

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Greg Laurie: *The Jesus Revolution*

What my generation called “The Jesus Movement,” *Time* magazine called “The Jesus Revolution.” They were right. Revolution involves a dramatic change, a return. The same can be said of revival. Simply put, a Christian revival is a return to New Testament Christianity—the way we who follow Jesus should always live.

We need another Jesus revolution, and I believe we will see one in our lifetime. But to experience revival, we must first wake from our sleep. So many in the church today are spiritually asleep. They are settling for a watered-down form of the Christian faith. This is not the form of the Christian faith that changed the world in the first century—the faith that changed families, countries and cultures. As evangelist and Bible scholar G. Campbell Morgan once stated: “Organized Christianity that fails to make a disturbance is dead.”

But God has laid out a plan for our redemption: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV).

As someone who lived through the “The Jesus Movement” and came to faith as a result of it, I can recall several earmarks of that time:

- 1. There was a sense of expectancy at every gathering.** No one was ever late for church. If you were, you wouldn’t find a seat. We were there consistently and punctually, knowing that the Holy Spirit would show up.
- 2. The Word of God was always taught.** This consistency and commitment to the Bible gave us stability as we learned from Scripture. Like sponges, we soaked up everything and looked forward to the teaching each week. Verse by verse and chapter by chapter, my mentor and friend, the late Pastor Chuck Smith, brought the pages of the Bible to life.
- 3. People were open to the work of the Holy Spirit.** We used cutting-edge technology (i.e., cassette tapes!) to share our hope. We took chances—I preached for the first time at Pirate’s Cove. (This may mean something to you if you’re from California. If you have no idea what I’m talking about, Google it.) We were careful to base all we did on the unshakable foundation of Scripture. In fact, my life was changed by the “Jesus Freaks” who took the time to tell me the truth about the hope I was searching for.
- 4. People invited nonbelievers to church and told them about Jesus.** Because we believed Jesus could return at any time, we felt a sense of urgency in sharing His Good News. We invited people to church, and people came to know Jesus at every service. In Acts 2:47 we learn that “the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (NIV). New believers were and still are the lifeblood of the church. The Christian church today has a choice to either evangelize or fossilize. If a church does not have a constant flow of new believers, it will grow stagnant.

Gen Z is the loneliest generation, even more depressed and despondent after a year of lockdowns. In April 2020, incidents of self-harm among 13- to 18-year-olds rose 99.8%, overdoses rose 119%, generalized anxiety rose 94% and major depressive disorders rose 84%. Our basic human desires, such as connection, love, acceptance, peace and safety, never change. Thankfully, neither does Jesus (see Hebrews 13:8). But as the Apostle Paul asks, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Romans 10:14, NIV).

Despite all this, Millennials in the church today tend to not share their faith with others. One study noted, “Almost half of Millennial Christians (47%) agree at least somewhat that it is wrong to share one’s personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith.”

If we desire revival, then we need to encourage these younger generations to pick up the baton of the Gospel. We need to pray and prepare the ground for God to move by doing our part: teaching them, mentoring them and loving them.

R.A. Torrey, founder of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA), had a prescription for revival. He advised: “First, let a few Christians (they need not be many) get thoroughly right with God themselves. ... Second, let them bind themselves together in a prayer group to pray for revival until God opens the heavens and comes down. Third, let them put themselves at the disposal of God for Him to use as He sees fit in winning others to Christ.”

The “Jesus Revolution” of my time followed this formula and changed the world. So, I pray: Lord, do it again. Lord, may it begin with us. ©2022 Greg Laurie

This article originally appeared at The Christian Post. Reprinted by permission. Greg Laurie is the pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship and the speaker at the Harvest Crusades. He is also the author of “Lennon, Dylan, Alice and Jesus: A Spiritual Biography of Rock And Roll.”

God's Blessings October 2, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$7,298.00
NC Missions:	\$20.00
NC Missions in Honor of Keith & Mary Israel:	\$50.00
Sunday School Attendance:	76
Worship Attendance:	155

God's Blessings October 9, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$8,661.00
Cemetery in Memory of Billy Gentry:	\$150.00
Sunday School Attendance:	103
Worship Attendance:	166

God's Blessings October 16, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$4,403.00
Cemetery in Memory of Billy Gentry:	\$100.00
Sunday School Attendance:	88
Worship Attendance:	153

God's Blessings October 23, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$7,146.00
NC Missions:	\$50.00
Sunday School Attendance:	105
Worship Attendance:	162

God's Blessings October 30, 2022

Budget Needs:	\$7,265.61
Budget Receipt:	\$5,692.00
Baptist Men:	\$160.00
In Memory of Arvil Luffman:	\$320.00
Sunday School Attendance:	112
Worship Attendance:	188

Tri-C for November: Toilet Paper **Donations:**
Ark Meal for November 15: Mitch Callaway

Operation Christmas Child: PRBC, we once again have the opportunity to share the gospel across the globe this Christmas as we do our part by collecting shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Since 1990, more than 178 Million children in over 150 countries have received shoeboxes, but more importantly heard about Jesus. Just one shoebox leads to 10 to 15 people hearing about the salvation brought by Jesus. Our church's goal this year is 150 boxes. Please pick up your shoeboxes in the vestibule and return them by Sunday, Nov. 6th. God Bless you and our church as we help fulfill the great commission.

Ladies' Day of Prayer: This year will be held at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Nov. 7 from 6-7:30pm. A light meal will be served. Please let Sharon Wooten know by Nov. 2 if you can attend.

Calloway Shower: A baby shower honoring Ben, Haley, and Baby Girl Calloway will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, Nov. 13th from 2-4 pm. They are registered on Amazon.com.

STCM Packing Party: Do you enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with your family? If so, please consider donating \$25 (**DUE Nov.14**) to Stone's Throw Christian Ministries. Your donation will provide a Thanksgiving Meal Box to families around Rousseau, KY. **STCM in Kentucky:** Depart STCM at 7am on Nov. 18, set up in KY and stay overnight. **STCM Distribution Team:** Depart STCM at 5am on Nov. 19th to distribute meals. See Mitch Callaway for more info regarding all these opportunities.

Lottie Moon ART Sale: Sunday Nov. 20th beginning at 9am in the Church Fellowship hall. Our Wed. night Children's group has been working very hard on ART work for the past several months. This ART work will be on display in the fellowship hall for you to purchase by a donation. All the donations will be given to our Lottie Moon Christmas offering. We will also have refreshments for you to enjoy. You will have the opportunity to view and purchase these items Sun., Nov 20th at 9am and right after the Worship service. We welcome all to stop by.

Our Annual Hanging of the Greens Service: will be Sunday Nov.27th at 5:30pm. Please make your plans to attend this very special service. A "soup" fellowship dinner will follow in the fellowship hall.

Senior Saints: Mark your calendar for Nov. 29 & 30. We will be going to Abington, Virginia to the Barter Theatre to see "It's a Wonderful Life". We'll leave the church on the 29th at 7:30 a.m., stopping for breakfast, then shop in the Abington area, have dinner and then the play. We'll stay at Quality Inn in Abington that night, have free breakfast at motel, then drive to Bristol to shop before heading home. The price for room with double occupancy and play will be \$90 per person. Please sign up and have your money to Pat no later than November 6.

PRBC BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER

The average Sunday School attendance for September 2022 was 109. A special thank you to all adult teachers for your efforts to teach the challenging material this quarter.

The choir has started preparing special music for Christmas and needs additional voices to help.

The PRBC apparel has arrived and been distributed. We can do another order if there is enough interest.

Churchtrac is up and running and has already been an asset to our church staff and clerk. Everyone is encouraged to use the QR code in the bulletin or go to the website listed to create an account with the Church Connect App. This app will allow members to send bulletin updates to our secretary, keep up with prayer updates, see current announcements, update your church records such as birthday and address, as well as have access to an online membership directory. If you have questions or need assistance, please see Gala Calloway.

There is a vacancy on the deacon board that needs to be filled. This vacancy must be filled among men who are active members of the church and who have the spiritual and scriptural qualifications as found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Any church member may approach a current deacon with a recommendation, but we ask that you speak to the man first to make sure they are willing to serve. After prayerful consideration, the deacons will present this man to the church and vote two weeks later.

Budget Presentation: See "2023 Proposed Budget" Handout. Changes have been highlighted and discussed by presenters. Discussion regarding the proposed raise of 3% for all staff members. Motion to accept budget as written carried.

Pastor John requested that his current housing allowance allocation be increased from 30% to 35%. Motion to approve this request carried.

Discussion among the congregation that a 3% raise was not adequate due to the current inflation rates. Pastor John expressed a desire to give his raise to the other employees of the church. Ches Blake states that this percentage came from the personnel committee meeting recommendations.

The van was not successfully repaired and will be returned for continued repairs after the next scheduled trip. The license tags have been renewed and are up to date for the next year.

The Personnel Committee has been working to create job descriptions and evaluations for all staff. This information was presented to deacons and was set to be presented tonight, but they were asked to provide more details and information. The committee is planning to have this information ready for presentation by the first of the year.

The Mission Team has been meeting every two weeks. Please continue to support Operation Christmas Child. Our church wide goal is 150 shoeboxes. Trunk O'Treat will be held on October 30. There is an additional opportunity for meal assistance that the team is working on. If you know of any families in need of assistance, please let a member of the team know.

The Ark meal was prepared for 21 residents by Debbie Garner and Zella Nance. Pastor Brandon is checking with the residents to see if they need a ride to church and will let the weekly driver know if they need to pick up from the Ark.

There will be no Sisters in Christ meeting this month. The EmpowHer event will be held Sunday 10/23 after church in the fellowship hall. There is a trip to see a comedy show planned for Sunday evening 10/23.

The High Spirits will begin assembling gift bags for the residents of Pruitt Healthcare on November 1. They are accepting all types of donations to place in these bags. The group was able to travel to Samaritan's Purse to assist with tarp folding recently.

On November 29-30 the Senior Saints will travel to Abingdon, Virginia to see the drama "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Barter Theater. This will be an overnight trip, with shopping scheduled on the 30th. The cost is \$90 per person. You may sign up in the vestibule. See Pat Luffman for questions.

Other business: it was acknowledged that the women of the church do a wonderful job in preparing the bereavement meals for families in need, but that sometimes it can be difficult for groups to collect money for food. Proposal that the church provide these meals for the families instead of the women preparing food. Discussion among the congregation that many women feel it is their ministry to serve by cooking and would not want to give up this blessing of serving others. Statement made that this would need to be discussed among Sue Blackburn as the Benevolence Meal Coordinator, and among each individual group. Discussion tabled at this time.

PRBC, WELCOME TO CHURCHTRAC CHURCH CONNECT APP!

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