



Kindred Lines

Newsletter of the Alexandria Baptist Church
December 2023

Dear church family,

It had been long night. Having given birth earlier, the young mom and dad are exhausted. Finally, they get the baby to sleep. A silent night for sure.

Until - a stranger showed up. A child himself. He looked at the baby Jesus sleeping peacefully and came to a decision. What this new couple needed - was a drum solo!

Satire of course.

But it had been a long and laborious pregnancy. The couple traveled for miles. They found lodging only in the part of the house where animals were kept. It worked out ok though. They had a manger already in place to lay the baby in. God always makes a way.

Soon, strangers did arrive. Dirty. Smelly. The couple didn't notice. They were surrounded by the same acrid scent of livestock there in the room where Jesus now slept.

Silent Night? Maybe. Maybe not.
No crying He makes? Maybe. Maybe not.
But these strangers had arrived. Mary and

Joseph didn't know that an angel had told them where to find the newborn King.

ALEXANDRIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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They didn't care that they were outcasts. They didn't care that they were dirty. They didn't care how bad they looked or smelled. We had the same stench. It smelled - like sin.

All they knew is all that God wants us to know.

He sent His Son to make us clean. To forgive our sins.

He came to say - I want you - here with Me. Forever. Here is the GPS location of heaven.

His name - is Jesus..

Jesus loves you.

Merry Christmas.

Pastor Brian



Saturday, December 2nd at 10:00 AM
Join us for an hour as we decorate the church for this blessed season.



An Alexandria Family Christmas Tree

Since Labor Day Weekend we have been praying for this family. Pastor Brian and Gretel have been mentoring and giving emotional support to this family as well as Kevin helping by doing physical house repairs.

The Board of Christian Education decided to sponsor not just the children in school but also the two young adult children and their mom. The tree is up with tags on it that you can peruse and take. The oldest daughter is pregnant and due in June. Her wish list is baby items and a couple gift cards to be able to purchase items down the road. The other children asked for clothing items like sweatshirts, sweatpants, shoes. The teenage boy did ask for an Xbox one controller. The girls asked for items for taking care of their hair. I had to smile when I saw the youngest girl would like some chocolate covered pretzels. Mom could use gift cards for Kroger, card for gas for the car and Visa cards to be able to pay utility bills. She also asked for firewood for their wood burning stove. Praise the Lord one of Kevin's family members is supplying a truck load, so that wish has been filled! So please have fun choosing tags to purchase items for this family.

We would like to have the **gifts at the church by Sunday December 10th**. We will be wrapping the presents that day possibly during Sunday School. Hope you can help participate wrapping. If you wish to bring your present in already wrapped let Michelle know and she can give you the name to put on a tag or just gently tape tag from tree that we can replace. If you wish you can donate wrapping paper. This item was not put on the tree.

If you don't want to shop you can donate cash marked in an envelope or put check in envelope and put on memo line for Christmas tree. We would like to deliver gifts by the 17th so they can be out under their Christmas tree. Please continue to keep this family in your prayers.



December 17th at 9:30 am

Darkness into Light

A Christmas Musical

Fellowship & Cookies following the service.



December 24th at 11:00 pm





Fourth QUARTER MISSION 2023

Shiloh Military Ministries

Larry and Linda Ingalls

GIVING GOAL: \$1,000.00

GIVING: \$570.00

**We only have one more month to give
for this mission!**

Shiloh Military Ministries has 11 missionary teams who are located near various military bases to provide Bible-based teaching, hospitality and activities for service members to grow in Christ.

The team we are supporting is Larry and Linda Ingalls, who are serving the base at Fort Riley in Kansas, Susie and Tom first heard of this mission back in May 2022 when the Ingalls were visiting Johnstown Independent Baptist Church. JIBC also supports this mission team and Larry was there with his wife and daughter to give a ministry update. Susie was really moved by their story and their generous hospitality and the passion that Larry had for God and for bringing the message of good news to military personnel and their families.

In 1977, as a young marine, Larry was led to Christ in part through ministries and missionaries reaching military servicemen stationed overseas. As a result of their mentoring him in the Christian faith, and the Word of God, Larry gained a passion to do this very work as well. In 1979 as a student at Biola University, Linda also decided to devote her life to service in missions. Larry and Linda met at their church in Southern California and married in 1983. The Ingalls began their missionary work with Cadence International as hospitality house directors in 1985, first serving the Army and Air Force stationed in Panama.

After additional education at the Moody Bible Institute, the Ingalls moved in 1994 to Yokosuka, Japan, where they directed The Lighthouse hospitality house, serving sailors stationed there in the Navy's 7th Fleet. And in 2009 the Ingalls relocated to Fort Riley, Kansas to open the Rivendell House where they remain today serving our Soldiers in the Army's 1st Infantry Division.

In 2021 the Ingalls transitioned to serve under Shiloh Military Ministries. Their focus and ministry at Fort Riley continues the same. Larry's passion is teaching the inerrant, inspired, authoritative Word of God and mentoring men in the Christian faith. Linda's joy is serving others with her gift of hospitality, and to encourage and mentor younger women. Larry and Linda have three children and two grandchildren.

Men and women in the military have a unique set of needs. Sometimes they are far from home...away from family and friends. They can move around, making it hard to sit down roots, not to mention that they could be deployed at any time. The modern military like so many work places and institutions, also has some challenges that arise from policies that are not in line with the Christian faith. So isolation, uncertainty, family logistics, and challenges to hearing the faith and walking in the faith makes this a very special mission.

In order to meet these needs this couple literally opens their home to the people they serve on a constant basis. They call their home Rivendell House. At Rivendell House, Larry, and Linda Ingalls provide a Christ-centered "home-away-from-home" for our Soldiers stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. Through pastoral mentorship and the teaching of the Word of God, we share the Christian message of Jesus Christ and his salvation for all who will believe. During our weekly gatherings for meals or Bible studies or recreation together, our home is a Christian haven (a Rivendell) for rest, for spiritual renewal and growth, for mentoring, and for redemptive friendships.

Colton Bennett

"When I first came to Fort Riley, in 2019, I was starved for Christian fellowship. Many people do not realize how hard it is in the Army to find a group of believers who truly seek to follow Jesus with their whole heart. so when one of my fellow soldiers invited me to Rivendell House, I was a bit skeptical. But from my first moments there, I was so encouraged and convicted by the biblical teaching and sweet hospitality that Larry and Linda provided."

The McMillan Family

“During our time at Fort Riley, Rivendell House was like our church, our family and our home. Larry faithfully and diligently taught the Word of God and led his flock with utmost care. Our time was one of deep spiritual and emotional growth and maturation. Never too busy to lend a listening ear and part their wisdom. Larry and Linda have guided many people, including ourselves, through difficult times and questions. From Holidays away from home to times of being separated due to military deployments, Larry and Linda with their open home always gave our family a sense of stability, comfort and rest. The work they are doing is making a substantial difference in the lives of many.”

The Coffman Family

“We found Rivendell House in 2012 right before my husband, Robert deployed. For nine months. It was my refuge for biblical adult fellowship in the mist of a week of caring for four little ones all the time by myself. When my husband returned, Larry was a mentor for him praying with him and us during his difficult transition back, job losses, homelessness, miscarriages, hospital visits, and a new baby being born. There is not enough space here to share all the ways we were ministered to by the Ingalls family.

And when Susie contacted Larry recently, he asked us to pray for recent baptisms last month of two female soldiers, Eva and Yadi, who recently came to saving faith. Angi and Mac, two of our soldiers, who both got saved in the past three years, and who also met here at Rivendell House, and are now husband and wife. And just last night, another of our soldiers, Jared, Led a fellow soldier, Ori, to faith in Christ after our evening Bible study. Ori has been coming to Bible studies with Jared for about a month now and it all spiritually came together for him this week. The Ingalls praise the Lord for these new Christians. Please pray for them as we now seek to follow up with them in discipleship.

As you can see, this ministry is very good for the soldiers and their families. Let’s give them our support.



Annual reports are due to Patti by January 7th!



