



# Ohio Association

AN ASSOCIATION OF THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE, WWW.CCCCOHIO.ORG

## Barnabas Ministry

**Supporting Those Called by God**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) c/o Faith Community Church, 4301 Cleveland Ave. NW, Canton, OH 44709*

## FOUR INCREDIBLE REALITIES

In recent months I have been captivated by four incredible realities we see in the Bible about the incarnation - the affirmation that in Jesus Christ the Creator became a human being here on planet earth.

The first is Colossians 1:19: "For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,..." In other words, YHWH, the "I AM" of Exodus 3:14 and John 8:58, has become a human being in Jesus Christ. To this day there are many who take the 3rd of the 10 Commandments so seriously that they will not verbally utter YHWH - the name of God - or even print it. The Hebrew word "adonai" - "kurios" in New Testament Greek - is substituted instead. That is why many English Bibles render word YHWH as LORD. This is the context of the first believers proclaiming that Jesus is "Kurios" - LORD - in Philippians 2:11 and elsewhere.

In other words, the first disciples proclaimed that Jesus is YHWH. Incredible! In some other faiths, blasphemy.

The second is Colossians 1:20: "...and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross." So YHWH not only became a human but also allowed those whom He created to arrest Him, try Him, convict Him, and crucify Him. And then, from the cross, He forgave them. Incredible!

The third is Colossians 1:27: "...God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." So not only has YHWH become one of us and died for us on the cross, but now - if we profess with our lips that Jesus is LORD and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead (Rom. 10:9) - He chooses to live within us! He doesn't even do that with the angels! Incredible!

Then get this: "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6). And where does Jesus sit? At the right hand of God the Father! (Ephesians 1:20). So now, if Jesus lives in you, you sit with Him at the right hand of God the Father!. Incredible!

No wonder the angels sang to His glory and praise in Luke 2:14! May we all!

The mission of the Barnabas Ministry is to support those called by God. Please continue to pray for God's presence, power, and guidance as we follow that call (Eph. 2:10)!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Much love, in Christ,

Pastor Dave & Joanne

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

*Praise God! The OA Barnabas Ministry prayer network has grown to over 258 prayer warriors! More are always needed! To support those called by God through the Barnabas Ministry, you can donate online at [www.ccccohio.org](http://www.ccccohio.org). or make a check out to OA Barnabas Ministry and mail to: First Congregational Church, 114 Church St., Lodi, OH 44254. Thank you, and God bless you!*



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE OHIO ASSOCIATION

## WELLSPRING

**Greetings to our CCCC Ohio kingdom family in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ from Wes and Marjie Blood!** We are so delighted to be one of your missionaries, serving international students in the greater Toledo area. We began our CCCC journey at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, and we served two churches in the Toledo area for 13 years, but in 2005, God opened our eyes to the amazing possibilities of reaching the next generation of leaders, from all over the world, coming to study at our universities, and so He led us to start Wellspring.

God has opened doors for four major initiatives in partnership with the University of Toledo, designed to reach international students, called "Global Opportunities" ([www.GO-UT.info](http://www.GO-UT.info)). We connect these students with as many Christians from as many Bible-believing churches as we can. We serve by helping newly arriving students furnish their apartments (Household Items Giveaway), by "adopting" international students in cross-cultural friendship (Toledo International Hospitality Program), or by helping students practice English (Conversation Partners, and English Corner). In the context of these opportunities, relationships are formed, and many believers are sharing the hope and love of Jesus through these relationships.

As we serve newly arriving students with furniture, we tell "Jesus stories," just talking about how Jesus is part of our everyday life, answering prayer, providing donated furniture, and working in the circumstances of everyday life. Those students who respond and want to know more, we invite to go deeper with Jesus, by connecting them with one of our church partners, or by offering them a Bible study in our home or online.

Just last night, Wes attended the N\*palese "Tihar and Dashain" cultural event, learning all about the cultural heritage of the 250+ students, spouses and families in the UT community. Attending their cultural events helps to build relational bridges, and we help and encourage a N\*palese believer in Toledo who has been reaching out to this large segment of UT's international student population. At this event I happened to see a former student from P\*kistan who had started a Bible study with us but had dropped out. He told me he would like to continue where we left off!

Please pray right now for two visiting scholars from Ch\*na, one of whom is married. They are attending our Bible storying group, and exploring 23 stories which help them build a Christ-centered worldview. They are spiritually thirsty and the Holy Spirit is obviously guiding their observations and questions about the stories. Pray that they would eagerly choose to follow Jesus! We praise God for these weekly opportunities to share Jesus with the nations, and we are thankful for CCCC Ohio prayers and support.

