



September 2021
NEWSLETTER

**WE EXIST TO GUIDE PEOPLE TOWARD THEIR
NEXT STEP IN CHRIST.**

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I love flowers.

I've tried a few beds, but they don't last long in my care. Although, we do have a patch of greenery right beside our house. It's a cheaters garden really because it was there when we bought the house and just grows on its own. The only maintenance I do is pull weeds from time to time.

Although . . . I can't always distinguish a weed from a flower.

Some weeds are beautiful. They live among the flowers and look almost too pretty to pull. But I've learned that if I don't pull them, they'll choke out the real flowers and rob them of nutrients and water.

The same is true in our lives. Sin can masquerade as something good, much like a weed can masquerade as a flower. It takes root and grows without any effort on our part. And, before we know it, it will consume the good in our lives. And, like a weed, we have to recognize sin for what it is and pull it up by its root. If we let it stay, it will spread and choke out the good God is doing in us.

Sin is never satisfied with small. The world has counterfeits to the good things God has for us. We have to stay connected to Christ, our Master Gardener, so we will know the difference.

***"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."***

2 Peter 3:18

—Susan Greenwood

RC3 member, Susan Greenwood is the on-air co-host of the Zac & Susan Show @ WALK FM. She is also a published writer. Susan and her husband Chris have three sons, Austin (Katie), Donevan, and Kyle.



We may not be listening to Christmas music quite yet (or maybe you are!), but it is shoebox time and we are already thinking ahead about our involvement with **Operation Christmas Child**. We will have the bottles available for you to pick up and fill with quarters that will be used to send the boxes to third world countries where children will receive them and also be given the gospel in their own language. Samaritan's Purse will have trained individuals to follow-up and disciple the children and their families who place their faith and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Look for the basket of little green bottles on **Sunday, September 19th**.



Parents and guardians are encouraged to sign up your middle school and/or high school students for the 2021-22 **Pray for Me Campaign** to be paired with a Prayer Champion.

PFMC mobilizes adults to intentionally invest in the lives of our children through one of the most foundational Christian acts — prayer. PFMC is rooted in the truths that God uses His Word, His people, and prayer to change the world. Sign up during Connections in the gym, on the website (roundchurch.net/news/pray-for-me-campaign), or church app.



Summer is drawing to a close. Most of our young people are back in school and that can be a very tough environment for many.

Prayer Champions for our students are needed. Research shows that adult believers are crucial in passing on a lasting faith to the next generation. By strategically rallying the people of God around the next generation through the catalyst of prayer, we can make a kingdom impact that will last for eternity!

The PFMC offers prayer guides designed to help you pray specifically for your student. It is useful to help you stay the course in praying effectively for the next generation.

If you would like to make a difference in the life of a middle school or high school student, **consider becoming a Prayer Champion**. You can sign up on the website (click news), church app, or sign up under the blue tent in the gym during Connections on Sundays. You will have an opportunity to meet your student at our PFMC Lunch & Launch later this month.

PFMC Lunch & Launch | September 19 @ 12:30 PM

Wear Your Team Colors | Sunday, September 12th

It's time for avid fans to show their identity with their favorite team by wearing a team jersey. Around here it is predominantly Marshall University (with a few WVU and The Ohio State University sprinkled among us). Did you know that Christians show their identity with Jesus? *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:35). How well does this "Christian jersey" fit you?



A Tender Carve

Woodcarving is my hobby. Specifically, caricature carving (as opposed to realistic carving, relief carving, or any of several other styles). Ballplayers, cowboys, and Christmas Santas are my standard fare. Most of them range from six inches to about one foot tall. Most of them are carved from northern basswood, colored with acrylic stains, and sealed with a coat of hand-buffed lacquer.

It's something I picked up from my dad about 15 years ago. He had been a woodworker his entire life and a friend took him to a woodcarving show about 90 minutes from the family farm. That next summer I asked him about a small wooden cowboy boot that was sitting on the lamp table in the family room.

Dad left the room and returned about 15 minutes later with an L-shaped piece of wood and a small knife. "Carve something that looks like that boot," he said. My carving career had begun.

Just about every carving newbie at some point asks a version of the same question to a veteran carver: "How do I carve a cowboy?" All the old timers grin even before the answer. "You grab a chunk of wood and cut off everything that doesn't look like a cowboy."

That struck me long ago as a metaphor of our Christian walk. We should be on a continual journey of becoming more like Jesus, always working to cut away the parts that don't look like Him.

This summer I ventured to a week-long carving class at Doane University in the town of Crete, Nebraska. Doane is a small college of about 1,300 students, all of whom go home for the month of July. Doane has a strong art program, and the university uses that month to open the campus to classes for grownups, including "woodcarving week."

In a given year, some 250 to 300 carvers roll in for 20 or more different classes. The carvers live in the dormitories and eat their meals in the cafeteria—it's like "whittling camp." For that week, the average age for a Doane University "student" jumps from about 20 years old to something north of 65.

At this point in my carving life, my abilities are probably above-average in groups like this. I have more experience than a lot of carvers, but there are always several whose skills I could only hope to approach with several more years of practice.

Beginning carvers are often tentative in their cuts, afraid to take off too much. That usually leaves their carvings "flat." In these classes you constantly hear teachers exhorting their students to "be aggressive" and to "make bold cuts." That's the way to give your carvings character.

My goal for this year's class was to learn how to carve female or kids' faces better. I had been looking for an opportunity for a few years now to take a class from a lady whose women and kids are, I believe, the very best.

I guess it shouldn't have been a surprise, but her first piece of advice to me when I chose a little girl holding a teddy bear as my project was none-the-less a revelation. "This is a tender carve," she said. "Forget everything you've ever been told about being bold and aggressive. Little girls don't look anything like craggy old cowboys and you can't treat them that way."

"Just like you can't treat people all the same way, you can't treat carving people the same way."

That's wisdom that we can take from the way Jesus used different methods of dealing with sinners, too. He was bold and aggressive with the money changers at the temple (John 2:13-16), but also tender with the woman at the well (John 4:4-26).

Hopefully now any Mrs. Clause that I carve will have a much different-looking face than her husband's. Likewise, I hope I'm cognizant in recognizing that "one size fits all" isn't necessarily sound advice when dealing with the people and situations that we all run into along the way. sc

Iglesia Hay Esperanza is on the move for Jesus! **Pastor Henry Garcia** shared this testimony in his latest newsletter:

"One day I received a call from a concerned person who told me that a man was sick in his apartment and that no one was helping him out of fear of being infected with Covid-19. I took appropriate precautions and went to the apartment. He was from Guatemala and had been alone for three days and was seriously ill. His condition did not allow time to wait for an ambulance. With help from concerned friends, he was placed in my vehicle and we went to St. Mary's Emergency Department. On the way I shared the saving gospel of Jesus Christ and he prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior. Upon arriving at the hospital, Ventura went into cardiac arrest. He was stabilized by the time I left him, but late into the night the hospital notified me that Ventura had died. Praise the Lord, I will see him heaven!"



Whether you gave financially, prayed, or participated in the Kids Clean Water Project, your role mattered in providing 70 water filters and sharing with 153 people the life-giving Good News of Jesus Christ in Costa Rica.

Many on our mission team took "next steps" in their relationship with the Lord as they stepped out in faith to travel to another country and culture, share their testimony or share the gospel.

San Jose local pastors and church members worked diligently before our team arrived in Costa Rica to set up appointments with people who could benefit from water filters and who, for the most part, did not know the Lord or attend church meetings. Please pray for the local churches' ministry of discipleship to the 48 individuals who trusted in Christ as Savior. In some cases, follow up began even before our team left the country! Ask the Lord to bring about revival in the hearts of those who know Him but are far from Him. Ask the Lord to help baby believers grow in their relationships with Him. Ask Him to continue to draw people to Himself as they recall the message shared with them every time they use their filter. May they have a thirst for the Living Water! Several people asked our team members to pray that they will find jobs so they can provide for their families; some asked us to pray for wayward children or spouses; for protection from gangs; for healing from kidney disease, cancer, and other illnesses. Please join us in praying for these requests.

If you would like to see a few of the Costa Rica mission team talk about their trip with Filter of Hope, visit our Facebook page: [facebook.com/roundchurch](https://www.facebook.com/roundchurch).



**RC3 Kids Ministry welcomes children
pre-school through 5th grade.**

Sunday School @ 9:30 & 11:15 AM

Our Sunday morning children's ministry includes a captivating Bible lesson and age-appropriate activities each week. Current curriculum is *The Gospel Project*.

Kids Helping Kids Class resumes Sunday, September 12th @ 5 PM

Kids can participate in community service projects throughout the year. The children will learn why we serve, what Jesus says about serving, and how serving our community glorifies God. Registration is open on our website and church app. Ronda Shockley serves as the director of this ministry.

Awana Club kicks off Wednesday, September 15th @ 6:30 PM

Awana is nationally recognized and runs during the school year. Children earn uniforms and awards through Scripture memorization and activities. If you would like to volunteer as a teacher or helper, please reach out to the club Commander, Alan Yates, @ 304.654.3180.