



## Why We Do What We Do

Journey Elders

Why does Journey Church keep saying let's Make Much of Jesus? Why do we use it as our rallying cry? The answer is simple. Christianity is all about the Gospel, and Jesus is the active agent that makes the Gospel possible. Our hope and goal as an Elder Board is to have the Gospel of Jesus Christ precipitate and infuse itself into everything Journey Church says and does. Our goal is to actively facilitate the Gospel of Jesus Christ so it can be heard and actively lived out by all those who call Journey Church their home, as well as any who may breach our doors. We want everyone to see Jesus, and thus they will see the Gospel.

What is the Gospel? It is the great redemption story that our God put into place as the way for a fallen mankind to be restored to relationship with a Holy God. This redemption story is told from Genesis through Revelation. At the heart of the story, Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection made the ultimate restoration possible. It is God's great love story for a broken, fallen, sinful, proud group of people generically called mankind. Without Jesus there is no Gospel. That is why the Elder Board strives to keep Jesus and the Gospel front and center in everything we do. Examples of these are our Essential Jesus reading plan and Baseline Life Group. We have heard the following testimonies about these efforts:

Essential Jesus reading plan: *"I've been a Christian a long time, but the Essential Jesus reading has shown me connections in Scripture that I never knew existed before."*

*"My husband and I have been reading the Essential Jesus daily readings together and then discussing them. It has been a wonderful time of exploring Scripture and the two of us connecting with each other. Just love it."*

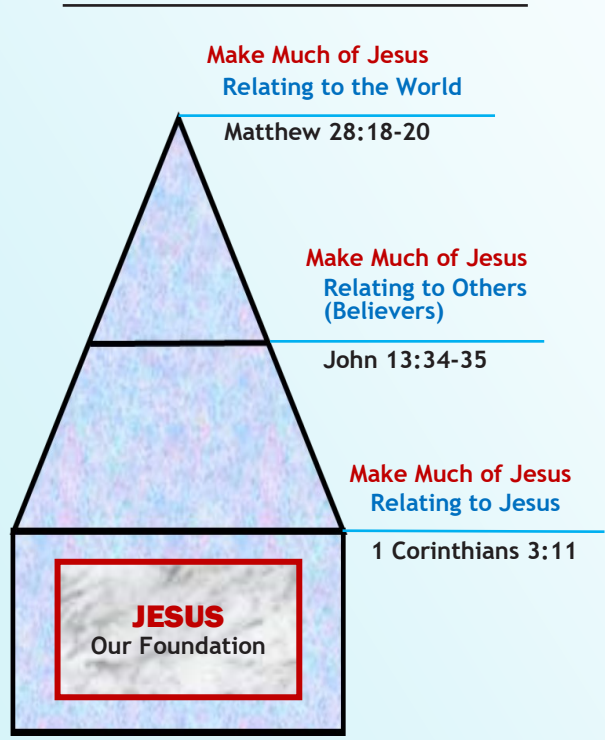
Baseline Life group: (Paraphrase) *I've been in church for most of my life, and I am now starting to see the whole picture of what the Bible is laying out before me. It is finally making sense.*

Once you become a believer in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that is not the end of it, but only the beginning. We, at Journey Church, want our body of believers to see life in a vastly different way than most of the world sees it. We are striving for all of us to see life with an eternal view, to see what really matters with an eternal perspective. Once you start down this path (called sanctification, making us more like Jesus, with Him as our

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# Make Much of Jesus

*As we **Make Much of Jesus** by building our lives on the foundation of Jesus we will grow in our relationship with Jesus, with our fellow Believers and, eventually, with those who have yet to believe in Jesus.*



Pray  
Pray  
Pray

### Pray for your leaders

That they would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in leading the church forward.

### Pray that this endeavor of **Making Much of Jesus** would be successful

To bring transformation and change within the Body.

### Pray for yourself

That you would be open to what God wants to do in your life.

example), life will radically change. Your perspective changes, your priorities change, and everything that makes you, you, begins to shift. We lean on Scripture, which is God’s Word, to teach us, to direct us, to keep us in the proper lane.

Romans 12:1-2 ESV

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Wow, what a pair of verses! What is that living sacrifice? It is you giving up being you, your old self, as we all strive and move towards being that new creation in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is a process. Let us strengthen one another, help one another, comfort one another, hold each other accountable, and have joy in one another. Celebrate God’s great redemption story by ultimately being restored in perfect communion with Him.

# The Heart of the Matter

BY LEAD PASTOR MICHAEL BELL

Matthew 15:8-9 (ESV) *“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”*

Maybe you’ve heard the phrase “you’re just going through the motions.” The phrase is not shared with the intent of congratulating the person it’s addressed to. It’s meant to share frustration at someone who is just doing something to “do it.” There’s no passion, no excitement, no heart. It’s often not a good thing to be “going through the motions” in life. Even more critical is not doing the same thing in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

I would not enjoy being on the receiving end of the statement that Jesus makes above. The target of these words were Pharisees and scribes. In their minds being “close to God” or “right with God” was accomplished by keeping up with the traditions and commandments. This isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but the problem as Jesus pointed out is this: “you honor me with your lips, but your hearts are far from me.” Think about that for a moment. What a tragedy! What a missed opportunity! To give lip service to God, but to have a heart that is unchanged and unaffected by God. This same temptation is in our midst today.

The opportunity before us at Journey Church is to Make Much of Jesus. I can tell you with absolute certainty that this mission will only be a reality when our hearts are changed. What exactly do I mean when I use the word “heart?” The heart is the core of our being, and the Bible sets high importance on keeping our hearts pure: “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Proverbs 4:23). The heart is where God desires to do His best work in us.

So, if we are only going through the motions with Jesus, then we will not change, and it will be “business as usual” at Journey Church. Please pray for your heart and mine to not give Jesus only our lip service and keep our hearts far from Him. May the Lord prevent us from “going through the motions” and miss out on the deeper places we have yet to encounter with our great Savior.


Often as we finish singing a song that is led by our music team, I will challenge those who are gathered to guard against singing lyrics from a screen that don’t have any impact on our hearts. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can our hearts change in such a way that we live our lives differently. May it be so for you and for me. For Journey Church today and in the years to come. May Jesus be proclaimed not just with our lips, but with our hearts and in our lives!

Go and Make Much of Jesus- Pastor Michael

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Online Reading Plan at [journeyclinton.org/essential-jesus](http://journeyclinton.org/essential-jesus)




Dear Church family,  
 Thank you for your love and support during the loss of Nathan's brother, Matthew. It was a very difficult time for us and your love and prayers carried us through. We are so very thankful for all of you. God is good all the time.

Nathan, Annette, and family

*Don't forget!*

# Semi-Annual Business Meeting and Lunch

May 5



**ALL are invited**

Plan to stay after the Worship Service on May 5 and enjoy lunch together followed by our Semi-Annual Business Meeting. **All** are invited to attend. **Members have voting privileges, please make it a priority.**

The Elder Board is recommending **Robbie Bentley** for membership. **Gary Fier** and **Daryl Yoder** will be voted on for a second term as Elders.

According to our Articles of Incorporation, *“The congregation will then have a three week period for consideration of the recommended applicants. During this time the Elders may be approached by members regarding the recommended applicants.”*

Current Elders are:  
Michael Bell, Jon Balk, Gary Fier, Mike Ketelsen, Jeff Reed, and Daryl Yoder.

## **BASELINE** Life Group

Introductory Class  
- All facilitators

The Bible  
- Jon and Lisa Balk

The Gospel  
- Pastor Michael and Christina Bell

What does it mean to be a Christian?  
- Jerry and Joyce Duey

Prayer  
- Daryl and Wendy Yoder

What is the Church?  
- Jeff and Ann Reed

Roles of a Believer  
- Jeff and Ann Reed

Doctrine  
- Pastor Michael Bell

Wrap Up/Celebration  
- All facilitators

**Come Join Us**  
←  
**We Are Here**



Congratulations Class of 2024!

Our Journey Church family is invited to celebrate Hannah Lower as she graduates from Northeast Community High School!

Open House:  
Saturday, June 1  
Noon-4 pm  
Journey Church Fellowship Hall



# Summer camp

COMING SOON!



**DATE:** June 10-13

**TIME:** 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

**COST:** FREE

**WHO:** Kids who have finished Kindergarten-5th grade  
FREE family meal served each evening from 5:15-5:45

Register online to guarantee your choice of activity!

[www.journeyclinton.org/camp](http://www.journeyclinton.org/camp)

Email Joy at [joyl@journeyclinton.org](mailto:joyl@journeyclinton.org) with any questions.



## Volunteers



How would you like to make a lasting impact this summer?

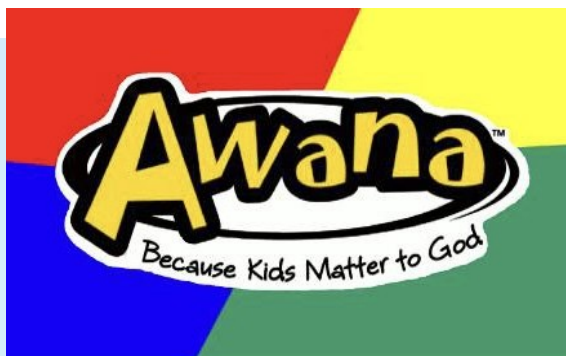


Summer Camp volunteer training is Saturday, May 11, 9-11 am at Journey Church. Refreshments provided! Come, even if you aren't sure where you want to serve!



# Awana News

BY ANNETTE ESLICK



Thank you to all our volunteers and families who have helped and supported us throughout the Awana year! It's been wonderful to see our Lord working in the hearts of the kids. They are growing in their faith walks, asking deep questions, and are regularly inviting their friends to come learn about Jesus. This ministry touched the lives of more than 60 children and volunteers.



Many Awana kids accepted Christ and many were baptized over the year.

God is at work in the hearts of these kids and it's exciting!



## Missionary Focus:

Ray and Kay Baker have been serving God through missions in Europe for over 35 years. The Bakers are currently living in Sweden and serve with Greater Europe Mission (GEM).

The Good News (of Jesus Christ) has been present in Europe for over two thousand years. In Acts 16:6-15, you'll read about the first church ever planted on the European continent around 50 AD.

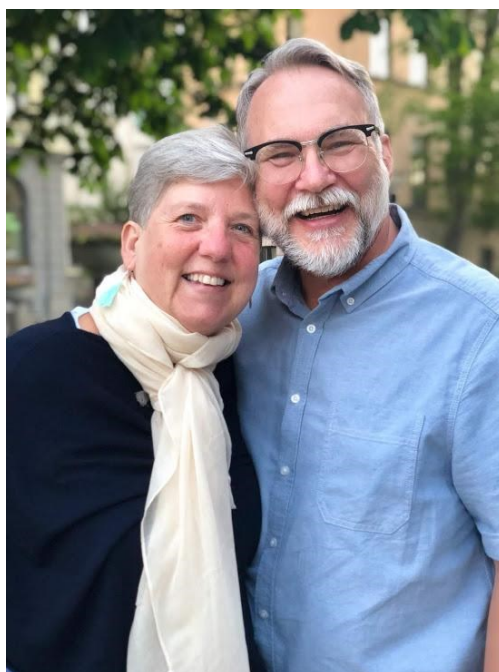
So, why Europe, when other nations still need to hear the message of Jesus? Answer: A once "reached" Europe has become "unreached" over time. Not only do most Europeans go without ever hearing the message of the Good News of Christ, most will never even meet a follower of Jesus. According to the Joshua Project, post-Christian Europe is home to the fewest Christ followers and is the most unreached continent on the planet. Only 2.9% of the population are following Jesus. Secularism and individualism are now the reigning "religion." GEM exists to relationally connect and reach the unbelieving and uncommitted across Europe. To grow and deepen them in their faith through intentional discipleship and to empower and send them out to impact their world for Jesus Christ. (Gemission.org)

Kay serves as a GEM Regional Leader over North Europe (Sweden, Latvia), the Isles (UK, Ireland) and Europe Wide Ministries. She facilitates a Leader Essentials course, a one-year program for emerging leaders within GEM. Kay also continues to serve with SHARE Education Services. The purpose is to help English speaking families, serving on the mission field in Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East, with their children's educational needs. Kay assists parents in providing quality education for their children through conferences and seminars, testing services, resource materials, and personal consultations.

Ray is an apologetics theologian teaching in churches, Bible colleges and universities, online courses, and book publishing. Ray serves on the editorial board for Apologia Forlag. Additionally, he is the publisher of *Bible idag (The Bible Today)*, a daily devotional guide. Ray also serves as the board chair for Scripture Union Sweden and as a board member for Scripture Union International, an umbrella organization for 130 ministries in countries all around the globe.

Needless to say, they are busy! The following are numbers from 2023:

- 26 speaking engagements
- 13 mentoring relationships
- 8 podcast interviews
- 51 days of in-person meetings
- 2 online courses taught
- 1 book written
- 42 books read
- 13 days of teaching in Bible colleges
- 9 conferences
- 222 hours of online meetings (Kay)
- 5 webinars taught
- 3 interviews for Christian TV
- 20 articles written for magazines and newspapers
- 1 chapter contributed to a book
- 15,860 hits on Apologia's YouTube channel



Check the Missions bulletin board for the Baker's April Newsletter and latest prayer requests.