Jesus Centered Experience

As we seek opportunities to introduce our students to missions, we also endeavor to support our partners in ministry. This month, we had our children at Kids Club put together care packages of school supplies and gifts to send to scholarship recipients in Honduras in partnership with Helping Hands, Helping Hearts. Tim and Nan Leorup, former members at Ebenezer, established Helping Hands, Helping Hearts, a nonprofit ministry, after spending three weeks in an immersion program in La Ceiba, Honduras. Realizing God was calling them to ministry in Honduras, they decided to focus on education as a way to provide better opportunities for Hondurans to break away from poverty. Helping Hands, Helping Hearts equips children and adults for education by offering them scholarships and supporting them as they attend school. Another facet of their ministry is the collection of pop can tabs, which a group of Hondurans then fashion into purses and sell through Helping Hands Helping Hearts. At Ebenezer, we continually collect these tabs and send them to Tim and Nan. This is one way our students can participate in each week’s offering; though they may not have money to give, this small donation can motivate them to create good tithing habits. You, too, can donate pop tabs by bringing them to our building any day of the week. If you would like to support Helping Hands, Helping Hearts financially, you can do so by donating online at helpinghandshelpingheartshonduras.org. We are glad to collaborate with our brothers and sisters in Honduras and pray that God will work through their ministry to bless the people there.

Robin Ojeda

Robin and her family moved to Cicero about 28 years ago. She tried to stay connected to the church where she grew up, but the family found it difficult to do so, and they reluctantly began exploring churches in the area. After a couple of months bouncing back and forth between churches, Robin made the choice to stay at Ebenezer, where she immediately felt as though she was a part of the family. Ebenezer’s love for her community encouraged Robin’s faith. She remembers hosting game nights at her house with kids from the church—how Kay would attend and engage her in discussions on faith. At first, Robin thought, “I believe in God, but I’m not into people who try to shove the Bible on others,” but over time, Robin began to feel God pulling her closer to him. Now, when she spends time in the church or in prayer, she feels God’s inexplicable peace wash over her. Robin began volunteering as a Sunday school teacher and nursery coordinator, and has since helped to organize pancake breakfasts, church picnics, and also participates in Daughters of Grace. Though she regrets that her children quit going to church when they got older, her son recently started coming back on Sunday. It gives her great joy to see him and the students she teaches come to church each Sunday with willing hearts.
As Christians, we recognize that instability, sickness, and worry will always be part of our lives. While we live in a fallen world, we are prey to unending battles, and COVID-19 is a prime example of our physical battles with illness and our spiritual battles against fear and self-centeredness. We, the Church, must pray against all of these things. We must not forget that God is sovereign over our world, and we must submit our circumstances and our response to those circumstances to him. During this time of “social distancing,” Ebenezer CRC will continue to keep our Church fed, physically and spiritually. First and foremost, this means we will continue to pray for God to make his healing evident and his mercy abundant. This also means that our food pantry will continue to run each Friday evening, though it will look a bit different. Instead of setting up our pantry in the fellowship hall, we will be meeting guests at the door with individualized packages of food. Similarly, we still plan on offering legal clinic services this month. If you are seeking legal advice, please call us at (708) 484-8113 to set up a consultation. In an effort to support social distancing, our other regular ministries are not meeting. Although are likewise not holding regular Sunday worship services, we are posting pre-recorded services online at ebenezer-crc.org and on our Facebook page. As always, anyone who needs assistance or prayer is welcome to call us and we will gladly walk alongside you in any issues you are facing. If you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to message us on social media or email us at info@ebezer-crc.org. We hope you will join us in prayer for those affected by COVID-19. As you “shelter in place,” we encourage you to use your time at home to deepen your devotional time, your conversation, and your relationship with God.

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” Psalm 46:10

Judy Busic
Judy currently attends church at Forest Park Baptist, where she has spent the last 25 years. She met Harriet Boerman while shopping at New to You thrift shop, and Harriet invited her to join Ebenezer’s evening Coffee Break Bible Study, which she has been attending now for 12 years. Participating in Bible studies has held her accountable to study God's word regularly. She loves hearing the insights of other women and learning from the various Bible versions that the women read from. Of course, Harriet's particular wisdom and reflection is always an extra blessing. Since joining Coffee Break, she has attended Daughters of Grace events, enjoying the planning and creativity as well as the fellowship. She also tries to participate in fund-raising dinners. After retiring from work at The Moody Church in the fall of 2017, she began volunteering with Ebenezer’s food pantry and has been taking Ebenezer’s Council meeting minutes since last September. She loves that the senior saints are still actively involved in ministry and give us an example to follow. Being involved at Ebenezer has been a blessing to her, providing many fruitful ways to spend her time by serving the Lord his people.

To give to Youth Ministries, click the “donate” link above. To give to Community Ministries, click the “donate” link below. Checks may be made payable to Ebenezer CRC and sent to 1248 S Harvey Ave, Berwyn, IL 60402. All tithes, offerings, and donations are under section 170 (C)(2) of the IRS. Thank you for being a part of our community and making our ministry possible! Questions? Contact Kay Rops at kay.rops@ebenezer-crc.org.