

# Howard-Miami Mennonite Church Newsletter

3976 East 1400 South  
Kokomo, IN 46901

July 2021

Volume 41 Issue 7

## Grow & Abound in Love

*Here's what I pray for you: Father, may their love grow more and more in wisdom and insight— so they will be able to examine and determine the best from everything else. And on the day of the Anointed One, the day of His judgment, let them stand pure and blameless, filled with the fruit of righteousness that ripens through Jesus the Anointed.*

- Philippians 1:9-11

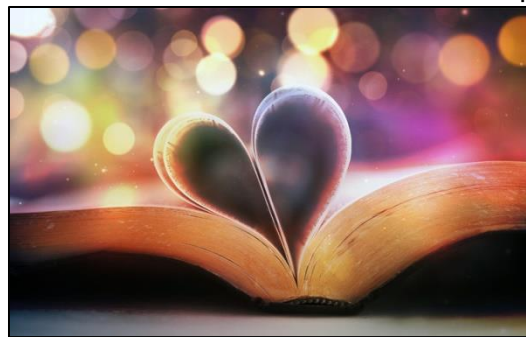
I've thought a lot about growth lately. This is due in part to Bible School. As most of you know the kids learned about God's "Great Big Beautiful World" during Bible School this year. Of course, you can't consider creation without considering the Creator who spoke it all into existence and made it grow. So growth has been on mind quite a bit in the past couple of weeks.

But it leads me to this question ... Is all growth good? Now you might quickly respond with a resounding "Yes!" or even an "Amen!" But is that really true? In Florida, the Everglades has experienced a surge in recent years of Burmese Pythons. They're explosive growth is literally threatening an entire ecosystem, and no one is saying that's a good thing. But there are other examples, more personal examples. What if you grew in your anger toward someone who upset you or the number of hours you spent at work had grown to the point that they had nearly doubled? This is growth, too. Of course, it's not good growth. You see, the answer to the question "Is all growth good?" is "No" because not all growth is good growth. Praise the Lord, though, that good growth is a real thing!

In Philippians chapter 1, verses 9-11, Paul tells the church at Philippi about some good growth he hopes to see in them. Take a moment to read back through the passage. What is that good growth? That's right, it's love. However, this love cannot be

defined however you would like. Rather, it must be defined as Paul intended it to be. The love he is referencing is others-centered and sacrificial, rather me-centered and selfish. It's marked by patience and kindness. In short, it looks a lot like God's love for us. It's important to note that Paul is not saying that this church didn't have this love. He is simply saying just that he hoped the love they did have specifically for one another would grow.

This is the right kind of growth because it's good growth. I often hear popular preachers talk about growth and abundance, but all too often it goes like this ... "God wants you to abound in financial well-being!" or "God wants to grow your 401K." But Paul doesn't say that here. The truth is he doesn't say that anywhere. What he says is that he wants you and I as God's people, as His church, to grow or abound in LOVE.



Some folks might say, "Well, Will, this is all great and true, but how do we go about actually growing in love?" I agree that we need to, but how? This is an excellent and valuable question, but not the thing we must consider first. It would be a bit like asking how you make a dish

before you have even consulted the recipe. You see, before we can begin to consider how to grow in our love for one other (here's a hint: read on through the rest of Philippians) we need to be praying for God to make it so. I intentionally included the verses at the beginning of the article in the translation called "The Voice" because I love how this particular version captures what is happening in this portion of Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. He is not merely writing about growing in love or daydreaming about growing in love. He is specifically praying for growth in love. And guess what? We can (should!) pray for that too.

-Pastor Will Douglas



## July Worship

**Worship Coordinator:** Elizabeth Hannah

### July 4

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School for all ages

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship

**Sermon:** Dale Birkey, elder

**Worship Leaders:** Teresa Miller, call to worship, Lynelle Mellady, sharing, announcements & prayer, Debbie Statton, July birthdays, Courtney Lawson, offering prayer.

**Music:** Debbie Statton & Teresa Miller

**Usher:** Dennis Yoder

**Children's Church:** TBD

### July 11

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School for all ages

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship

**Sermon:** Pastor Will Douglas

**Worship Leader:** Kevin Miller

**Music:** Margi Bontrager & Karen Kendall

**Usher:** Jeremy Boyce

**Children's Church:** Cindy Miller

### July 18

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School for all ages

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship

**Sermon:** Jon Birkey, missionary from Arizona

**Worship Leader:** Will Douglas

**Music:** Debbie Statton & Teresa Miller

**Usher:** Aaron & Elizabeth Hannah

**Children's Church:** Jeanie Miller

### July 25

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School for all ages

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship

**Sermon:** Pastor Will Douglas

**Worship Leader:** Kace Douglas

**Usher:** Elsie Horner

**Music:** Margi Bontrager & Karen Kendall

**Children's Church:** Larissa Douglas

### Office Hours for Pastor Will Douglas

Monday-Thursday

Friday & Saturday – Off

Email: [Will@HowardMiami.org](mailto:Will@HowardMiami.org)

**Please Note:** Will will be out of the office from July 1-5, as he and his family attend the Evana Network ReGen Gathering at Taylor University.

## 2021: Year of Appreciation

## July

**July 4-11:** James Clinton

**July 11-18:** Azjha Davis

**July 18-25:** Carolyn Myers

**July 25-Aug. 1:** Carey Miller

Don't forget to place your card, note, or small gift in the designated basket at the Appreciation Station located in the Fellowship Hall. There you will find postcards (some already stamped!), pens, and "I've been praying for you this week" notes.

This initiative is designed to recognize each and every congregant. One person is chosen at random each week. You don't have to use the Appreciation Station, but don't forget to pass on the love to your fellow Howard-Miami family members.

Remember, appreciation isn't just for the selected congregants. We hope this encourages you to show appreciation to everyone around you – especially for their spiritual gifts.

Let's all give thanks to one another and show the love of Christ to our church family and beyond!



## Historian and Archivist Volunteer Needed!

We are still in search for a volunteer to take over the position of Historian and Archivist. The duties and responsibilities include:

- Collecting and archiving bulletins, newsletters, committee minutes, and important documents.
- Managing and organizing the church archives, located in the Jesus and Me (JAM) Basement.

If you're interested in volunteering, email Lynelle Mellady at [office@howardmiami.org](mailto:office@howardmiami.org) or call the office at 765-395-7509 during office hours.



For a complete list of upcoming events, visit [www.HowardMiami.org/events](http://www.HowardMiami.org/events).

## **Women's Sewing & Fellowship**

**July 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



This event will leave you in stitches! Come ready to sew various mission projects while sewing new friendships through fellowship. This event is held in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a sack lunch. No registration or fee required. Beginning sewers are welcome – no skill is required.

## **Men's Breakfast**

**July 10 @ 8 a.m.**



Come enjoy a good meal, good message, and GREAT fellowship. Men's Bible study will follow breakfast. No registration or fee required.

## **Free Community Meal**

**July 17**



We are hosting a free community meal on July 17. Look for upcoming information in the bulletins for times, menu, and volunteer opportunities.

## **Jon & Lindsay Birkey & Family**

**July 18**

Jon and Lindsay Birkey and family will be with us on Sunday, July 18. Jon will bring the morning message. The Birkeys are missionaries from Arizona.



## **Justin & Hannah Mast Ice Cream Social**

**July 25 @ 6 p.m.**

Justin & Hannah Mast and children will be with us on Sunday, July 25 at 6 p.m. They will share about their work in Slovenia. Come enjoy fellowship and delicious ice cream.



# **Calendar of Events**

[www.HowardMiami.org/Events](http://www.HowardMiami.org/Events)

## **July**

**July 1 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** – Women's Sewing  
**July 6 @ 6:30 p.m.** – Children's Ministry Team  
**July 10 @ 8 a.m.** – Men's Breakfast  
**July 12 @ 6:30 p.m.** – Friendship Haven Board  
**July 12 @ 7 p.m.** – Women's Ministry  
**July 13 @ 7 p.m.** – Church Council  
**July 17** – Free Community Meal  
**July 18** – Jon Birkey & family will be with us  
**July 25 @ 6 p.m.** – Mast Family Ice Cream Social  
**July 27 @ 6:30 p.m.** – Outreach Team

## **August**

**Aug. 3 @ 6:30 p.m.** – Children's Ministry Team  
**Aug. 5 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** – Women's Sewing  
**Aug. 9 @ 7 p.m.** – Women's Ministry  
**Aug. 10 @ 7 p.m.** – Church Council  
**Aug. 14 @ 8 a.m.** – Men's Breakfast  
**Aug. 31 @ 6:30 p.m.** – Outreach Team Meeting

## **Missionary Updates**

Did you know that updates for our missionaries, Jon & Lindsay Birkey in Arizona and Justin & Hannah Mast in Slovenia, are available on the bulletin board to the left of the mailboxes?

You can also find monthly newsletters, thank-you cards, and updated photos of these families as well.



## **The Birkey Bulletin**

June 2021

### **Birkey Bulletin**

And if you haven't already, you can get updates from the Birkey family straight to your inbox! You can sign up for The Birkey Bulletin and also donate at [www.wgm.org/missionary/birkey](http://www.wgm.org/missionary/birkey).

### **Mast Family**

You can donate and learn more about the Mast family and their work in Slovenia at [www.give.cru.org/0560757](http://www.give.cru.org/0560757).



# committee updates

## Church Council – June Minutes

The Church Council met on June 8 at 7 p.m. Jeff Cranor led in devotions. He focused on planting and harvesting a vegetable garden. He plants the seeds and has faith they will grow, mature, and produce a crop. When his grandchildren help plant the garden, he always reminds them they are doing the planting but God makes them grow. How much faith do we have when we pray? Or do our prayers become mundane and routine?

### Reporting Committees:

- **Trustees:** Larry Miller reported they put some stone around the future basketball court. There are no other changes.
- **Women's Council:** Linda Mast reported the Coffee and Conversation events have been well attended. They also hosted a Favorite Thing party in May. There are more events coming up.
- **Elder:** Dale Birkey said they are meeting with Pastor Will. They are studying Titus and his charge to be an elder. They are also reading The Simplest Way to Change the World. There also has been discussion of moving the church service to 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

### Old Business:

1. There was no update on the A/V equipment.
2. The position for Church Archivist and Historian remains open. It was first announced in early 2021.

### New Business:

1. **Budget for MYF:** The MYF room needs some refurbishing now that we have youth and are using the room. Dale Birkey made a motion to approve of spending up to \$400 for paint for the room. Seconded by Dee Troyer. Motion passed. Mary suggested funding could come from CMT as they probably won't use all of their money. It was suggested of adding a line in the budget for youth activities.
2. **Church branding, signage, and logo:** Pastor Will and the elders have been discussing this. They will come to a consensus before bringing it to the congregation.
3. We reviewed the positions that need to be renewed for the next church year. Larry Miller will chair the nominating committee. Council members are working to fulfill the

positions appointed by the council. These need to be finalized in the July meeting.

4. Pastor Will would like to appoint Elizabeth Hannah as worship coordinator for one year. This means she will be assigning worship leaders for each service. Larry Miller made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Hannah as worship coordinator. Dee Troyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Next meeting is July 6 at 7 p.m.

- Submitted by Linda Mast (for Joyce Dittfield)

## Women's Sewing – June 3, 2021

Once again, nine ladies joined together to quilt, knot comforters, sort through donations, and fellowship. We received a note of thanks from Deb Zent thanking us for the fabric donations to the "In Stitches with Deb"

organization.

They make hospice gowns for cancer patients. We also made a donation of yarn to ladies who crochet hats for cancer patients and make lap robes for residents in nursing care facilities. We

are glad to pass on donations we receive from the Rescue Mission. One comforter was completed. The quilt should be completed in July.



*Linda Miller taught Kace Douglas how to knot yarn for one of the mission projects at the June 3 gathering.*

Margi Bontrager led us in a Father's Day devotion. She was led to Titus. Now you know Titus was not a father. However, he was a spiritual son to Paul. Paul mentored Titus. She read the entire book of Titus to us. Paul's ultimate goals for life were faith, truth, and living godly lives while on this earth. In Titus 1:16, Paul emphasized many claim to know God, but do not live out godly lives. In Titus 2, Paul taught Titus how to teach older men and women as well as younger men. Paul gave good advice throughout the book. When was the last time you focused on Titus? I challenge you to read the book of only three chapters. Live wisely! We live in an evil world. Margi challenged us to focus and see what is ahead for us who love Jesus.

Pastor Will and son, Kace, joined us for lunch. Our next meeting is July 1. Bring a friend, sack lunch, and join us.

- Linda Mast, Secretary

# GREAT BIG beautiful WORLD

## Summer Bible School 2021

This year's Summer Bible School was a great success! The theme was Great Big Beautiful World, and children learned how to appreciate, marvel at, and take care of God's wonderful creations through singing, Bible stories, Scripture, crafts, games, and even petting live animals.

Our offering this year went to Pastor Alex Kimpi in Uganda for his continued work with agriculture and raising hogs. **The children raised almost \$1,500 for his mission!** Children also donated paper towels and toilet paper to donate to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. So much was collected that the stack towered higher than the ceiling!

With **approximately 40 children** in attendance from ages 5 to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 2021 was the highest attendance compared to the past couple years.

The Summer Bible School Committee would like to thank all the volunteers for helping make this year one of the best yet!



**LEFT:** Pastor Will Douglas asked children to say prayers throughout the week. **RIGHT:** Because the children met their offering goal, they got to dress Pastor Will Douglas in pizza socks, a pink shirt, a rainbow Mohawk wig, and crazy glasses.



**ABOVE:** The children made birdhouses as one of the crafts. The kids enjoyed using the drill and painting them.

**BELOW:** A picture of all the children and their parents (in the back) on the last evening. Staff, volunteers, children, and parents all enjoyed ice cream sundaes after the closing worship.



**ABOVE:** Children learned each day's Bible lesson through a drama played out on a beautifully decorated garden on the stage.



**ABOVE:** Children enjoyed petting and learning about live animals this year. They enjoyed interacting with a horse, calf, chicken, cat, dog, and goats.





## **Everence Offers “Smart Living, Simple Money” Podcast**

This is a podcast for people curious about money, faith, and practical ways to approach the big money questions. Hear how others are doing things right, what the experts say, and what you can do. Smart Living, Simple Money is a podcast by The Mennonite Inc. and Everence®. You can access all episodes online at:

[www.everence.com/resources/smart-living-simple-money-podcast](http://www.everence.com/resources/smart-living-simple-money-podcast)

### **Episodes:**

- **Debt:** Debt is one of those things that looms over the lives of almost everyone – college debt, car loans, mortgage, credit card debt, etc. In this episode, we talk with a “20-something” who has debt and others who got rid of all their debt by age 30. We’ll also get advice from a debt counselor with LSS Financial Counseling.
- **Budgeting:** What words do you think of when you hear the word “budget”? Oppressive? Tiresome? Freeing? In this episode, we talk about budgets, or cash-flow plans, and how they can help you find stability and confidence in your finances.
- **Big Purchases:** New car, new house – sometimes it feels like this stage in life requires lots of new, expensive buys. In this episode, we’ll talk with a real estate agent and the Everence Vice President of Lending for their advice on how to stay smart. Plus, real stories from real people about big purchases.
- **Saving for Retirement:** Retirement seems so far away, but experts say the sooner you start saving for retirement, the better off you’ll be. In this episode, our host talks with an Everence financial advisor about what to know about retirement saving and what to think about as you make your savings plan.

You can find the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Fireside, and RSS feed.

*Linda Miller is our Everence representative.*



## **Prayers for ReGen Gathering in July**

The 2021 ReGen Youth & Adult Gathering will begin at 3:30 p.m. on July 1 and run through 11:30 a.m. on July 5. The event will be held at Taylor University in Upland, IN. Please be in prayer over all attendees, facilitators, volunteers, and staff.

If you’re not familiar with ReGen, it is a gathering of individuals, youth groups, and churches across many denominations to celebrate Jesus Christ and the mission He has given us. This is a time of calling and commitment for all ages and a celebration of new life and transformation.

**Pastor Will Douglas and family will be attending this year’s event.** Please keep their entire family in your prayers during throughout the week.

You can follow what’s happening at ReGen on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/evananetwork](https://www.facebook.com/evananetwork).

### **Stay Connected**

Stay connected with the Evana Network by checking out our monthly blog *PULSE*. You can access the latest edition at [www.evananetwork.org/blog/](http://www.evananetwork.org/blog/).



*Howard-Miami Mennonite Church is a member of the Evana Network, which is a movement of pastors and churches who want to see God’s kingdom come through the power of Jesus Christ. Our common ground is an evangelical Anabaptist theology, as articulated in our network covenant. Our common vision is to see Jesus bring transformation to our local communities.*



# Mennonite Central Committee

## New Dignity Kits

Provide sustainable support for women and girls around the world! The new dignity kit contains hygiene and sanitary items, including eco-friendly, washable menstrual pads and liners. Thousands of dignity kits have already been requested by MCC's partners around the world, and you can be part of the solution for fulfilling this need.

### **Contents (NEW items only)**

- 1 Reusable Pad System packed into 1 MCC kit bag, includes (*Please contact your local MCC office for patterns, instructions and further information*):
  - 3 waterproof base units, which hold the pad inserts in place
  - 8 absorbent fleece pad inserts (4 large/4 small)
  - 1 small transport bag
  - 3 pair of briefs (cotton; women sizes small, medium or large – one size per kit; no red)
  - Instructional care and use sheets
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors)
- 1 washcloth (medium weight, dark or bright colors)
- 2 large bars of bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 large bar laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha®, Sunlight® or Zote® brands)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6–8 in)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 4 plastic or wooden clothespins (4 in)
- 4 heavy-duty safety pins (2–1 in; 2–2 in)

Instructions: Place contents in a box or bag and deliver to your nearest MCC drop-off location. The kit will be re-packed at MCC in a new 2-gallon pail with a lid.

The Reusable Pad System is packed in a useful double drawstring cloth bag (11 3/4 x 16 3/4 in).

You may:

- sew the bag yourself
- donate contents that we will place in a bag.

Learn more, get patterns, and find drop-off locations at [www.mcc.org/dignity-kits](http://www.mcc.org/dignity-kits).



# Mennonite Disaster Service

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is a volunteer network of Anabaptist churches that responds in Christian love to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States. While the main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this service touches lives and nurtures hope, faith and wholeness.

Stay connected with the Mennonite Disaster Service at [www.mds.mennonite.net](http://www.mds.mennonite.net).

You can access news and updates on the website as well as subscribe to our monthly newsletter, ***On The Level***, and quarterly publication, ***Behind the Hammer***.

### **Behind the Hammer**

This is a free quarterly magazine published by MDS. It contains feature stories about MDS work, volunteers, MDS Units and Regions, recipes, and worksite safety tips. For current and back issues, visit

[www.mds.mennonite.net/bth-archives/](http://www.mds.mennonite.net/bth-archives/).



### **Volunteer Updates**

Typically on a Wednesday, MDS sends an email update with alerts to urgent or upcoming volunteer needs. The update can be delivered as a FAX, if requested. You can view past and current MDS updates at

[www.mds.mennonite.net/category/volunteer-update/](http://www.mds.mennonite.net/category/volunteer-update/).

### **New “On The Level” Monthly Newsletter**

Our new monthly newsletter, ***On The Level***, features updates on MDS' work and current stories.

The publication is distributed once a month, typically on a Thursday. You can sign up to receive information straight to your inbox at

[www.mds.mennonite.net/e-mail-and-newsletters/](http://www.mds.mennonite.net/e-mail-and-newsletters/).



## July Events at the Mission

### Beef Up the Mission

**July 15 @ 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

Each July, a favorite annual event is "Beef Up the Mission". "Beef Up the Mission" started in 1989 with the help of WWKI Radio and White's Meat Market and quickly became an annual event. Around the area at local 4-H Livestock Auctions, donors and friends of the Kokomo Rescue Mission purchase Steers and Hogs, and then tell the auctioneer "Send it to the Mission!" The beef and pork that comes from these 4-H animals is used throughout the year, to feed those in need in our community. All of our "feeding programs" benefit from this project; the meat is used in our public Dining Room (Kokomo), at Open Arms, as well as in grocery orders for our Assistance Program.



### Back-to-School Shoes, Socks & Underwear Giveaway

**July 20 - July 23**

The new school year is just around the corner, and we want every student to experience the joy of receiving a brand new pair of school shoes. Every qualified student, K(age 5+)-12th grade, will receive brand new shoes, socks, and underwear for the coming school year. Children must be present with their parent/guardian. The Rescue Mission, in partnership with Crossroads Community Church and other area churches, invites income-qualified members of the community to come "shop" for free back to school shoes for students. Please watch for updates for times and locations!

**For more information, volunteer opportunities, or ways to donate, visit**  
[www.KokomoRescueMission.org](http://www.KokomoRescueMission.org).



We offer various ways to stay connected to Howard-Miami Mennonite Church online. Keep up with the latest news, events, and praise and prayer requests through the following ways:



**Website:** [www.HowardMiami.org](http://www.HowardMiami.org)



**Worship Services/Past Sermons:**  
[www.HowardMiami.org/sermons](http://www.HowardMiami.org/sermons)



**Bulletins, Newsletters & Calendars:**  
[www.HowardMiami.org/bulletins-calendar-newsletters](http://www.HowardMiami.org/bulletins-calendar-newsletters)



**Facebook:** Don't forget to like and share our posts!!  
[www.facebook.com/HowardMiami](http://www.facebook.com/HowardMiami)



**YouTube:** Don't forget to subscribe!!  
<http://bit.ly/3aTkUNi> (or go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search "Howard-Miami Mennonite Church")



**CrossTalk:** Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter at [www.HowardMiami.org](http://www.HowardMiami.org)



**Online Events Calendar:**  
[www.HowardMiami.org/events](http://www.HowardMiami.org/events)







**Contact information for the coming months:**

- **Buddy Bags** – Linda Miller
- **One Call** – Ruth Andrews
- **Pastoral Care** – Pastor Will Douglas
- **Funeral Planning** – Pastor Will Douglas & Dale Birkey
- **Worship Coordinator** – Elizabeth Hannah
- **Office for July** – Lynelle Mellady



**Worship With Us!**

**Sundays**

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School for all ages

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship



Howard-Miami Mennonite Church exists to love, glorify and worship God, to love and serve others, to share the Gospel, and to encourage each other to become fully devoted followers of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

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We are a member of the  
Evana Network. Evana means  
“God is gracious” and is of  
Latin origin. Learn more at  
[www.EvanaNetwork.org](http://www.EvanaNetwork.org).

# KIDS KORNER

## Hidden Pictures: Jesus Healed a Blind Man

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: book, crown, fish, jug, moon, necktie, needle and thread, snail, sock, star.





# **Bible Word Search:**

## **Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9)**

P K X O H K U D V D V Z X K S  
S A V S Q N O L U E O Y E R A  
G E R H Z N S S E N D N I L B  
Q L L E R E G G E B U Y I S B  
Q J O P N N H S A W L G I C A  
W E Q R I T Q L J S H N N V T  
S S D E Y C S K E T L G D D H  
R U E U M E S E T E Z C N E N  
O S Q E M L S I S S Q B W N M  
B G H I F I F S D B I E H E E  
H V E M R S I L O A M R K P Y  
G N V A H U W I K T G P H O O  
I W H O W M D Z I F S X P C N  
E P U A M M I R A C L E M H O  
N Z P B A R Y I T A M H I G A

BEGGER	BLINDNESS	CHRIST
DISCIPLES	GLORY	JESUS
LIGHT	MIRACLE	MUD
OPENED	NEIGHBORS	PARENTS
PHARISEES	SABBATH	SEEING
SILOAM	SINLESS	WASH