



# The Gleaner

February 2024



## Forrest Goes to Heaven

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates.

St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued,

"Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My Momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.' "

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are:

- 1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?
- 2) How many seconds are in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?"

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song:

"Andy walks with me,  
Andy talks with me,  
Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

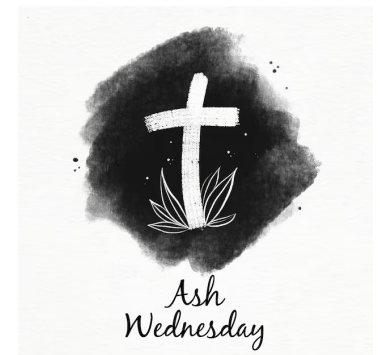
*(Gleaned from Quora.com) Pastor Tony*

*Feb. 4  
Communion &  
Installation of Elders*



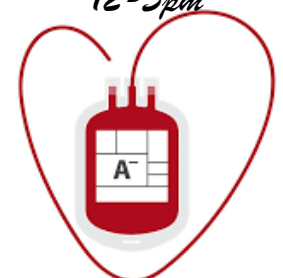
**Celebrations**  
**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS** 🥳  
**MARGARET W 2/6**  
**SAMMIE P 2/20**  
**ROBERT K 2/24**  
**No Anniversaries?**

*2/14*



And finally...  
"What do you tell a pig on February 14?"  
"Happy Valen-swine's Day!"

*2/16.  
Red Cross Blood Drive  
12-5pm*



# Operation Christmas Child February 2024

Recently we were introduced to Unreached People Groups [UPG's} and the importance of online shoeboxes in spreading the Light of the Gospel to the dark places of the world. UPG's are determined when less than 5% of the population profess to be Christian, less than 2% are Evangelical Christians and there is no significant community of native believers and no successful means of church planting, evangelism or discipleship. It is estimated that there is over 7000 Unreached People Groups in the world. This is around 3 billion people. The goal for Operation Christmas Child is to reach 500 UPG's in 2024. Our work is far from being done. The churches in the Olympia Region of O.C.C have been asked to take the UPG's in the country of Colombia. South America. The goal of O.C.C. and The Greatest Journey is that each child knows there is a God, every child to know God loves them and to have the opportunity to know Jesus as his/her Savior. This means taking the Gospel of Salvation to the ends of the earth. "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" Acts1:8

In order to do this more efficiently, we need to increase our knowledge of the country of Colombia and its people. Geographically, Colombia is bordered by both the Pacific and Atlantic [Caribbean Sea] oceans. The land mass ranges from beautiful beaches to snow-capped volcanoes in the Andes Mts. There are thick rain forests, tropical savannas and urban areas. The capital city is Bogota, 18,530 feet above sea level making it one of the world's highest. Bogota has a population of over 11 million. It is bordered by Panama, Peru and Brazil. Colombia has an estimated population of 50 million [2023 population of California 40,000,000] and until recent years was considered one of the most dangerous places worldwide due to cults and traditions. Samaritan's Purse started delivery of shoebox gifts-called "events"-in 2003 but The Greatest Journey was not launched until 2009. In areas where Christian missionary work is "technically" illegal, medical work relief efforts and OCC shoebox events can open doors.

The official language of Colombia is Spanish but varies from the traditional Spanish language. There is over 100 languages/ dialects spoken in the country—depending on region. At least 65 Amerindian languages are spoken by indigenous people. Creole and Romani languages also are spoken plus regional dialects from all of the above. So one can see where language can be a real barrier.

After searching the internet, my impression of the school system in Columbia is hit and miss. If a child is from an urban area, the chance of education is pretty good. Bogota even has a university. However, if a child is from a rural area or one of the "dark" places of the country, the chance of an education dwindles considerably. Lack of teachers and teaching material, school buildings and lack of importance to parents are all factors. Colombia does have mandatory school regulations but getting these carried out is a different story.

There are many barriers in reaching these people. Languages, geographic location, different religious and cultural divides, status within the area, common identity and the sense of community. The country of Colombia is one of the world's most linguistically and ethnically diverse countries in the world. Samaritan's Purse partners with the Seed Company, an affiliate of Wycliffe Bible Translators, to translate Bible stories and discipleship materials into dozens of languages and over 6000 dialects. Remember each shoebox contains the pamphlet "The Greatest Gift" in that child's language.

Colombia is the third largest economic power in So. America but the wealth is very poorly distributed making it among the most unequal societies in the world. 15.8% of the population live on less than \$2.00/day. 54% of Colombian families are 'food insecure'. Over 560,000 children under age 5 are chronically malnourished. There is no welfare or unemployment system, almost no pension or insurance programs. Many people in their 70's and 80's are forced to continue working or beg for their food. Yet Colombia's government is much like ours with a constitution, three divisions of government and officials are elected or appointed. In an environment such as this, there is little time or energy for nurturing and loving a child. That's another reason why these children need to know that Jesus loves them. Reminds a person of the chorus: "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World".

Prayer Points:

1. That God will raise up a church or ministry with a missionary heart for these UPG/ Hard to Reach communities. Less than 3% of missionaries volunteer to go into these dangerous, hard to reach area.
2. That doors will open and that God would be at work softening hearts and revealing himself supernaturally.
3. That God will build trust between key leaders in the communities and OCC teams that they may have continued engagement with these communities.
4. That religious/cult strongholds will be broken in preparation for the Gospel coming to these communities.
5. That God will raise up the next generation of the UPG to be courageous catalysts for Gospel transformation in their communities and in their nation.

John 9:4 " We must work for the works of him who sent me while it is day;  
**NIGHT IS COMING, when no one can work.**

Prayer is our most powerful weapon, it changes night into SONLIGHT!! Please pray for the Unreached People in Colombia. God bless you all. Sandy

**Reminder: Remember to save the color pages from "These Days" devotional. One just ended in December. We use these to make color books for the 10-14 year old girls.**

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Thank you, Sandy

## Social Media February, 2024

I mentioned last month, I am off Session but I remain with Social Media. There is something new that I find quite exciting that I want to share with you. It is called YouVersion and is part of the Bible Project that our church is using for Thursday Bible Study. YouVersion has so much potential and will take me some time to grasp all that is available. At first I really wanted to make sure our church was listed on their 'church page' to make us visible to anyone searching for a church. Toledo Baptist was listed and other churches all around us, but not us. *We are listed there now.* I have been using their free app for months. Inside the app there are many devotionals, tailored to your own interests with relevant scriptures that you may choose for you. Some are only a few days or a week long, while others are longer. I am using one that will take a year and by the end of that year, I will have read through the Bible. A tool I have found very useful while in the Old Testament is listening to the scripture while reading at the same time. I find my pronunciation of the names and places has improved. Below is a short introduction from the people who bring us YouVersion. Next month we will explore more. The YouVersion link is below too, and I encourage you to just take a look and see what a wonderful opportunity it is to have a free app, used world-wide to grow our Bible knowledge. The peace of Christ be with you, Chris

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans>

### About YouVersion - Mission

We wholeheartedly believe that a daily rhythm of seeking intimacy with God has the power to transform lives. That's why YouVersion creates Biblically centered, culturally relevant experiences that encourage and challenge people to seek God throughout each day. It's through these experiences that we create opportunities fit for anyone's daily routine, ultimately helping them form a spiritually-rich rhythm of seeking God intimately.

Our hope is that each person is on an active journey to become who God made them to be, abiding in Him and drawing closer everyday.

From YouVersion

# Nominating Committee Report

## 2023 Session Members:

Chris Anderson Media  
Ernie Badger Worship  
Paulli Badger Missions  
Diane Geister Outreach  
Gary Geister Maintenance and Grounds  
Tom Hill Treasurer and Clerk of Session Pro Tem

## WELCOME NEW SESSION MEMBERS:

Andrew  
Kathy  
Rebecca

## NEW 2024 Session:

Tom and Gary have 1 year left to serve. After serving 6 consecutive years they will be stepping off Session next year, (January 2025).

Diane will serve 2 more years, which will bring her to 4 years in January 2026

I will serve 2 more years, and will need to step away in January 2026 ( as I will have then served 6 consecutive years.)

Joining the Session after Ordination on February 4<sup>th</sup>:

Kathy Hill for one year term.

Rebecca Duerst for a 2 year term

Andrew Victor for a 2 year term

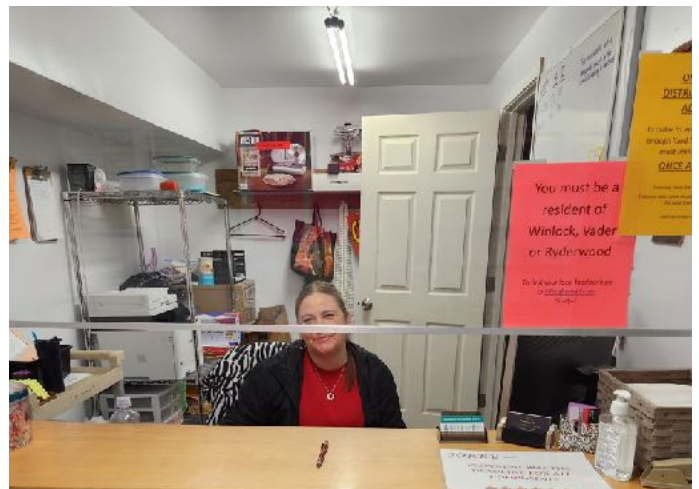
Gary, Kathy, and I will continue to serve as our Nominating Committee.

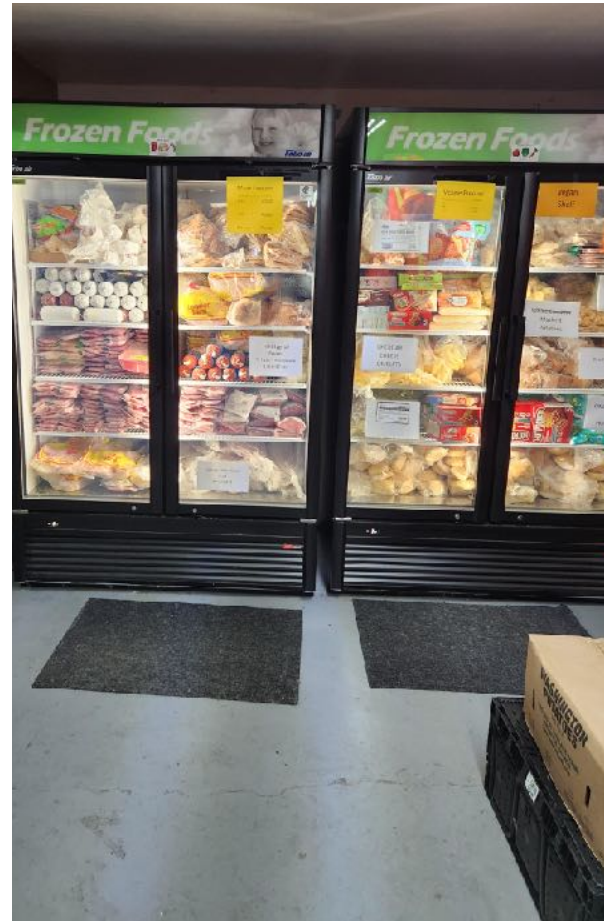
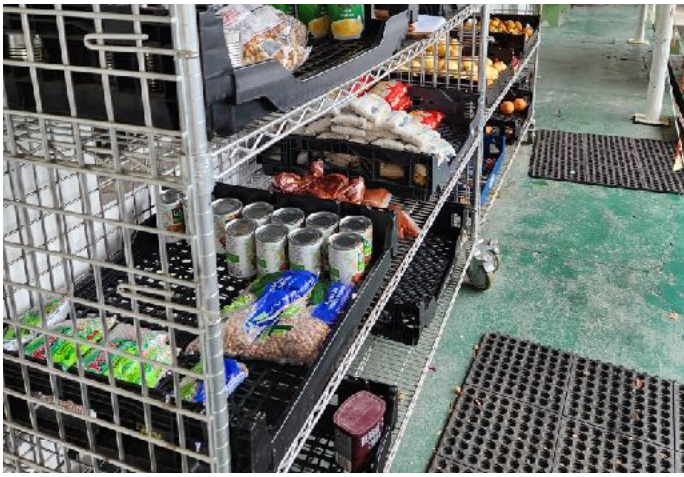
In Christ, Paulli

# Mission Report

## Winlock

I have so many great photos of Rowdy Rooster and the Food Bank in Winlock. It is always challenging to chose which ones to include with this report. There new schedule is posted on the small bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary. There is always food on the metal shelves at the entrance to the FoodBank, which is there for the sharing. Also help is a phone call away during the hours that the Thrift store is open. Currently they are serving around 88





**1 John 3:18** - Dear children,  
let us not love with words or  
speech but with actions and  
in truth.

A Valentine for TPC,  
a Spirit-filled church.

## Toledo

There is a lot going on at Toledo Neighbors. The floor was poured in the Community Room and curing when we visited last Saturday (January 27<sup>th</sup>). Supplies have been donated for the garden project. A veterans group is looking after clearing brush. There is a copy of the proposed garden area posted on the large bulletin board across from the elevator. There are many opportunities to help at Neighbors Hall.

Please check them out of Facebook. The monthly meetings are usually held at the Senior's Center in the evening. All are welcome to attend. Currently they are serving 80 people. Many are picking up for others, so many more are being helped. Volunteers arrive at 9 am to help receive and sort food. The Hall is open for shopping from 11 am to 1 pm on Saturdays.

In Christ, Paulli



*1 John 4:19 -  
We love because he  
first loved us.*





## Treasurer's Report for January 2024

We've started the year in good form with more dollars received than spent. Remember, I'm not going to be specific about the amounts in this report. If you want dollars and cents see the printed reports on the bulletin board in the elevator lobby.

With the stained glass window restoration project behind us now we turn our attention to the bell tower. At this point we're not sure what the final cost will be, but it seems safe to say it won't be as much as the windows.

As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, we'll probably be calling a Special Congregational meeting early in the summer to change Tony's contract so that it runs from January to January, or however you want to phrase it.

I'll finish by saying that even though we had a healthy bottom line in 2023, we must continue to faithfully support the ministry of our church.



Thank you for your support of our neighbors through the efforts of Andrew. Please help as you are able. The need is great.



## MADE for FRIENDSHIP - Becoming An Intentional Friend

How well does this statement describe you? As an intentional friend, I partner with God to build healthy relationships and restore broken ones.

- Who are your closest friends? What are the qualities that make those friendships so close?
- What do you value most in your friends?
- In John 15:9-17, what is Jesus teaching his disciples about friendship with Himself and with one another?

According to the American Sociological Review, the average American has two close friends. That may seem totally normal to you, but consider that just a few decades ago, the average was six close friends. Our close friends have been cut down to a third. Not only is that a steep decline, but a whole bunch of people report that they don't have a single close and trusted friend.

When God created Adam, He said, "It is not good that man should be alone." This isn't just a statement about marriage; it's a statement about friendship. Why would God look at something He has just made, that sin has not messed up yet, and declare it to be 'not good'? Because Adam was alone... and Adam was created to be like God. And God was not alone. Not ever. For all eternity, the Trinity has existed in relationship. And since we have been made in the image of God, that means we, too, are made for friendship.

**Ask Yourself:**

-Who are your closest friends? What are the qualities that make those friendships so close?

-What do you value most in your friends?

-In John 15:9-17, what is Jesus teaching his disciples about friendship with Himself and with one another?

**Pause to Pray:** Praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the love they share and extend. Thank God for your friendships, and ask Him to help you restore broken ones.

**Take a Next Step:** How will you express love and gratitude toward your close friends this week? Consider how words and actions work together.

**Scripture**

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him

John 15:9-17 **9** "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

*This devotional is an excerpt from YouVersion. It is one of the many that are available using the YouVersion app under the category of "Love". It is really a fantastic place to get all types of Bible studies for free. It is a nice tool to use in addition to our Sunday School and Thursday Bible study and Sunday sermons. A person cannot read the Bible too much. If you want to know more, ask me. Chris Use this link to get to YouVersion <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans>*