



The River flows with hope and healing bringing new life in Jesus.

Summer Edition

The beginning of this year has had its share of hardships. We have struggled with some conflict. I hear most churches do. During the same time frame, I was laid up with a broken ankle on January 6, surgery, and some complications that arose. However, by Easter I was back on my feet again. It took a bit longer for The River to get back on its feet following the conflict.

Even during the struggles, we continued to see some new families join our fellowship, both with background following Christ and those who do not. We are eager to see how God will lead us to integrate them into the congregation, and how we can all work together to further advance the Kingdom of God. God is also providing opportunities for us to reach out to those who haven't followed Jesus.

The leader of our Hunger Strike ministry was asked by one of her clients to lead the funeral for her sister. I supported Shelly Jo in that venture, and she did a great job, so good in fact, that the following Sunday 9 individuals from the funeral attended The River. There have been two more deaths in that extended family in the two weeks since, and we are ministering to these new friends of the Kingdom of God in Allegan.

In February, the drama class at the Allegan Alternative High School presented six personal stories of survival to the community at the Performing Arts Center. The kids did a wonderful job, and the ministry of The River was even highlighted. Since then, I have had a meaningful conversation with several people helping them through some tough time. The principle of the Alternative High has approached us about the possibility of a 'faith-based' after school recovery ministry with the students, some of whom are really reaching out in the last month or two. Please pray that this opportunity is opened, and that others like it will be opened to the advancement of the Kingdom of God as well.

The River helped me Connect with God



As a child, I always believed in God but that was the extent of it. I believed 2 things; there was a god, and I feared him. Later in life, my grandfather had a heart attack and died. He was resuscitated 3 minutes later. He said for those 3 minutes he saw the brightest white light imaginable. He said it didn't hurt his eyes but it was of magnificent beauty. That got me thinking more about God and reading the Bible. But the day I really started believing in God and wanting to live a Christian life was June 18, 2008. That was the day my grandfather was in the hospital for the last time. He was laying there in the bed kicking his feet. I asked him what he was doing and he replied, "I'm walking into heaven." Minutes later he passed away. I knew right then I wanted to commit my life to God.

Later, a friend of mine, Donna McKissock introduced me to The River Church. Immediately felt like family. I went to the Bible studies on Wednesdays and Worship on Sundays. That is where I really learned more about God. I learned how to look at things from a different perspective. Then I got to a point where I needed to show my commitment to Jesus by being baptized, which I did on May 23, 2010. I love worshipping God and I'm so glad to be a member of The River Church family. — Nikki Wilson

Financial Partnership Update

We continue to struggle financially, but we are so very thankful for the way God provides for us. In particular, we are also thankful to individual ministry partners, those who have supported The River in prayer and financially. Our prayer is that God will bless you in the same way that you have blessed us.
Grace and Peace, Jon Vugteveen

prayer petitions praise

Give thanks to God, as He has provided for our every need.

Since the beginning of this year, we have faced some significant struggles. Please pray that God will protect us, as we work to advance His Kingdom.

Ask God to lead us further into the community of Allegan leading into this fall's ministry.

Ask God to bring forth workers for the harvest as well; those followers of Christ who are willing and able to help The River advance the Kingdom.

Ask God to give wisdom as we build flexible and functional organizational structure.

Pray with us for your own blessing; you know he wants to.

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The River Church

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