

Message from C.E.O.

Drew & Leah Baldwin

What a year 2019 has been for our Meridzo Center family! Many intentional events have taken place across each of our ministries for the purpose of advancing the Gospel. Much money has been generously given and spent with the intention of evangelism, training young believers, and bettering our community's way of living! Many steps have been taken to care for the poor, the widowed, and the needy by our staff and mission team volunteers (you) to show the Love of Christ and plant an eternal seed of Hope in the lives of the recipients. Much sweat has been poured out by our staff and hundreds of volunteers who joined them to maintenance facilities, begin new projects, and complete older projects that there may be places for preaching, teaching, counsel, worship, and conversations of eternal significance.



2019 is also the year that Meridzo Center experienced its 20th year of ministry led by its faithful founders, Lonnie and Belinda Riley! It would be amazing to know how many lives God has touched through the loving care and service of the Riley's during these past 20 years. I know that I am one of them and many of you reading this are other testimonies of how God used them to graciously touch you and change the course of your life! A pastor by the name of Crawford Loritts has once said in speaking of a courageous leader while using the text of Joshua 1 that "The very nature of Leadership means the willingness to stand by yourself and be the visible prophetic reality of what the Future Looks Like! Leadership is not a reflection of where things are... Leadership is a prophetic statement of where things ought to be! Inherent in Leadership is a call to embrace aloneness and resilience..."

This is most certainly a picture of Lonnie and Belinda and why Meridzo Center has thrived in these 20 years of their leadership. They have trusted the faithfulness of God and committed their labors to the vision He laid on their hearts in 1999. They have had opposition, they have felt aloneness, they have tasted separation but through it all they have seen the power of God move in a way that no man can take credit for His workings! They have lived in the future of what God was going to do in a small town of Eastern Kentucky when no one else could see it and many abandoned it. In their faithfulness they have called many others to come under their leadership to live the same way whether it be short term missions or long-term staff! They have laid the groundwork for great expectations of what God is going to do in the future of Meridzo Center and what a Joy it is to be a part of that adventure! Thank you, Lonnie and Belinda, for being obedient to the call of God on your lives which has opened the door for the obedience of many others to come serve under you and join you in this Great Work of God! As Paul was thankful to God for the famous Faith of the Romans in Romans 1:7-8 we too are thankful and encouraged by your famous faith which puts Christ on display for all to see and exalts Him among all the nations showing Him trustworthy and valuable and Worthy to be Praised! We Love You!

"...First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you because the news of your faith is being reported in all the world." Romans 1:8

– Drew & Leah Baldwin, CEO



Message from our Founders

Lonnie & Belinda Riley

What an amazing year! The Lord has blessed the ministry of Meridzo Center in so many wonderful ways. The addition of Steve and Susan Nichols, as our new CFO and Directors of Black Mountain Worship and School of the Arts, is a monumental move. We welcome them and can hardly wait to see all the Lord will do through them.

As you probably already know, Belinda and I have resigned as CEO and CFO respectfully. Drew and Leah Baldwin are now giving great and innovative leadership to the staff. We are thrilled to see their skills

deepen and expand. Encourage them as opportunity presents itself to do so. We will now function as President/Chairman of the board and serve as consultants to Drew and Leah.

Lonnie Riley Ministries will be launching soon. It will be a 501 C 3 organization and donations will be tax deductible. This organization will handle speaking engagements and product sales. We will be available now for conferences, conventions, and church functions. Feel free to contact Belinda and I at PO Box 282 Lynch, KY 40855 or call/text 606-733-0329 if we can be of assistance in any way.

The Stables at Creekside Glenn

Directors: Drew & Leah Baldwin

Arena Activities Manager: Lindsay Moore

In 2019 The Stables and the Wranglers for Christ Internship Program saw the end of a two-year Bible study on Redemption and the beginning of a new study on Ephesians, and from these studies, we know that the Lord is sowing seeds of truth.

As an expansion of what God is doing at the Stables, we were so blessed and excited to see God bring about the Letcher Lopers, our county's first 4H Equine Program here at the Stables. Cloverbuds, 9-11year olds, join us once a month for horsemanship lessons, while the older 4H participants joined our internship program twice a week. We were able to take 7 of these 4H youth to Regionals and then to State to compete in Drill, Showmanship, Barrels, and Poles, and they were definitely bright lights to all around them.

Camps this year were exciting as always as around 200 kiddos came through memorizing Matt. 22:37-39. As they studied His Truth and learned to turn and burn around the barrels, they also sang, painted, roped and tied up some goats. We are thankful for the volunteers like you who came and helped build a Jailhouse out back to add a new element of fun: paintball shooting! Riding lessons, trail rides, and birthday parties are continuing to bring people to us, and we are grateful.

We see the provision of God for our barn and horses faithfully each year through the wonderful staff, volunteers, summer interns, amazing church families, and faithful hay providers, and one new way is through the Horse Sponsorship Program, where many have chosen to sponsor a horse's expense each month. May God continue to be magnified at The Stables and through His Barn family in 2020.





God's Creatures Veterinary Clinic

Directors: Dr. Kelley & Debbie Bradford

"You, Oh Lord, prescribed the right way to live....Oh that my actions would consistently reflect your principles " Psalm 119:5

What joy as we begin our 5th year serving with our Meridzo family loving people and sharing Jesus. As we begin 2020 it reminds me that having 2020 vision is something, we all desire! In Luke 18:35-42 the blind man is calling out to Jesus to have mercy on him. Jesus stops and asks 'What do you want me to do?' The blind man answers 'Lord, I want to see!' This year may we all desire to say "Lord, I want to see- to see thru your eyes, to see with compassion, kindness and love; to see more ways we can share the gospel with those around us."

We continue to care for pets and more importantly use this as an opportunity to minister to their owners. Listening to the many needs, hearing the hurts and being able to pray with them is what our office is

really about. For us personally, we have many things to be thankful for...

Kelley is now at 3 1/2 years cancer free!

We have a beautiful granddaughter, Ella May who will be a year old in April!

We will have another precious grandbaby in July!

We have found out it is true.... being a grandparent is one of the greatest joys!!!!

We treasure every moment with our family! Let us all pray this year for the eyes of our hearts to be open as we seek how we can best love and serve others

Shekinah Village

Director: Chad Morgan

Assistant Director: Stephanie Brown

Hey friends! We want to thank each one of you for your support over this past year. Whether you have served with us here or prayed for us, YOU are a valued part of our ministry!

2019 was the year of the RETREAT! At the Village, we hosted 12 retreats ranging from youth retreats to men's retreats, to women's retreats, to college retreats and more. We definitely see the Lord's Hand in leading people from all over the country to this place where He can work on their hearts and change their lives. A vision He has given us is to build a low ropes course that will feature team building activities that allow groups to grow closer to each other and ultimately to Him.



2019 also saw MAJOR progression on our chapel which we have named "FAITH CHAPEL" as a nod to how this ministry was founded over 20 years ago. It is through faith that we trust this facility will be completed in the Lord's perfect time and through faith we trust He will use it to bring souls to Himself. Selfishly, we would love to see it completed and ready to use for camp this summer, but we trust in His timing.

Our camps and events continue to grow in number and the Lord is so gracious to give us a front row seat to the lives He is changing through this property and all He has given us. 2019 saw our first ever MAXED OUT Camp Shekinah (week-long overnight camp)! Our facility was full and so were our hearts as we watched a young lady stand up at our week-ending bonfire and proudly proclaim she had just given her life to the Lord! We are so excited to see what our 2020 camp season brings!!

As we look back on all of the blessings of 2019, we also look forward to what the Lord will bring our way in 2020, including OUR WEDDING! The Lord has been so good to us, both in ministry and personally, and we are so thankful to Him and to YOU for your support and prayers as we begin this journey together.

Solomon's Porch

Directors: Terry & Leah Tipton

Happy 2020! We are so excited to see what God has in store for this coming year. In 2019 we welcomed 10 new groups. It's such a blessing to meet new groups that come to Lynch and fall in love with the community. It's amazing to watch them serve and be on fire for Christ. Our established groups and long-term partners have become our family. We are always eager to see familiar faces and the wonderful friends that we have made over the years. Several rooms at "The Porch" were remodeled in 2019 and they look wonderful. The first-floor hallway got a new paint job. Much of the third-floor hallway got a face-lift as well. Groups have already committed to room remodels for 2020. This amazing old hospital turns 100 years old this year! The calendar is already filling up for 2020. The new busy season begins for us in March! Please be in prayer for Terry and me as we follow God's leading for Solomon's Porch. Also be in prayer for the teams/individuals that are coming to serve God in the mountains. And may we always be as Acts 5:12 says "And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch."

C3 - Community Christian Center

Pastors: Terry & Leah Tipton

The Lord has done some amazing things through C3 in 2019. In January, the copper baptistry was finally repaired with a baptistry heater installed. It was filled for the first time in decades on January 13. Six were baptized that day. We baptized a total of 63 in 2019! God continues to give us more opportunities to impact those who struggle with addiction. Celebrate Recovery has now surpassed two years of ministry to the community. We also provided consultation for a new Celebrate Recovery in Harlan city. C3 also participated in Harlan County's first annual Drug Summit. The Greater Vision Bungalow now houses 4 ladies who found freedom from addiction and now have full-time jobs as Residential Staff for a local Addiction Recovery Care facility. God revealed the purpose of the North Port Lodge house to become a transitional house for women. When it is completed, it will provide housing for ladies in recovery to have a new start in life. Construction teams from mission churches have tiled floors, finished drywall, fixed plumbing and painted walls. More work is needed, but we feel confident God will finish it soon. We also welcome Steve Nichols as our worship leader. He has already joined the work with Celebrate Recovery. We are excited to see how he and his wife Susan will be used in the coming year. Eric and Sissy Rutherford continue to minister through Celebrate Recovery. Eric has greatly helped in supply preaching and co-leading CR meetings. I continue to be humbled by the opportunities that God continues to give us. God is Great, BIG TIME!



Heaven's Door Chapel

Directors: David & Kathi Schaeffer

This year God has brought facility improvements and vision change. In April a team came from St. Petersburg FL. We were able to pressure clean, stain and seal the cedar siding on the chapel. In addition, we installed underground utilities. Our vision change is that the chapel will be a House of Prayer incorporating prayer, scripture reading and worship.

Now available for download!



Lynch Kentucky App
OR
visitLynch.org

Maytown Center

Directors: Paul & Mary Jo Radosevich

At Maytown Center we continue to seek God's direction for the ministry. We hosted 8 mission groups that held Back Yard Bible Clubs and a Sports camp. Plus, the auditorium renovation has begun. Praise the Lord, the decking floor has been installed and looks great. The Clothes Closet moved from the top floor to the first level providing better accessibility. Two faithful volunteers, Betty and Ruby have been wonderful. They run the clothes closet and minister to the community. To God be all the glory for what He is doing. Thank you for your prayers for Maytown Center in 2020.

Jeremiah 29:11 "for I know the plans," says the Lord.

Calvary Campus

Directors: Paul & Mary Jo Radosevich

It has been an amazing year at Calvary Campus as we have watched God working all around Eastern Kentucky. The Lord has changed lives through Back Yard Bible Clubs, Archery, and Sports camps. It is truly the Lord's doing. We hosted 41 mission groups that impacted our campus and surrounding counties. We were able to handout 200 t-shirt dresses, handmade by mission teams, to 4 different schools. Construction off campus is always amazing. This year was no exception. New roofs, porches, and ramps were built helping residents. It is a blessing to see families serving together and first timers on mission. One little boy told his daddy, "It is fun to be here with you."



A major project was to expand the SRS Dining hall. All I can say is "God did it." On December 24th we worshipped in the Upper Barn with our annual Community Candlelight Service. The barn was full as we celebrated the birth of the Christ Child.

We have served Calvary Campus and Meridzo Ministries for 7 ½ years. Many of the projects dating back to 2003, when Meridzo got the campus, have been completed. Today Calvary Campus is a retreat center for mission groups, as well as community ministry. What a joy it is to see the Lord work and use Calvary Campus to make an impact for the kingdom.

Psalms 100:1 – 3 "Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with Gladness come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.



Greater Vision, LLC

Property Managers: Chance and Lindsay Moore

Greater Vision had a terrific year in 2019. In August, Eric Rutherford handed management of Greater Vision over to us, Chance and Lindsay Moore. Eric made the transition easy by having everything we needed readily available. We are grateful for all the hard work him and Sissy did with the houses. In October, the Bungalow changed from a mission house to a home for 4 ladies that have gone through and are now working in addiction recovery. It has been a huge blessing to us to be able to aid them in establishing their lives outside of addiction. Please join us in praying that God would continue to open up doors for us to minister to the Bungalow Ladies and the guest staying at the houses.

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains" Colossians 4:2-3 (ESV)

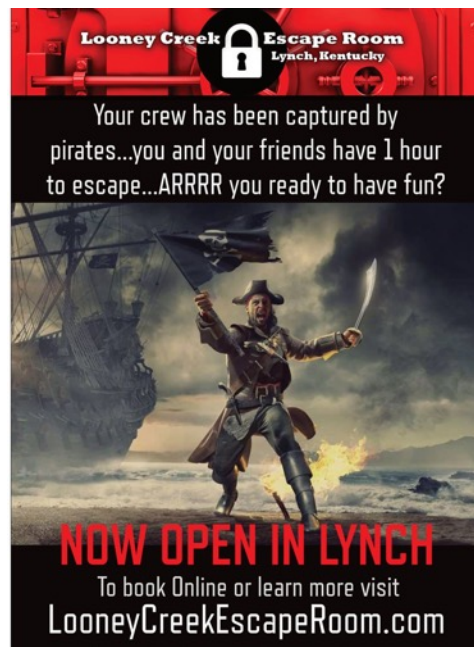


Meridzo Center Development Corporation

Directors: Eric & Sissy Rutherford

Ecclesiastes 3:13 (KJV) 13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God."

The development corporation is the business outreach and economic redevelopment arm of the ministry. It is intended to provide jobs and opportunities where the decline of coal mining has devastated the local economy. It includes Lamp House Coffee, the Black Mountain Exchange, the Meridzo Agribusiness Center, and our newest venture, the Looney Creek Escape Room. Escape Rooms are entertainment venues in which teams of players are put into a scenario they must escape by solving a series of clues, puzzles, or other physical challenges. We opened the Looney Creek Escape Room in one of the bath house building apartments in April. The escape room is just one way we are trying to support secular efforts to increase tourism to the area. Family, friends, and co-workers; teams from the community, visiting mission groups, and area churches have all played and all had a blast doing so. (But no, all did not escape in the allotted 60-minutes.) This spring we will be changing our theme from "Pirate's Adventure", where players were a crew of captured sailors trying to escape a pirate ship, to "Lost in the Coal Mine" where players will be greenhorns on a mining crew who get lost underground and must work together to get out before their shift ends. Sissy is also in talks with county officials trying to bring even more activities that we hope to announce in the coming year.



Black Mountain Exchange

Director: Eric Rutherford

Ephesians 6:7 (NASB) "7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,"

Our gas station and convenience store got a nice makeover in 2019. The old linoleum floor was covered with a wood grained laminate making the whole place look newer and nicer. After three years of battling breakdowns and struggling to find parts, the old 1960's-era gas pumps were upgraded to much newer and more appealing (and reliable) digital pumps; a very generous gift from a business in Kentucky whose owners have had three generations of family members on mission trips

here. We also promoted Kenny, the Exchange's lone part-timer from 12 to 40 hours per week, making him the Meridzo Center Development Corporation's first full-time employee. When I went to shake his hand, he was so grateful he hugged me instead. It was one of those awkward moments where you go to high five someone and they first bump your palm instead, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. He is thriving in his new position and has become an invaluable part of our ministry. Teams have volunteered to offer free car washes and full-service days, where they offer to not only pump your gas, but to pray with you. I continue to be moved every time one of our locals scatters a handful of change on the counter to get gas; or pays literally with pennies they've had to roll. There are daily reminders here of great the needs are; and, how blessed we truly are.

Lamp House Coffee

Directors: Eric & Sissy Rutherford

Galatians 6:9 (KJV) “9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

The ministry and business happening through the coffee shop continues to grow. God stretched us to our limits in 2019, as I was relied upon to run the Black Mountain Exchange and Sissy did the work of two managers at the coffee shop. God saw us both through it and we ended the year spent but blessed with five employees (there were more throughout the year). Each young lady represents a unique gift and ministry opportunity. We are most excited about hiring participants who are ready from our Celebrate Recovery program, offering new hope and a reference for women in recovery who would otherwise have a very difficult time getting hired. Once again, the coffee shop sponsored community events such as the 4th of July Parade and Gingerbread House contest. Lamp House Coffee continues to host C3's weekly Bible study; and, had a number of opportunities to share our faith and testimony with customers, mission team members, and church groups. We're still getting opportunities to help other mission-based coffee shop start-ups, too. Finally, Sissy got a new dry storage room built by mission team members who dubbed it “Sissy's She-Shed.”



Meridzo Agribusiness Center

Director: Chuck Todd

At the core, this ministry is founded on Gods calling to make a difference in the lives of those living in Appalachia. Specifically, to foster economic growth in the mountains of South Eastern Kentucky through the establishment of family farms and small businesses.

The ministry is dedicated to sharing God's love, character, and principles through faith-based entrepreneurship and is focused on three primary objectives. Instill Hope- Create Jobs- Build Vibrant Communities.

Implementation in part has been the creation of The Meridzo Agribusiness Center. This facility was established for the purpose of identifying profitable crops and production systems that utilize existing resources found in the region. Volunteers share the call and vision of the ministry by testing and proving cropping concepts, preparing business models and plans for agribusinesses enterprises. The ultimate goal being to build turnkey enterprises with the love of Christ, for the benefit of mountain families, thus fulfilling Gods call.

Current work has been focused on two distinct opportunities. Both are indoor, vertical crops that are conducive to mountain agriculture. Although both crops are produced globally, the challenge has been to create a production system that meets financial and technical criteria needed for controlled environment farming to be profitable to family farms.

Our volunteers have been working to create a vertical system that is affordable and profitable. Since the fall of 2015 God has continued to bring volunteers of diverse backgrounds, knowledge, and skills to meet this need. After several prototypes and lessons learned the team is very close to having a vertical production system that is conducive not only to the two crops we are currently working on, but a system that can be adapted to several other crops.

Staff and New Ministry Introduction

Steve and Susan Nichols

Greetings, brothers and sisters! Please allow us to introduce ourselves. We are Steve and Susan Nichols, the newest missionaries to join the staff at Meridzo Center, Inc. Our most recent home was just outside of Nashville, TN where we raised our four adopted children, owned a couple of businesses along the way and pastored a small, nondenominational church in Bowling Green, Ky for 17 years.

Our favorite thing to do is WORSHIP! The Lord invited us to begin a 24hr worship center to minister expressly to His heart and also begin a free school of the arts to minister to the hearts of the people here in the Appalachian Mountains of Eastern Kentucky. We are beyond excited about this assignment and what the Lord has told us concerning our ministry here!



The 24hr Worship Center will be called Black Mountain Worship and School of the Arts. For the worship part of this assignment, it will be for Him, an audience of One. It will be a holy place as it is set apart just for Him. There will be no concerts or entertainment in this place. His Word promises that “He inhabits the praises of His people.” Ps. 22:3 And with that presence always comes change. We feel we are the least qualified to take on this challenge, but we said, ‘YES’, so His faithfulness will cover all our weaknesses. We know for sure that whatever God calls us to do, He has equipped, empowered and anointed us for the job! This is His plan and His idea. It is up to Him to provide all that we need to accomplish it. And we are fully confident and trusting that He will.

We are excited with great anticipation to see Heaven come to earth with Black Mountain Worship as we make a special place for Him here. We are also excited to see the healing and restoration of the hearts of the people as they come the School of the Arts for lessons of all kinds. There will be music, theater, dance and visual arts and whatever else Father has planned. The government has cut out virtually all the arts in the lower grades, so there are no feeder schools to send young musicians and artists on to high school and beyond.

The hearts need to be healed and restored and that is exactly the plan of our Lord. His Word says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” Prov. 13:12. How will it all be for free, you ask? Well, so far, what the Lord has told us is that musicians and artists of all kinds will come and donate their time and talents to teach what Father has put in them...maybe for a weekend... maybe for a week or even for a longer period of sabbatical. We also hope to use the auditorium not only for recitals, plays and productions, but for University auditions as well. Most of the kids do not have the means or support from families to travel to universities for auditions and while this may never have been done before, we are hopeful, and we serve a BIG GOD!

Instruments will be donated and come from all over. Maybe you have one in a closet somewhere that is bursting to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. He has already told us that we will have store houses of instruments and that every instrument has a designated set of hands waiting. We also have a building and it's exactly the one Father has held for such a time as this. It is a beautifully vandalized and dilapidated, wet mess that will soon become a jewel in these mountains that brings honor and glory to the only one worthy, Jesus. Please pray about how you can join us in this great adventure. The blueprint pans for the first phase of the building have already been drawn up and we are raring to go! The mountains are calling.

His richest blessings,
Steve and Susan Nichols

20th Anniversary Celebration





2020 Events:

March 2020

Mar 19-22 - CVM Clinic (Christian Veterinary Ministry)
Time: 9am-5pm
At [God's Creatures.](#)
[Call 352-636-4926 for more information.](#)

May 2020

May 16 - Beyond the Points Archery Shoot
Time: 1pm - Practice
2pm - Shoot Starts
Ages: All
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-466-6005 for more information.](#)

June 2020

June 1-4 - Lil Buckaroo Bootcamp
Time: 10am-2pm
Ages: 12 & younger
At [The Stables at Creekside Glen.](#)
[Call 606-589-6910 for more information.](#)

June 8-11 - S.W.A.C. (Shekinah Wilderness Adventure Camp)
Time: 10am-3pm
Ages: 6-11
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-446-6005 for more information.](#)

June 15-19 - Camp Shekinah
Time: Overnight
Ages: 12-18
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-446-6005 for more information.](#)

June 27-July 4 - 4H State Horse Show

July 2020

July 4 - Lynch 4th of July Parade & Picnic
Time: 10am-noon
Ages: All
Parade line-up from 9-9:45am at the Lynch Church of God, ends at West Main Park
For more contact parade sponsor [Lamp House Coffee](#) at 606-894-0007

July 4 - July 4th Celebration w/ Fireworks
Time: 9pm
Ages: All
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-446-6005 for more information.](#)

July 6-10 - Lil Buckaroo Bootcamp #2
Time: 10am-2pm
Ages: 12 & younger
At [The Stables at Creekside Glen.](#)
[Call 606-589-6910 for more information.](#)

July 13-17 - Camp Shekinah
Time: Overnight

Ages: 12-18
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-446-6005 for more information.](#)

July 20-23 - Ranchero Horse Camp
Time: 10am-3pm
Ages: 9-12
At [The Stables at Creekside Glen.](#)
[Call 606-589-6910 for more information.](#)

July 27-31 - Wrangler Rodeo
Time: 4pm-9pm
Ages: 12 & up
At [The Stables at Creekside Glen.](#)
[Call 606-589-6910 for more information.](#)

August 2020

Aug 22 or 29 - Beyond the Points Archery Shoot
Time: 1pm - Practice
2pm - Shoot Starts
Ages: All
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-466-6005 for more information.](#)
Dates for this event have not been confirmed

September 2020

Sept 3-7 CMA Kentucky Roads and Tails Rally (Christian Motorcycle Association)
Time: TBA
Ages: All
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-446-6005 for more information.](#)

Sept 19 - Gospel Stampede Rodeo
Time: 6pm
Ages: All
At [The Stables at Creekside Glen.](#)
[Call 606-589-6910 for more information.](#)

October 2020

Oct 10 - Fall Festival
Time: 1pm-5pm
Ages: All
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-446-6005 for more information.](#)

November 2020

Nov 21 - Thanksgiving Boxes
Time: 10am-12pm
At [Eolia Baptist Church.](#)
[Call 606-589-6910 for more information.](#)

December 2020

Dec 11-12 - Live Nativity
Time: 5pm-8pm
Ages: All
At [Shekinah Village.](#)
[Call 606-446-6005 for more information.](#)