN			
1	Gen. 1-2	14	Gen. 32-33
2	Gen. 3-4	15	Gen. 34-35
3	Gen. 5-8	16	Gen. 36
4	Gen. 9-11	17	Gen. 37-38
5	Gen. 12-14	18	Gen. 39-40
6	Gen. 15-17	19	Gen. 41
7	Gen. 18-20	20	Gen. 42-43
8	Gen. 21-23	21	Gen. 44-45
9	Gen. 24	22	Gen. 46-47
10	Gen. 25-26	23	Gen. 48
11	Gen. 27-28	24	Gen. 49
12	Gen. 29-30	25	Gen. 50
13	Gen. 31		

Upcoming Dates:

January 5:

6:30 pm - Prop. Mgt. Meeting

January 9:

8:30 am - Ladies Sewing

7:00 pm - Church Board Meeting

January 22:

Council Meeting after Worship

January 23:

7:00 pm - Ministry Board Meeting

January 30:

7:00 pm - Sunday School

Committee Meeting

January Spiritual Exercise:

For at least one conversation a week, attempt to put yourself into the position of the one to whom you are speaking. Listen to what they are saying. Ask them questions. Discover what they are thinking and feeling. As you learn more about them and their situation, trust that God will show you how to respond. He may show you what to say in response to the person, or he may show you how to pray for that individual quietly. Out of compassion, learn the other person's story.

Community of the Month for Prayer:

Shippensburg

You can do prayer walks, pray as you drive through, talk and pray with people from those areas.

January Prayer:

Father, may I love as Jesus loved through the peace of the Holy Spirit. Help me love each person that I meet today with ears of compassion. Amen.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 10:00 Worship	2	3 7:00 Praise/ Prayer	4 2:15 Good News Club 6:30 Kingdom Kids/Youth	5 6:30 Prop. Mgt.	6	7 1:30-4:30 Gym in Use
8 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 10:00 Worship	9 8:30 Ladies Sew- ing 7:00 Church Board	10 7:00 Praise/ Prayer	11 6:30 Kingdom Kids/Youth Group	12	13	14 8:30 Men's Breakfast
15 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 10:00 Worship	16	17 7:00 Praise/ Prayer	18 2:15 Good News Club 6:30 Kingdom Kids/Youth	19	20 Karina Thrush Missions Meal	21
22 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 10:00 Worship Council Meeting	23 7:00 Ministry Board	24 7:00 Praise/ Prayer	25 2:15 Good News Club 6:30 Kingdom Kids/Youth	26	27	28 3-9 Gym in Use
29 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 10:00 Worship	30 7:00 S.S. Meet- ing	31 7:00 Praise/ Prayer				

Week of Prayer and Fasting

Join congregations across the Brethren in Christ U.S. as we pray, reflect, and seek God during the start of a new year.

January 8-15, 2023

Identity in Action: Practicing the Core Values of the BIC

This year's theme invites us to take a closer look at the ten Core Values of the Brethren in Christ. Our identity in Christ precedes every other aspect of who we are and what we are called to do as God's people. This Christ-centered identity impacts how we interact with the world and our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith. The ten Core Values help guide us in that pursuit, and all point to Jesus as the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Since there are ten Core Values, we are going to split them up over two years: the first half in 2023 and the second half in 2024.

Devotionals are available in the back of the sanctuary.