



# Project 52

God is good. God is faithful.

## Inside this issue:

- 1 Riverview Elementary**
- 2 Ministry Highlights**
- 3 Deconstructing the Kingdom of Self**
- 4 Salt Light and Living Water**
- 5 Looking Ahead**
- 6-7 Favorite Photos of 2023**

*You can't expect God to be the source of your peace if the world is the source of your satisfaction." - Author unknown*

## Riverview Elementary

*Galatians 6:9,10: And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Over the past 15 years of ministry, there have been certain phone calls we continue to receive that jolt our hearts. From needing food for a family in need to help with flood victims, to helping find equipment for an aging parent, and everything in between. The calls continue, and God continues to amaze us, in the way He supplies the need. Recently we were asked to provide food for a public elementary school, for children who don't always get food over the weekends.

These calls always compel us to move, and serve. We are just a conduit from God's hand to the need, and never claim to be more than that. It is amazing to see how He puts people and product in place for us. After some thought, prayer and planning, Project 52, with the help of Faith Community United Methodist Church, A Child's Hope International and some dedicated food vendors, and volunteers, were able to assist all 900 children in the school with all types of food and new socks. (Even the candy was donated was a real treat to the K-6th graders!). From what we understand, there is

a feeding program in the school that helps them through the summer.

We at Project 52 are blessed beyond measure with so many drivers, volunteers and partnering ministries to make these things happen logistically. A special shout out to Whole Foods for supplying the grocery bags for this event!

Thank you Josh Margerum (Principal) and Leidy Cadavid for coordinating us with Riverview Elementary and allowing Project 52 and the partnering ministries to serve alongside you, as we helped this international community of children. Their little faces really touched our hearts that day. They were so happy and we pray they felt the love of God.

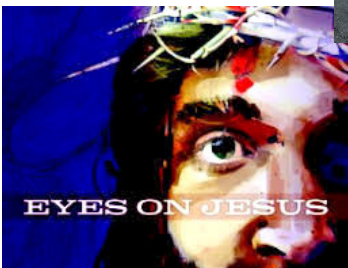
Acts 20: 35:

" In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "



*"The moment you have a self at all, there is a possibility of putting yourself first, wanting to be the center, wanting to be God. In fact, that was the sin of Satan and that was the sin he taught the human race."*

- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity



# Ministry Highlights

We always look for “frontline” ministries who have the love and compassion of God to serve the least, the lost and the very broken. Bridge the Gap and Open Hands Food pantry are 2 of those type of ministries in the Cincinnati and greater Cincinnati area. We have been serving these 2 ministries for many years now:

Bridge the Gap Cincinnati is bridging the gap and connecting churches that may not have their own feeding programs to the needy in their communities. We currently have six different “feeding” churches across the Greater Cincinnati area that are feeding and ministering to over 2500 people every month. We are called to the hurting, the hopeless, the hungry, the addicted, and the afflicted. We also serve close to 150 homeless individuals under the bridge in downtown Cincinnati Ohio on Mondays and Thursday nights.

It is through partnerships with ministries like Project 5 2 that make our ministry and its expansions possible in order to serve the people and communities that God has called us to reach. We are very grateful for Project 5 2 and not only what they are doing for Bridge the Gap, but what they are doing locally, nationally and globally. It is a true honor to serve alongside them.

For more information on volunteer opportunities with Bridge the Gap, contact: [bridgethegapcincy@gmail.com](mailto:bridgethegapcincy@gmail.com).

----Pastor James Turner  
CEO, Bridge the Gap



## Open Hands Food Pantry

Joey and Mickey Mackey ( yes that is her name : ) are the directors of the Open Hands Food Pantry, a Christian outreach ministry located on Millville Oxford Road in Hamilton Ohio. They serve many with the love and compassion of Jesus selflessly and consistently. Here is an update from them:

Pantry Hours: Monday 3:30 – 5:30pm; Saturday 11am – 1pm  
Outreach in the community: Sunday, East Ave, 3-5pm ; Tuesday, East Ave 4-6pm; Saturday, Heaton and 7th St from 1-3pm

Every other Friday we deliver 40 boxes of food to a low income housing complex. There are many shut ins and of course, emergency deliveries. We have been blessed to be a blessing, especially to the elderly, special needs families and single moms. We feed about 100 families every Monday from the pantry. On Tuesdays, Saturday and Sundays we feed approximately 75 homeless individuals with hot nutritious meals.

The second hand store on campus is there to provide material items to people in need also. Many household items are given away and some others are reasonably priced, to help individuals with material needs in their homes. All proceeds go back into the pantry for food purchases, utilities and insurance.

We are blessed to have approximately 40 volunteers weekly that help at the pantry and outreaches. For more information on volunteering, contact:

Joey Mackey  
Open Hands Food Pantry/Outreach  
2143 Millville-Oxford Rd/Hwy 27  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013  
513.205.3356





## Deconstructing the Kingdom of Self

By Paul Tripp

(The following is an excerpt from a 2017 weekly devotional by Dr. Paul Tripp)

What I'm about to ask won't be easy to answer.

When was the last time you did something outwardly "for God" that was actually inwardly motivated by personal gain? That's a hard question because it first requires the courage of humble honesty. It's not easy for us to admit that we prioritize ourselves over our Lord and Savior. But second, it's a hard question because we struggle to see our motives, words and actions with biblical accuracy.

Let me rephrase the question and lead with personal confession, using two examples from my own life and ministry. When was the last time you served someone you loved, not first because you wanted to freely sacrifice for their good, but because you were attempting to put them in your debt for later?

When was the last time you participated in a public ministry activity, not first because you wanted to build the Kingdom of God, but because you wanted other people to notice, respect, admire, or accept you? **You see, in our everyday lives, the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of self are always at war with one another.**

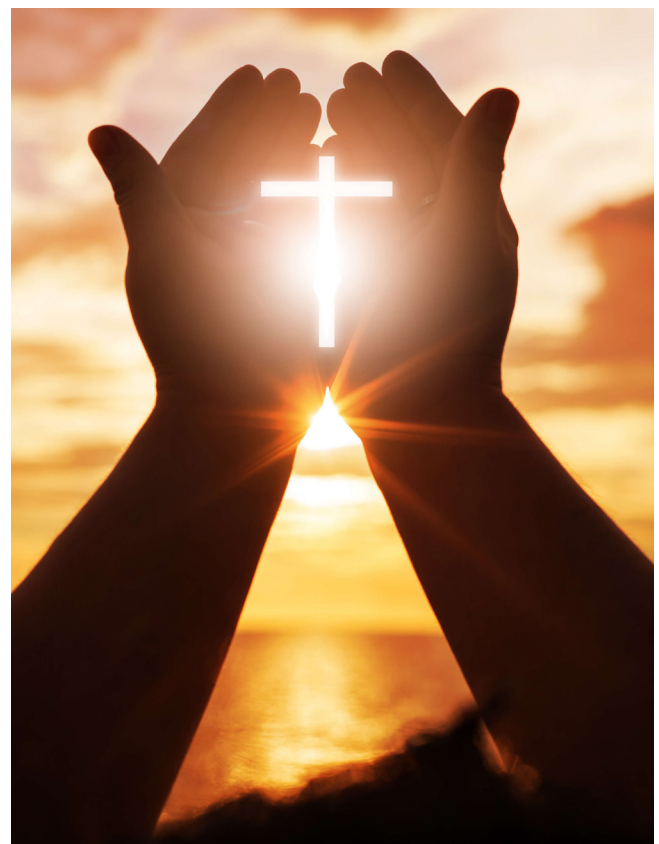
As long as sin remains, our motives, words and actions are shaped by a troublesome mix of the agenda of these two kingdoms. So today, I want to give you five questions to ask of yourself regularly. These questions are not designed to beat you down with guilt, but to give you eyes to see the deceptive kingdom of self.

1. Self-Focus: Before making a decision, do you think, "What's in it for me?" or do you freely sacrifice for the good of another without expecting a return?
2. Self-Righteousness: Are you more concerned with, and on the lookout for, the sin, weakness and moral failure of others than you are your own?
3. Self-Satisfaction: Do you feel regularly discontent, always looking for something new to satisfy you, instead of being satisfied with a God-honoring life?
4. Self-Reliance: Do you avoid living in intrusive and intentional relationships, where others admit their need for grace and seek the help of biblical community?

5. Self-Rule: Which law gets the most attention and the quickest response in your life and relationships, the Word of God or your own desires?

That's a pretty devastating list of questions! Which of us could ever measure up to that standard? But we have Good News – there is a Warrior Savior, and abundant grace for the battle of these two kingdoms! On the Cross, Jesus broke the power of the kingdom of self. He paid the debt for every self-centered motive, word and action that we prioritize over biblical living. On the Cross, Christ purchased power for us to obey, and with his resurrection, he guarantees that some day our kingdom conflict will be over. Until then, your Lord battles zealously on your behalf, and he will never rest until the battle is over. Why don't you commit yourself right now to be one of his soldiers?

God bless  
Paul Tripp



*The Bible says somewhere that we are desperately selfish. I think we would have discovered that fact without the Bible.*

*– Abe Lincoln*

## Salt, Light and Living Water

John 8:12: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 3: 19: "And this is the judgement: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."

One doesn't have to look too hard in our nation, to see the darkness of John 3:19 being played out. Pick the subject matter, whether the economy, the national political infrastructure, the drug epidemic, human trafficking, the suicide rate, and we could continue with dozens of other examples, but one would truly have to be blind, or blinded, not to see the dark veil coming across our nation. It is always easier for us to see "their" darkness though right? I think many Christians prefer to do that, actually. We can deflect from our own sin that way. We can stay distracted by the seeming chaos, or we can pray and ask the Lord to show us our own dark places. Because until we can humbly surrender our sinful nature to God, we can't be effective, we won't reflect God's light, and the Living Water of the Holy Spirit will not flow through us.

The question and challenge to the remnant of Christians still clinging to our faith in Christ is, what can we do, other than to pray, to personally push back the darkness? But first, are we living the faith we confess? Or are we allowing our faith, works and relationship with our Father to be subverted by the pressures and ongoing turmoil in the world? For those of us who have not been called to the fight, have we changed lanes from holiness to politics? Or are we digging our heels in, remembering what we have been called to do as followers, which is be the Salt, Light and Living Water of Christ to the world and remain on the narrow path while doing it.

Have we forgotten we are representatives of HIS Kingdom? That we are commissioned to go make disciples, to love the poor and encourage the downtrodden as well as each other? Do we remember we are called to serve without complaining, to die to ourselves daily, to pick up our cross and follow Christ? Do we remember we are called to pray for our leaders, bless others when they curse us, walk in humility and forgive 70 x 7?  
( Matt 28; James 2; Proverbs 14; Hebrews 10; Phil 2; Luke 9: 1 Tim 2; Romans 13; Luke 6 )

After the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5:13, Jesus told his followers "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt loses its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?" Again Jesus told his disciples in Matt 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people

light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

We are here to make an effect on others. Just like salt does to food. The only way for salt to lose flavor is when it is mixed with other chemicals. It still will look like salt on the outside, but it has lost its saltiness. So it is with us, when we mix truth with worldliness. We can speak "Christianese" on the outside, but inwardly, we become compromised and ineffective and are no longer agents of God's Truth.

Similarly, Jesus invites us to not hide our faith in God from others. Light works openly. Believers are light because they reflect God, and the world is dark because they reject God. Like a town on a hill that is seen from far away, we should be a light for others to see, so that others have the opportunity to come to God. We should be sharing not only the truth of the Gospel, but also our own faith, our testimonies, and God's authentic love and mercy, all while living surrendered lives. That's how the world will see Jesus. Every day we have an opportunity to be a light in someone's life.

In John 4:10, Jesus told the woman at the well "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and would have given you living water". Jesus was referring to His fresh flowing, life giving power through His Spirit who seals us for salvation. We are temples of His Holy Spirit, and only by surrendering our sinful nature to His indwelling work within us, are we able to be effective, bold witnesses of Christ. God has put in us everything we need for Godly living. For a born again believer, it's not that we need more of God, It's a matter of how much of us we have given him. ( 2 Peter 1: 3-4)

I've always been intrigued by the parable of the ten virgins. ( Matthew 25) Although they were all female, all virgins, all dressed for the wedding, all were waiting for the same event, all had the same opportunity and same lanterns, only five carried extra oil anticipating a wait for the Bridegroom with their lamps trimmed. Five of them were just there, unprepared and left standing when He came.

So what does a trimmed lamp look like in 2023? For a born again believer, it looks like serious time on our knees in prayer and communion with God. It looks like daily repentance. It looks like time spent in the Word daily building our relationship with Jesus, and it looks like serving others joyfully. (First two commandments). Finally it looks like sharing the Good News of the Gospel with those who are lost. I believe personally, evangelism applied in our daily life completes our joy. I have found this to be especially true over and over the past few years.



We MUST slow down our lives, businesses and ministries to stop for that one daily, “woman at the well” who God will put in our path if we ask. One encounter with Jesus changed the course of her life and consequently the lives of others in the town of Sychar.

My take-aways from the parable of the ten virgins: All believers are on a journey to meet with the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. If we do not know this, we will have problems in our walk with God. All believers start out with their lamps burning. The time of “sleep” represents the time between our salvation and the hour of the imminent coming of the Lord. Jesus is coming soon ( Rev 3:11a). The midnight cry represents the signs announcing the imminence of the rapture. What believers do at this time matters so much. The lamps ( Light) of the foolish virgins went out because the oil was used up.

This oil fuels the flame and cannot be shared. The oil represents an individual’s solid faith and mature relationship with God. No one can do that for us. (In other words, your faith and relationship with God will not get me into heaven). Our faith in and relationship with God is by His pure Grace. It comes from yielding ourselves to His Holy Spirit so He can draw us into relationship with the Father, then help us follow the Lord’s commands and be witnesses of the Good News unto the world. And so in that, we become doers, not just hearers of the Word.

If your light has ceased shining, then you are low on oil and maybe your lamp needs trimmed, but the good news is that God’s mercies are new every morning if that be your case. If your light is shining, then you have much oil. Keep on with the fill-ups and keep trimming the lamp! We wholeheartedly believe, if our relationship with Jesus is our greatest pursuit, then being His ambassadors of Salt, Light and Living Water to a lost world should be our greatest joy. Amen?

( 3 John 1:4)

"Where are the marks of the cross in your life? Are there any points of identification with your Lord? Alas, too many Christians wear medals but carry no scars.  
– Vance Havner

## Looking Ahead to 2024:

We are excited about two new ministries on the horizon for Project 5 2 to serve in 2024. Logistics are still being worked out as to how we will fit into these two amazing ministries, but we trust the Lord in figuring that out, if He wills.

Safe Harbor Ohio, located in Canton, OH is modeled after the Refuge Ranch, a long term, residential, rehabilitation facility for child survivors of sex trafficking in the U.S., located in Austin TX. Safe Harbor Ohio is a faith-based, long-term residential, therapeutic community for girls, ages 14-19, who have been recovered from sex traffickers. For more information, go to their website: [www.safeharborohio.org](http://www.safeharborohio.org).

Aerial Recovery, based in Nashville TN, “ trains and deploys Humanitarian Special Operators, to effectively respond to natural disasters, man-made disasters, and combat sex trafficking.” They are made up of Veterans, and First Responders. Aerial Recovery tackles some of the most difficult rescue and response missions across the globe. For more information go to: [www.aerialrecovery.org](http://www.aerialrecovery.org).

Details to come!







Our daughter in law Brittany was baptized in June!



Jerry with Luke and Pastor Jeremiah with R41 ministries in Clarksville TN.



We are honored to serve Yaipak Outreach in Clarksville. (www.yaioutreach.org)



Picking up 15,000 pair of Bombas from Hannah's socks in Perrysburg OH earlier this year!



Our granddaughter Mara Mae was dedicated to the Lord in April !



Another coffee pick up with our son Zach and Dave from Concord NC – such a blessing!



Dear friends from Pine Valley Camp, Matt and Susan Reichart treated us to a King and Country concert!



We are expecting our 2nd grandchild in December, congrats to Abby and James! ( and our 3rd in March, way to go Josh and Brittany, keep 'em coming! )





The team at Achieve Vitality who took care of Tracy's torn rotator cuff this year- awesome bunch!



We love the team in Clarksville !



Pastor Oliver Adams and the 22,000 Bibles blessing West Africa!



Fellow servant evangelist Larry Dinkins



Jerry leads a discipleship class last Saturday of the month at our church, Sacred Mission church in Mason Ohio



Jerry on a discipleship whitewater rafting trip on the New River with the guys from Teen Challenge

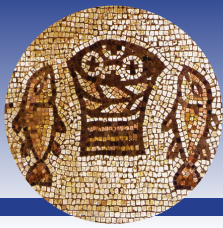


The guys at Teen Challenge, Milford OH



Clarksville TN Delivery!





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



NON PROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 CINCINNATI, OH  
 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](mailto: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.