

The VandenHurks

Jonathan, Natalie, and Laura



SENDING CHURCH
TURNER STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE
(865) 208-8656

BIRTHDAYS

Jonathan, 3rd December
Natalie, 2nd June
Laura, 11th March
Anniversary, 27th July

GOALS

- To glorify God in all we do.
- To follow Christ in evangelism and discipleship.
- To plant / replant New Testament Churches.

Missionaries to the United Kingdom

"O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years..." Hab 3:2

DEAR PASTORS AND PRAYING FRIENDS,

December 2024

Was something missing this Christmas? Christ can make you WHOLE! That was the message of our December sermon series, "O WHOLLY Night." And we must continue go and tell these "good tidings of great joy" to the WHOLE world.

- **"The WHOLE City"**: We took this phrase from the missionary work of the shepherds, the maniac of Gadara, and the woman at Sychar, and prayed that we too could take the message of Christ to our whole city. Over the course of the last month, the congregation distributed well over 6,000 Christmas themed **tracts** printed specifically for this Christmas. This was done through **letterboxes**, five weeks of **carolling** in the city centre, and individuals giving them to coworkers, friends, and family.
- **"Wilt Thou Be Made WHOLE?"**: We had two more **baptisms** this month, for Daniel and Malachi. We heard their God-glorifying testimonies and I preached about the man by the pool of Bethesda. The water could not save him, but Christ could make him whole. I also thought about the forty year old man by the Beautiful Gate who was, "made whole" in Acts 4:10. I was thankful to turn **forty** also this month and appreciate all the kind prayers and cards. I pray I can go walking, leaping, and praising God, onwards and upwards for God's glory!
- **"The WHOLE Family in Heaven and Earth"**: We praise God for all He continues to do in the life and ministry of our church family and pray for continued blessings in the future. Three new **babies** have been born and one other family asked for a baby **dedication** service for their daughter Cassandra, with many visitors. The children and teens (and workers) immensely enjoyed **Holiday Bible Club** at the end of October. The armour of God teaching fit perfectly with the castle theme. Thank you again to Faith Baptist Church, of Palmer, Mass., for sending us their **VBS materials**! We praise God for the eighty in attendance and all decisions made for the Lord. Our Teens always enjoy their **Youth Groups** fortnightly, especially a **bonfire** night at our house and a night singing carols at a local **care home** and at doors. The Sunday School and teens also led an entire service, besides the preaching, and did a beautiful job presenting the Christmas message. We pray for all of these families with whom we have influence to truly be born again into the eternal family of God. And we love seeing so many continue to grow in discipleship, through Natalie's ladies studies in Genesis, and my Bible Doctrine lessons.
- **"The WHOLE Shall Be Full of Light"**: At our **Carols by Candlelight** service, I emphasised this phrase. When Jesus was preaching in Galilee, a woman cried out how blessed was the womb that bare Him. But He replied that blessed rather are they that hear the Word of God and keep it, and described this as allowing His light in. We can hear the message without believing it, and darkness is all around, trying to enter instead. I believe we were truly able to worship the Lord WHOLE-heartedly together, as well as at another church that asked me to preach for their **Carol service**. On Christmas morning we always have a 10:30 am service, and this year there were more visitors than we've ever had before, with a record number in attendance. While the wise men were filled with exceeding joy at the birth of the Saviour, King Herod was filled with exceeding wrath. And although the scribes knew the facts, they did not worship because of their non-literal view of Scripture (which corresponds perfectly to much of what is called Christianity in Britain). What a contrast, and a lesson to worship wholeheartedly!
- **"The WHOLE World"**: Our church loves supporting missionaries, and with so many nationalities amongst us, we all enjoyed the International Harvest Dinner. I am actually writing this letter from Budapest, where we are visiting a family we grew to love in England who moved back, and also a dear church-planting family we have supported for many years. It was a blessing to see them all and to be asked to preach for the first time in Hungary.

With WHOLEHEARTED Thanks to God for You,

Jonathan, Natalie & Laura VandenHurk
Happy New Year! Luke 19:10



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