

# Paradise Life

## January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Samuel Shepler * Ross and Rachel Pifer	2 Rachel Pifer Tyler Hanzely	3	4
5 Dustin Pifer * Church Undecorating followed by Covered dish lunch	6 Emmalyn Rice	7 Genevieve O'Harah	8 Harold Eastman Consistory 7 PM	9 Floyd Askey Sherry Keller Madilyn Fye	10	11 Kelly Keller Karen Peace Dave Yohe
12	13 Ty Bittner Holly Reinsel Joe Shick Jesse Schindley	14	15	16 Glenn Perry Zane Pifer	17 Gail Pifer	18
19 Carla Filman Haylee Neal * Installation Of New Consistory Members	20	21	22 Kylan Stockdale Jason Weber	23 Diane Askey Doug Blinn * Royce & Charlotte Sprague	24	25 Feeding His Flock Meal 4:45-6PM
26	27 Molly Rowan Mike Trithart	28	29	30 Carl Pifer	31	



Our Paradise Blessings Christmas Card collection exceeded all expectations. We collected 225 cards that went to 7 nursing homes. Many Thanks to all who contributed to make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

## Paradise Consistory Meeting December 11,2024

Linda opened with prayer.

Those in attendance were: Samuel Shepler, Linda Blosh, Diane Carlson, Dean Reed, Bob Roy, Brenda and Lane Weber, Karen Villella.

Minutes and Treasures reports were read and approved.

Old Business: Correction for the installation of new consistory members it will be January 19<sup>th</sup> instead of January 12<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to let speakers do all of the service unless they feel comfortable only doing the sermon. Brook and Craig Limrick's membership has been reinstated. The bulletins for the kids were a hit. The by-laws have been voted on by the congregation and passed on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The consistory then approved them at our meeting December 11<sup>th</sup>. December 22<sup>nd</sup> is the voting for new consistory members. The statement of Faith will be discussed at the congregational meeting so we can get congregations in put.

New Business: Motion was made to make a donation of \$100.00 to Just Us For The Animals in memory of Dave Hollis. Part of the Thanksgiving Eve offering \$115.00 will go to St. Paul's the balance of \$100.00 will be kept for now. Side door needs painted that will be addressed in the spring. Lisa Triponey stopped in at the meeting asking to start a Bible Study starting January 8<sup>th</sup> on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 7:00 weekly. All are welcome, we gave her the go ahead.

Thanks to all who helped to decorate the church. And thanks to all who worked on the By-Laws and The Statement Of Faith.

Next meeting will be January 8,2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by: Karen Villella



**Monthly Report  
November, 2024**

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Benevol.</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>10/31/2024</b>	32,679.60	750.00	31.43	628.01	34,089.04
<b><u>Offering</u></b>					
11/3/2024	1,705.00	545.00	310.00	125.00	2,685.00
11/10/2024	1,867.00	200.00	60.00	25.00	2,152.00
11/17/2024	1,277.00	200.00	115.00	225.00	1,817.00
11/24/2024	2,089.00	790.00	75.00	170.00	3,124.00
	6,938.00	1,735.00	560.00	545.00	9,778.00
<b><u>Other</u></b>					
Mission Fund from Sunday School			100.00		100.00
Hall Use	50.00				50.00
Thanksgiving Eve				215.00	215.00
Interest	0.30				0.30
	50.30	0.00	100.00	215.00	365.30
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>					
EFT Department of the Treasury	148.98				148.98
EFT PA Department of Revenue	24.25				24.25
7393 Laybn Hollis	175.00				175.00
7394 Larry Shepler	344.30				344.30
7395 Brenda Weber	325.00				325.00
7396 Verizon	83.55				83.55
7397 Unilec	39.15				39.15
7398 Upper Room	87.30				87.30
7399 Wolff Refuse	52.25				52.25
7400 Living Thunder			50.00		50.00
7401 Moving Mountains			200.00		200.00
7402 Cru			400.00		400.00
7403 Penn West Conference		1,170.00			1,170.00
7404 BRANCHH				200.00	200.00
7405 Dave Hollis	175.00				175.00
7406 Courier Express	35.00				35.00
7407 Melissa Sylvis	175.00				175.00
7408 Samaritan's Purse	395.00			175.00	570.00
7409 Larry Shepler	33.52				33.52
7411 Brenda Weber - printer and paper	155.40				155.40
7412 Wendy Strouse-Watt	175.00				175.00
7413 Barry Fillman - conferences	55.00				55.00
7415 Dave Hollis	125.00				125.00
	2,603.70	1,170.00	650.00	375.00	4,798.70
<b>Balance 11/30/24</b>	<b>37,064.20</b>	<b>1,315.00</b>	<b>41.43</b>	<b>1,013.01</b>	<b>39,433.64</b>

Feeding His Flock	376.12
Operation Christmas Child	0.00
Thanksgiving Eve	215.00
gratitude box	25.00
Moving Mountains Christmas Meals	20.00
BRANCHH	175.00
Bereavement	201.89
	<u>1,013.01</u>





### CHRISTMAS EVE IN PARADISE

What a beautiful night it was! We opened the service with the Young Adult Class lighting the advent wreath, welcoming Christ into our hearts and lives, and Lori Yohe led us in a meaningful Christmas Prayer.

Thanks to all who volunteered to participate in our service. God coordinated the perfect set of songs and scriptures to pull together a meaningful opening to worship. Bobbi Becker opened with a reading, and the choir sang "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Jason and Holli Polito read a series of prophecies and fulfillments before Diane Carlson offered "What Child is This" as a beautiful flute solo. Mike Carlson finished out the scriptures and readings while Jackson Polito played "Rush E" on the piano, rushing the shepherds Ty Limrick and Cody Pifer to Bethlehem, and the trio of Morgan Shepler, Adrienne and Bretley Barr brought us to the feet of Christ singing "The Manger."

Barry Fillman rounded out our service with his sermon "Is It For Real?" and there's no better way to wrap up Christmas Eve than with a candlelight singing of "Silent Night" and leaving with "O come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee." Thank you for starting off Christmas by putting our focus on our Lord and Savior!

As a new twist, the activities committee planned a social hour with cookies and hot chocolate, and it was wonderful to be able to visit with each other and meet some new people. Though it was tempting to flee home and finish the several hours of Christmas preparations that awaited most of us, the time we had together greeting and encouraging each other was well spent!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDIES

If one of your New Year's Resolutions is to spend more time in the Word, we want to work together to accomplish that! Beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting in the church basement from 5:30-7 to study the book of Romans. The whole family is welcome to come! We will have soup on the first night with time for fellowship until 6pm, when we will begin the study. This group began in the Triponey home 8 years ago, and we are on Round 2 of reading through the Bible together. We've outgrown the living room but still desire to study together, so we want to invite all of you to join us on our journey. We don't use study guides (you are welcome to use one if you like) but simply let the Spirit guide us as we read on our own and then together. What a blessing it is to hear how God speaks to each of us right where we are! Please join us every Wednesday and grow with us!

#### HOPE

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning: great is your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him."

Lamentations 3: 21-24





On December 15<sup>th</sup> after the service, an all-star cast was brought together to perform the Christmas program, "A C-A-P-I-T-A-L Christmas" under the direction of Morgan Shepler, Holli Polito, Sunni Reddinger, and Erica States. Performers from Pre-School through Middle School participated in presenting letters and explanations that represented key parts of the Christmas story. Narrator Marissa Douthit did a wonderful job as she led the troupe, helping to keep everything moving smoothly. The audience joyfully sang along with various carols throughout the program. Once all the letters were arranged to spell "Christmas," the children took turns telling us a Christmas poem with verses to go with each letter.

*"The Christ Child in the manger lay, In swaddling clothes upon the hay,  
There, our Redeemer came to earth, An Infant born of lowly birth.  
The Shepherds heard the angels sing, and traveled to the new born King,  
Where Mary and Joseph joined their praise. Now, we our Alleluias raise.  
A Savior given from heaven above, God's Christmas gift of endless love."*

Each child did such a wonderful job as they gave a heartwarming presentation which set our hearts in the right direction for celebrating the wonderful gift of Jesus this Christmas Season. Special thanks to all the parents and grown-ups that helped coach the kids to learn their lines., and to all the children for bringing your very best! Thanks to the talented Melissa Shepler for accompanying on the piano. Thanks to Sykesville Fox's for preparing and delivering the delicious pizzas on a Sunday morning. And thank you to all who attended the Christmas program to support our littles, and to all who celebrated at the pizza party afterward.





*The following is from the content creator Meghan Lynn. I loved it so much that I just had to share it.*



In the humble town of Bethlehem, amidst the stillness of a starry night, a miracle unfolded that would forever change the course of history.

The air was filled with anticipation and hope as a young couple sought shelter in a stable. It was only fitting that they stumbled across a manger in that stable; as they were about to give birth to the Lamb of God.

It was on this sacred night that the world received its greatest gift from the humblest of places. The entire universe held its breath as the Son of God drew His. That first breath held within it the power to transform the course of humanity, to bring hope to the weary, and light to the darkest corners of existence. The power of this breath would go on to perform miracles beyond our wildest imagination, and it would be this breath that would calm storms and bring peace to the brokenhearted. This same breath would command the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the lame to walk again. This same breath would command Lazarus to rise. This same breath would go on to exhale "It is finished," which was not the end but a brand-new beginning as the greatest sacrifice was made in that exhalation. This same breath would then go on to conquer the grave for you and for me. Do you hear what I hear in that first breath? I sit in awe and in wonder thinking about this newborn baby, the Son of God, inhaling for the very first time. I contemplate the magnitude of what this breath would go on to accomplish. This same newborn that took His first fragile inhale in a humble stable would go on to breathe the breath of eternal life into all of humanity. That night, Mary delivered to us a miracle. The birth of Jesus, the embodiment of love and of grace. It marked the beginning of a new era. In that first breath, Jesus turned B.C. into A.D. In that first breath, He reconnected us to Heaven. That first breath was a gift. That first breath was a beacon of hope, a promise of redemption, of a second chance, of freedom, and of salvation for all of humanity. So, as we celebrate the New Year, let us be reminded of the extraordinary miracle that took place that night in Bethlehem. May we carry the breath of Jesus within our own lungs. Spreading His love, His truth, and His grace to everyone that we encounter. And may that same breath inspire us to live lives of compassion, of kindness, and of love...

Just as Jesus began when He took His first breath on this side of Heaven.



Barry and I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for all the prayers for a good recovery and all the food donations that everyone gave to us.

I am doing well and recovering good. I missed everyone at church and I'm ready to come back.

-Rosanne Fillman

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*A Sunday School teacher asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. A golden-haired four-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands. A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm.*

*The little girl came to the front of the room, faced the class, gave a cute little bow, and said, "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."*

*She bowed again and went back to her seat.*

*That may well be the greatest interpretation of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm ever heard.*

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### Sunday School Christmas Service Project 2024

For a Christmas Service Project, the children's Sunday School classes asked the congregation to donate supplies for less fortunate families to be able to bake cookies for Christmas. We collected cookie sheets, cookie cutters, sugar cookie mixes, icing, and sprinkles. Brenda Weber also donated Christmas colored potholders that her mother, Nancy Bishop, had made.

Patty Burkett, Bobbi and Cassie Becker, Lori Yohe & Tracy and Meghan Weber wrapped each lovingly assembled cookie kit securely, and included a Christmas card, ribbons, and bows. Lori delivered them to the B.R.A.N.C.H.H food pantry in Big Run for their monthly food distribution on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.



Robin McKee, who manages the Food Pantry, was very grateful for the donation and said she had never had anything like that before. She was very excited to make them part of the month's meal options.

Thanks to your generous donations, 29 families were blessed with these gestures of love from our congregation. We appreciate all who donated, and the kids who helped sort and create the kits, even though some just couldn't quite understand why we weren't making the cookies to eat.

Thanks to Bobbi Becker for using cash donations to do some extra shopping to fill in some missing items. Special thanks to Michelle Pifer for sharing the idea and suggesting to do this fun project.

-Lori Yohe



### Feeding His Flock Holiday Food Boxes

During the holiday season this year, Feeding His Flock decided to provide some additional help to people in the community that would benefit from a box of food. We asked the congregation for ideas of people that they knew might need some extra food this holiday season. We were able to provide a total of 7 boxes of food to people or families in the community. The boxes included some food to use for the holidays as well as some staples to stock their cupboards. On Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> I shopped for the food with the assistance of Cassie Becker and Deja Burkett for the first 6 boxes of food. We then sorted and boxed the food which was delivered that weekend by The Feeding His Flock Elves. The people that assisted in the delivery of the boxes included Deja Burkett, Patty Burkett, Cassie Becker, Lori Yohe, Millie Agnew, and me. I later became aware of a family in the Punxsutawney area that would benefit from a food box and was able to prepare and deliver a box for them on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you all for your continued support of Feeding His Flock, without you we would not be able to do the things we do.

Bobbi Becker



At my lowest, God is my Hope.

At my darkest, God is my Light.

At my weakest, God is my Strength.

At my saddest, God is my Comforter.



My Church Family,

As the new year has begun and my tenure on the consistory has ended, I would like to thank everyone for all the help and support during the past year. As I have stated in the past, I could not have taken on all that I did this past year without knowing there were so many people that could be counted on to help when needed; and help they did. Especially with prayers!

The committees took shape with capable people leading the way. New ideas are being developed to include the youth even more than in the past. More outreach programs are being talked about. New Sunday School programs are happening. Our choir is growing with new members. It is a very exciting time at our church and the renewed energy can be felt all around us. This is not to say we will not have issues as we move forward. We would be foolish to think this way, but we do have the people to handle whatever comes along.

There is something special about our church. It has nothing to do with the material things around us, the building we worship in, or the manner in which we do things. It is the strong ties, unshakable faith that is present here and the belief that if we follow God's word, we will be headed in the right direction. As we move forward on our new journey, let's not forget this. Even though there is still much work to do, we have the people to get the job done. The consistory has new members with energy and new ideas, and returning members who are solid, dependable, and quite capable of handling all that comes along.

Please continue to pray for our church and everyone involved in moving it forward. God bless all of you this new year with health, happiness, and peace.

Linda Blosh



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**B.R.A.N.C.H.H.**

P.O. Box 365

Big Run, PA 15715

(814) 952-1172

alwaysbusy15715@yahoo.com

December 17, 2024

Dear Paradise Community Church,

**On March 24, 2011 a group of Christians from the three local churches in  
Big Run joined together and established  
B.R.A.N.C.H.H.**

**The acronym stands for:**

**Big Run Area New Community Helping Hands**

**Through the years our Food Pantry has remained a staple in the community.**

**We are seeing an increase in food insecurities as well as the rise in the price of  
products.**

**In recent years we served**

**308 families in 2020**

**288 families in 2021**

**284 families in 2022**

**488 families in 2023**

**604 families in 2024**

**B.R.A.N.C.H.H. does not receive government assistance. The program is run by  
God's Blessings and donations.**

**As you can see we have doubled in providing assistance during the past 4  
years.**

**The members of B.R.A.N.C.H.H. are very appreciative of your support.**

**Through God's Blessings and your donations we can continue our  
Food Ministry.**

**God Bless!  
and  
Merry Christmas**

*Wayne and Robin McKee*

**B.R.A.N.C.H.H.**



## North Fork Chapter 29 Archeology Outing 2024 by Greg Peace

The North Fork Chapter 29 of the Pennsylvania Archeology Society, based in Brookville, PA. met at the home of Greg Peace on November 24 2024. Eight club members and one very interested local resident were present for a total of nine, one cool, overcast afternoon.

The purpose of our gathering was to view, evaluate and appreciate eight or so archeological and historic sites contained w/in our area.

At 1:30 our participants boarded into three vehicles; destination the Shepler/Tripony Farm just a mile and a half up the road. The group planned to examine the Native American Grist Mill located in the woods there. The mill is a local landmark known about for years and years by its owners. A description of the mill goes as follows, it is a bowl shaped circular depression, approximately 8" wide by 8" deep worn into a large, solid, sandstone rock during use with a stone pestle as the Native Americans ground acorns, hickory and walnut meat into meal for consumption and/or storage. Ken Burkett, club member and a field archeologist for the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, studied the mill and declared it to be genuine and not a fake or natural depression in the rock. Ken then registered the mill with the state archives in PA. for the purpose of future location and protection.

Our group then entered the cars and drove on up Kramer Road and stopped near the intersection of Paradise Road. There Greg pointed out two original log homes, constructed some time during the mid 1800's. One once housed a Trithart family and the other was the home of Godfrey Trexler now occupied by a Nicholson Family. A trip to some of the more Eastern Counties of Pa, a casual observer may see a fair number of log structures but here in Jefferson County, these two are believed to be only two left.

Another interesting feature contained with in the Nicholson yard is the large Sassafras Tree still growing there. I was there 20+ years ago to attend a yard sale. I noticed the abnormally large tree so I immediately placed a tape measure about its girth, four and one half feet above the ground. The tape measure showed a whopping measurement of nearly 14 feet in circumference which translates to a diameter of almost four and a half feet! I shared the measurements and location with a Forester friend of mine, who's hobby is measuring very large trees. Well Dale Luthringer looked at the tree and guessed it is possibly the #3 champion for the state of PA.

Our group then assembled in the lower driveway of the Paradise Independent Church where I instructed the group to look beyond the



cemetery and Big Run-Reynoldsville State Road where a very old farmstead, no longer recognized as such, lay. The proprietor was none other than Henry Bonnett, a late nineteenth century gun maker who farmed this land for the better part of a decade. Henry was one of about 22 gun makers active in Jefferson County at that time. One of our members reminded me that Henry was also a violin maker and I heard he painted oil pictures on canvas before moving on to Clarion PA. then Brookville PA.

A few members of the group became quite interested in some of the tombstones contained within the church cemetery. One in particular was a tall, square, spire that appeared to be made of an aluminum alloy belonging to Jacob Smith (1813-1887) and his wife. Ken Burkett pointed out that similar markers were available from retailers such as Sears and Roebuck at one time. The markers could be custom ordered and came disassembled in a flat crate to be reassembled and installed at the grave site.

The group then proceeded to Spring Road where one of the two Eleanora coal mine shafts is situated near the cement bridge that spans Big Run creek. Greg gave a brief history of the documented side of the mine but there is an oral, undocumented side of the history known only to a extremely small group of historians.

I was somewhere around the age of 12 years old when my paternal grandfather, the late Wade D. Peace (1901-1976), told a haunting tale of intrigue and mystery, when the two 185 ft deep shafts were to be dug; around 1892, Twenty seven African Americans were brought in from an unknown location, to dig the shafts. Wade was not born for another 9 years so I can only surmise the story was passed on to him by someone who was there.

Digging a mine shaft then was an extremely, dusty, dirty and dangerous job (too dangerous for white men at the time) and so the African Americans were turned loose. Wade said the shaft diggers stayed in a company house up the hill along Native Road, just beyond the intersection of Skarbek Road. I remember quizzing my mother quite aggressively as to how could 27 men all live in one house at the same time? My mother came back with an answer of logic, she replied perhaps the men worked two shifts. Now that I an older her answer makes much more sense to me and working round the clock makes the most sense; coal equals profit, the labor of digging a shaft to get to the coal, not so much so speed was everything.

Back to the African Americans, I highly doubt if there is anything in print about their existence, so we know absolutely nothing about their personal life; who they were or their families, What we can surmise about



them is that they were young, strong and they were surely capable; but what they were not was immune, for at some point in their tenure they came down with the dreaded smallpox virus and died, everyone of them. The big question is what became of their bodies? Were they sent back to their homes or were they interred somewhere nearby, or were they moved to an intermediate place of burial. Over the years this question has puzzled me something fierce, so whenever I had the chance I would question any old timers that I happened to run across; some were vaguely aware of the tale but not a one had an answer. The answer alluded myself for forty years until the History of Henderson Township was published and a man in his nineties came forward to report the bodies of the shaft diggers were in deed buried somewhere nearby, but the exact location, the man had no clue.

At this time Ken Burkett, our field archeologist, was called back to his home in Summerville to receive some unexpected company so our tour was close to grinding to a halt of some nearby, related sites. To go on without Ken seemed pointless at this time. Our group was a hearty bunch of souls and someone expressed an eager desire to press onto the next site which was a probable Native American Rock Shelter located beyond the town of Wishaw. Having visited this shelter six weeks earlier I naturally took the lead but, after seeing no familiar land marks I pushed on for 45 minuets more but was soon floundering in the wilderness. I began to feel a lot like Moses of the Bible as he led the Hebrew people from Egypt by way of a wilderness for forty years. At this point our group was becoming quite disillusioned until one Dan Sorg of St Mary's, stepped up and volunteered to go 200 yards further ahead, across a deep rocky hollow and then; success! Dave called his girl Chrissy of Kersey with the good news. The group moved on to the rock shelter, which was a large one for this area. I would say the shelter was 8 to 9 feet deep under a sandstone ledge, about 30 ft or so wide and high enough to stand erect in most places. Nearly all members poured under the rock ledge and into the shelter so they could experience cave living first hand. After a number of pictures were snapped and some extensive searching for

an early rumored date carved into the rock, the group headed for the cars.

Getting home, 2 different ladies told me how much fun they had. We need to get Ken Burkett back to examine the rock shelter and the grave site of the African Americans. I predict another field outing will be needed perhaps in the spring.

Sincerely ;  
Greg Peace



**Dear Paradise Family,**

**This is not the Christmas season I expected.** After traveling so much this summer and fall, I was already behind on tasks. Then, this December, good friends offered to paint the remaining walls in my house that I had not gotten to (about 80% of my walls!). It was an amazing offer, and I said "Yes!" After pulling things away from my walls and packing up, they swooped in and painted it all in three days.

Now my house is a total disaster zone. I can't find daily items, I have no Christmas decorations, and I cannot find my Christmas cards. This is going to take a lot more time to clean and put things away than it did to tear down and pack up.

And yet, I am trying to enter this Advent Season daily to make room for Jesus in a new way. It is HARD. So many tasks, distractions, stuff, and even emotions vie for my time and attention.

At the same time, I have been writing stories about young men and women in the military coming to Jesus:

*In 2024, the Parris Island team was averaging 1,500 to 1,600 Marine recruits attending Bible study each week. "Our largest Sunday this past summer was 3,493," missionary Paul Little said. "We had 531 recruits attend from one company. That's incredible because that company is made up of only 660 recruits! I've never seen attendance like that before."*

All I could think of when hearing about those young Marines coming to meet with Jesus each week is: **"Wise men still seek Him."**

Then I read the story about the Wise Men reading the signs and coming to meet the New King Jesus. They traveled more than 400 miles in danger and hardship.

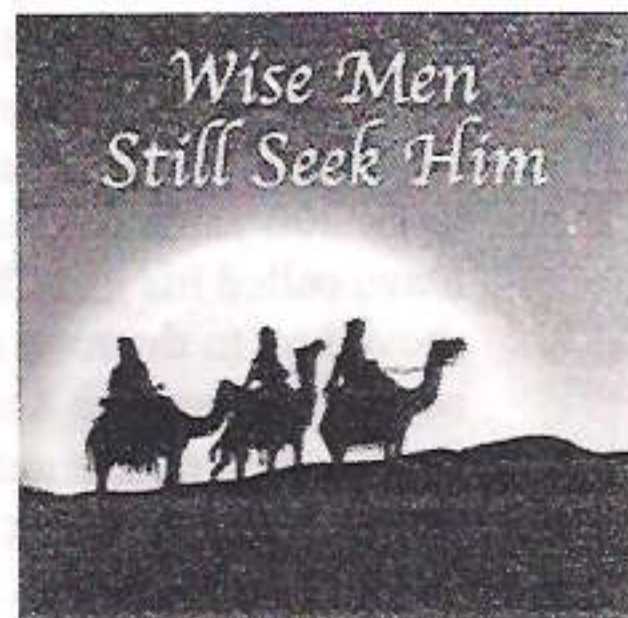
I drive 16 miles to church to worship with my fellowship family. I walk to my desk, sit, and enjoy fellowship with the Trinity. It's a lot easier today. **But we MUST seek Him.**

Wise men and women still seek Him.

I pray that this Christmas you find new ways to seek Him—**and find Him!** And thank you so much for all your support and encouragement in this mission to the military!

**Merry Christmas** and much love from my mess,

Joey Payne  
With Cru Military





**P.S. I am asking God for a Miracle.** Would you join me in praying for this miracle?

I am enclosing a flyer I worked on with the Cru Military Team in Mongolia. A little background: When I was in Mongolia, they asked me if I could help create and coordinate a mission trip that would open doors for the Gospel. They knew I had been with Unto (the humanitarian aid arm of Cru) for many years. They were hoping I could help them with a project to bring wheelchairs to the handicapped children of Mongolian military families.



I have helped bring wheelchairs to the Holy Land for years. I have seen how it opens doors and hearts to the Love of God and the Good News of Jesus! I was so happy to help!

While I was in Mongolia this summer, I met with the leaders of the Army and Border Troops and the second-in-command of the Air Force. I explained how a mission could work and help their children. Every division of the Mongolian Armed Forces was in! They offered help receiving and storing the container and offering a facility for the event.

When I came home, Unto offered us wheelchairs. But all the shipping costs would have to be paid by Cru Military. Well, there are no funds available for that. But I can't let this project die. I offered to work to raise the money for the container and for the purchase of tools and supplies we need to truly fit the wheelchairs to the children properly.

I pray that God says YES and provides all the funds needed to ship this container so we can GO to Mongolia, minister to children and families, and open doors for the Gospel! Will you join me in prayer?

Joey Payne @ Cru Military  
1831 Eden Road Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-283-7520  
[Joey.Payne@crumilitary.org](mailto:Joey.Payne@crumilitary.org)

cru  
MILITARY



## *It's not just a child's wheelchair...*

It's the gift of significance when they often feel left out. It is a gift of hope when they often feel hopeless. And best of all, it is an unforgettable expression of God's love. They feel the love of someone who is thinking about them and cares enough to send a wheelchair across the miles.

Cru Military is working to give the handicapped children of military families in Mongolia that gift of significance, hope, and love.

For just \$200, Cru Military can ship a wheelchair to Mongolia. Then, in 2025, we will take a team of physical therapists and wheelchair mechanics to personally fit the wheelchair to the child of a military family. The Mongolian Cru Military team (called Centurions) will do all the follow-up with each family, building relationships and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In a country less than 2% Christian, the Cru missionaries there know they have a great task to make sure everyone has the chance to know and follow Jesus. The Centurions are focusing on the military community of 50,000 active-duty men and women and their families—a closed society hard to access.

But after meeting with leaders in the military, the Centurions have support from all branches of the Mongolian armed forces to bring this medical mission to minister to children.

Now, the Centurions need help. We need to ship 150 wheelchairs to Mongolia plus supplies to adapt the chairs properly. Would you please pray that God will give us more than enough funds to ship 150 wheelchairs as well as supplies? If we get additional funds, we will ship even more wheelchairs (up to 225!) to help even more children! **So please pray for God to abundantly provide!**

Would you consider giving \$200 to give one chair to a child in Mongolia? Or could you give more than one chair? Or give a part of a wheelchair?

We would also love to take a letter from you for each chair you provide—letting that child know who loved them so much that they would give such a **great gift** from the other side of the world!

If you would like to give to this project:

- Mail checks made out to "Cru" to: Joëy Payne/Cru Military 1831 Eden Road Lancaster, PA 17601
- You can also give online at: **Special Projects in Asia-Pacific** at [give.cru.org/1261708](https://give.cru.org/1261708) but please also email [Joey.Payne@cruilitary.org](mailto:Joey.Payne@cruilitary.org) or text 717-283-7520 to let us know about your gift so we can track our donations.

You will find a few questions answered on the back side of this flyer. What else would you like to know about this project? Please email [joeypayne@cruilitary.org](mailto:joeypayne@cruilitary.org) for more information.





# Project MonGOLia

## Q: Why do they need these wheelchairs?

A: Being in the Mongolian Military is not a high-paying job. Most families cannot afford a wheelchair for their handicapped children. So they carry them from place to place, or they stay home because it is easier. With a wheelchair, they can be free to go to more places as a family.

## Q: Can I give for part of a wheelchair?

A: Yes! We can combine all the donations to ship wheelchairs. And please write a letter to a child!

## Q: Who can go on this mission trip?

A: We need physical therapists and wheelchair mechanics first and foremost. And since the team will be very small, we will need a few support team members as well. If you are interested in going, please email [joey.payne@crumilitary.org](mailto:joey.payne@crumilitary.org) to be added to the interest list. The trip will be in October 2025.

## Q: I'd like to write a letter to the child that will receive my wheelchair. What do I say?

A: Even though we can't share the Gospel directly in our letters because of the nuanced situation in Mongolia and the sensitive nature of our partnership with local military officials (they have asked us not to do any religious activities like public prayer or evangelism), you can talk about your life, your faith, and how God's love lead you to help them and bless them with the wheelchair. And add a photo! That makes you even more real! (We can provide a sample letter, just ask.)

## Q: How will you share the Gospel with the children and their families?

A: After the event, the Centurions missionaries will be visiting the children and their families in their homes to see how they are doing, to make sure the wheelchairs are functioning properly, to build relationships, and to answer any questions they have. In this home setting, there is more freedom to talk about faith in Jesus.

## For more information, contact:

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*"Connecting the military community to Jesus Christ!"*



