

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, & SERVE THE WORLD IN WAYNE & BEYOND

AUGUST 2023

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church family,

This summer we have invited you to add names to what we are calling the "Love List" of people you know who might not have experienced the transformative love of our crucified and risen Savior. This list has grown like crazy!

We have a dedicated prayer team that is praying for the salvation of those who are on this list. Thank you for your faithful prayers, prayer team! If you would like to be part of our prayer team, you can join our "PrayerLink" by emailing info@coswayne.org and asking to be put on the team. We would love for a growing number of believers to be lifting up prayers for those who still haven't experienced the gospel of grace that Jesus makes possible.

For those who are praying over our Love List, let me suggest a few things we can be praying:

1. Pray that God would open the eyes of their hearts.
2. Pray that God would bring strong and loving believers into their circle of friends.
3. Pray that opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel would open up before them.
4. Pray that God would put a hunger for what is most important in life into their core.
5. Pray that those addicted would be set free.
6. Pray for those who are broken, that they would be made whole.
7. Pray for all of us, that we would find and continue to find the radical forgiveness that only comes from our triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
8. Pray for the courage to initiate spiritual conversations with this person(s).
9. Pray for Jesus' compassion to flood your soul so that it can be poured out on those who don't know Jesus.
10. Pray for opportunities to introduce your non-believing friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc. to your brothers and sisters in Christ, who are passionate about King Jesus and His Kingdom.
11. Pray that their lives would be infused with eternal love and kingdom purpose.
12. Pray that they become Christ worshipers, who give our glorious God His due.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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The best thing we can do for anyone is to love Jesus most and to point others to do the same.

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Let me encourage three points of action:

1. Pray, pray, pray!
2. Keep on submitting names to the Love List so that we can join you in these specific prayers for salvation.
3. Consider joining our prayer team by emailing info@coswayne.org – in the subject line put, "Please put me on the PrayerLink Team."

The great Christian mathematician and philosopher, Blaise Pasca, said this of prayer, "Through prayer, God has given humanity the dignity of causality." Wow, what a thought. Our sovereign Father has constructed His world so that He accomplishes His eternal plans by answering the prayers His Spirit puts in His follower's hearts. Let's storm the heavens on behalf of those in our spheres of influence who still do not know the life-changing love of Jesus!

Until all have heard,

Pastor Kevin

CAMPUS SAFETY UPDATE

As we pray for God's grace in the lives of those who don't know Jesus yet, we are also praying for both the spiritual and physical safety of our COS community. Through prayer and counsel from many sources, including both state and local police, we are developing and executing a plan to improve the safety around our church campus. You may have already noticed changes, like shutting both our exterior and interior sanctuary doors during church services. (While this may seem trivial, increasing the barriers to entry can reduce the impact of an event during a service.)

One less trivial action is **turning the nursery entrance into an emergency exit only**. This means that everyone needs to enter Building A through the front or back lobby doors or the Welcome Center. We were strongly encouraged to take this step to increase the safety of our nursery children, and we have been working with our Safety team, Nursery, and Sunday classes to make this happen.

Thank you for your flexibility as we make adjustments and improvements to increase the safety of our church. We are trusting in God's grace and provision as we determine the best ways to move forward.

MINISTRY UPDATES

KIDS CAMPS

The summer is flying by, and **Adventure Camp is here!** (For those who don't know, Adventure Camp is our sleep-away camp at Streamside Camp for kids in grades 5-7.) Thank you to everyone who contributed to our **Kids Camp Scholarship Fund**. The \$30k raised this year provided financial support for many campers and helpers. Please be praying for the safety of our 83 campers and 70 volunteers heading to camp on Sunday. Also be praying for unity on the program team; wisdom and discernment for the counselors and helpers; spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual energy during the week; and for our speaker, Steve Sposato, who is teaching from the book of Philippians. We're praying that the Holy Spirit will open the hearts and minds of our campers to receive God's message and that their lives will be changed! (Extra prayer for good weather is always appreciated as well!)

Earlier this summer, 150 kids (age 3 through 5th grade) attended **VBS**, and it was amazing! God worked in incredible ways as we learned about and celebrated God's Monumental love for us. Check out these great pictures and a quick video highlight of the week below.



MINISTRY UPDATES

STUDENT MINISTRY MISSIONS TRIP

In mid-July, a group of 23 students and adults traveled to Moca, Dominican Republic for an incredible and unforgettable missions trip! Despite some major travel issues and setbacks, the team arrived excited and ready to serve. Each day, the students led Vacation Bible Schools in two different towns. The first was held at a local school within walking distance of the host church that we partnered with. The second was held under a small structure in a small, low-income town. At both VBSs, the children were eager to play, make new friends, sing songs, and get to know our team even though we had a language barrier. A few basic Spanish words can go a long way when coupled with a smile and hug!

Our students did a phenomenal job preparing Bible skits, lessons, games, songs, and memory verses (in Spanish). We based our lessons around the Monumental VBS lessons, which many of the teens participated in here at COS. Many of our translators and ministry partners commented on how well-prepared the team was and how well they ministered to the children. The students also gave “five-minute Bible lessons” based on their favorite scripture passages, and many were able to share a testimony of how God has worked in their lives. At the end of the week, we invited the children to decide to live for Jesus, and many of them responded positively.

In the evenings, the students visited soccer leagues where we gathered with local teenage boys, shared the gospel, and had friendly soccer competitions of Americans vs. Dominicans. This was a special ministry to be involved in because it was the first time the local church had brought a group to the soccer fields. We are praying that future groups can continue sowing seeds of salvation in the hearts of the Dominican teenagers.

One afternoon we took the whole team to “Jumbo” (a large grocery store) to purchase food supplies for forty families living in one of the towns where we did VBS. We were grateful to be able to bless so many of the households with whom we had made connections. The local pastor gave a gospel presentation to the people before the students handed out the food bags and prayed with them. It was a beautiful thing to see how we could tangibly be the hands and feet of Jesus to people with such basic needs.

This week made a deep impact on our students, and we saw God at work in many ways. In the words of one of the students, “Over the past week in the DR, I have truly learned what happiness is. These children don’t have much, yet they run around smiling and laughing. They are the happiest people I ever met. They taught me that very little is needed to make your life happy. It is all within trusting in God. I’m so grateful that I got to help them, but even more grateful that I got to learn from them.”



MISSIONS UPDATES

THANK YOU, HARBOURS!

With COS as their sending church, Mark and Ruth Harbour began their ministry in Taiwan over 40 years ago. They joined us on Sunday, July 16, to share an update from their many years of faithful service. After Pastor Kevin, Pastor Drew, and our Global Outreach Director, Haig, prayed for them as they transition to volunteer roles in Taiwan, they stopped by our Student Min Sunday School to share and answer questions about missions. The Harbours have been a gift to many, and it has been a joy to support them and their work of expanding God's kingdom among the unreached in the world through our missions giving. [Check out their video that highlights their many "spiritual grandchildren" from their many years of service!](#)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DAY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

We asked one of our volunteers to share why he loves serving at International Students Day, and this is what he said:

Every year, I look forward to welcoming international students to our area at the church's free yard sale. Most students are experiencing their first week ever in a new country! I love striking up conversations and hearing about how their transition to the US is going and of course, hearing about their culture, family, and academic pursuits. I also tell them about my own experience as an international student many years ago and try to answer whatever questions they may have. It's a good starting point for a future friendship!



How you can get involved:

- 1. Donate** - We will be accepting donations of gently used or new items (more details are available at coswayne.org/gointernational) on Monday, August 28 through Friday, September 1 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the Bldg. F Gym. All donations will be made available to international university students who come to the **International Students Day** on **Saturday, September 2**.
- 2. Volunteer** - We need your help as we work to welcome and build relationships with international students before, during, and after **International Students Day!** We have opportunities to serve and show hospitality all week long leading up to, during, and after the event.
- 3. Assist with Furniture Delivery** - Drivers, trucks, and/or trailers are needed to deliver furniture to students' homes.

If you are interested in serving in any of the above or other ways visit coswayne.org/gointernational.

MINISTRY UPDATES

CELEBRATE RECOVERY TRANSFORMATION STORY

Celebrate Recovery is for anyone struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and habits that hinder their relationships with God, others, and themselves. Through CR, God is changing lives. [Check out Jeremy's testimony below!](#)



GIVING UPDATE

We are praising God for a strong start to our fiscal year! Giving to Ministry/Operations has positioned us for a robust launch for our fall ministry kickoff. Thank you!

As you can see below, we are a bit behind in Missions giving. Please continue to pray for God's provision in this area.

	<u>Ministry/Ops</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Love-in-Action</u>
GIVING TO DATE	\$164,845	\$30,108	\$6,276
BUDGET	\$148,679	\$36,540	\$0*
OVER/(UNDER)	\$16,166	(\$6,432)	\$6,276

LOVE-IN-ACTION is a fund managed by the deacons to provide financial aid for people in our church and community who are suffering. *Aid provided from 7/1/23 - 7/31/23.



Text Messaging

Text **"JOIN COS"** to **833-744-9334** to receive alerts or important messages from COS.

Questions & Feedback

We welcome and encourage all inquiries: info@coswayne.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media by searching "Church of the Saviour" on Facebook and Instagram!