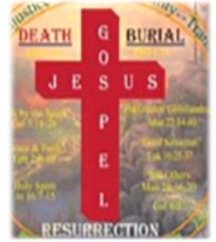




*** THE MIRACLE NEWS ***



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Jesus Living in Us- His Believers

by Paul Kruse

The **Bible** is clear that we are **God's** temple and He dwells in us today through the power of His **Holy Spirit**. We receive the **Holy Spirit** when we accept and confess with our lips **Jesus** as our **Savior** and **Lord** and believe in our hearts that He was raised from the dead and become saved from **God's** wrath of punishment for our sins. **Romans 10:9-10. 1 John 2:6** says -Those who say they live in **God** should live their lives as **Jesus** did, with love as an action word.

Ephesians 4:22-24 says: Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the **Spirit** renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like **God**-truly righteous and holy.

Because of **Jesus'** death on the cross, our sinful nature is lost, and a new Christian nature has been created, giving us exactly what we need to follow **Jesus**. This is the renewing of our minds!

I am a practical example of that. I used to be a brawling, woman-chasing, foul-mouth curser and king of the dirty jokes. More than 37 years ago I gave my life to **Jesus** by prayer with a preacher on the radio. I went home to tell my wife we could have a better life on earth and in **Heaven** with Christianity. She said she'd divorce me if I continued in Christianity – and she did! I gave up a wife, 50% custody of my son, a house I had been living in for 17 years, a dog, and more. I wanted a better understanding of **salvation**, so I started going to church. I met some wonderful people there including my second wife, who I didn't know was going to be my wife, until later on. I did what the **Bible** said to do. I gave up my possessions and life to that point to follow **Jesus**. Then I found a verse in the **Bible** that addresses all that has happened to me. **Matthew 19: 29** says, "Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive one hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life."

This has all come true for me. **God's** Word comforted me knowing how much I had given up. Now here I am today, an ordained minister of the Gos-

pel to the working poor, truckers, and homeless people. **God** has sent us over three million dollars to help more than 11,000 people in our area. We have ten ministries and many volunteers and supporters. We have seen countless miracles with the people we have helped succeed and get closer to self-supporting and success, including our own blessings.

I now have a hundred- times better wife, ten blessed ministries, a better house and other things. I'm just waiting to see what **God** will do with us next. So this is my testimony which I pray will help others in the same or similar situations, and make the same decision to follow **Jesus** and leave the old life behind.

The **Bible** doesn't tell us to do anything bad, it's all good! I have learned that for a fact! When you try to live like **Jesus** did and still does, you can't go wrong! I have found the **Greatest Commandments (Luke 10:27)** to be a good place to start, which is to Love **God** with passion and love others, especially the poor - like the

(Continued on Page 2)



Jesus Living in Us- His Believers

(continued from Page 1)

Good Samaritan, with compassion in action. I did this and **God** blessed us with many resources. What a joy to be chosen to pass on **God's** gifts for obeying His word.

I'm not saying everyone who lets **Jesus** lead their lives can do all this, but **God's** word says you will be blessed for doing what **Jesus** says to do. There are many verses to show this which some are these:

- We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in **Jesus**. They are the key benefits of a relationship with **God** through **Jesus**. **God** has chosen us in Him before the foundations of the world, that we should be **Holy** and without blame before him in love. All this because of His love, good pleasure, and grace. Even while we were heavy in sin, **God** chose to extend His **Grace** to us and offer us **Salvation**. **Ephesians 1: 3-4**
- He did this even before sin entered the world! He also adopted us as his children, we have the full rights and benefits of being so. **John 1:12**
- So by aligning ourselves with Him by faith, we become part of His perfect plan and purpose which is trusting in **Jesus** only, for a good life here on earth and eternal life in **Heaven** through Him. **Ephesians 1: 8-10, Revelation 4:11**
- No one can even fathom the good things that **God** has prepared for them who love Him! 1 Corinthians 2:9

Other benefits of being connected with **Jesus** are that we are ambassadors bringing the **salvation** message to the world; we are the bride of **Jesus**; we have peace that passes all understanding, and the assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of **God** that is in **Jesus**.

Therefore, the way we access these benefits is to repent, turn from our sins, confess to **God** that we are sinners, believe **Jesus** died on the cross to take away our sins and now lives to give us new life then He grants us forgiveness of sins and all the blessings that accompany that **salvation**.

But also we are to be DOERS of the Word and not hearers only! **James 1:22-25**

The **Bible** says many things about taking action with the word of **God**! **James 2:14-17** basically tells us that faith is dead without works. This is only common sense. Obviously, **God** didn't tell us all this good stuff just so we can sit on it and not put it into practice.

James 2:18 says I will show you my faith by my works. Amen! Faith has many good characteristics, but if we don't use our faith what good is it?

So as **James 3:18** says, let us not love in word or talk only but in truth and deeds. **God** is love, so the best way we can show **God's** love is in word, truth, and action, helping someone who is in need.

2 Peter 1:5-8 paraphrased says, we need to supplement our faith with virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, **Godliness**, and brotherly affection with love. These qualities keep us from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our **Lord Jesus Christ**!

Who wants to be ineffective and unfruitful in their Christian walk? Not me. That's why we help the homeless in 25 different ways. We can't do it all alone with the poverty rate at 20% in most states and homelessness running rampant. There are 50,000,000 of our brothers, sisters, and kids in the U.S. right now living in poverty which causes misery, depression, helplessness, hopelessness, and much more! **God** says in the **Greatest Commandments** there should be a lot fewer than that. This is what "Love Your Neighbor" is all about. The **Bible** also says the poor will always be with us, but it is our job to make sure there are as few as possible! We can't eradicate poverty completely because there will always be divorce, death in the family, job loss, bad health, etc. to keep people down. But we could put a big dent in that population if more people would help the poor!

What a delight it is when someone who is living homeless, like an animal on the streets, to be able to give them love, hope and renew their faith and minds, just by caring and giving them the basics of life so they can improve their situations! **God** Bless you! Thank you for reading this, and let us know if you want to help.



15th Annual Christmas Wonderland Coming Soon!



Volunteers and donations are still needed to help us pull together the **15th Annual Christmas Wonderland** event on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at Wentzville United Methodist Church. This year's event will take place like the past few years, with a drive -thru format, where the 120 families participating will pick up selected items from the perimeter of the parking lot between noon – 3 pm.

We'll be setting up on the day before and could use help unloading donations that will be delivered that day, and helping us get everything staged for the Saturday event. If you're interested, please click <https://bit.ly/FSBHvolunteers2023> to register as a volunteer.

Donations needed still include some \$25 Walmart Gift Cards, as we'd like to present one card to each family if we receive enough. Also needed are more filled laundry/cleaning supplies packed into baskets for distribution to each family. We do have food expenses covered, and we should be receiving toys once again from **Toys for Tots** as one of their approved charities. We have gift bags with small gift cards and some personal care items for teens between 13-15, and each family will be able to receive supplies from **Crisis Nursery** as well as Bibles from the **Power of God Trucking Ministries**.

If you've never been a part of this exciting "Happy Birthday Jesus" celebration, plan to come out this year for a real treat. You'll see LOTS of smiling, happy faces and many, many loving servants of the Lord making it all happen!

Please contact **Lana Kruse** at 314-799-3694 or lanakruse@gmail.com for further information.



Christmas Wonderland Laundry & Cleaning Supplies Baskets

Now's the time to start collecting items for laundry baskets and other treats for the working poor and homeless from St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties who will come to our **15th Annual Christmas Wonderland** on Saturday, December 9. Here's what to put into the baskets, so we have consistent "gifts" when distributing them. In the past, several groups have made it a project to collectively gather items and then assemble them towards the end of the year. This list is also posted on our ministry website under "**tangible assistance**."

Last year we had just enough filled baskets so each of the 120 families was able to receive one at the Christmas Wonderland. If you or a group you're a part of could make up one or two, it would be so very much appreciated! We can provide a tax-receipt for your donation.

Please bring filled baskets to Wentzville United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 8 from 9 am – 3 pm or on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 – 11 am. Thanks for your consideration! For questions or further information, contact **Lana Kruse** at 314-799-3694 or lanakruse@gmail.com

Sturdy Basket	Laundry Detergent
Hand Soap/Bath Soap	Powdered Bleach
Dish Soap	Dryer Sheets
All-purpose Cleaner	Toilet Paper
Dusting Spray	Window Cleaner
Stain Remover	Paper Towels
Sponges	Toilet Cleaner/Brush
Dish towels	

\$5.00 in quarters (optional- for laundromat use)



Trucker Tributes



Most everything we have in America - tangible goods, that is probably came to us on a truck. We love truckers. They have a difficult, often isolated life trying to support their families from a distance. Our **Trucker Church Ministry** seeks to encourage and edify drivers. More than 3,000 a week show up at our local TA Truckstop so we always have a dynamic, interesting group at our weekly church services there. Join us sometime! 11 am in the Driver's Lounge.

In late October we saluted truckers in two different appreciation events. First was our

free BBQ, serving up some food for the stomach and food for the soul on October 21st. Ministry partners **Marshall & Marion Wright**, Eolia, with **Power of God Trucking Ministries**, and ministry friends **Nathan & Brenda Wilson**, O'Fallon, helped us make this happen! Visiting from Columbia, MO, was **Chaplain Lillian Johnsen** from **Lonesome Road Trucker Ministry** and she invited us to her group's Driver Appreciation Event later that week at the Petro Truck Stop in Kingdom City.



Kruses, Klaskins and Driver #100-
Esther from NC at the TA Truckstop

At that second event, truckers and chaplains alike enjoyed a live concert from **Sonshine Road Duo** of **Kevin & Rachelle Nelson** and hearing the testimony of **Lonesome Road Radio Ministry** founder **Gary Rayburn** on October 27th.

A few weeks back we celebrated Driver #100 for the year- Esther from North Carolina- at our Sunday morning service, where **John Klaskin**, Wentzville, brought his guitar and blessed us with a few of his originals then preached for the group gathered. About 6,600 drivers, travelers and employees altogether since 2001 have been a part of this dynamic ministry, which is where FSBH first began.

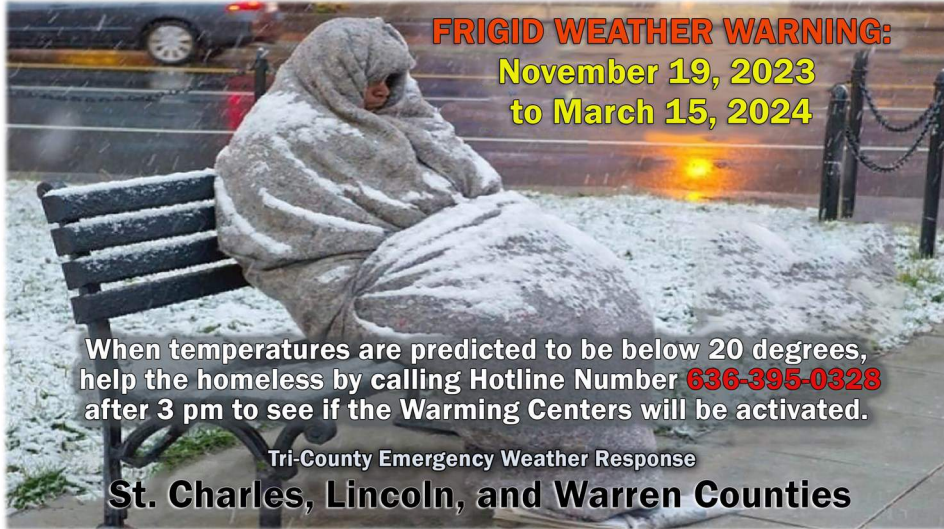


Sonshine Road Duo
Kevin & Rachelle Nelson





Freezing Temps Are On the Way!



The 2023-2024 **Emergency Weather Response Team** is gearing up to activate services anytime the temps in our region are expected to be 20 degrees or lower. There's a **NEW PHONE NUMBER** this year, so if any of you still have cards or notices from last year, please discard them and use this number instead: **636-395-0328**.

The plan is for this year's services to be held at various churches and community sites through the tri-county region of St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties.

Information on any given day is announced by 3 pm. To volunteer or donate towards this cause, please contact **Danielle**, this year's Chair, at danielle@wentzvillecc.org or **Tiffany Jackson**, part of the EWR Team, at tjackson@communitycouncilstc.org.

Inspiring Kids Do Their Part to Help Others

It's amazing what an impact a third-grader can make for so many who will be warmed by these coats, hats, scarves, blankets and gloves in the coming cold days. A huge collection of was orchestrated by **Vihaan Devendrakumar**. Then his friends from **The Magic Makers** joined in and added to the collection with MORE coats, scarves, gloves, hats and jackets. They created their first ever coat drive in their subdivisions and had lots of donated items to bring us for the cold days ahead.





How Wearing Jeans to Work Raises Funds for Clients

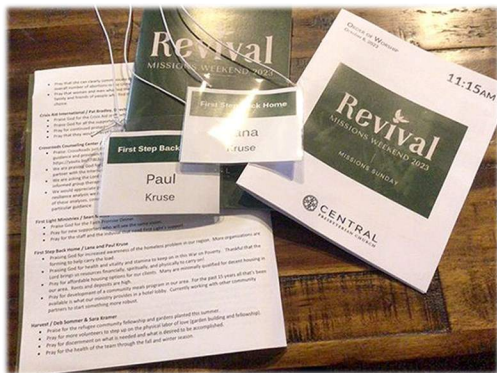
Win! Win! Employees of **The Missouri Bank**, Warrenton, contributed \$5 each Friday in September to wear jeans to work. Loan Officer **Becky Wiss** (on left) nominated us as the charity to support for this effort, and in early October we received this wonderful blessing!

Several clients will be helped with these funds. THANK YOU to all the team at The Missouri Bank for your month-long fundraiser.



25th Annual Community Services Summit

It was an informative and inspiring day at the **25th Annual Community Services Summit** on October 10. Always fun to share the vision of FSBH with those who have not yet heard. FSBH was one of 75 exhibitors and more than 300 attendees passed by our table and learned about our services and others throughout the region.



Central Presbyterian Church Missions Conference

We were humbled and honored to be among the 89 mission partners (local, national, and worldwide!) supported by **Central Presbyterian Church**.

We enjoyed taking part in their annual Missions Weekend activities on October 8. CPC has been one of our longest supporting churches. We so appreciate their continuous care and concern for the clients we serve.





LSL Ambassadors Presentation

On an early morning in early August, FSBH was featured as the speaker for the **Lake St. Louis Ambassadors Group** Weekly Breakfast Meeting.

Helping others see the great need for affordable housing in our area is always a focus, as we have so many homeless unable to get to that next step.



High Schooler Collects Toiletries for Clients

Personal care items collected by **Cate Fromm** for our clients. This Junior North Point High Schooler started these collections 6 years ago with her all-star cheer team from **Cheer St. Louis**. Since those early times, she has continued her passion for helping others by doing this project on her own. She gets items from families during travel competition season and from her own family and friends at North Point. Bless you Cate! Many, many are already enjoying the soaps, shampoos, deodorants, toothpaste, and everything else you stuffed into these bags...(including 9 cases of deodorants)! THANK YOU again!

Magic Makers Lemonade Stand

A St. Charles County group of kids called **The Magic Makers** has been very creative in finding ways to do fundraisers for FSBH. On September 30, 2023, they came up with a Lemonade Stand at the O'Fallon YMCA. The group was able to raise \$76 for FSBH on that one afternoon of service.



If you know of any reasonably priced rooms for rent, or apartments/mobile homes for rent, let us know.

We get calls every week for people trying to find affordable housing in our area. It's a scarce commodity.



Recent Donor Acknowledgements

We want to thank several businesses, churches and community groups who have financially supported FSBH this past quarter with these recent gifts. Some gifts have been made in honor or in memory of loved ones.

- \$3,000 – **MasterCard** Corporate match from two employee gifts
- \$1,500 – **Elevance Health Care** – Corporate support for **Christmas Wonderland**
- \$1,200 – **Element Church**, Wentzville
- \$1,200 – **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters
- \$1,125 – **Boeing** Corporate match from two employee gifts
- \$1,000 – **Central Presbyterian Church**, Clayton
- \$ 900 – **Mission Financial**- St. Peters
- \$ 705 – **The Missouri Bank**, Warrenton – See article on Page 6.
- \$ 648 – **Mary Martha Thrift Shop**, Wentzville
- \$ 618 – **AbbVie** Corporate Match from employee giving
- \$ 450 – **Chapel of the Lake**, Lake St. Louis
- \$ 300 – **Warrenton Christian Church**
- \$ 300 – **Church of God Faith Fellowship**, Grubville
- \$ 230 - **Thrivent Choice Dollars** allocations from **Dennis Hall** and **Jessica Holtam**
- \$ 120 – Memorial gift on behalf of **Tom Lowery** from family friends
- \$ 100 – **Wentzville United Methodist Women's Group**
- \$ 100 – Memorial gift on behalf of **James Owen**, from his family
- \$ 20 – **AT&T** corporate match for employee gift



We are so very thankful to all of you who think of donating to our public charity when opportunities present.

Recent Client Progress & Success

By Paul Kruse

This is a story in progress and shows how our plan for the homeless can be an answer to transitional housing, and someone can achieve self-supporting status in just a few weeks with prayers to God in Jesus' name and some help from us!

A middle-aged single lady who was living on the streets in St. Charles called me. I told her I could only help if she came to Wentzville where motels are that we use for transitional housing. She walked all the way there just to get a couple of nights' sleep in the motel. I told her to submit 15 applications per day for work while there. She did that, and got a job at a local restaurant on the second day.

As our program is laid out, I paid for a week for her to raise funds for another week. She raised partial funds, and I paid the rest for the second week. Now in the upcoming weeks at \$15/hr.- about \$1,400- she will have enough money to pay her own way in the motel weekly and pay us back partially whatever she can afford.

So, for a small investment by FSBH she will be on her own, paying her way by herself until she can find more permanent and cheaper housing. When she is completely paying her own way in the motel, this is what we call her First Step Back Home to a better job and permanent housing. She knows she can do it on her own now and succeed. Her faith, love for God in Jesus' name, and hope are restored because she knows she can be successful. This is exactly how our program works, and we could use a lot more help in improving the plight of homeless people in this manner!



Kim Orf, Meal Coordinator Again!

We welcome back our long-time ministry friend **Kim Orf** as the FSBH Meal Coordinator once again. Kim had taken an 18-month hiatus from this work, but when our last Meal Coordinator, **Krista Zahn**, moved out of the area, she agreed to take back the baton and cover this essential post for us. Thank you, Krista, for serving this past season. We're thrilled to have Kim's expertise and compassion for others in the Meal Coordinator role once more.

If you've never helped us with meals, but have considered it in the past, now would be a great time to start. We have lots of open times on the calendar and the need continues daily for some hot, nourishing meals to be served at the Economy Inn, Wentzville. Just contact Kim and she'll talk you through it all, get you oriented and help you the first time you go there.

You can reach **Kim** at 636-219-5496 or fsbhmeals@gmail.com



Meal Ministry Update

by Kim Orf

Hello again to all the wonderful individuals and groups who give so generously of your time and efforts to care for those staying at the Economy Inn! I have missed working with you, and seeing all the love and care you give to serving people in need. I look forward to working with you again, and having a chance to meet some of you.

So far in 2023, meals have been served on 190 dates at the motel. That adds up to a value of around \$14,250, and at an average of 25 meals each date, the total comes to 4,750. Besides that, the number of volunteer hours is beyond calculation.

Over the last quarter, new servers included the **Gannon Family**, **Overcomers Charities**, **Church Ladies**, **Good Shepherd Lutheran**, **Celebrate Recovery**, and **Bridge Church**.

I send out a calendar near the end of each month to the groups to make sure I have the correct info, and show open dates. If you are not receiving these emails, I may not have your address, so please let me know if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

There are still many openings for anyone interested in volunteering. The calendar can be viewed online at firststepbackhome.net/meal-calendar. You can sign up to serve by calling or text me at 636-219-5496, or emailing me at fsbhmeals@gmail.com.



Students from the **Castlio K-Club** (Castlio Elementary School) serving at the Economy Inn 10/13/23



Donation Methods to Support FSBH

We want to remind you that your tax-deductible charitable donation is a great way to support the ministry. We are a public charity per IRS Regulations of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations will be receipted for tax-deductible documentation purposes. Here are several options to consider:

- **Corporate Matching Grant Donations**
 - Some matching grant companies are **Industrial Ally, AT&T, Wells Fargo, Bayer, Boeing, MasterCard, Pfizer, VMWare, and Thrivent Financial Services.**
 - Boeing and perhaps other corporations offer **volunteer time grant matches.** If you volunteer 25 hours with our ministry, Boeing will send a \$250 cash gift.
 - If you work for a company that offers match gifting, please initiate the paperwork for this to be done, and we'll complete the required elements so you and others can participate.
- **Write a Check payable to "First Step Back Home"** and send to the following address:
First Step Back Home, Inc.
Paul Kruse
PO Box 966
O'Fallon MO 63366
- **Log onto our ministry website and click "Donate"** for direct donation via your credit card. There is a small fee charged to the ministry with this option: firststepbackhome.net
- **Thrivent Members** can create an "Action Team" and receive \$250 "seed money" twice per year for charitable causes. Details can be found at this link: thrivent.com/actionteam.

Helping Hands Christmas Event



Helping Hands
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It's the annual **Helping Hands for the Holidays**, sponsored by several business and community service groups from our region. No registration is needed.

A delicious free holiday meal will be served by the hotel staff, and lots of free items will be given away to needy families. Santa photos will be available, and free haircuts offered to anyone who wants one. Among the gifts to be distributed will be coats, hats, gloves, resource materials, and other treats. Please share this information with families in need, as our **FSBH Christmas Event** registration is now full and closed.

A free event will take place at the St. Charles Convention Center from 4–7 pm on Wednesday December 13, 2023.

It's the annual **Helping Hands for the Holidays**, sponsored by several business and community service groups from our region. No registration is needed.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Mobile Home Park

Plans are under way for the **8th Annual Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner** for families from the community for Saturday, November 18th at the clubhouse at Rolling Meadows Mobile Home Park. We'll serve drive-thru style, as we have the past few years, from 3 – 5 pm or until the food runs out.

Gateway Church, St. Peters, friends and Two Rivers Church, O'Fallon, friends will help prepare sides and serve the meal under the leadership of **Tom & Cheryl Street**, former FSBH Board Members who continue to be involved in our mobile home park outreach activities.





Why Do We Help the Homeless?

Here's our "why?" About 20% of St. Charles residents are displaced... unhoused neighbors... aka homeless... yet our county only receives 6% of the regional funding for services, with most of the \$\$\$ going to St. Louis City and County.

On any given day throughout the year, more than 400 are homeless here. FSBH gets 8-10 calls EACH DAY... some from homeless and others from people on the verge of it, just needing a little boost to keep their lights on, or their water flowing, or their cars running, or their rent covered. We're blessed to be a part of the **Community Council of St. Charles County**, who coordinates the homeless data management collection data, among many other things!

Here's a summary of where our donor dollars have been spent so far this year in helping clients from St. Charles, Warren, and Lincoln Counties.

