



Library Lookout:

Watch out! The Timberline twins are on the loose. Bryce and Ashley are ATV-riding tweens from Colorado who unearth action-packed mystery and adventure wherever they go. From clearing the name of a local miscreant to thwarting a gold-stealing heist, the twins' growing faith and the strong example of their parents guide them through even the most life-threatening situations.

With the trademark page-turner style used by Jerry Jenkins and Chris Fabry in the *Left Behind: The Kids* series, these fast-paced books will keep even reluctant readers on the edge of their seats. Perfect for ages 8-12.



Kids' Corner with Miss Abby



Snowman Snacks

Clear plastic cups
Markers
Vanilla Pudding or Yogurt

Memory Verse

...Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.
-Isaiah 1:18b

Sunday School - (All ages) 9:45 am
Children's Church (Ages 4-10 years) During Sunday Morning Worship
Master's Club - (Ages 4 years - 6th grade) Wednesdays at 6:00pm
Youth Group - High School Sundays at 6:00pm
Middle School Wednesdays at 6:00pm
Nursery Provided for ALL services

Snow Fun

- Bring indoor toys outside (Mr. Potato Head, and Trucks...)
-
- Make snow paint out of cold water and food coloring
 - Make snow bubbles
 -
- Make ice ornaments to hang outside
 -
- Birdseed art in the snow
 -
- Sledding target (Use your snow paint to make a target at the bottom of the hill. Wherever your sled stops that is how many points you get. Most points wins)



The Voice

January 2023

Fresh Starts & Stepping Out

by Lee Rometti

I love fresh starts. As a teacher, my favorite times of the year have regularly been the beginning of a new semester. All of the assignments have been graded. That feeling of always being behind and always having lessons to plan and projects to grade is erased for at least a week.

Every time that I start a diet, I wait until the first of the month. It feels like the new month offers a new start. I don't always follow through, but I sure love the new beginning.

January 1 is the same way. It is a day of fresh starts. There is nothing magical about it. The day is like any other day of the year, but it feels different. It is a day that I like to set challenges for myself.

Often, after a full year, I get into a rut. Sometimes I fall back into old habits. Sometimes, the busyness of life gets in the way of the things that are most important to me. I need a time to evaluate my life. What is going well? Where do I need to improve?

New Year's Day is that opportunity to review my past year and look ahead. I can always improve physically. There are topics in life that I would like to study more. There are relationships with family and friends that could improve. But, the most important improvements that I can make in life revolve around my spiritual life.

My challenge in the year 2023 for myself and for you is to step out of your comfort zone spiritually. That will most definitely look different to each of us.

What does it mean to step out of your comfort zone? It means to live by faith. Do things that scare you. Things that you don't feel confident in doing in your own strength. Do things that require you to trust God and plug yourself into the power of the Holy Spirit.

What could that mean to you?

First of all, have you been trying to work your way to Heaven. Have you attempted to earn God's love by your good deeds? Well, it is time to realize that you are not good enough. No one is. You need to step out in faith and trust in the gift that Jesus has provided for you. When he died on the cross, He paid your sin debt and

offers you the gift of salvation. You need to accept it in faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Maybe you have been comfortable in your daily schedule. God is asking you to give him part of your day. You may feel that you are too busy to take time to read your Bible and pray each day. In truth, that will be the best and most important part of your busy day. (Ephesians 6:18; 2 Timothy 3:16)

Is your budget so tight that you feel like you can't give any of your money to God. He tells us that we are to give cheerfully to Him and that He will bless us. We cannot out-give God. Begin giving money to God through the church. As you grow in faith, increase your giving. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Are you a parent and you know that you need to be the spiritual leader of your home? Does it scare you to lead your family in devotions and Bible reading and prayer? Step out this year. Be the spiritual leader and watch God work in your family. (Deuteronomy 6:4-8)

Do you have friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, etc. who do not know the Gospel and are not on their way to Heaven. This year, make it a priority to pray for their salvation and then tell them the truth about what Jesus did on the cross for us. It may be scary to share the Gospel, but just remember that everyone is going to spend eternity in Heaven or Hell. God wants to use us as an instrument to give them the key to eternal life. So, it is well worth it to step out in faith.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) doesn't only command us to tell others about the Gospel, it also tells us to teach them the Bible. Maybe stepping out of your comfort zone means discipling someone or leading a Bible study.

Do you have difficult people in your life? Jesus said that we are to love everyone. It is easy to love those who are kind and treat you good. It is challenging to love those who are not so nice. Maybe you need to step out in faith and love someone even if they don't "deserve it". (Matthew 5:43-47)

How is your daily quiet time with God? How well do you know your Bible? Have you ever attempted to read through the whole Bible? Maybe this is the year. See Pastor Kraig for a reading plan that will get you through

Continued from page 1
the entire Bible in 2023.

There are many ministries in the church that you could get involved in. Where has God gifted you? Are you using those gifts for Him? This year, serve Him more and better. Serve others like Jesus commanded us to. Ask Pastor Kraig what ministries are available. Where do you see a need?

Get to know the Church Board

What is your position on the church board?

Pastor Kraig: Pastor/Elder (Pastor since 2017 and associate pastor from 2011-2017). **Lee:** I am an Elder and Sunday School Superintendent. **Kerry:** Deacon, treasurer, and the clerk. **Larry:** deacon.

What are some of the jobs/responsibilities that you have on the board?

Pastor: My job as pastor is to shepherd the flock. I also take charge of the ministry of the Word, administration of the ordinances, and care of the spiritual welfare of the members (and many other day to day duties. **Lee:** My responsibilities include teaching (I have taught the teens for over 30 years—in Sunday School, the youth group, and the school Bible study). I have also filled in for church services, teach Men’s breakfast and taught Sunday School openings. I lead the missionary committee, help count money, read scripture and pray during the services, head up the hunting banquet, work with VBS, help lead missions trips, and I work with Pastor Kraig to oversee the spiritual aspects of our church. **Kerry:** Church clerk, maintenance, open in prayer, teach men’s breakfast, and sometimes count offerings. **Larry:** Helping and advising with building/property maintenance. Attending board meetings. Praying for body. Prepare communion. Open/close services with prayer.

What is your favorite part of serving on the board?

Pastor: My favorite is discipling in any form. I am encouraged when men are excited about growing in the Lord together and are interested in serving the Lord. **Lee:** I love the men that I work with. They have a passion to serve Jesus and the people in our church. I also love to see people in the congregation get excited about their relationship with Jesus; when they develop a passion to study the Bible and obey and serve God and other people. **Kerry:** Serving God and the church body. **Larry:** Being a part God’s Church and serving.

What are some of the challenges of being on the board?

Pastor: Some of the challenges on the board are car-

rying the weight of the flock and trying to encourage through all circumstances. **Lee:** I think that communication is the most challenging aspect of serving on the board. We know what we discuss, our motives, and our plans, but if we don’t communicate those things with the congregation misunderstanding can arise. Also, serving can take a lot of time. Sometimes this has impacted time with my family. **Kerry:** Making tough decisions in meetings. **Larry:** Balancing my board/church responsibilities with my other responsibilities and everyday life.

What are some of your goals for the church?

Pastor: One goal that I keep working on is that we would all be growing in Grace. I would say for a 5 year goal is that we invest in our younger families and ones that want to serve the Lord. Another goal is that we would all be striving toward what Colossians 4:6 tells us. **Lee:** To see people saved and then learn to live for and like Jesus. To see families strengthened and grow together spiritually. To see our church impact Iron County for Jesus. To make sure we never compromise the truths of the Bible. That the IRBC would be known as a church who loves each other. **Kerry:** Maintain unity and to keep out false teaching. **Larry:** My main goals for the future is that we never compromise on the Word of God and that we never close our doors for worship services, Bible studies and fellowship events even if we are pressured to do so for whatever reason.

What is your favorite book of the Bible or favorite Bible verse?

Pastor: I have greatly enjoyed preaching through 1 Timothy as well as 2 Timothy within the last year. I love to see the relationship between Paul and Timothy. There is a lot to learn there for us as a church. As far as a favorite, I love it all. **Lee:** I love the whole Bible. I enjoy reading about Jesus’ life in the Gospels. Revelation tells us how it all ends and who wins in the end. Daniel shows how God judges sin but remains faithful to His people and Genesis tells us how everything

Testimony Time:

How I came to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior. By Camden Benson age 10

How did you become a Christian?

“I asked God into my heart to become a Christian at Good News Club.”

When did you become a Christian?

“It was last year.”

What is the best part of being a Christian?

“You know who God is and you can talk to Him.”

What is your favorite Bible story?

“Noah and the Ark.”

began. **Kerry:** Revelations. **Larry:** I love every bit of God’s word! But the book Ecclesiastes is really thought provoking for me.

What are some of your hobbies?

Pastor: In this season of life that the Lord has us in, I enjoy spending time with my family. I also try to get out and play a few rounds of golf with our golf league from church. That is a great time to fellowship. I love getting to know guys better on the course. **Lee:** I enjoy anything outside—especially in the summer. I also really enjoy kayaking, photography and traveling. Anything with my family. **Kerry:** Farming, hunting, fishing, trapping, and HAM radio. **Larry:** Fly fishing and hunting!

What is something that you would like to learn to do?

Pastor: I would enjoy learning how to play the guitar or mandolin. If you have been in my office you will notice a guitar hanging on the wall. It looks nice

but I have no clue how to play it. Maybe someday in my free time I will learn how to play one of those instruments. **Lee:** I would like to spend time learning carpentry/woodworking skills from my dad. **Kerry:** Frier. **Larry:** Learn how to play bass guitar!

How can the church pray for the board members?

Pastor: Pray for wisdom as we continue to minister to the body here at IRBC. Pray that we would constantly be seeking the Lord in humility at all times as we lead the church for His glory. **Lee:** Please pray for our personal relationships with God, for our families, that we would be discerning and wise, be humble servant leaders, and that we would be used of God in our ministries in the church. That we would always stand firm on God’s word and communicate clearly with the people of the church. **Kerry:** Steadfastness, diligence, protection from Satan. **Larry:** Pray they stand firm and that God would bring up the next generation to serve.

The 31 Day Proverbs Challenge

Here are the basic guidelines:

The 31 Day Proverbs Challenge is a very simple way to engage God’s Word and share it with your family and others. Spending the first month of 2023 in a book filled with so much wisdom is a great start to the year.

1. Starting January 1, read the chapter in Proverbs that corresponds with that day’s date with your family.
2. After reading the chapter, choose one verse from the chapter that you want to share with someone.
3. **Go private with it.** Sit down for 10 minutes as a family and talk through what your particular verse meant to you and how you will work it into your life.
4. **Go public with it!** Post it on your Facebook status or twitter account. Make a point of working it

into a conversation throughout the day. Sit down as a family or with a group of friends and share which verse you chose. The possibilities are endless...

5. Tomorrow, do it all over again...for the next 31 days.
6. Visit www.facebook.com/ironriverbiblechurch and leave a comment to tell us how you are choosing to take on the challenge so others can be encouraged by your stories!

That’s the challenge? Will you accept it and get into the word in January with us?

The Challenge is taken from the Southlake Baptist Church.

Missionary Report: Each month we will update a few of our missionaries

Bregis (Pastor in Haiti) Thankful

Pastor Wisly Bregis wants to thank the generous people of the Iron River Bible Church who gave to help provide food and Christmas gifts for the children of the church/school. Before we sent money for food, people of the church were starving. They will need more food next month. Here are some pictures of the thankful people.



Wrights (Missionaries to Gulu, Uganda) Prayer needs.

As many of you know, having a radio station requires constant attention and our biggest area that needed attention was in the area of stable electricity. Thankfully, now we have been able to buy and install our standby generator for the radio station. It has already been a huge blessing and we have been able to have continual broadcast since the time we installed it. AMEN! It has been good to resume my live radio program. I am able to explain doctrine and interact with the community through phone calls and messages. We praise the Lord that many people are receiving the gospel message through Calvary Radio.

Of course, it's not all serious, I had one caller ask if I could play her favorite Christmas song on the radio. Her favorite song was "jingle bells." Unfortunately, I couldn't find that song on our hard drive, or I would have played it for her. Ha!

We have been asking prayer for our Certificate of Residency for a while now. This is simply a different immigration status that would allow us to live and work in Uganda without an NGO. We have received an answer from the Lord on this request, and His answer is "NO!" At least not for the time being.

Please continue to pray for our family and the continuing changes we face as our children are growing up.

Schroders (Church Planters in Maryland) Prayer Need

In December, Good News Baptist held their Christmas program with the children from Good News Club. Twenty-five children were involved. Please pray families of those who attended. A couple of parents of Good News Club children have approached us about spiritual matters. Lori is working to schedule Bible Studies with one of the moms. Another mom told us that her daughter wants to be baptized. Rosalie was saved last year at Club. Her family does not attend church.

We have had multiple visitors attend church since our last prayer letter. One of them, George, came because his friend came to our baptismal service. George has been reading the gospel of John and a few weeks ago said that he accepted the Lord. He has since moved to Virginia Beach, VA.

On October 16th, during the Craft Bazaar at the Forth Ritchie Community Center, we hosted a special worship service for the vendors. Three vendors, a lady who works at the center named Bev, and a couple from the community attended. Pray for Bev and her husband Bill. That same week, Bill was diagnosed with leukemia. Pray that this family would come to Christ.

The couple who visited that same Sunday of the craft bazaar would certainly appreciate your prayer support as well as they have faced several losses in their family over the last year. It has been a hard time for them. We desire to be a help to them as they walk a difficult road.

Thank you for praying for our Halloween Outreach. We handed out 300 bags of candy, tracts, and cards with information on the church. Two families visited the following Sunday. We also had contact with a lady named Diane on that day. She has since visited church.

We would appreciate prayer for Devon and Maddie. They have not been in church for awhile. Also pray that those who have visited our Sunday Worship would return and we would have further impact in their lives.

Lori's father had a stroke in December. Pray for his health as he has a long road to recovery.

Services & Bible Studies (Times and Places):

Every Sunday:

Sunday School	9:45 am
AM Service	11:00 am
PM Service	6:00 pm
Teen Youth Group	6:00 pm

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm:

Adult Study & Prayer
Middle School Youth Group
Master Club

Men's Bible Study:

Tuesday 3 rd & 17 th 9:30 am
-Ron Hardy—Meet at church

Women's Bible Study:

Monday 2 nd & 16 th 6 pm
-Sharon Rometti's House
Tuesday 3 rd & 17 th 9:30 am
-Joan & Melody—Meet at church
Friday 6 th & 20 th 9 am
-Vivian—Meet at church

What is the Value of a Prayer Meeting?

Taken from www.gotquestions.org

From the very beginning of the church, Christians have gathered to pray (Acts 4:24; 12:5; 21:5). Prayer meetings are valuable for the church as a whole and for the individuals who participate.

Prayer is only for those who believe that God is personal and who want a personal relationship with Him. Christians know prayer works because they have encountered a God who declares, "Talk to me and I will listen." The apostle John confirms this: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

Through our prayers, especially with one another, we are demonstrating and validating the faith we have in Jesus. Andrew Murray, the great Christian minister and prolific writer, said, "Prayer depends chiefly, almost entirely, on who we think we are praying to." It is through the discipline of prayer with one another that we develop a growing intimacy with God, and create a spiritual bond with one another. This is one of the most valuable aspects of praying with one another.

Another valuable benefit of prayer meetings is the confession of our sins to one another. Prayer meetings give us opportunity to obey the command to "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed" (James 5:16). Here, James does not necessarily speak of physical healing, but rather of spiritual restoration (Hebrews 12:12-13). He also refers to the forgiveness of God, which enables the believer to become spiritually whole again. James knew that the one who becomes separated from the flock is most susceptible to the dangers of sin. God wants His people to encourage and support one another in loving fellowship, mutual honesty and confession as we pray for and with each other. Such close fellowship

helps provide spiritual strength to experience victory over sin.

Another great value of prayer meetings is that believers encourage one another to endure. All of us face obstacles, but by sharing and praying together as Christians, we often help others avoid "bottoming out" in their spiritual lives. The value of corporate prayer lies in its power to unify hearts. Praying before God on behalf of our brothers and sisters has the effect of linking one another spiritually. As we "carry each other's burdens," we "fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Where there is prayer, there is unity, which Jesus prayed so fervently for His followers to have (John 17:23).

More than anything else, prayer meetings bring about change. Praying with one another, believers can witness God produce miracles and change hearts.

A prayer meeting is a time of real value as believers seek a deep intimacy and quiet communion with God at His throne. It is a time of unity with fellow believers in the presence of the Lord. It is a time to care for those around us as we share their burdens. It is a time when God manifests His never-ending love and desire to communicate with those who love Him.

So, please join us on Wednesdays from 6 pm to 7 pm as we pray together. We study a Bible topic and then pray for the church members, family, friends, the community, the country, and those around the world. It is a time of growing faith, trusting God, seeking His will, and bonding with other believers.

If you are not a part of our Wednesday prayer meetings, you are really missing out.