

SOF in Touch

JANUARY 2025

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 1/1: *offices closed*
- 1/4: *KERYX Prison Service*
- 1/18: *fleece blanket tying, 11 a.m.*
- 1/26: *Communion led by Lynn Ahrens*

Perpetual Christmas Power

By Jenny Deweese

I often put off taking down our Christmas tree for as long as possible, and if I can arrange it, I ask my family to do it while I am elsewhere. Am I lazy? Well, maybe in a couple areas that I'm working on, but no, it's not because I'm lazy—it's because it makes me sad.

Christmas is such a special time of the year—one that creates a selfless warmth in almost everyone, even in unbelievers and in those of other faiths. Once we celebrate the new year, however, things quickly go back to "normal." Even within the Church, an attitude of "me, first" tends to rise up again, as pastors and counsellors try to

keep the peace. It's quite the contrast and one that affects me more deeply each year.

Don't worry, I'm not depressed. On the contrary I'm more determined to keep Jesus first, others next, and myself last. That's the example Jesus set for us. We never see in Scripture a time when Jesus had "me time." He had private time with Father God, but we don't read that He would lie out on the beach or go for a camel ride or get a massage all by His lonesome for self care or mental health. We see that He was either recharging by spending time with His Father or was spending quality time with his family or disciples or was teaching the multitudes about God's

love while healing and delivering them.

I pray that we at SOF will keep that selfless warmth toward one another even though the Christmas season has ended. Perhaps if someone offends us, we could ask ourselves, "Will this still matter by Christmas?" and **choose not** to be offended. We can choose to have the Christmas Spirit all year long—not just from November through December. That's the power Jesus gives us in the form of His Holy Spirit. We not only have the power to heal, deliver, provide, etc.; we also have the power to die to ourselves and master our flesh.

The Power of Christmas is perpetual—it's Peace on Earth and goodwill to ALL...before self.

A Word from Pastor Weldon

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Points to Remember from PW's Last Sermon:

Living from a spirit of gratitude is more important than just being thankful.

Maintaining a spirit of gratitude has great health benefits:

1. Better sleep
2. Better social skills
3. Better relationships
4. Fewer illnesses
5. Better mental health

6. Fewer aches and pain

7. I'm sure I'm forgetting some.

I know it would bless "P-Dub" beyond words if we all made a digging-in-the-trenches effort to live from a spirit of gratitude!

Love you all!

PJ





A Message from Pastor Mike

Hello, Shield of Faith Brothers and Sisters and happy New Year. I love the idea of a new year. It's almost like you have a second chance to do it over again. You can't relive what's already happened, so in a new year, you have a chance to do it better than the previous. It reminds me of the scripture.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
Truly, the old has passed away. You can't relive it, so I pray that

you make this year the best year ever in Jesus' Name.

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



2 Corinthians 3:18

"Adults Discovering Ultimate Truth"
A group for ages 18-30ish who want to grow together in faith and fun

ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

I'm excited about our opportunities this month, ADUTs!

On the 11th we will be watching *The Forge* after completing the 5-week study about the movie. I know that will be a powerful time of fellowship and fun!

January 24-26th, I will be going to a FREE conference entitled "Igniting Hope" at Zion Christian

Fellowship in Powell, OH, near Columbus. I am praying that all of you will find a way to join me on that trip! If you can only attend the Sunday afternoon session that starts at 5 p.m., that's okay, too. If you need to be home earlier on Sunday due to Monday morning responsibilities, we could arrange for you to drive/ride home in the vehicle the Sunday-only people bring. This conference will be FREE for

all who attend. The ADUT fund will foot the bill for the lodging and food, and some generous donors have offered to give each driver a gas card for the trip.

If any of our SOF family would like to help sponsor this trip financially, donations may be made to the ADUT fund.

Youth Truth

By Adam Gilles

We started 2024 with our Mission:

Being Spirit led, having wisdom, knowledge, and power, building a spiritual family dynasty, while being world-changers, overcoming evil with good and hatred with love.

FIREHOUSE REVOLUTION is walking out this

mission by studying the Word and understanding how to be led by the

Spirit. With having wisdom and knowledge, the *POWER* is coming church.



Junior and Senior High kids learning to navigate this crazy world together in a way that challenges the "norm" through Jesus' mighty power



Kids' Corner

By Jackie Gilles

Happy New Year! The start of a new year can bring on new excitement for what's ahead!

2024 was a blessed year with the amazing Young Warriors. We dove into the Bible learning scriptures, studied the Fruit of the Spirit, and ended the year meeting Friends of God. Some of the friends we met were Adam and Eve, Moses, and Balaam.

In 2025 we will continue our Friends with God Bible lessons. We are excited for 2025! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors because you never know if

they are waiting for the invitation to see what we all get to enjoy all year long!



Kids in grades 1-5 growing with Jesus



Nursery News



*“Let the little ones come to Me...”
Infants through kindergarteners’ starting life in Jesus’ love*

Ladies' Life

By Lynn Ahrens

Our Ladies of Faith will be having a fleece blanket-making assignment on Saturday, January 18, @ 10 a.m. in the children’s ministry room at SOF with a lunch provided. These blankets mean so very much to shut-ins, veterans, and the elderly who need to stay warm. It’s easy, and it’s fun getting together. No experience is necessary. Just come and have fun.

On Saturday, February 8th, the ladies’ luncheon will be at the Golden Corral, 4409 Bay Road, in Saginaw. The reason for the move is due

to Uno’s closing their doors. What’s great is that the cost is always the same: seniors for \$10.99, adults for \$11.99 and it’s all you can eat for that price. This is a reminder that our group consists of ladies from ages 12 to the “golden years.” Come and join us in February.

A LITTLE CHRISTMAS HISTORY
Why was it crowded when Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem where they found no room in the inn? It was due to the fact that Caesar Augustus required all the Jewish people to go to their hometown to register. There was severe overcrowding in and around Bethlehem. You might want

to take note that as Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, they came through the fields where Ruth gleaned the grounds that belonged to Boaz.

Luke does not share the help Mary and Joseph had or did not have. It has been assumed that having traveled the distance and relegated in a cave where the animals and feeding troughs were kept, they were indeed by themselves as her labor pains peaked. So it would have been left to Joseph to cut the cord and Mary to clean up her own baby. One of the feeding troughs became Jesus’ crib. Mary and Joseph alone witnessed the birth of the Messiah; then 33 years later, it was Mary, a few faithful women, and John who witnessed the sacrificial atoning death of our Messiah.

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An Adage from Pastor Adam

2025, let it proceed—new beginnings; the new year stands before us. Like a chapter in a book waiting to be written, take a leap of Faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing you are never too young or old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. The beginning is the most important part of the journey. It starts with the desires of your heart believing you can do it.



Remember this.

Everything you've ever wanted is sitting on the other side of fear.

The question isn't "Who is going to let me?" It's "Who is going to stop me?"

Christians that have the fire—you know, the Holy Spirit—working in and through them have an advantage that some don't have. We have the ability to write our next chapter in life with *POWER*.



POINTING THE WAY TO JESUS!

Isaiah 40:29

"He gives *POWER* to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength."

Start 2025 with Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive *POWER* when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

Look out 2025—here comes the *POWER*!



Men's Moment

