

WOTL – 90.3 FM – Toledo, OH
Issues/Program List
“COMMUNITY BRIDGE”
A 5-Minute Program Heard Saturdays*
at 7:25 AM, 5:00 PM, and 7:55 PM
October – December, 2021

DATE	ISSUE	GUEST AND DESCRIPTION
October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2021	Heroes in Action of Toledo Supports Military Members	<p><u>Host:</u> Virginia Beehn <u>Guest:</u> Trent Heisler, Volunteer, Heroes in Action (Toledo, OH). www.heroesinaction.org <u>Description:</u> Heroes in Action sends care packages from Toledo to active military. Boxes include snacks, reading material, toiletries, etc. Over time, financial help for car payments or mortgages became available. At one time, 400 packages were sent monthly. More names are always accepted for veterans to receive care packages. Financial donations are always appreciated to help with postage and purchase of products to send from Toledo.</p>
November 6, 2021	Pregnancy Services for All Women	<p><u>Host:</u> Virginia Beehn <u>Guest:</u> Dawn Baker, Service Line Director of Pregnancy and Adoption, Bethany Christian Services (Madison Heights, MI). www.bethany.org Public Phone: 800-BETHANY (800-238-4269) <u>Description:</u> Women as young as 11 years and as old as 49 years have come for assistance with unplanned pregnancies. As a Christian organization, Bethany Christian Services can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His love with their clients. Often the most broken women with drug addictions are most interested in providing a loving adopted home for her expected child.</p>
November 13, 2021	Adoption Services for Local Women	<p><u>Host:</u> Virginia Beehn <u>Guest:</u> Dawn Baker, Service Line Director of Pregnancy and Adoption, Bethany Christian Services (Madison Heights, MI). www.bethany.org Public Phone: 800-BETHANY (800-238-4269) <u>Description:</u> In the past, adoptions were often secretive, and the mother and the child never knew each other. Today, open adoption is more common, with information and photos exchanged. Post-adoption counseling is available, as well as post-abortion counseling when the choice has been made by the mother to end her pregnancy. Christ's love is shared in every aspect of the work that Bethany Christian Services does. Volunteer help, donations, financial help, and especially prayer, are appreciated.</p>

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November 20, 2021	Climate Change & the Christian Response in Toledo	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser_</p> <p><u>Guest:</u> Tom Hennigan, Associate Professor of Ecology and Organism Biology, Truett McConnell University (Cleveland, GA). www.truett.edu</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Glaciers melting, sea levels rising, and some say the earth will soon be destroyed due to climate change impacts caused by human beings. Our guest believes Christians should be concerned with planet health as the Bible mandates care for the Earth and the people within it but to do the research. Carbon dioxide, a plant nutrient, has increased by a hundredth of a percent but satellite imagery shows that the planet is greening due to the increase. While ice has melted in the North and South Poles, there are some instances of glacier growth and former forests uncovered. Tom encouraged research of cyclical climate changes through the centuries and access to Biblical earth stewardship resources from the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation.</p>
November 27,* 2021	Local Habitat Loss & Prevention from a Creation Care Perspective	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser_</p> <p><u>Guest:</u> Tom Hennigan, Associate Professor of Ecology and Organism Biology, Truett McConnell University (Cleveland, GA). www.cornwallalliance.org</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Habitat loss is a major issue; whether disrupted (via drought, water pollution, or invading species); fragmented (via tornadoes, roads, or housing developments); or destroyed (via volcanic eruptions and bull dozers). The man-centered environmentalist perspective believes the Earth is our only home and may create policies that hurt the poor. While some Christians reason the Earth will end anyway, the Biblical mandate to care for God’s Creation is still in place. Christians should care for the Earth, maintain systems wisely, and help people. Christians can enjoy God’s Creation with family and their local church body, reduce use of plastics by bringing cloth and permanent bags to shop and store, create community or church gardens, or organize trash cleanups, always glorifying Christ for His Creation gift.</p>

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December 4,** 11,*** 18,* & 25,**** 2021	CEF Christmas Party Clubs in Ohio	<u>Host:</u> Virginia Beehn <u>Guest:</u> Kyle Latchaw, Director, Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of Ohio (Mount Vernon,). www.cefofohio.org <u>Description:</u> When people are celebrating Christmas, CEF wants unchurched children in Ohio, ages 5 to 12 years, to know the real reason for the Christmas season. It's not too late to schedule a party for your church, or to join one already scheduled. Volunteers are trained to lead the club, and CEF volunteers also assist. Parents are welcome to stay and also learn about Jesus. During the school year, the Good News Club is held weekly after school and at the school. The purpose is always to tell people about Jesus and His love.

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DATE	ISSUE	GUEST AND DESCRIPTION
October 2, 2021	The Importance of Grandparents Investing in the Spiritual Lives of Children & Grandchildren (25-minute program)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Larry Fowler, Founder, Legacy Coalition (Phoenix, AZ). www.legacycoalition.com <u>Description:</u> In recent years, there has been a growing trend of adults under the age of 50 years who are less inclined to believe in God. It has also been revealed that a number of students who do have knowledge of God are walking away from their faith when they leave for college or go out on their own. Larry Fowler spoke of the eternal significance of life here on earth and how grandparents can create a significant source of encouragement for their grandchildren towards following Christ. He shared stories of his own experiences raising his grandkids and how grandparents can be good examples to their grandchildren. He also encouraged the church to recognize and emphasize the incredible potential of the grandparent/grandchild relationship for evangelism and discipleship.</p>
October 9, 2021	A Professional Perspective on Preparing/Caring for Elderly Parents & Loved Ones (25-minute program)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Sally White, Geriatrician (Retired), Member of the Christian Medical & Dental Association (North Bangor, NY). www.cmda.org <u>Description:</u> Planning for a family vacation, a wedding, or reunion are some things in life that can be exciting but preparing for the challenges faced by an aging parent/loved one is something that catches many families off guard. Aging is a fact of life and it affects everyone in the family, especially the senior. As adult children are busy living their lives, it is difficult to imagine their parents as seniors and how aging is affecting them. It's a difficult journey and one most family will not discuss until it becomes necessary. Dr. Sally White discussed how aging challenges familiar roles. Whenever roles change, emotional reactions are common. Past conflicts may be brought up but when people think and talk about aging before there are issues, plans can be made. Dr. White explained some of the challenges of aging, as well as dispelled myths and identified ageism within our society.</p>

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October 16, 2021	The Crucial Need for the Church to Pray for the Suffering in America & Globally (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Timothy Head, Executive Director, Faith & Freedom Coalition (Duluth, GA). www.ffcoalition.com <u>Description:</u> Ravaging wildfires, extreme drought, floods, hurricanes and news about the crisis in Afghanistan, Haiti and other parts of the world are troubling. Americans are anxious and desperate to help, but many do not see how they can make a difference when the devastation is so widespread and while they are trying to deal with their own problems and struggles. Timothy Head shared Bible verses and stories that offered listeners examples of suffering and others in their lowest moments, as well as how God was able to give them comfort and hope as a result of another praying for them during that desperate time of need. He talked about his background as a missionary and pastor and how this allowed him to understand firsthand how crucial it is for the Church to gather in prayer for those suffering around the world.
October 23, 2021	Hope & Comfort for Those Dealing with Domestic Violence Situations (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Brandon Showalter, Christian Post Reporter, Fellow, John Jay Institute for Faith, Society and Law (Langhorne, PA). www.johnjayfellows.com <u>Description:</u> It happens every 15 seconds and, every year, around 10 million people become victims. Sadly, domestic violence is real and many lives are impacted by it. With October being designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Brandon Showalter talked about how the Church can comfort and support those dealing with domestic violence situations and give them hope. He gave examples of how God shows us His love through Scriptures in Song of Solomon and how the Apostle Paul spoke about husbands loving their wives as the Lord Jesus laid down His life for the church. He also gave resources and other information for those dealing with domestic violence situations.
October 30, 2021	Taking a Stand for the Gospel: Recognizing & Supporting	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Todd Nettleton, Chief of Media Relations and Message Integration, Voice of the Martyrs (Bartlesville, OK). www.persecution.com

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	the International Persecuted Church (25-minute program)	<u>Description:</u> Religious liberties, freedom such as reading the Bible and sharing the Gospel with others, are some examples of things that are becoming increasing targets for persecution. During the month of November, churches will be recognizing the persecuted Church, with the first Sunday in November being designated The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church this year. Todd Nettleton explained what the term “persecuted church” means and gave some examples of where persecution of the church is taking place (i.e., Afghanistan). He shared stories of persecuted Christians – such as Pastor Hassan and Hannalie Groenwald and what American Christians can do to help those in Afghanistan and throughout the world who are persecuted for Christ.
November 6, 2021	Encouraging Military Members: How Strong Relationships Can be Built while Serving (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Gary Chapman, International Public Speaker, Best-selling Author and Senior Associate Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church (Winston-Salem, NC). <u>Description:</u> As Americans prepare to honor those who have served in our Armed Forces on Veteran’s Day, it is only fitting to take time to recognize and honor them and their family members for their service. In America, we have many freedoms because of their service and sacrifice to our country. Life during and after the military can pose many challenges, such as dealing with military trauma, mental and physical issues, re-adjusting to civilian life, and strained relationships to name a few – all making life away from the military difficult to overcome. Dr. Gary Chapman told stories about the struggles of military spouses at home during deployment, signs of a casualty, and how we need to reach out to support and pray for them. He gave a description of the five (5) love languages and how important it is to make another person feel loved. He also shared stories of his interactions with military spouses and practical ways to support veterans during Veteran’s Day.
November 13, 2021	The Need to Reset Congregational Singing, Restore Hope & Reunite the	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Alistair Begg, Bible Teacher on the radio program, <i>Truth for Life</i> , and Senior Pastor, Parkside Church (Cleveland, OH). www.truthforlife.org

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	Church in Christ-Centered Worship (25-minute program)	<u>Description:</u> Last year was a time of challenges. Pandemic fears gripped our nation, prompting social distancing, lockdowns, and remote learning and working along with a host of other abnormalities. As America emerges, churches across America now face another unique challenge: being relevant in an ever-changing environment that seems increasingly distanced from Christianity. Alistair Begg shared his thoughts on what it means to be God's people and living it out in daily life can help bring revival throughout America. He talked about how the Church needs revival or the inflow of the spirit of God in the lives of the people of God and for us to restore our commitment to the things of God, to reset the primacy of God. He expressed concern that unless God does something remarkable in His people, then the future of the church in the US could fall into the footsteps of the church in Western Europe, where the churches are more like museums and without people.
November 20, 2021	Homelessness – Community Outreach and Ways to Reach Out During Thanksgiving & the Christmas Season (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guests:</u> Candace Gregory, President/CEO, Open Door Mission (Omaha, NE) www.opendoormission.org , Pastor Joey Tomassoni and Pastor David Bempong, Downtown Hope (Annapolis, MD) www.downtownhope.org <u>Description:</u> Homelessness continues to increase across America and is expected to continue to be a national crisis. Candace Gregory gave statistics on the homelessness situation, the causes and how the problem is worsened when people give money to panhandlers rather than local missions that have accountability and oversight for the clients. Candace also shared stories of inspiration about homeless people they have helped and also talked about the importance of sharing the Gospel to these individuals who are in these unfortunate situations. Pastors Joey Tomassoni and David Bempong gave some examples of how their church, <i>Downtown Hope</i> , has provided food pantries and distribution this past year, thus sharing ways the community can show God's love by reaching out to the poor and homeless. They also talked about how the physical needs leads to spiritual and how the Gospel helps people who are looking for answers.

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December 18, 2021	*	* <i>Community Bridge</i> was pre-empted by special Christmas programming.
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October 4, 2021	Wildfire Recovery Assistance	After wildfires burned through California earlier this year, destroying thousands of homes, a father and daughter are bringing hope to victims with donated RVs! Woody Faircloth and his 9-year-old daughter “Luna” started the nonprofit website, EmergencyRV.org, which fills a gap for victims who often wait months for emergency housing. Recently the father and daughter delivered a 35-foot RV to a volunteer firefighter who lost his home in the Dixie Fire. It was the 95th RV delivered in the past two years.
October 5, 2021	Police Engagement with the Community	A Police Department outside Cleveland ditched its uniforms for jerseys, shorts, and sneakers over the weekend in a mission to get people in the neighborhood more comfortable around them! As confidence in police dropped to 48% last year in Cleveland, Officers Scott Meyer and Vashon Williams say their community basketball tournament is part of an effort to bridge a gap between officers and youth. Police even awarded an \$800 cash prize to the winning team.
October 6, 2021	Strengthening the Veteran Community	Now many of our veterans’ struggle with issues leaving the service, including PTSD, but an event this week is helping our heroes overcome those issues TOGETHER! The <i>War Heroes on Water</i> Fishing Tournament is giving veterans a chance to connect with fellow heroes to build lifelong bonds that will enable them to continue healing from the wounds of combat. With lots of time together on a boat out in the water, the idea is to create a comfortable setting where combat friends can share their experiences. War Heroes on Water is expecting to have their biggest fishing tournament to date, with 100 veterans signed up to fish on a fleet of 40 sport fishing yachts as they have raised over \$1.2 million.
October 8, 2021	Remembering Our Servicewomen	A group of 100 female veterans were given a long overdue “thank you” for their service with a trip to Washington DC! Nonprofits <i>Operation HerStory</i> and <i>Honor Flight Chicago</i> took 93 servicewomen on a trip to the nation's Capital, free of charge, to honor their service. The group, who was escorted by current female service members, toured monuments, and celebrated their service. Even though they served more than two decades ago, the women say the memories of that time are still very real and they’ll never forget the sacrifices made from those who came before them.
October 11, 2021	Giving the Gift of Community Spirit	Christmas came early for a young father who was recently diagnosed with an incurable brain tumor. Matthew Sandbrook, a father of three, was expecting a small gathering to celebrate his last Christmas with

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		loved ones, but more than 200 friends and neighbors showed up at his home singing Christmas carols!
October 13, 2021	Animal Rescue	A Minnesota high schooler with a passion for disabled animals has made giving them mobility her mission. Two years ago, after studying some YouTube tutorials online, 16-year-old “Shaine” took up the challenge of making hand-crafted pet wheelchairs for animals in need. And these mobility devices offer much more than mere creature comfort.... they are changing pets’ lives for the better, and even saving animals that might otherwise be “put down.”
October 15, 2021	Surviving Cancer	There’s nothing like a grandchild’s wedding to help you win that last battle against cancer! When 97-year-old Tennie Ivy was diagnosed with breast cancer last November, she wondered if this was going to be the end for her. But one thing prevented her from quitting – her grandchild’s wedding!
October 18, 2021	Supporting America’s Restaurant Workers	Two brothers made the 3,200-mile trek across America ON FOOT to support restaurant workers stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, hoping to raise money and share their stories along the way! Aiden and Louis Ardine have just completed their five-month walk which started on the Asbury Park boardwalk in New Jersey and ended at the Redwood National Forest outside of San Francisco. They hoped to raise \$30,000 but ended up making \$70,000—which they distributed to the <i>Restaurant Workers’ Community Foundation</i> .
October 20, 2021	Homelessness	Since the start of the year, one Ohio woman has been making bag lunches – dozens at a time before delivering them to people experiencing homelessness. 64-year-old Miranda Heard has made it her life’s calling to give of her time and paychecks in the service of others. Her bags are filled with chips, cookies, and even a special homemade chicken salad. She said, “Normally I do 50, but I had more people so now I’m doing 100! As I see it grow, then I will grow with it.” Ms. Heard has been paying for all the food herself but with limited funds, she can only afford to make the lunches once a month. Although she wishes she could do more, she makes sure to always save up enough to do this since she doesn’t consider her paychecks her own!
October 22, 2021	Youth Literacy	Still bandaged and in her hospital bed, one teacher wanted her students to know how much she cares for them. Just one day after K.D. Meucci had surgery to remove a brain tumor, she hopped on Facebook Live to read her elementary school students a bedtime story. K.D. is a 4th grade teacher at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. A few years ago, she started a Facebook page called,

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		<i>Franklin Bedtime Stories</i> , where every Thursday she or her students would read a story on Facebook Live.
October 25, 2021	Childhood Cancer Awareness	Just how far would you walk for your child? A young dad just completed a 1,200-mile trek from Maine to North Carolina over the course of 45 days – and he did it BAREFOOT! Army Major Chris Brannigan’s walk was part of an effort to raise money and awareness for a rare genetic disease with which his 9-year-old daughter, “Hasti,” is diagnosed. He and his wife also operate the charity, Hope for Hasti. Brannigan’s feet are badly blistered, callused, and he suffers some nerve damage, but he said it was all worth it to educate people about the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome. The barefoot walk raised \$125,000.
October 27, 2021	Helping Veterans Regain Mobility	For many of our wounded warriors, regaining mobility can be one of the difficult barriers to overcome. Well, a veteran who was severely injured in Afghanistan is working to change that. Marine veteran Josh Himan teamed up with his occupational therapist and driving rehab specialist to help ALL people with disabilities get back into the driver's seat. Together, they’ve developed the <i>Driver Rehabilitation Center of Excellence</i> (DRCE). Located in Fairfax, Virginia, DRCE will evaluate a driver and help them find auto-adaptive equipment to get them comfortably back on the road.
October 29, 2021	Job Training for Trauma Victims	Life on the street hasn’t been easy for Scott Mitchell. Four years of homelessness and drug use eventually landed him in a Las Vegas prison after stealing a car one cold February day to stay warm. That’s when he decided to make some better choices... one of those choices was signing up for the <i>Chosen for Success</i> job training program. It is a nonprofit that provides four days of job training and other support including “Emotional Intelligence” training, which helps participants deal with past trauma and work through their emotions.
November 1, 2021	School Safety	When a call for help went up at a Louisiana high school plagued by violence, who was there to answer the call? A group of concerned dads! A coalition of fathers stepped up at their local high school in Shreveport after a series of disturbing fights broke out over the course of a week. To help stop the violence, about 40 fathers came together and formed a support group called <i>Dads on Duty</i> . They take turns spending time at the school greeting students in the morning and helping maintain a positive environment for learning, rather than fighting. So far, the effort is working. There hasn't been a single incident on campus since the dads showed up.

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November 5, 2021	Transporting America's Youth	Well, a once high-ranking FBI official is making charting a new course in life serving America's youth... and he's doing it aboard a yellow school bus! It wasn't the career turn Mike Mason had imagined for himself. He was once the executive assistant director of the FBI, responsible for overseeing all criminal investigations; but in his retirement, he felt a need to help when he learned there was a shortage of school bus drivers. Since late April, Mason has been working for Virginia Public Schools as a bus driver.
November 8, 2021	Helping Veteran Amputees Regain mobility	She's been described as a female trailblazer for the US Army. Veteran Stephanie Vasquez has had 18 surgeries and a below-the-knee amputation after injuries from a firefight during her deployment in Afghanistan. Now she's been gifted a customized all-terrain wheelchair from <i>Freedom Alliance</i> , a national military support organization. The organization has been dedicated to helping veterans regain their mobility and independence with all-terrain wheelchairs for the last six years.
November 10, 2021	Honoring Veterans through Art	Originally, he wanted to be a paramedic, working on an ambulance... but Zach Smith, the owner of <i>US Veteran Woodworks</i> , said God had other plans! A few years ago, Zach discovered a skill for woodworking and art. His workshop is his garage, where he's created more than 8,000 pieces of art which have been shipped all over the world. But he's also found a way to give back to those who served. Families of the fallen now cherish the gift of his colorful art. So far, he's honored more than 20 families of the fallen, gifting them with a keepsake that honors their hero in a way nothing else can.
November 12, 2021	Animal Welfare	Eleven-year-old “Evan” leads a busy life in the Bronx, but he doesn't let his many interests — or even a pandemic — discourage him from his primary passion: helping socialize adoptable dogs by reading to them regularly. Evan is this year's <i>American Society of People Against Cruelty to Animals</i> ’ “Kid of the” Year because of his efforts at the Animal Care Centers of New York City. Always eager to help animals in need, Evan also creates fun animations of the animals and will even interview them in front of potential adopters so that they get placed in safe and loving homes.
November 15, 2021	Creating Fresh Hiring Opportunities	A brownie bakery outside New York City is creating sweet new hiring opportunities for all who have a passion for work! For the past four decades, Greyston Bakery in Yonkers, NY, has implemented a policy called "open hiring," which simply requires applicants to want to work -- no other questions asked. The bakery, which produces 12 million

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		pounds of brownies a year, wants all the help it can get. Employees say the open hire policy builds trust and drives ambition.
November 18, 2021	Helping Cancer Victims Feel Beautiful	Women undergoing chemotherapy treatment who deal with hair loss are getting a fresh confidence boost! A Washington D.C.-based program called <i>EBeauty</i> is supporting women across the county by providing free wigs and styling! Good quality wigs can cost anywhere from \$700 to \$7,000 and so EBeauty collects used wigs from women who no longer need them, refurbishes them, and then gives them to patients who can use them. They’ve distributed more than 55,000 wigs since the nonprofit began in 2011.
November 19, 2021	Giving the Gift of Music	They’re giving the gift of joy and confidence through the sound of music! The St. Louis non-profit <i>Pianos for People</i> gives away donated pianos to families that otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford them. Founder Jeanna Townsend felt the need to give back after her oldest son, Alex, a promising musician, and artist, died in a car accident when he was in college. Pianos for People also covers the cost of delivery by a professional mover, pays to tune the instrument, and even offers free lessons at their music school.
November 22, 2021	Giving Former Inmates a Second Chance	After spending 10 years in prison, a former inmate is helping others find freedom through fitness! After being released for the crime of drug trafficking, Hector Guadalupe had trouble finding a job on the outside because of his past. But thanks to his passion for fitness, he eventually prevailed making name for himself in the New York fitness scene... now he devotes much of his time helping others do the same. His non-profit, <i>A Second U Foundation</i> , helps formerly incarcerated men and women get certified as personal trainers and build careers in the fitness industry.
November 23, 2021	Animal Companions for Veterans	He spent most of his life serving in the Navy, now this veteran works as a volunteer to connect other veterans with life-long pets. Veteran Tom Lennon spent nearly 30 years in the Navy working as a pilot and a ship’s officer. The 72-year-old now works as a volunteer with <i>Veteran Companion Animal Services</i> , a Central Ohio organization that works with local shelters to pair veterans with a companion dog. Lennon said many of the veterans who apply suffer from PTSD or depression.
November 24, 2021	Creating a Healthy Workspace for Children	After the COVID-19 pandemic forced many students to attend school remotely, a Christian teacher from Central Iowa got busy making desks for children in need of a proper workspace. Nate Evans, who teaches at Des Moines Christian School in Urbandale, launched <i>Woodworking with a Purpose</i> last September when he realized that some students

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		didn't have a space at home to do their assignments. Nate recognized that it could be inconvenient for some children to have to do their homework at a kitchen table or on the floor. So far, he and his team have made over 2,100 desks.
December 3, 2021	Grocery Outreach	Well, for these two friends, it's more than about delivering groceries; it's about building the community. Over the past year, Maria Accardi and Constance Merritt have seen food pantries take a hard hit during the pandemic and so they responded by hand-delivering groceries and other essential items their community. They even started the Kentucky based non-profit <i>Bringing Justice Home</i> as a way to “create a community where everybody has what he or she needs to live a healthy life.”
December 7, 2021	Fighting Hunger	One non-profit is making sure no food goes to waste this Christmas! Leah Lizarondo launched <i>The Good Food Project</i> in 2015 to redirect food headed for the landfill back into household kitchens as healthy, heat-and-eat meals. All of the food is perfectly good to eat, but due to aesthetic standards and expiration dates, it can no longer be sold! Leah created an app that gives volunteers pick-up locations and delivery destinations, so they can jump in their car and close the gap between the food surplus and those who need it. The app, <i>FoodRescueHero</i> , is now used by a growing team of 25,000 volunteer drivers in 15 cities.
December 8, 2021	Developing Food Assistance Networks Amidst COVID	As the COVID pandemic continues, church-run food pantries are determined to adapt and expand. Despite the temperature hovering near freezing in Woodstock, Illinois, over two dozen volunteers brave the cold outside Grace Lutheran Church carrying boxes of groceries as cars drive up to their mobile food pantry. Best of all, they're doing it with a smile. “If it stays like this all winter,” one volunteer said, “it will be great.” The pandemic has pushed the church to collaborate with other ministries to develop a food assistance network. So, with the help of Northern Illinois Food Bank, they set up an online program. Called <i>My Pantry Express</i> , it allows people to order groceries like fresh produce and staples online and then pick them up at distribution sites.
December 9, 2021	Toys for Needy Children	A brother and sister from Ohio are spreading the joy of Christmas by donating tens of thousands of toys to sick children! Tyler and Monica Slaven have donated nearly 50,000 toys to one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the country through their annual holiday toy drive. This year, the siblings are hoping to bring another 11,500 toys for the children at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. The

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		toys are packed in a U-Haul vehicle and various cars and taken directly to the children.
December 13, 2021	Disaster Response – Kentucky Tornadoes	The humanitarian ministry <i>Samaritan's Purse</i> has already sent teams with equipment and supplies to respond to the devastation. Disaster Response units are currently on the ground in Arkansas and Kentucky. They're encouraging everyone who wants to help in the relief efforts to sign up at spvolunteer.org . President Franklin Graham said, "The greatest thing we can do right now is pray. Pray for the people that lost everything. They NEED our prayers."
December 14, 2021	Kentucky Disaster Relief	Thousands of people are picking up the pieces after devastating tornadoes ripped across the Midwest and South last week. But on the ground, we see neighbors helping neighbors! Several relief organizations have jumped into action! In Illinois, the <i>Midwest Food Bank</i> and <i>Salvation Army</i> brought food and supplies across border lines to the Kentucky tornado survivors. <i>The Ohio Task Force One</i> deployed a team to the Bluegrass State, helping gather essential items to the areas hit hardest by the storms. <i>Operation BBQ Relief</i> , a nonprofit that serves barbecue to disaster victims, is opening a mobile kitchen to provide up to 25,000 meals per day!
December 15, 2021	Ministering to the Homeless	A church in Massachusetts has donated 200 backpacks filled with supplies and Bibles to two police departments to help the local homeless population. Matt Whitacre at Life Point Church said, "the idea is that officers will carry these packs in their cars, and when they come across or have a call involving someone from the homeless community, they can give it to them!" Each donated backpack contains a Bible, blanket, and sweater, plus handfuls of items like deodorant, toilet paper, and toothpaste.
December 16, 2021	Giving Back Christmas for Charity	Christmas is the season of giving AND giving back! A former homeless man has decorated his home with more than 16,000 Christmas lights to raise money for a local homeless charity. Fifteen years ago, Mark Abbott was registered as homeless. He said, "Because of that experience, I realized how important it is to have a home to which you can go back. For that reason, I decided to use the light display to raise money for St Martin's homeless charity." Mark is hoping the winter wonderland will raise funds for the charity which offers emergency residential care to sofa surfers and those at risk of becoming homeless.
December 17, 2021	Toys for Kentucky Disaster Victims	As the people of Kentucky continue the cleanup effort in the aftermath of last week's tornado disaster, A northern Michigan man flew to

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		Mayfield, Kentucky in a plane filled with toys! Timothy Baise runs <i>Homeless Angels</i> , a street-based outreach in Lansing, Michigan. While he was at the organization's toy drive this past weekend, he talked with the manager of the Mayfield Airport to find out what he should send to help those affected by the tornados. Surrounded by thousands of toys, he said he couldn't believe it when the manager told him to send just that – toys – lot of TOYS! He estimates that around 1,000 toys were delivered.
December 28, 2021	Giving Christmas to Needy Children	A Kentucky man wanted to ensure that the kids in his community had a special holiday season despite losing nearly everything in the deadly tornadoes — and he's been on a mission to make it happen. Shawn Triplett, a retired U.S. Marine who now works as a volunteer at a local elementary school, witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by the tornadoes. He recalled one child telling his mom at a church shelter, “I’ve lost my Christmas.” After that moment, he decided to ask friends and family to donate money so he could buy toys for the children who were impacted. Since launching his GoFundMe page three days ago, Shawn has raised over \$44,000, an amount he says is humbling and overwhelmingly incredible!
December 29, 2021	Feeding School Children at Christmas	A North Carolina teacher said with the help of donations from the community, she was able to buy \$100,000 worth of groceries at Costco to help feed 5,000 students in Durham Public Schools through the holiday break. Last Wednesday, Turquoise Parker, the teacher behind the “foodraiser,” was in the gym at Lakewood Elementary, filling up paper bags with bread, mac & cheese, beans, and other groceries. She was able to collect enough groceries to feed all students from 12 different school districts through the holiday break.