



Message from the C.E.O.

Drew & Leah Baldwin

“It is not the strength of your faith but the object of your faith that actually saves you. Strong faith in a weak branch is fatally inferior to weak faith in a strong branch.”

Wow! What a great reminder we have in this quote from Timothy Keller. The reminder that the Object of our Faith is incredibly powerful and loving, active and satisfying, Grace filled and Provisional all the while we are undeserving! The object of our faith, Jesus, is what saves us, and the object of our faith is what carries us through each day of our lives as we set to serve Him faithfully in our seemingly endless daily task and decision making. What a God we serve that he could take my small faith like that of a mustard seed and move a mountain into the sea! How grateful we are as a Staff to see just that with how God worked among us and our many mission teams, He sent our way in the 2023 year! Indeed, what a strong branch He is!

When things seem impossible or even exhausting it is important to remember the object of your Faith. Because of Christ as the object there is always Hope! Hope that He can conquer the situation. Hope that He can provide the answer to the dilemma. Hope that He can complete what He has started! In 2023 we have been fortunate to have seen the start of certain projects and the completion of other projects within our ministry. We have seen God provide new staff where staff was needed. We have experienced God give comfort when comfort was needed as we lost a dear Meridzo family member in Marc Hensley. We have seen the completion of flood relief home rebuilds and the completion of new tiny home builds for families affected by the flood in Letcher County. We have seen the provision of certain needs of the people in our communities, the feeding of people through a soup kitchen in Cumberland, the beginning of the Redeemed Living Ministry transitional house, and Salvations!! Many Salvations across our ministries! Praise be to God!

We are again grateful that God would choose to use us to minister His grace to our communities through many different events, projects, and relationships. We are thankful for how He continues to meet our needs as we continue seek what His will is for our lives as we look to serve our area. We know that His will for us is to help people and share Jesus and we thank each and every one of you who have joined with us to do so!

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Solomon's Porch

Directors: Terry and Leah Tipton

Terry and I would like to thank everyone who came to Solomon's Porch in 2023. God sent over 1100 people. He sent 13 new teams, and we are excited about those new partnerships. The established teams feel like family, and we look forward to their arrival each year.

Solomon's Porch is now 104 years old. As you can imagine, she needs a little extra love and care for her age. We surveyed the building and discovered a structural problem on the front of the building below the "Son" Room and we have found other issues all around the outside of the building, including roof work. We thank God for bringing Cheyenne Short to us for this purpose. The gift of the boom lift a couple years ago is also a wonderful help. He was able to work on the structural problem, make the needed repairs and improve the aesthetics at the front of the building. This year we will continue to do repairs to this beloved structure. A word of warning if you come to Solomon's Porch, Cheyenne loves to keep everyone on their toes. You can ask most of the staff.



It is hard to believe 2023 was our 7th year at Meridzo and Solomon's Porch. As the team leaders for the Tri-Cities Campus, we have had several buildings and ministries to oversee. One we are very excited about is The Northport Lodge. As we enter our 8th year, we invite you to give us a call and/or come see us. We are always ready to book a trip and/or give a tour of the building.



North Port Lodge Transitional House for Women

Directors: Terry and Leah Tipton

NPL is not a half-way house or sober-living house as traditionally perceived. NPL is the primary housing for Redeemed Living Transitions (RLT), the umbrella recovery ministry for Meridzo Center. "Sober-living or Half-way Houses" often seek to give recovering addicts a home without giving adequate focus on recovery. With Redeemed Living Transitions we seek to promote discipleship first. Housing and employment are a provision of that ministry but not the focus of it. RLT is designed to help women transition from an addiction recovery rehabilitation center into productive living in society. This ministry provides accountability in four main areas: (1) Facility/home stewardship, (2) Personal care and finance, (3) Work ethic and career pursuit, and (4) Spiritual growth, faith, and practice.

On October 30, a dedication service of Northport Lodge was held, committing the property to the Lord and announcing its official opening. We also introduced NPL's house mom, Octavia Taylor. She now resides at Northport Lodge in a private apartment. The Leadership Team composed of the Kapfhammers, Rutherfords, Tiptons Baldwins and Octavia have already been conducting interviews with potential residents.



God did so many wonderful things in 2023 for Redeemed Living Transition Ministry. 52 ladies were baptized, Northport Lodge was opened for ministry, He brought us Octavia Taylor, our house mom, and our first resident will be moving in soon. God is Good, All the Time!



Hope House
Meridzo Center Ministries

Hope House

Team Leaders: Terry and Leah Tipton

We are excited to say that the Hope House has been back in operation for a full year. Several church teams have done some amazing work there. The building got a fresh paint job as well as completing several indoor projects. Celebrate Recovery and AA meetings happen every week. Women's and Men's Bible Studies are also taking place. It has been a matter of prayer for a while to consider starting a soup kitchen there. It seems that God is lining that up. We have established a partnership with Christ's Hands ministry in Harlan. Hot meals are distributed every Monday brought in by Christ's Hands. High on the project list is to build a commercial kitchen so that meals can be made on the grounds and prayerfully offering more days for meals. The upstairs currently has two functioning small group rooms. There are several other rooms to renovate upstairs. Temporary housing and a kitchenette are being considered for space usage.



Project Coordinators

Ivan and Julie Garrett

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." – Colossians 3:17

It has, indeed, been a year to be thankful to our Lord who sustains and strengthens us each day. December of 2023 marked our 3rd year serving as the Project Coordinators for Meridzo. As our trust in the Lord and HIS timing for everything has grown, we have been able to share that with our teams as we discuss projects.....but more importantly, build relationships with of them as they came to serve here in Lynch, KY. We are thankful for each of them.



Julie spoke at a WMU event in North Carolina in early February and later that month, we were invited to travel to Texas to share the ministry with one of our teams, FBC Devine, and the community during their Equip Conference they held before our season really started in March. With flood relief ongoing, many of our other projects have been set aside, but with the help of our teams, and God's timing, we were able to get much needed repairs completed, and other projects started. Our current priority project is a complete gut out and remodel of our Highland Terrace property (just up the street behind Solomon's Porch). This property houses one of our staff members in addition to interns that come throughout the year to serve with us.

Personally, we were blessed to be able to visit all of our family last year – from Texas/Kansas/Nebraska to Eastern Virginia. Julie worked on her health and fitness – completing three 5K races and participating in a second Arise Challenge (a 3-day hike with other Christian women) in June. On September 8th the Lord blessed us with our first grandson, Paul William, who was born to our youngest daughter Shannon, and her husband Paul. Being grandparents is a whole different kind of love, and we are thankful for this season in our lives.

We are looking forward to 2024 as a restoring and redeeming year – not only for us and the ministry – but for this little corner of Kentucky as well. God is moving and we are thankful to be a part of his plan here.



The Pond (MCDC)

Directors: Eric and Sissy Rutherford

Sissy and I have remained with Meridzo Center as the Directors of The Pond. We are grateful that God sent Mike and Melissa Kapfhammer to relieve us as the Directors of the Lamp House Coffee shop. As the shop grew and flourished over the years it became more difficult to both manage the thriving business and

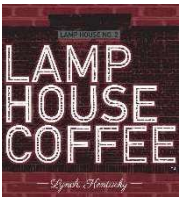
still minister effectively, so we stayed on as business mentors to the Kapfhammers who have 'taken flight'; and to relieve them of some of the responsibilities that were distracting us. Sissy manages the books and payroll, and we have been able to fill in occasionally to give them the breaks that we could not take when it was just the two of us. We are very encouraged by Mike and Melissa's dedication and determination – and the ministry they are building - despite a hectic transition and radical change in lifestyle. Many of you know Morgan Shubert who was the previous Lamp House Coffee shop director with her late husband Luke. She returned to North Carolina after his passing to be with family. We could not be more excited or proud of Morgan who chose to take what she learned here and open a portable coffee cart business called 'Living Beans' where she has continued to serve others both literally and Spiritually. As the "business outreach" arm of the ministry, we joined the Board of Directors of Meridzo's thrift store (and more) ministry, Eolia Community Christian Outreach (ECCO) in 2023. We have truly enjoyed working with the board and getting to spend more time, growing closer to, and being able to support the Hawks who run ECCO. Our prayers and attention are now back on the Black Mountain Exchange, the ministry's gas station and store, which was closed in 2020 during COVID, as well as a couple of other exciting opportunities we hope God will allow in 2024. We appreciate those we are working with here and all of you reading this who have continued to pray for, encourage, support, and love our whole Meridzo staff family.



Staff Introduction

Mike and Melissa Kapfhammer

Mike and Melissa joined Meridzo in April where they would become the next directors at Lamphouse Coffee. Mike was a Pastor in Louisville and Melissa worked for University of Louisville Hospital. They have two children Brandon and Brittany who live in Louisville. They also have a granddaughter, Mikayla, who loves to visit Lynch. It all started when Mike brought sixteen members of his church on a mission trip to serve with Meridzo, and as he drove back to Louisville he felt God's call. Mike went home and told the news to Melissa, and she was not on board "at first." The next year Melissa went on the same mission trip and felt the same call. They prayed and soon answered God's call together. After they said "YES" God moved quickly. The house sold, they got rid of a bunch of extra stuff, Mike preached his last sermonand hello Lynch. "He is able to do immeasurably more!" Ephesians 3:10



Lamp House Coffee

Directors: Mike and Melissa Kapfhammer

On April 4th, 2023, my wife Melissa and I joined Meridzo as the new directors of Lamphouse Coffee. That week has been referred to as the perfect storm: it was the re-grand opening of the coffee shop, Spring Break, Easter week, oh....and our nine-year-old granddaughter was staying with us for that week. It was a whirlwind combination of emotional and physical exhaustion. But, with God all things are possible! With the help of Eric and Sissy Rutherford and other Meridzo team members we made it! It has been such a blessing to meet so many wonderful local folks, as well as the hundreds, if not thousands of short-term missionaries who come here to serve. We pray every morning before opening the shop that we remember that this is God's coffee shop, it is not us, but God. Our job is to show up, and HE will do the rest.

So...What did God do? As mission teams came to serve with Meridzo, some served working on the coffee shop and for that we are so grateful. An enclosure was built around our dumpster to keep the bears out (no more trash cleanup!). Other teams donated items that were needed. THANK YOU! One of the goals at Lamphouse Coffee is to give "second chance" employment to those coming out of drug/alcohol recovery. God showed up and sent us Octavia Taylor. She works several days a week and does a great job!



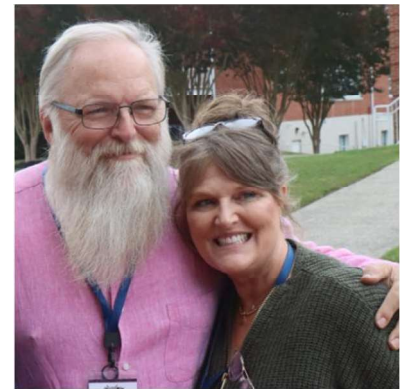
There is no doubt one can get excellent coffee drinks and delicious food at Lamphouse Coffee. Just ask around, but coffee and food are not the main thing. The main thing is PEOPLE. Bible studies are held at God's coffee shop, prayer happens here, counseling happens here. Someone asked me if I still preach, I (jokingly) told them I think maybe I have talked more about Jesus at Lamphouse than I did in the last eight years in the pulpit. Only God can use coffee, breakfast croissants and chicken salad to draw people to Him. We give HIM all the glory and can't wait to see what else he will do at Lamphouse Coffee!



Black Mountain Worship & Arts

Directors: Steve and Susan Nichols

Picture Noah, before he built the ark. He had never experienced a flood, there is no record of him ever building a boat, and especially a boat of the size of the ark. And God tells him to build an ark because it was going to rain, the whole earth would be covered with water, and completely destroyed. In faithfulness, he began to build for what most believe took him almost 100 years to complete. What were his questions during the time of waiting, working, and building? Have you ever wondered what the people around him said during this time? Was he ridiculed? Made fun of? What kind of questions was he asked? The only thing we know is that he preached righteousness, and the people rejected it.



Susan and I were chosen by God and invited to begin something that has never existed here in the valley. A 24 hour center for worship, and a free school of the arts. Are we qualified for this job? Absolutely not. But what we know is that God often qualifies the unqualified. Have we ever built a 24 hour center for worship? Absolutely not, but it was not our plan from the beginning, it was by God's

invitation. Is our building in operation? Absolutely not, but we made a covenant with God when we arrived, to worship Him daily at 4pm, and have been worshipping the first hour of the 24, almost every day now for four years. Is the school of the arts completed and occupied? Absolutely not, but we have been teaching piano, guitar, and visual arts, to many students, young and old, throughout the valley. We have a building, but it is nothing more than a shell, and we are in the “waiting.”

Have you ever been in the “waiting?” The “waiting” is the time between when God shows you a thing, and God does a thing. He has already told us what His plan is regarding worship and the arts, and we are in the waiting. Waiting to see what He will do next, and how He will do it. During the “waiting,” you use what God gives you and be obedient.



Some of the highlights of this year for Black Mountain Worship and Arts are that in the spring, we hosted our first weekend camp rock, that allowed 5 students who had little to no experience with a musical instrument to begin on Friday night with an instrument in their hands, and by Sunday morning, be a part of the worship band, leading worship. Facilitated with the help of a dear friend from Wilkesboro, NC, Tom Bartlett, co-pastor of Celebration Church, this was an amazing weekend. And this fall, we were privileged to host a second weekend of deep, soaking, worship, called the Bonfire of Worship. Attended by worshippers and intercessors from as far away as Idaho, Texas, Missouri, Florida, and all points in between.

While you are in the Valley this summer, please plan to take at least one day, and join us for worship at 4pm. We will meet you at C3. If you would like to schedule a time of worship just for your group, a private art class for you group, or a group music lesson, just reach out to us, and we will schedule your time.



C3

Pastor: Steve Nichols

Wow, it is hard to believe that another year has come and gone here in the Valley. Having pastored at my previous church for 17 years before moving to Lynch, it was an adjustment for me to not be preaching. Two years passed before the opportunity presented itself for me to once again begin to share the Word each week. So, two years ago I became the pastor at Community Christian Center, what we call C3, and this year, the Lord has allowed us to begin some of the restoration of this building. The primary roof had not been replaced for many years and was in extreme need. After seeking the Lord for His plan, we were blessed financially, and were able to have a new roof installed. Because of the extreme pitch of the roof, this was quite an undertaking, but it is now sealed, and beautiful. We also needed a new HVAC for the education area of the building, and that was installed just before the cold weather hit. And one of the big things that we needed to address was the sign in front of the church. The old sign was over 20 years old and falling apart. Thank you, Lord! We now have a new digital sign in place. This gives us the opportunity to speak life and encouragement into our community as they drive by, through the Scripture we post. It also allows us to make the community aware of the many groups from around the country that come to sow into the Valley. Please look for this when you drive into Lynch this year. But probably the thing that most excites us at C3, did not begin until near the end of 2023. We are blessed to have the founders of Meridzo Center, Lonnie and Belinda Riley as part of our family, and as of October, Lonnie begin to teach each Sunday morning on the topic of faith. By December, we began to stream this teaching on YouTube. We are amazed weekly as the Lord of All imparts deep spiritual truths in such a practical manner through

Lonnie. When you come to the Valley this year, if you are in town on Sunday, consider coming at 9:30 for this incredible teaching.

The Farm

Team Leaders: Chad and Stephanie Morgan

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...” Ephesians 4:20

2023 was ONE FOR THE BOOKS! The Lord moved in mighty ways this year and gave us so much MORE than we could ever ask for or imagine. As you will see in each ministry's update below, it has been a wonderful, exciting and BUSY year on The Farm. All of our events were a huge success! And not just successful in worldly terms, but the Gospel went out at each and every one. The Christian Veterinary Mission's Vet Clinic, two 3D Archery Tournaments, 4th of July Fireworks Show, Gospel Stampede Rodeo, Fall Festival and Live Nativity were all well attended by the community. We couldn't have pulled off any of these events without the hundreds of volunteers who served alongside us. We are so glad we get to be the hands and feet of Jesus serving TOGETHER.



By year's end, we had welcomed over 25 teams to stay at our facility. That does not count the teams who stayed elsewhere within Meridzo but came to serve with us at The Farm. Several local churches used our facility for retreats or church gatherings. We love seeing area churches learning to trust us and getting involved in what the Lord is doing here.

This fall we said goodbye to our beloved Doc and Ms. Debbie, as they moved to Georgia to enjoy their much-deserved retirement. They left a huge hole in our Farm Family and the community, but we are overjoyed they get to spend more time spoiling their grand girls. Please join us in praying that the Lord sends a new veterinarian to serve our community.

Flood relief continued to be another avenue of ministry for us. As the Lord sent the blessings, we sent them right back out to those who He showed us needed them. We are thankful for His continued provision for our community.

Our facility has taken a big hit over the past 3 years, between COVID keeping people from coming in 2020 and us shifting our work teams over the mountain to do flood relief in 2022 and 2023. We are in need of some pretty major maintenance work and rebuilding of some of our buildings from flood and wind damage. We have asked the Lord for help, and we trust that He is going to give us “immeasurably more” than what we've asked.

As always, our ROCKSTAR Farm Staff has poured themselves out on this ministry and poured themselves into our community. New relationships have been formed and other relationships have been strengthened over the past year. We saw the fruits of some of those relationships this summer with the salvation of some young people we've all been praying for many years. What a blessing for us to be a part of! 2024 promises to be just as full as 2023 and we are READY! Join us in what the Lord is doing down on The Farm. We hope to see YOU soon!



Shekinah Village

Directors: Chad and Stephanie Morgan

As you have read already, 2023 was a WILD one, but in the very best ways! Amid our other events, our Shekinah Wilderness Adventure Camp (SWAC) averaged 75, which is the most we've ever had, and we welcomed about 1000 people to The Farm for our annual Fall Festival.

This year, we were able to partner with the Stables to minister to the ladies at Lydia's House each week. WHAT A JOY! After devo and time at the barn, we got to spend some time with them over on the Village side doing fun things like hayrides, fishing, side by side rides and just talking around a campfire. Those ladies are SO SPECIAL, and this quickly became one of the brightest spots in our week.



All of our Farm events and camps were a joy to be a part of, but the highlight of our year was, hands down, our two weeklong overnight Camp Shekinah camps! We saw the Holy Spirit move in a way that none of us have ever seen before...and it happened at BOTH camps. BLOWN AWAY!! With just 20 students at each camp, we experienced hours long altar calls, unhindered worship, campers praying with leaders and one another...most of all, we saw lives changed and teenagers giving their lives to the Lord. We are still overwhelmed with emotion as we type these words. We feel so humbled to be used by the Lord in this way....to be called as stewards of this special place and get a front row seat to the saving power of Jesus. BLOWN AWAY!! We are expecting the Lord to do great things again this year! Come join us!

THE STABLES AT



The Stables at Creekside Glenn

Directors: Drew & Leah Baldwin

Arena Manager/Head Riding Instructor: Lindsay Moore

Riding Instructor: Tanner Marshall



God is Good and Horses are Fun! This proved to be true again this year here at The Stables! Leah and I are blessed to continue to be the Directors at the Barn, to see how far the Lord has brought the ministry and how much further He wants to stretch it into His design. Internship continues to be the heart of this ministry, serving on average 15 youth, ages 12-18, each week in Bible Study, service, horsemanship lessons, & character development, We have seen these kids rise to the challenge each day from discipling each other as Wranglers to Level 2 and then to Level 1 kids. Each of them are growing in their character, knowledge and skills, and they did an amazing job showcasing all that growth each week of camps as they poured into the local kids for Lil Buckaroo Boot and Ranchero Camps. We saw them set apart among their peers at Wrangler Rodeo Camp to hold themselves to a His Higher Standards and yet graciously and patiently love and encourage those around them. Our own Amazing Son was saved at Overnight Camp and the next week shared his testimony at Wrangler Camp! With tears of joy, we Praise God!

God has blessed the Barn to have returning church teams each year to host these camps and pour into our staff and campers! He has continued to bless the Barn with hay from friends and churches that grow it just for us! Our horses are so grateful! We are grateful too for all those who haul hay for us, as this keeps us more present at the barn within these ministry opportunities. We continue to use the horses for

school groups, birthday parties, trail rides, and the Live Nativity. We also continue to use the horses to serve Lydia's House each Spring and Fall. These ladies dedicated themselves to learning, and all became independent beginner to intermediate level riders by the end of each season. It is always amazing to us that simply brushing off a horse can break down walls and open the doors for Jesus conversations! We have been so blessed to have the team we have to operate the Stables At Creekside Glen. God has given so much talent, patience, love, and knowledge to our staff to do all that is required to operate an equine ministry, and we are thankful for each one of them! God has moved and continues to move through all the programs/events offered through the Stables over the course of the 2023 year. From Lil' Buckaroo Boot camp to Ranchero Horse Camp to Wrangler Rodeo Camp and not to forget the Gospel Stamped Rodeo we have had ample opportunity to share the Love of Christ! And guess what... There were Salvations!!! Praise the Lord! The theme verse for the year was Isaiah 26:4 "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God, is an everlasting rock."



4H Program

Arena Manager & Lead Riding Instructor: Lindsay Moore

What a summer! The Stables partnered with the Letcher County 4-H Program for another great year! We had 13 youth compete this year in the speed event divisions. They competed at our District rodeo that was held in May. All 3 Juniors and 10 Seniors qualified for the State Horse show that was held in June of this year. Each rider put in amazing efforts to keep improving their skills and keeping their horses in shape. Our equestrian drill team also qualified for the state competition.

The state horse show was such a successful trip! Night one of the competitions was the drill performances. Our team competed against 7 other small teams from all over the state. Out of those 7 teams we are very proud to say that our team placed first! We are so proud of our team and all the hard work they poured into learning the new routine, adding new members, and having a new captain! That lead us to having a great rest of the trip. The next event for our team was showmanship. Each participant did a wonderful job! We had 1 of our junior riders placed in the top 10. Next was barrel racing where in the junior event we had 1 place in the top 10. In the senior event we had 1 place in the top 10 as well. Several of our riders competed in the open class for barrel racing, where 2 placed in the top 10! That was a great way to end the day, but we had one event left which was pole bending the next day. We really showed up in pole bending! All 3 of our junior riders placed in the top 10, and we had 3 of our senior riders placed in the top 10!



Riding Lesson Program

Riding Instructor: Tanner Marshall

Man, Oh Man! What a great year it has been for lessons! In the spring, we had 20 students and 5 of those were first timers. In the fall, we had 21 students and 6 of those were first timers. This year, we may not have been as full, but this gave more opportunities to get to know and love on each of our students. It has been great to see how much our students have progressed and how much confidence they have gained in their riding. Each year we focus on a memory verse and this year it was Isaiah 26:4 "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God, is an everlasting rock." The memory

verse is followed by a short devotional. It is a blessing to see the Lord working in the lives of our students through these devotionals. We are excited to see what God has in store for 2024!

ECCO

Eolia Christian Community Outreach

ECCO

Directors: Donald and Steffanie Hawks

Eolia Christian Community

Outreach, known to our community as ECCO or the Outreach. God has continued to bless and grow the ministry here ECCO while continuing to grow our walk with Him. We've been led out of our comfort zones many times this year, yet we know that is God's way of growing us in being more like Him. Thank you, Jesus, for continuing to mold us to be like You.



We continue to serve and help meet the needs at Arlie Boggs Elementary School. We continue to be community members of the FRSYC program, and God continues to provide resources through ECCO that we can donate to help meet the needs of the students. This year, our Hope for Appalachia family provided Christmas food boxes, and we were able to pass along 16 food boxes to the resource director. Also, we have been able to pass along food to help with the weekend backpack food program, and we were able to help find child sponsorship for Christmas for 32 children.

Steffanie continues to lead a women's Bible study weekly, and over the past year, the ladies have grown in their walk with Jesus on a deeper level. They are digging deeper into Scripture while applying it to their daily walk. This upcoming year, the ladies are going to put feet to their time together by going and serving within our community. We look forward to seeing how God continue to move within these lady's lives as they surrender more of themselves to Jesus.



Through our food pantry, we are serving between 60-65 families per month. God continues to bless our pantry with provisions, which has allowed us to share food with other food pantries in Jenkins and Jeremiah, help provide food for the weekend backpack program at Arlie Boggs Elementary School, food to one of our local doctor offices to help their clients, and food provisions for our Meridzo family. We are looking forward to seeing how God continues to provide food provisions through ECCO's food pantry.

We continue to reach our community families one family at a time. God continues to send those He wants us to meet and walk alongside. We're so humbled to be allowed to be the hands and feet of Jesus here in Eastern Kentucky. We look forward to what God has in store for us in the upcoming year.

Team Leader Add-on for ECCO

Team Leaders: Chad and Stephanie Morgan

It has been a joy to watch the Hawks family serve so faithfully at ECCO for over two years now. They LOVE their community so well! Some of you may not know this, but their family has been literally living "on top of" their ministry in the apartment above ECCO ever since they arrived in July of 2021. As you can imagine, this creates its own set of challenges, so we are so excited to be fixing up a house on the ECCO property and making it into "The Hawks Nest" for them. This will give them more privacy and a place where they can better decompress each evening and have true family time. If you'd like to join us in making this house their home, let us know! We would love to have you join us!

Flood Relief



Distribution

Chad & Stephanie Morgan

We continued to see the Lord provide for our community in 2023 in so many ways! The first 6+ months after the flood, He burdened people's hearts to give so that we could help our people survive. Items like toilet paper, dish and laundry soap, paper towels, personal hygiene, cleaning supplies and more kept pouring in. Then we saw a transition to items being given to help rebuild homes. Lumber, insulation, paint, flooring and more began to arrive or there was money given to purchase what was needed as the rebuilding process began. After that, we saw a transition to supplies that helped people move into their homes. Furniture, beds and mattresses are just a few of the things that the Lord prompted people to send our way. We were also able to give out bedding, pillows, kitchen utensils and small appliances to many families. Monetary donations given allowed us to purchase things like refrigerators, washers and dryers, living room and bedroom furniture, and other special needs like gravel for driveways. Through the Lord's provision and generous givers, we were able to help our community go from surviving to thriving!



Rebuild

Drew & Leah Baldwin

We have seen the presence of the Lord walk with us through the flood. We quickly saw that we were not going to overcome this devastation with our own power. We felt overwhelmed by the magnitude of the need, and in talking with the director of Homes Ministry he said it will get done if we all are faithful with the homes God brings us. So as God brought us families to help, we believed God would continue to send help, resources and ability and committed to a certain number of families. When asked how we are going to do this, we responded honestly with we can't, BUT GOD can, and He's just asking us to trust Him each step of the way. Psalm 34: says "taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." & when we felt overwhelmed by the challenge and saw & heard hopelessness in the eyes and voices of these homeowners as a lifetime of memories and their home was destroyed, we stepped into the refuge of God, believed God is Good, and it was amazing to see home after home gutted and hopeless get put back together by skilled, big hearted volunteers from dozens of churches. Churches called with resources for floor joists, Advantech, 2x4's insulation, drywall and with each phase of need God provided! We needed a set of stairs built in a new A-Frame for a flooded family, and a contractor was in who could do it. We needed electricians and plumbers to help get these folks lines out again, and God sent the workers. We needed hands willing to learn new skills of insulation & drywall and God sent the help! We needed mudding crews, and God sent some of the best! We needed new flooring and cabinets and skilled labor to install it, and God faithfully saw fit to send experts! Furniture, light fixtures, outlets, doors, you name it, and God provided! God knew our needs before we even asked and saw fit to provide each step of the way! In total close to 45 homes were provided materials for rebuilding, 45 homes were repaired and rebuilt by our work crew and mission teams and 4 tiny homes were built in partnership with Bobby Meade, Save the Sheep and the Long Term Recovery Group of Letcher Co. So we praise the Lord for His provision, for those He sent to help & the resources He stirred hearts to provide, and for these sweet families that persevered and many believed God would provide. A huge thank you to all of those who came 1 time or once every month to help these families, and if you have any questions concerning these families or flood relief, please feel free to email us at leah.baldwin@meridzo.org. What an amazing experience it has been to walk alongside these families and see God work! We cannot praise Him enough!



CALVARY CAMPUS

Calvary Campus

Directors: Wanda & Jenna Hensley

Calvary Campus has undergone several big changes this past year, the first and most impactful being the death of my father and Calvary Campus director, Marc Hensley, in April 2023. While it was very sudden and unexpected, my family and I rest in the knowledge and peace that Dad is now walking forever in glory with His Savior. We also have felt God's hand of overwhelming mercy, comfort, and guidance as we navigate this very difficult time, and nothing has comforted us more than knowing how many people are praying for us and for Calvary Campus.



Dad's heart and mind were always focused on serving others and sharing God's message of salvation through offering a helping hand to anyone in need. I have kept this as my guiding beacon as I took on my new role as director and my mother, sister, and I stepped into Dad's shoes this past summer. We watched as God brought 24 volunteer groups onto campus, each with their own skills and gifts.

Through these teams, God completed various projects, both on campus and in the community. These include river cleanup after the 2022 EKY flood, Calvary Campus Food Pantry distributions, numerous prayer walks, Backyard Bible Clubs, two separate VBS camps, lots of landscaping and yard work, and at least a dozen various construction projects such as wheelchair ramps, porches, etc. Calvary Campus also hosted over a dozen special community events, including weddings, birthday parties, family reunions, and the 2023 Battle of Leatherwood Civil War Reenactors' Ball.

To say that God has moved in a very big, very special way this year at Calvary Campus would be a massive understatement. We have constantly been in awe of what God has done and is still doing and cannot express how amazed and blessed we are to be called to serve Him each and every day. Our hope and prayer is that no matter what comes our way, we never forget to let someone see Jesus in us each day. Through our actions, our words, or even our smiles and attitudes, we ask that Christ be seen and glorified in everything we do.



Marc Hensley

Meridzo Center Ministries is grieved to announce the passing of one of our very own. Marc Hensley passed away early Monday morning, April 3, 2023, to an unexpected medical complication. Marc served on our staff as the Director of Calvary Campus along with his family, Wanda (wife), Jenna and Leslie (daughters). Marc was a caring and compassionate man of God and a dear friend full of joy and laughter.

As I was with the family through the last 24hrs of Marc's life these words came to mind, "...The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." These words are from Job 1:21 and they were uttered by Job on, what was to that point, the worst day of his life after suffering a tremendous personal loss of property and loved ones.

After all this Job 1:22 tells us that Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Rather, Job says that it was ultimately the Lord Himself who took away his family and wealth. While this response speaks highly of Job, it speaks far more highly of God. God is as worthy of our praise in times of loss, pain, and lacking as he is in times of fruitfulness and abundance. When praying through this verse as I was sitting in the waiting room of the ICU at the Pikeville Medical Center, I began to understand on a deeper level that my response to suffering matters. When we respond to trials and loss with worship and praise, we are demonstrating God's value to the heavenly realms. Though we may feel that we are suffering in obscurity, we are never alone. Our struggles are being seen by countless people around us who also face suffering, so the stakes are higher than we think, and our calling is greater than we can imagine.

Through our faithfulness in trials, we show the unseen world that God himself is more precious than anything he gives or takes away. This is tough to say when sometimes what He takes away is a precious loved one such a father, husband, brother, son, or friend such as Marc. But the matter of the fact is true which is what God laid on my heart as I was trying to process all that was going on as his health was declining. This blessed Hope becomes the anchor to my soul as I grieve his passing. Through this perspective the life of Marc in my life becomes a gift of God. God did not have to choose to bless me with knowing a Godly man like Marc, but He graced me the opportunity and I praise Him for it. He is the Creator and He can give, and He can take away. Though we may not know why we are suffering, we do know there is always a reason. Everything in our life ultimately comes through the hands of God. And we know that, in Christ, the God who knows all our sorrows and holds all our tears in a bottle is always for us (Psalm 56:8; Romans 8:31). Suffering is a great revealer of what we value and what we cling to, and it is my desire in this letter to align my value to the same value that anchored Marc in his daily life and all the way through his earthly body's departure from this earth. That value is the person and work of Jesus Christ the one and only son of God the Father sent to the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through HIM. Marc loved Jesus and valued Jesus as greater than anything this world had to offer. As I grieve his passing, I choose to love Jesus as well so that combined God gets the Glory for a life well lived in Faith and the world around us may give glory to God our Father. "...may the name of the Lord be praised!" - Drew Baldwin, CEO Meridzo Center



Heaven's Door Chapel

Directors: David Schaeffer

Looking back at what God has done in 2023, we have been blessed with partnerships in ministry. One of the most recent partnerships is with Burnside Elementary School. We are blessed to begin a mentor program for 4th and 5th grade boys where we have volunteers from 3 local churches. We are teaching character and values while doing activities such as gardening and first aid. We have also able to pray with the boys as well as the families of these students. God has also blessed through a partnership with Parkway Baptist Church in Goodlettsville TN to help with construction and ministry. One of those ministries through this partnership was through Thanksgiving food boxes. This ministry brought opportunities to pray with people through local churches like Mt



Unions Baptist where several were prayed for and doors for the gospel opened. Looking forward, God continues to point the way to ministry in partnerships with the ministries in the above paragraph plus individuals that live in the vicinity of Heavens Door Chapel. Upon coming to this ministry, Lonnie Riley told me to pray, watch for the movement of The Spirit, and then respond to that move. We continue in that direction in every part of the ministry. With that way of doing ministry, we continue

where The Spirit is moving and continue in prayer for His direction.





Philippians 1:3-6:
 I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now. And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus.





God's Creatures

Directors: Dr. Kelley & Mrs. Debbie Bradford

Doc and Debbie Bradford retired this year after serving Meridzo for ___ years in their mobile clinic and then ___ years at God's Creatures Veterinary Services at Shekinah Village as a beloved part of the Meridzo Family. Their love and care for animals and their owners was known throughout the area. They would get up to the clinic early and stay late, answering emergency calls on the weekends and late into the night all because they loved Jesus and that love spurred them on to loving their families well. We

would often see Doc and Debbie holding hands with their clients gathered in a circle to listen to hearts, point people to Jesus and pray. They showed this same care and devotion to our staff family and to their church at Eolia Baptist. In sending them off in style with a Homemade Ice Cream Contest for the Community and a Siesta Fiesta for the staff, we were overflowing with gratitude for the sweet time God blessed us with them on staff and were challenged to continue the work they started by "considering how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Now Doc and Debbie are enjoying a well deserved retirement in Georgia loving their granddaughters and family.



2024 Upcoming Events:

- March 14-16 CVM Clinic at Farm
- May 4 Center of the Mark Archery Shoot at Shekinah Village
- June 3-6 Lil Buckaroo Boot Camp at The Stables
- June 10-13 SWAC at Shekinah Village
- June 24-28 Camp Shekinah
- July 4th Parade in Lynch & Fireworks at Farm
- July 8-12 Camp Shekinah
- July 15-18 Ranchero at The Stables
- July 22-26 Wrangler Rodeo Camp at The Stables
- Aug 17 Center of the Mark Archery Shoot at Shekinah Village
- Sept 14 Gospel Stampede Rodeo at The Stables
- Oct 12 Fall Festival at The Farm
- Dec 13-14 Live Nativity at The Farm