



January 2021 Quarterly Newsletter

Project 52

God is good. God is faithful.

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Mercy Baptist Church

With a desire to broaden our outreach to the Grant County, Indiana community we, Mercy Baptist Church, began to pray how God might use us. Mercy Baptist Church is a smaller congregation with willing hands and feet, yet limited financial resources. Our prayers were answered when the Lord led us to Project 52 and Jerry Reiner. We were aware of what Project 52 and Jerry were doing. Mercy Baptist has been praying for Project 52, Jerry and Tracy. We inquired if we might be able to join with them in reaching our community. Jerry was quick with, "Yes!"

January of 2020 as the launch date of our first partnership with Project 52. As a result of this ministry we have been able to have impact on over 100 families in our community. Mercy Baptist Church is partnering with Project 52 in giving new ESV Bibles and Bombas socks as well. We initially were reaching single parent households in our community. The impact was tremendous! COVID though has now limited our ability in some of the food distribution. What was initially a road block, the Lord has opened to us a new door. Mercy Baptist Church, as a result of the partnership with Project 52, is now supporting three addiction recovery houses.

Mercy Baptist Church is grateful for the opportunity of partnering with Project 52 and Jerry. It has broadened our outreach and opportunity in sharing the love of Jesus with the Gospel as well as being the hands and feet of Christ. This ministry outreach continues to change us for His glory and we are grateful to see lives changed by the ministry.



"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).



OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAVEL

We get asked quite often if there are ways to volunteer or travel with Jerry on some of his trips. (Always a good opportunity for evangelism and discipleship!)



We would appreciate your prayers as we have another busy year of deliveries with food and Bibles in 2021. We are honored to serve other ministries in cities such as New Haven and Mason, WV; Indianapolis, IN; Jackson, KY; Clarksville, TN, Ellwood City, PA; Mt. Washington, KY; Roanoke, VA and many stops in Ohio.

Calling all men: If you desire to travel with Jerry, to assist on a day trip and be his co-pilot, please contact him for specific dates and cities. Jerry@pro52.org / 513.325.7144

Or.... Volunteer "Uber" drivers needed for pick-ups & deliveries

Colossians 3:12
Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

The Servant's Closet

The Servant's Closet is a 501(c)(3), non-profit mission whose goal is to provide various services to communities in need. The past couple of years the community of focus was Yeadiss, Kentucky. During this time, The Servant's Closet teamed up with Project 5 2 for a monthly food distribution to help those in need. The Servant's Closet also created events with give-a-ways and distributed Bibles and Bombas socks at the events. When necessary, deliveries were also made door-to-door to distribute food, Bibles, and Bombas socks.

In the Fall of 2020, God opened doors for The Servant's Closet to relocate to Greene County, Tennessee. While continuing to serve the needs in Kentucky, The Servant's Closet is now also working with local churches and business in the Greene County area to spread the love of Jesus and meet the needs of the people in this area. In the immediate future, a first annual Christmas parade, followed by a church service, will be held, and food and Bibles will be distributed. With the help of people like Jerry with Project 5 2 and businesses like Whole Foods and Bombas socks, we will be able to help meet the needs of people in this area during an especially difficult year.



"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:3-4)

Destination: The American Dream or the Kingdom of God? Prepare for Landing....

God has created us to soar with eagles and He has given us the mandate to seek first HIS Kingdom, not our own. (Isaiah 40:31) (Matt 6:33). We get one shot at participating in His plan and bearing fruit that will last. (John 15:16). We get a one-way "flight" If I may, to being available and productive for the Lord, using the gifts that have been given to us to turn this world upside down for Jesus Christ. One shot. One flight. How are we doing?

How do we invest our time? If we plotted an average week on a pie chart, which areas would be the largest? Work? Recreation? TV? Sleep? Exercise? Self care? Prayer? Time with your Lord? Time in His Word? Has the Covid virus changed how we relate to the God of this universe, and how we engage the others who He puts in our path? As far as I have read, our marching orders haven't changed. The early church was built under far worse circumstance, and the Church thrived because the world saw something different among the believers even amidst the persecution.

God has challenged me in a few areas personally, over the last year. One, He has challenged me to check my prayer life, and the time I spend studying His Word. I am not referring to 15 minute devotionals, but intimate prayer and confession time, worship time and listening time. (John 10:27). We MUST know His voice if we are going to follow Him. Two, God has challenged me to look at my marriage, and family a little closer. How is my time with Tracy (and with our children when they are around)? Do I love and serve and challenge them in a way that points them to Christ? And three, how is my witness to my neighbors? I may be feeding many people in multiple states, but how am I doing with my next door neighbor and my neighborhood? How am I doing one on one with people around me? Do my neighbors even know that I'm a Christian?

I've asked the Lord to show me my blind spots, and "high places" in my life, concerning also my family and ministry. (2 Chron 14:5) (2 Kings: 23). I desire to make this flight count. Prior to age 45, I often questioned my purpose in life- why I was created. I called out to God many times, asking Him to make my life count, asking how to use the gifts He

gave me; asking Him to use Tracy and me and our gifts together to build His Kingdom. (Not that He needs our help).

The photo of this wingless plane is a good illustration of my own pursuit of purpose prior to age 45 at least from a Matthew 6:33 perspective. I was born again, but still going hard after what the world deems success - corporate ladders, notoriety, financial comfort, image etc. I was pursuing the life I thought I wanted and deserved. I was definitely on the flight to the American dream, but I became miserable. In 2008, God landed that plane and had me switch flights. He created Project 5 2 that year, and I have never looked back.

John 12:24 : Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.



I've been drawn to Matthew chapter 13 in recent months specifically verses 44-52. All three parables, some of the shortest in the Bible, offer to us the same theme and instruction - the parable of the hidden treasure, the pearl of great value and the parable of the net. All three challenge us to participate in what God wants to do in our hearts on this side of heaven, and to use our time wisely. Life is but a vapor, eternity is forever. (James 4:14) Do we really grasp that? Do we believe it? And are we living our lives accordingly? Or are we too distracted by the things of this world? Have we become too comfortable- so cozy in our lives that we don't want to be inconvenienced or do the hard, sacrificial thing? Do we honor Him with our mouths, yet are our hearts far from Him? Have we surrendered all, like He did, for the sake of making Jesus Christ known? Folks, one day our planes will land... if it ever even got off

the ground. (See picture) What is your destination? Don't be deceived.

Joseph Campbell, professor of literature at Sarah Lawrence college in New York stated: "...the greatest tragedy in life is not so much failure but rather climbing the ladder of "success" and finding out that it is up against the wrong wall". Let's examine our own hearts daily and make sure our ladder is up against the right wall, and our "flight" is on the narrow course to heaven.



John 6:35-40: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

I challenge those who desire to hear the voice of the Lord through Paul this week, to write out Philippians, chapter 2, verses 3-11. I also challenge you to listen to John Piper's message "Don't waste your life" a YouTube excerpt from his message "Boasting Only in the Cross" at Passion OneDay 2000. It is well worth the time.

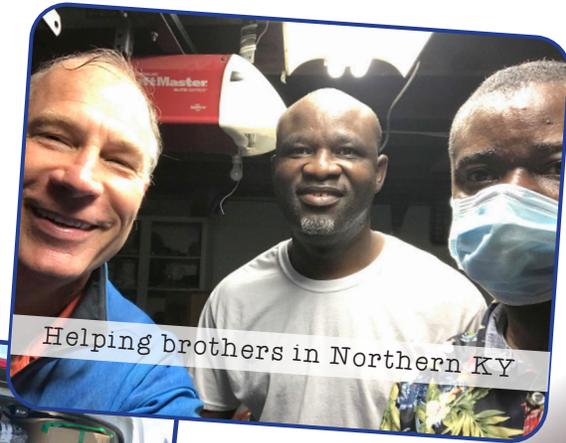
Seat Belt Fastened, tray in it's upright position, let's soar together and make this flight count. Prepare for landing!

Jerry and Tracy

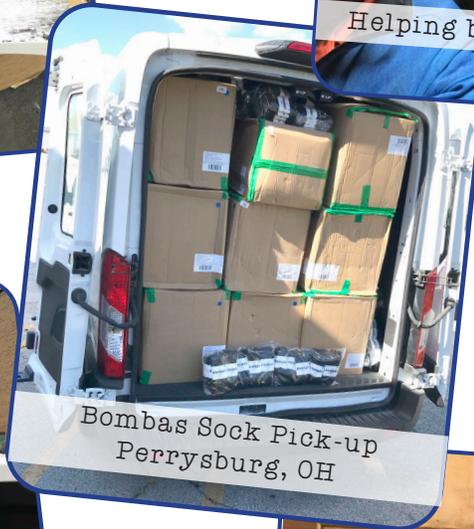
Some of our favorite photos of 2020!



Bibles heading to West Virginia



Helping brothers in Northern KY



Bombas Sock Pick-up
Perrysburg, OH



Soul Pantry Partners



On the road again



Friends & Partners
from Whole Foods



Mountains of Eastern KY



Serving our friends at Teen Challenge

They represent: some we serve, some that serve us, and some are ministries or businesses that support our vision at Project 5 2!

Ongoing ways to help Project 5 2:

- Collections of new and used Bibles
- Peanut butter drives
- Canned food drives
- Men's and women's hygiene items such as toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo, soaps (hotel samples always welcome!)



West Virginia Outreach



Mr. Matt & Jerry Paoli
Pine Valley Camp



Precious Sisters, Irene & Seara



Street Evangelists in Indianapolis



Indianapolis, IN

"Jesus fed 5,000 but only 500 followed him after lunch. He had 12 disciples but only 3 went further in the garden... and only 1 stood with him at the cross. The closer you get to the cross, the smaller the crowd becomes."

T. F. Tenney



New Haven Church of God
West Virginia



Pine Valley Camp, PA



God Bless Whole Foods!

And This Shall Be a Sign Unto You.....



We were out one evening recently, and happened to look up at a television that was on above us. The news reporter was interviewing a store owner of a psychic/ metaphysical type store. The store was stocked with tarot cards, crystals, herbs and psychic readings, and any type of wiccan needs one may have. She said her customers were looking for signs as to their future, and for peace and hope in this crazy time we are living in. She also stated her business has been up 70% this year....70%.

When I saw this broadcast, I was reminded of a passage in Isaiah (19: 1-3), a chapter I spent a lot of time in this year for reasons I'm still pondering. I'm not saying that what we are all experiencing in this moment is or is not God's judgment, but I will say personally, I felt a slight parallel to what we are experiencing in the U.S. in some of the verses. This passage in Isaiah is a prophecy both against Egypt and then for Egypt. Isaiah speaks to the sovereignty of God, and to what the judgment of God looks like in this case, against a Godless people and a Godless nation. The last part of the scripture reveals the motive of His judgment which I believe is always His love-- wanting restoration of our relationship to him, and wanting people to know Him. Isaiah 19: 3 in the NIV reads: "The Egyptians will lose heart, and I will bring their plans to nothing; they will consult the idols and the spirits of the dead, the mediums and the spiritists." Some translations read: "... and I will confuse their plans so they will plead with their Idols for wisdom and call on spirits and mediums and those who call on the dead."

(Sidenote: In the Old Testament, God commands the saints to stay away from mediums and psychics. As Christians, now filled with the Holy Spirit, clairvoyant activity must have no place in our lives and neither should we be chasing after "signs and wonders". It is very dangerous territory).

Should we be taking note of this though, as Christians? Amidst the pandemic, and seeming chaos, the world is looking for Peace and Hope! But for the most part, they aren't running to

Christian churches, at least in America---and why not? Are we not the ones with The Answer? I understand part of this falls under God's sovereignty and timing, (Romans 8:7) (2 Cor 4:4) (Romans 11: 25,26) (Isaiah 19:3) (1 John 5:19), but I would still venture to say that (American) church growth has probably not risen 70% like that psychic business this year, especially if churches have closed their doors. In fact, according to the Barna group, 32% of practicing Christians have stopped attending any type of church service, in person or online in 2020. Hello, anyone?

Has anyone else had moments of struggle this year like I have, knowing their place as a Christian in this season of cultural upheaval, pandemic, and political unrest? I have to confess I found myself teetering a few times like a see saw, listening for the Lord's voice and direction and yet getting caught up in the world events around me and wanting to steam roll ahead. I sincerely wanted to go to Washington DC a few times and pray for this nation. If I could have, I would have, but I WILL say, I've never heard so many voices saying so many different things in all my life- both in the world AND in the church. Whether it be social issues, politics, or cultural battles, even groups who we think are unified are divided! To be honest, from what we personally have seen heard and experienced this year, I would say the church is sounding and acting much like the world- lots of anger and little faith. At times, I confess I have been there as well, but as Christians, we better be paying attention to that. (Matt 7:21)

To quote Erwin W. Lutzer in his book, Christians, Politics and the Cross, "We can become so overburdened with social/political agendas that the message of the cross is lost amid these skirmishes. Thus, the message of the cross that is presented to our culture loses its power because its message is clouded with political, social and psychological agendas. The cross must always have its own space, its own center, its own exalted position....we must be involved at all levels of society, but with a distinctly biblical agenda...standing for Christ and willing to face the consequences." This time in history is a wake up call for the Church for sure. Could God be using this time to draw His line in the sand? (1 Peter 4:17)

Soapbox moment: We cannot let the kingdom of darkness manipulate us into it's agenda. We must be clear that for true Christians, our citizenship in heaven. Our allegiance is to Kingdom of Light first, (God's heart, His reign, and his protocols) and we have been put here to steward His agenda and fulfill our mission, no matter the cost. We must first love God as we submit to his sanctifying work within us, and then we are to be the hands and feet and voice and love of Jesus Christ to a lost and perishing world and to each other. No matter what we (and the world) will face in this life, it will not compare to what we will all experience for eternity. We must not lose sight of that. This past year of 2020 has been a rough one no doubt. We have had a very difficult year just like many others, but we have to keep reminding ourselves

that even so, our basic marching orders have not changed because of the seeming chaos around us. (Matt 24:6-8) We must remind ourselves, God has complete control and our eyes and hearts are to be on Him alone. He gives the marching orders for each of us. He alone knows the end from the beginning. (Isaiah 46:10) As Christians, we are not to walk in fear. (Isaiah 8: 11-17) (Rev 12:11). In our anger, we are not to sin. We walk to the rhythm of a different Kingdom! We are in this world, but not OF it! Do we live like we believe that? When the darkness had its hour of darkest reign, (Luke 22:53), Jesus permitted the devil to do his work, but with humility, he concentrated on His Hidden Kingdom- the transformation of lives, and so should we.

Let's go out into 2021, not chasing 'signs' or word spewing our angered opinions on social media; let's not slander and let's not be lead back into depravity by our actions (2 Peter 2:20); but let us be looking unto The Sign, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, who came to us in a humble state as a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Let's learn His voice so we can heed His direction in the days ahead. Let's study His example and stop trying to manipulate the scriptures to fit our own agendas, and let's look for opportunities to share Jesus with people-no matter the cost. I mean really look. There are a LOT of hurting people out there. A lot. We see them everywhere we go. Many people are not only fearful of the present times, but have even been hurt by the Church and are feeling hopeless... walking into psychic stores looking for answers. Let's be creative! As God shows them to us, bless them, pray for them, talk to them and dare I say, sacrifice for them. As we mentioned in the other article, the early church thrived, because the world saw something different among the believers even amidst the persecution. Let's remember why we are here and be the Light in the darkness together. Let's humble ourselves best we can, and take interest in someone who looks like they could use encouragement. Let's think of others as more significant than ourselves. Be intentional. Be joyful. Be the Church. This is our charge, no matter the virus, no matter the president, no matter the culture. This is the heart of God.

Luke 2:12 "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

We wish you a belated Merry Christmas and Abundant Blessings in the New Year,

Tracy and Jerry

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference. This remains true of most of the contemporary church in the West.

---A.W. Tozer

Recap of 2020

2020 was a productive year in spite of the Covid pandemic. When March came, I felt a jolt in my spirit to continue to go forth with the gospel, the love of Jesus and take our "Ford for the Lord" on the road. We would like to share just some snippets about the things God has provided and accomplished through Project 5 2 this year:

- Additional volunteers to help with all aspects of the ministry and we are grateful! Thank you to Dale and Lynn, Jean, Janet, Sam, Al, Greg, Eric, Greg and Bill, Pastor Joe, Pete and Regina, Matt, and Brian. We are truly thankful to all those who said "yes" this year.
- We have much joy in our reliable Ford Transit cargo van. We are so thankful to God and for all those who prayed for that vehicle and for all who contributed to make it possible!
- Continued financial monthly sponsors! You help keep the ministry going, THANK YOU!
- We have over 30 ministries assisting us at two Whole Foods locations.
- Contributors! Whether financial, or Bibles, or hygiene products, or food, we thank you!
- We are serving over 55 restaurants thanks to dedicated drivers, evangelists and faithful partnering ministries.
- Bibles, food and socks continue to go out on every delivery; we were personally able to serve ministries in 6 states this year.
- We made special connections in Fairmont and Beckley WV, and in Clarksville and Greenville TN.
- Bibles continue to be sent to Africa thanks to a key pastor and custom contacts.

- We are thankful for the opportunity to have served 4 homeless shelters and street ministries working together in Clarksville, TN.

- We are thankful to have provided Bibles to every child attending Pine Valley Camp in Ellwood City, PA this past summer and we are thankful to be sending Urdu Bibles with a ministry heading to Pakistan and India this spring!

- Many Bibles have passed through our hands in 2020, whether one by one on street corners or under overpasses, or cases dropped off to strategic ministries in different cities.

- Thankful for Pastors like Bruce and Brenda who have expanded their ministry beyond their own town of New Haven WV, to serve the surrounding Pt. Pleasant and Mason areas with food and the love of Jesus!

- Thankful for Pastor Mynar who takes food directly to homes or the streets around Price Hill Cincinnati and hands out Bibles and prays with people who are struggling because of the Covid virus this year.

- Thankful for Pastor Bill in Hillsboro who diligently continues to bless so many feeding ministries in multiple states.

- Most of all, thankful for the souls that have come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ this year, through the love of the Holy Spirit, the wooing of the Father and a gesture of God's love either through food, Bibles, a coat, or pair of socks.

- Thankful for my bride Tracy who loves Jesus.

"Bro Jerry, would you do me a favor and keep your ministry of Project 5 2 about Jesus— would you? One day God is going to bless this and expand it."

~ Bill Stephenson, April 28, 2011

Looking forward to 2021,

Jerry

THANK YOU!

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ~ John 6: 12, 13



- Kroger
- Panera
- All financial sponsors
- Bob Evans
- Bimbo Bakery
- Starbucks
- Walmart
- Wendy's
- Chipotle
- A Child's Hope International
- UDF
- Red Lobster
- Pizza Hut
- Hannah's Socks
- Olive Garden
- Mr. Godwrench
- Outback Steakhouse
- Longhorn Steakhouse
- Carrabba's Italian Grill
- Bonefish Grill
- KFC
- Chick-fil-A
- Whole Foods
- Cooper-Hawk
- Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Thank you for your support, products and your services. You are a sincere blessing to Project 5 2 and the communities we serve. Over 55 restaurants to date!



Project 5 2
 P O Box 964
 West Chester, OH 45071



NON PROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
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 PERMIT #215

Project 5 2's Mission
 (Living out Isaiah 58 & Matthew 25)

- Be the hands & feet of Christ by redistributing freely-given material wealth of others to the poor, specifically along the Appalachian Trail.
- Be the hands & feet of Christ by serving and redistributing goods to those who are neglected locally (the Tri-State), specifically orphans.
- Be a teaching mechanism to the Church, ministries, and others on serving the needy kingdom through principles.



As we strive to be good stewards of the resources given us, we ask your help. Would you rather receive the newsletter via email? Please let us know by emailing us at office.project.52@gmail.com

Thanks!



*Project 5 2 is a faith-based 501C3 distributor of food, Bibles, and supplies to the needy in the tri-state, Appalachia regions and beyond. Founded in 2008 in West Chester, OH.

Dedicated to Jesus.
 Run by God.
 Directed by the Holy Spirit.