

August 2018



 Omega Baptist Church

*A circle of believers with Christ at the center.*

# BEACON

**“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”**

**Matthew 5:16**

## **Six More Go Public with their Faith in Jesus**

Do you know how unusual it is that a 138 year old congregation in an area of the United States with a declining population is still growing? How have we been able to continue to grow in numbers despite all of the cultural, financial and population challenges we face?

Let me list a few of the factors that contribute to our sustained growth. First, we have kept God’s Word front and center in what we do. We haven’t done it perfectly but we continue to strive the best we can to subject ourselves to God’s Word.

Second, we have kept the main things the main things. Too often churches get gradually sidetracked into side issues. As an example, I personally know of a church in another state that has now ceased to exist because they slowly became little more than a home schooler support group. Gradually, people who were not advocates of home schooling their children were left off of leadership boards and positions of teaching and service. After the non-homeschoolers all left the church over the next few years, the church enjoyed the “unity” and “support” of their fellow members. But as kids graduated and families no longer needed that support, some went in search of a different church. Finally, so few families were left that the church disbanded.

Please hear me correctly. I have nothing against home schooling. For some people it is the best option. But what happened with that other church is that they lost sight of the main job Jesus says a church has, making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

One of the joys of being a part of OBC is the support we are able to give together for ministries literally all over the world. July 22, we heard from Dr. Pat through whom we minister in many areas in the news today. Two of our number are in Thailand as I write this. Another is preparing for an 11 month trip to many different locations to help in making disciples.

Third, we have continued to challenge people around us to follow Jesus and become one of his disciples. This year we have had over ten so far who have gone public with their faith in Jesus through baptism. It was an awesome time at the church picnic to walk down to the lake and witness six of our folks declare their trust in Jesus. Cody Blomberg, Lucas Cook, Kajsa Lind, Zoe Mariette, Dustin Ulrich and Gabriel Ulrich took the plunge.

The testimonies included coming to faith at home and at summer camp. They told of how their faith has kept them from making some bad decisions. They told of a better outlook toward others. They told of forgiveness and hope through faith in Jesus. It was so good to be there. These six join over 1000 people who have been baptized as professing believers at OBC in the 138 years.

Let us do our best to keep growing as we follow Jesus together.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney



## **AUGUST SERMON SCHEDULE**

- 5** Guest Speaker  
**Gary Harrison - Pinnacle Ministries**
- 12** Luke 11:1-13 “Three Helpful Teachings about Prayer”
- 19** Luke 11:14-36 “Jesus Tells Us How to Get God’s Blessing”
- 26** Luke 11:37-54 “Jesus Insults Some People with the Truth”



# YOUTH-MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

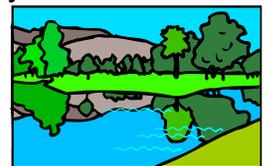
about prayer. When I was in Haiti, it was easy for me to pray continually. (Just like the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:16.) A silent conversation in my head. It started as soon as I woke up and it went on all day. For some reason I never had to think of praying, I just did it. It was soothing and made sense. It was also peaceful and felt natural. It was like a conversation with a best friend. Coming back home, I thought it would stay that way. In fact, I hoped it would. I liked it. But instead, it changed. I shouldn't be surprised. I hadn't planned for it to go that way in Haiti so why should I expect it to stay. It's been getting on my nerves lately, this lack of conversation. My brain seems to be a radio station with a teenage girl switching the station, or song, every few seconds. Do you know what I'm talking about? If you have ever been in a car with a teenage girl, chances are you do. They flip the station or change the song on their phones before its finished? It's infuriating!! (I'm sure boys do this too, but I have only experienced it with girls.) No sooner are you getting into a song when, bam! A new one starts. Then they repeat that process for the two or three hour car ride to where ever you are going. Never once finishing a single song!! Not even the one they claim to love.

This weekend, I had the opportunity to go to church with a special friend. Her pastor told a story about a pilot who died while flying. His wife was with him and managed to get control of the plane and keep it in the air for two hours. During those two hours, however, she never heard from anyone on the ground. She called for help and the radio worked just fine, but she never stayed on one frequency long enough for anyone to answer. She kept calling out for help and then changed the frequency. Those on the ground tried answering her but were unsuccessful. Because of that she crashed the plane without anyone being able to help her or find her location.

How many of us do that with prayer? We pray and we pray. But do we wait? Do we stay on the same frequency and really wait? Or do we try a new channel, a new song? I don't know about you, but I know there are times when I struggle with the waiting part. It sounds dumb to say it out loud (or in this case write it out) but sometimes I wonder, "Did I pray it right? Did I use the right words? Was I sincere or distracted? Did I put enough emphasis on it? Did I pray it enough times?" And then I experience a week in Haiti when prayer is like breathing. Natural and simple. Then I get frustrated when it doesn't seem to stay that way at home, with all the distractions of life. I feel like that woman on the plane, switching frequencies and wondering why I don't hear a response. I don't know about you, but I don't want to crash. The woman in the plane did end up crashing. She survived, but had to crawl for help. I'm sure she wished she had stayed on the same frequency and had gotten help a little sooner or at least had someone to freak out to. I know that I would have.

I don't know where you are in your prayer life. Maybe it is easy for you, maybe it's something you have worked on and it feels natural and freeing. Or maybe you are like me and it goes great for a while and then gets all foggy. Don't give up. Don't change the frequency prematurely. Keep trying to get that constant, unceasing prayer going. And when it feels out of sync or forced, remember that He knows our thoughts, our comings and our goings...so just talk. Anywhere and everywhere. He'll listen.

Rebecca Anderson



*"You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely." Psalm 139:2-4*

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love & good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body.

Romans 12:4-5

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 1:7



*Don't allow isolation to overcome you!  
Reach out to others.  
Begin to give where you can.  
Learn to receive  
when others give to you.*

**“God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.”**

1 Peter 4:10 NLT

**“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”**

Galatians 6:2 NIV

Remember, if you are God's child, you are never alone!

God is always with you, always loving you!

## Fall Youth Programs Kick-Off in September!

Mark your calendars ...  
(Details to come!)

Ground Zero (high school)

Wednesday, September 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

SPOT 68 (6-8th grades) &

Kingdom Quest (PreK-5th grades)

Wednesday, September 12, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

## Titus 2

Women of all ages, please join us for evenings of encouragement and testimonies this summer!

We will meet twice each month, every other Tuesday.

5:30 pm at Pattie Swan's (W3054 Ring School Rd.)  
for extra time to visit and share life

6:30 pm at Janet Blomberg's (W2990 Ring School Rd.)  
for our featured testimony, followed by visiting & refreshments

Sharing their stories this month:  
August 7th - Karen Blomberg  
August 21st - Melinda Price



## Family Fun Night Kickball

Thursday, August 30, 6:30 p.m.  
at Pioneer Park in Ogema



Please join us and invite a friend or neighbor for an evening of fun for the whole family!



## August Birthdays

- 2 Terrie Grapa, Darrin Polzin
- 3 Karolyn Erickson, Ashley Berg
- 4 Carrie Ulrich
- 7 Chris Blomberg, Landon Blomberg, Teague Shoup, Violet Jesunas
- 8 Harold Buzan, Michelle Nelson, Alisha Olson, Vytas Jesunas
- 9 Mindi Wolsky
- 10 Julia Blomberg
- 12 Kari Swan, Thorson Gustafson
- 13 Scott Hueckman, Mike Ulrich
- 15 Tina Cattnach
- 16 Manny Espinoza
- 17 Hagan Isaacson
- 18 Levi Gedde, Angelica Espinoza
- 19 Duane Heldstab
- 20 Andrea Blomberg, Deb Bosserman, Katie Carlson, Emma Blomberg
- 21 Debbie Gustafson, Christopher Gedde, Fallon Blomberg
- 22 Heidi Loomis
- 23 Molly Andreae, Justin Ulrich
- 24 Lloyd Johnson, Nikki Heikkinen
- 25 Nathan Lind, Carolyn Bauer
- 26 Noah Ulrich, Lance Gustafson, Lance Meier
- 27 Chuck Selander, Keith Erickson, Richard Ziegler
- 28 Joan Gasser
- 29 Donna Woodie
- 31 Calvin Blomberg



**Happy Birthday!**

Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family has an address change
  - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
  - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: [info@ogemabaptistchurch.org](mailto:info@ogemabaptistchurch.org)

# OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 556, OGEMA, WI 54459 715-767-5157 [www.ogemabaptistchurch.org](http://www.ogemabaptistchurch.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am  
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am  
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



Whatever your age or stage in life,  
YOU are WELCOME here!

*"SHINE like STARS in the universe  
as you HOLD OUT the WORD of LIFE."*

Philippians 2: 15b-16a

## Missionary Spotlight

Anika Anderson

*Word of Life International Ministries, Portugal*



One of our newest missionaries is Anika Anderson, daughter of Bruce and Bekki (Bergeson) Anderson of Mason, WI. We are privileged to be a part of supporting her and excited for the work God is doing in Portugal! Please keep Anika in your prayers as she returns to the ministry in Portugal this month! Here she shares with us a little more about her ministry and the mission of *Word of Life*.

"I am the Administrative assistant to the Ministry Coordinator of Word of Life Portugal (Matthew Melville). That includes, but is not limited to, coordinating any missions groups that come to Portugal, local church involvement (I help with the youth program, praise team, and women's events), watching children for our staff families, helping with emails, interns, staff meetings, and anything in between. There is never a dull moment!

A little about Word of Life; we are a youth ministry that desires to see each generation reach their generation for Christ. We accomplish this through summer camp, outreach events, youth retreats, local church involvement and much more. One thing that I love about Word of Life is how important we take the local church. It is our desire to teach and train the church on how to best reach their local youth. We desire to come alongside and be a help. My favorite part of ministry is seeing churches encouraged.

I have been in the states for the last 10 months raising my support to go back full time. I am returning August 10th! I am so excited to go back and can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for the future. Thank you all so much for the prayers and support you have given me! God is doing a great work in Portugal!"

A few prayer requests:

Language school starts Sept. 3, Adjustment back to Portugal, Time management, Raising the remaining funds for a car and language school (\$3,000)

Website: [give.wol.org/aranderson](http://give.wol.org/aranderson) Email: [aranderson@wol.org](mailto:aranderson@wol.org)