



# Open Bible Fellowship

1125 SW 3rd St. Ankeny, IA 50021

[pastor@obf.cc](mailto:pastor@obf.cc)

515-306-1144

[www.obf.cc](http://www.obf.cc)

March 2019

## Excavation

It's always so wonderful when you see God work! As you know we have been praying, paying and working toward constructing our own building. Last year God did several things to remove some barriers and open things up for us.

A couple of weeks ago the excavation company which is going to be doing the work on the I-35 and First Street interchange called. Since this work is just down the road from our property, they asked if we would allow them to use our six acres as their staging sight.



In exchange, when they are through with the interchange project, they would excavate our sight to our building specifications, free of cost. (Our builder had estimated \$60,000 for excavation.)

Since we raised the \$10,000 to readjust our site plan, that part has been ready to go. Before accepting this offer, however, we need another \$9,500 more for the required blueprints and fees to submit our building plans to the city for approval. When I asked Pamela, our treasurer how much we have in the building fund. To my delight, because of the continued and steady giving into the fund, we have \$10,500 more. So, because of the faithful giving, we are to be able to make these commitments and move forward with the excavation which is very timely in order to receive this gift. Hallelujah!

In reality, for a church to buy land and build what we are going to build, would be more like a 1.3 million-dollar project, which for our small church seems impossible, but God has been developing all this without spending this much. To God's glory we are far along, and still debt free. We have paid off six acres in the best location in growing Ankeny and the thousands for architectural plans and fees are paid for. Even though we have needed to practice patience and faith, we see God's plan at work. As we have been waiting on the construction, we have been constantly preparing internally such things as furniture, computers, projections, software systems, a sound system, pew chairs and tables that will go inside the new building.

The excavation company will start on the interchange in April and be done in November. There will be continued, and various expenses so continue to pray and give. Thank You!

## Baptism Service

We will be having a baptism service at the AmericInn Motel swimming pool the last half of March. A study sheet is available to learn more about baptism for those interested. Let pastor know if you would like a copy. We will have a meeting before this time for those who want to be baptized. We will schedule a date that would work best time for everyone.

## Pastor's Books

Pastor Wally is excited to report that three of the books he has written have been accepted by the national Christian Publication Company. They will promote them to book stores and on-line sales. Now available on Amazon.

## Producing Videos

Pastor Lana started a video series out of an obedience to the Lord's leading. She is now up to 92 "An Iowa Mom Videos" with over 34,500 views.



That experience spurred us on to the idea of starting some videos called "Hi Five Pastor" (High thoughts in just five minutes) that Pastor is doing. We have two of these in the works right now "The Snow" and "The Big Tree."

Our plans are to develop another YouTube series (still to be named) using my "Foundational Christian Teachings" book as an on-line class to give people faith and a quick understanding of the most important doctrines they need to know.

Happy to be  
Affiliated  
with ...



## Land Sign



Some people have asked about our sign on our church land. We had to take it down initially because the DOT needed to rework the corner and our ditches. This was another blessing since they paid us \$7000 for that slice of our land (which added to

our building fund). They are going to put in an underground drainage system in our ditch. They will also level our ditches so we can easily maintain them. They have been a problem for our maintenance because of the steep ditches and they were always muddy from the neighborhood storm system drainage.

Since they will have to rework all the ditches they would be removing our little driveway, so I asked if they would be able to put the driveway in the location that would match our plans. They said that would be no problem for them. So that is another great help and cost savings for us.

We will replace the sign once we know exactly where we can place it without being in the way of the excavation company. The new sign will show the architect drawing of the first two phases and announce our plans.

## Prophetic Verses for Us

The following verses have been spoken to us prophetically over the years in a variety of ways:

### **Zechariah 4:6-10 (ESV)**

*<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.*

*<sup>7</sup> Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"*

*<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,*

*<sup>9</sup> "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.*

*<sup>10</sup> For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth."*

To us, it tells us what we have begun, we will be able to complete. It also tells us it is not by the usual worldly methods but by God's moving. We have often lived with the disdain of looking so small, but not in God's eyes. With God, the smallest seed can become the largest thing. And, of course, we love the phrase, "Grace, grace to it!"

## Updating Our Web

Jean Shea has worked hard to update our web pages in order to have them work better with mobile apps. Learning coding and "bootstrap" she has started with our last two years Messages pages and next will work on our main page. Her work has made the message page more attractive, "user friendly" with improved and updated technology. Thanks Jean!



## Connections

Pastor Lana has worked to develop our prayer network, but also our emergency contact network. In order to have quick emergency contact from one email to all phones as a text, we had problems with our old system. We have created a new email [PrayOBF@gmail.com](mailto:PrayOBF@gmail.com) for email to text. However, do not use this line to contact us. It doesn't tell us who it is from and it may not show up at all. For quick response text, or call using her personal phone number 515-306-1145 (**but DO NOT USE the PrayOBF thread.**) If you do not hear a response, call and leave a message. She will respond to you as soon as she sees it. You can contact Lana by email at [L@obf.cc](mailto:L@obf.cc) but she checks her email usually only once a day. Call or text is best. We do not want to miss any of your requests!!!

Please pray for this important system to work well and for Lana who is trying so hard to make this all work. Thank you for your help in this.

## Meetings with Our Builder

Pastor has had numerous meetings with Brad Voorhees our builder and they have had a number of meetings with other officials and planners.



## Open Bible Churches

Open Bible Churches minister in 44 countries. Through the outreaches of Open Bible overseas, **1,308,470 people received Christ last year;** over 5,500 people were baptized in water; and over 11,000 people received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In the past 11 years, over 1,900,000 people have received Christ as Savior.

## **KIDS' TIME**

Learning is different for each person, but we seek to reach every elementary age child during Kids Time. Our Kids Time students listen to Bible lessons which will take us through the Bible using Group Publishing as a guide. To bring the message home, we regularly use art as a way for the kids to express ideas.



Sometimes the kids write on the white board, act out situations or play a game that illustrates what we are learning. We have also made videos to tell others about what we are learning. On the new KIDS page on [www.obf.cc/kids](http://www.obf.cc/kids) you can see examples of their art and videos.

I have been excited to bring on assistants, Mickey Simmons and Angela McGonigle. Aracely LaRue has also volunteered to teach Kids Time and has been doing so monthly as well. The team approach helps us make the most of the time we have each Sunday. It is exciting to see how much the kids are learning and most of all to see them grow in the Lord.

Recently, Mickey generously offered a challenge to the kids that if they would memorize and recite the books of the New Testament in order, she would give them a special reward. Manny Carbajal was the first to win the prize and every single student followed suit. The reward was a beautiful kid's sized djembe (a hand drum originating in Africa.)



The students were quick to learn a special drum accompaniment to "Let Everything that Has Breath Praise the Lord" which they played with the congregation's worship that Sunday. We look forward to the kids bringing their drums to church again in the future.

## **Nursery at OBF**

Juan, Maria and Johnny Carbajal and Patricia Jameson take turns working with our infants through pre-Kindergarten children in the nursery. Mickey Simmons, Jerry and Aracely LaRue have also helped to fill in when needed.

The nursery is a very important place for little ones to feel the love of Jesus in their play time, music, snacks, story time and simple teachings. This special time with these little ones is a very real help as they start their lives knowing that God is very real and that he loves them. The stories they hear in our nursery nourishes that childlike faith which is the foundation for their adult lives as well. We are so very blessed to know these little ones are important to our church and they will be influencing the world.

## **Baby Dedication**

Edgar and Yesnia dedicated there new baby boy, Salvador Emanuel Serrano February 10th. We praise God for bringing Salvador safely through as there were some threatening times, but God is good and answers prayers.



## **Open Bible Regional Camps Children's Camp**

is July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup> at Wildwood Hills Ranch in St. Charles, IA.

Open Bible Central Kids' Camp is designed specifically for children who have completed 2nd through 5th grades. They provide structured activities in a safe environment, giving kids the opportunity for lots of fun and opportunities for kids to encounter God personally.

## **Youth Camp**

is July 15-19 at Hidden Acres Retreat Center in Dayton, IA.



Open Bibles helps fill these days with great activities, fun games, high energy worship, amazing speakers that will challenge teens to take the next step toward God.

[www.openbiblecentral.org](http://www.openbiblecentral.org)

## **A Movie to See**

Dr. Anthony Levatino is a doctor who has performed 1200 abortions. That all changed when his wonderful little 5 year old daughter was hit and killed by a car outside of their home. When the doctor got back to work after that tragedy and was doing another mid-term abortion, cutting out the parts of the body of a baby and having to inventory each body part to make sure he removed them all, he was struck with how appalling it was to do that to a baby.

He is now starring as an abortion doctor in the new movie "Unplanned" which is the true story about Abby Johnson, a Planned Parenthood director, who became horrified at what abortions really are.

An interesting note is that young girls will not be allowed to see this "R" movie unless they are accompanied by an adult, however, in our nation, a minor girl can request and get an abortion without the knowledge or consent of a parent.

The strongest argument for abortion is that a woman has a right to do with her own body whatever she wants; but that is also the weakest argument. It can be obviously proved that the baby is not of her body. In any court of law if you were to identify who was who it would be proven that a person with different DNA, of different blood type, of a different gender, etc. is not the same person.

Rather a more accurate description is that a woman is "with child." Perhaps why god is so concerned and warns about sexual sin is because the act involves the creation of human life itself. Indeed, the child is created as a new, separate, person by the joining of the cells from a man and from a woman.

The nations of the earth have been horrified to hear of the story of newsperson Jamal Khashoggi who was killed by Saudi agents as they cut him into pieces until he died. Yet this happens by the millions in our country legally.

We are appalled that German Nazis killed 11 million people in concentration camps, yet our country has killed over 60 million innocent children in the womb. What is the judgment of God hanging over our country?

## **RADIANT Regional Women's Conference April 5-6 at Coraville, Iowa**

Ladies from around the region gather for this conference to receive a word from the Lord,



worship together, and connect in relationships. The conference is Friday evening through Saturday noon closing the conference experience with lunch together.

The ladies from our church that have attended in the past find this event a worthwhile time together. Let Pastors know if you are interested in attending ahead of time so we can arrange shared rooms which holds the cost down.

## **Open Bible National Convention: Embrace**

The National Convention this year will be at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg/Chicago. The theme of the convention is Embrace:

We embrace everything that the Holy Spirit desires to do in and through us.

We turn away from complacency and satisfaction with the status quo.

We choose to not be content with who we have been.

We resolve to be the people He has called us to be.

We receive as a fresh promise from Jesus, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8)

We stimulate and release faith to lunge forward, apprehend, and walk in the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for this National Conference and Open Bible Churches



**INSTE** Let Pastors know if you want to take an accredited Bible School course. It's called INSTE.

**WOMENS GATHERING** March 15 at 6:30 pm we will discuss Chapters 8-10. We meet in the lobby and along with great discussion and fellowship we also enjoy snacks.

**TOM STAMMAN MEETING** will be at our church Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Tom's prophetic ministry is so good at opening people up to the reality and power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. So pray and invite people to come, especially those who may dismiss God and church.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

Please let Pastor Lana know if you would like to learn how to help. Most needed are Cleaners, Nursery workers, ushers and greeters. Thank you for your help.

*Thank You to All the Volunteers that are constantly giving in many ways; it makes everything in the church work!*

**Great Resources**

We live in a time like never before. We have all the world's knowledge at our finger tips. We have communication to almost anyone in the world. With great potential comes great responsibility. We need to make the most of our time and our resources for the kingdom of God.

In our church we are trying to do this in a variety of ways to reach out locally and universally. Visit our web site often where we post our latest bulletin and current upcoming events. All messages are also posted and some are put together in series. We want to make use of great communication. We can be in touch by phone, emails and text and through our web:



**[WWW.OBF.CC](http://WWW.OBF.CC)**

**SPRING IS COMING!!!**

Pastor took a picture of this beautiful butterfly in their back yard 2 years ago. Just had to show it. It is a reminder of the Spring and Summer coming.

It is also a reminder of the transformation that God can bring; to think that a lowly grub in the ground can become such a wonderful, and beautiful butterfly that can take wings and live an entirely different and new life.



**GOD BLESS YOU ALL**



Open Bible Fellowship  
1125 SW 3rd St.  
Ankeny, Iowa 50023