



### Thanksgiving Dinner Planned

A Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the Alpha Building on Thursday, November 22 at 3:00 p.m. There is no charge. Additional food is welcome but not necessary.



### Chili Supper Plans Made

This year's Chili Supper and Chili Cook-off will be held opening day of deer firearms season, Thursday, November 15 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories of chili: traditional, creative, and challenge. For the challenge category an unknown ingredient will be given to entrants a few days before the cook-off.

All pots of chili will be judged at 4:00 p.m. and then served at the supper. There is no charge to enter the contest. Call Tanya at 231-537-7600 or Verna at 231-537-4683 for more details or to enter.

The menu includes chili, cole slaw, white and corn bread, dessert and beverage. Suggested donations are: ages 5-12, \$3; adults, \$6; families \$15, with children under age 5 free.

The largest deer by antler points will be awarded a basket of goodies. Door prizes will be awarded during the supper. Register when making your meal donation.

All proceeds will go towards the WMMC mission projects, both local and foreign.



### Operation Christmas Child

Boxes to be packed for Operation Christmas Child have arrived at the church and are ready to be picked up and packed. They will be sent to all parts of the world to make a good Christmas for children.

Boxes can be packed for ages 2-4, 5-9, 10-14, boys and girls. Suggestion of items to pack include stuffed animal, personal care items (comb, washcloth, bar of soap), clothing (shirts, pants, socks hat), craft (pencil, crayons, notebook watercolors, stickers), and toys (foam ball, finger puppets, play cars). Also include \$9 for shipping.

Things not to include are: candy, gum, war-related items, food, medications, or breakable items.

If you don't have time to shop for shoebox items, you can pack a shoebox online for a suggested donation of \$25. Go to <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>.

Shoeboxes will be collected on Sunday, November 12.

### Music Night is November 25

The music begins at 6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening. Bring some music to share, or just come to listen, enjoy the music, and worship the Lord in music.

## From Pastor Rob

### Thank You

“Thank You”. These two simple words mean a lot to us. I don’t always feel as though I express these words enough to each and every one of you here in Bliss, the church, as well as the community. So with thanksgiving upon us I was reminded to give thanks for so much and I wanted to make sure to say “thank you” more in the days, months and years ahead.

Some of you may not believe this, but I am so grateful for each and every one of you. Each of you has said or done something that means a lot to me. From praying for my family and me to the great friendships we have developed. Words cannot express how much we have been thankful for everything.

To the community at large I wish to say thank you for how much you have accepted Cheryl, our kids and me into your lives. We have felt like part of the community since we arrived in 2012 and feel your love and friendship each and every day. You have no idea how much this has helped us over the years being so far from family and our longtime friends.

To the church, you have giving us so much support, love and grace that we have never experienced as a “pastor” family before. You have helped bring healing and restoration to us unlike you will ever know. Your passion for the Word of God and desire to follow Jesus has been an amazing journey for us as well. I could not ask for a better group of people to walk these last six and a half years with. You are all so amazing!

I want to say thank you to our leaders of the various areas of the church. Denny for his diligence in our financial decisions, Tanya for leading the Sunday School, Irv for his never ending devotion to making sure the facilities are in top notch condition, as well as all those who help him with projects, Phil, Bruce, Verna and others I may have not thought of today (Sorry if I missed your name). Cindy for her heart in making sure the church has been cleaned for the last year as well as her attention to detail in

keeping the minutes of all of the board meetings! I cannot forget to thank Hunter and Hannah for all they do with the Youth Group. Their energy and love for the kids of the community is amazing and contagious. I cannot forget Lou for his dedication to make sure the kids are picked up too. I also wish to thank Eleanor for her tireless commitment to the music ministry for each service. There is so much that has to take place behind the scenes that many may not realize, and I just want to say thank you for taking care of all you do.

There are also those that I need to thank, who without, the church services would not be presented as they are. These are those who selflessly give up the chance to actively be involved in the worship service that week, the sound and video people. If you never have run the sound and video portion of a service you cannot appreciate how much focus it takes to make sure things flow as smoothly as possible. They cannot really participate in the singing, because it is easy to lose your place in when to switch to the next slide. They cannot get as deeply involved with the message because they are focused on the cue for changing to the next point or passage. So I want to say thank you for all you do in the back of the sanctuary!

Also to our deacons, Dick, Linda, Phyllis, Ray and Carol, your work mostly goes unseen by many, with the exception of those you minister to with prayer, cards, phone calls, visits and financial help to those who are hurting and in need. You are truly being the hands and feet of Christ.

Dan, thank you for being one incredible greeter! You are much appreciated and I can’t remember the last time I thanked you for your presence as people walk into the church. Oh and who can forget Carol who silently takes kids over to the Alpha to give our younger children a chance to worship and grow in faith through Kids Church each week they are here. Thank you so much for caring for these young people who are hearing the gospel message each week you care for them. I hope I didn’t forget anyone, because as you can see this list is long already

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# November 2018

# Bliss Missionary Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
			7:15 - Youth <b>Sam/Barb Cadwell</b>			10
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service <b>Yvonne Thomson</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16
				7:15 - Youth	<b>Chili Supper 5-7:30 p.m.</b>	17
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	18	19	20	21	22	23
				7:15 - Youth	<b>Thanksgiving Dinner 3:00 p.m.</b>	24
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Music Night	25	26	27	28	29	30
	<b>Pastor Rob/ Cheryl</b>	WMMC Business Meeting 1:00	7:15 - Youth			

# Forgiveness Is A High Priority For God

## Forgiveness is Important

God puts a high priority on forgiveness. In Matthew 5:23-24 Jesus taught, *“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, **24** leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”* Jesus goes on to teach that we cannot be forgiven by God unless we forgive others.

## Forgiveness is Not Forgetting

It is very difficult, if not impossible to forget a traumatic event. In fact, our minds remember such events more clearly than ordinary events. So we cannot forget a wrong done to us.

What we can do is determine not to dwell on it. When it comes to mind, fill your mind with something else, and refuse to go over the event again—what happened, arguments for and against, etc.

Being conscious that the event happened may actually be helpful in knowing to avoid such an event in the future.

## Forgiveness is Renouncing Revenge

Forgetting is not the key to forgiveness; it's surrendering the right to get even. Leviticus 19:18 teaches, *“Do no seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”* This is echoed in Romans 12:19, *“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”*

This means that we have to accept being an innocent victim, not wishing harm to the one who has wronged us, not wishing God would punish them. It goes further. We are to pray for them, wish them well, and do good to them.

Jesus taught, *“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **29** If*

*someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.”* (Luke 6:27-29)

Accepting undeserving wrong from others is difficult to do, but in order for us to gain forgiveness, it is necessary.

## Forgiveness is for The Victim

Reconciliation is not the purpose of forgiveness. Reconciliation is beneficial to both parties, but there are times when the perpetrator refuses to be reconciled, or even refuses to take responsibility for their actions. But the victim can still forgive.

Not forgiving over a long period of time, going over the incident time and time again can cause damage to the victim's health in increased stress and possibly leading to depression.

So, if you have been a victim, remember that forgiveness is for your benefit, that you might continue your life and leave this burden to the Lord.

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## Continued from Page 2 - Pastor Rob

and I would feel bad for not remembering all who are actively giving of their time and energy.

Lastly, I wish to thank each of you who attend and sacrificially give to the work of God here at Bliss. Each of you means so much. You all have a mission field that only you can be responsible for and I am amazed at those you touch and share the love of Christ with each and every day of the week. There is no greater joy for me than to hear your stories each week of how God is using you to touch the lives of others. I am humbled and honored to be the pastor here at Bliss Missionary Church, so I say **Thank You** with all my heart!

In Christ the author and perfecter of our faith,  
*Pastor Rob*