

ALFF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2022 has been an amazing year. By God's grace we have accomplished a lot to the glory of God. We have seen our weekly attendance on Sundays increase by 30%. The relaunch of our children's church was another great milestone of the much-needed ministry to our children.



This year during black history month, we highlighted the stories of several men and women in history who made a difference in their time and are celebrated today as legends. May we carry on their legacy.

We had a great Easter celebration that presented a powerful skit, praise dance and worship. It was a joy seeing two souls come to Christ. We thank God we have five people join the church this year.

Over the

Summer, we hosted the Northbrook community outreach event. The event was a good opportunity for us to interact and minister to the local community, hence, fulfilling the great commission.

One of the highlights of the sermon series was on healing. God was at work setting people free and healing broken hearts. We are grateful to God for a move of His spirit bringing wholeness and redemption.



Looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2023.

Co-laborers in Christ, *Pastor Boniface G. Gitau*

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Abundant Life participates in the Cincinnati Kroger Community Rewards Program, a program whereby ALFF receives money from Kroger based on the amount of money our participating members spend in their retail stores. We had 9 households participating in 2022 and received **\$135.00** from Kroger. Please contact Denise James at 513-607-2241 if you'd like to participate.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our goal in Christian Education is to influence lives while teaching the Word of God. We offer several classes to accomplish this purpose:

Sunday School: During our weekly Sunday studies we grow in our understanding of God's Word and have the opportunity to ask questions we may not otherwise get to ask and receive answers from multiple teachers. We love studying the Word and invite you to join and grow with us as we apply God's Word to our daily lives.

Wednesday Spiritual Growth & Wellness classes: Spiritual Growth is an important part of learning to be a disciple of Christ and our Weekly Bible study concentrates on Spiritual growth and wellness. Since God is interested in our entire body, soul and spirit, we incorporate lessons that promote wellness of all three. Join us every Wednesday at 7:00 PM as we help people learn how to live a more abundant life.

Thursday Bible Study – Bi-monthly (1st and 3rd Thursdays at noon): We are a small, but dedicated group that loves learning about the Lord and we take turns researching topics so all get to use their spiritual gifts to both facilitate and participate. We benefit from sharing knowledge and learning from each other as it helps us make better choices ourselves which we can, in turn, pass on to others.

Orientation & New Members Class: Once a person decides to join ALFF we offer classes to welcome them into the church. The classes include our Orientation classes which educate on the church's history, and additional learning and development opportunities by teaching spiritual growth classes that educate on important biblical principles that are important to discipleship. Our goal is to teach how to get to know who God is in order to deepen their relationship with Jesus. It's exciting that 5 people joined ALFF in 2022, and we expect to see an even bigger increase in 2023. Leaders: Denise James (513) 607-2241 & Carol Prince

MEN'S MINISTRY

Our mission statement - *Connecting with God, Other Men & Being a Role Model.* Our guiding scripture is Proverbs 27:17 Amp. *As iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens [and influences] another [through discussion].*

Men's Talk is a bi-monthly (1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7PM) zoom meeting where we have candid talks on topics and real issues that affect men in their family, marriage, work life, community or other personal life, and it's a safe place to address anger issues, unforgiveness, and other vulnerable topics. All men, young and old, are welcome.

2022 Highlight: We had a powerful men's breakfast with over 35 young and older men gathered to worship and inspire one another. The young men shared about their aspirations and asked questions while the older men shared their life experiences and gave wise counsel. We look forward to the next men's events. Leaders: Pastor Boniface G. Gitau (513) 260-6579 & Jamie Mahaffey (513) 617-8663



ALFF YOUTH MINISTRY - Mission Statement

Our goal is to have a balanced youth ministry consisting of worship, fellowship, discipleship, and evangelism, by our teachers teaching the Word of God in a practical manner to assist young people in reaching their full potential, with an ability to make the decision to accept Christ in their lives. **Youth Sunday School** is every Sunday Morning with quarterly **Youth Meetings** on Saturdays. Leaders: Pastor Darrel Pearson (513) 344-4151 & Phileana Pearson (513) 557-6519

Children's Church Ministry: Children's Church re-opened Easter Sunday of this year. Since reopening, average attendance is 13-15 children monthly and 6 Visitors. Currently we have two age group classes: 5-8 and 9-11, and future goals are to have a Nursery and a 3-5 age group class. Children must be registered prior to attending. Lessons consist of faith-based activities, which children can share with family of what they did. Leaders: Valerie Miller (513-390-1954) & Carol Prince

FOOD PANTRY – Last year we served over eight hundred and thirty people, one hundred and sixty-seven of them were new to our food Giveaway program. It is always a blessing to serve the local community and beyond. Quite a number of seniors have benefited from this program. Contact persons: Nikki Gibson-Morgan (513) 258-6410 or Phileana Pearson (513) 557-6519.



MISSIONS: ALFF has been actively involved in missions in Kenya, and the church has been supporting pastors and church leaders in trainings, church growth and distribution of Bibles through the partnership of Pastor Timothy Gakunju. The church is also involved with empowering the next generation of young elite leaders in Africa through a youth program sponsored by New Vision School of Leadership.



For more information contact Elder Steve or Pastor Boniface (513) 742-1159

MEDIA MINISTRY: Since the pandemic, online media has become a reality in many churches. Our media ministry has been working hard to improve our technology. We now have our Sunday services streaming on both YouTube and Facebook live. We have had people viewing live from different states and countries such as Iran, Uganda and Kenya. Our Facebook live viewership averages about 135 per service and on special events as high as 400 views. One way to help us grow our audience is by sharing our live streams on your Facebook page or by sharing our YouTube channel (Abundant Life Faith Fellowship Church, Cincinnati). To view past services, click on the live option on our YouTube channel. For more information contact Lamont Brown (513) 200-9119 or Jameze Latril.

Testimony

Some time last year we had the opportunity to minister to a young man and his family who had been badly injured and had been hospitalized for a long time. His family were about to lose their home due to rent arrears. Through the generous donations of our members and others, they got caught up in their payments and were glad to retain their home. It is always a joy for us to use our God-given resources to meet some of the needs of those the Lord allows to cross our path.

PRAYER MINISTRY: This year our prayer ministry returned in full force to Saturday Morning Corporate Prayer for any prayer requests that are received. We also started an Intercessory Team currently made up of Altar Workers and Saturday Prayer Facilitators who pray via text when various requests are received. This year's 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting partnered with our Wednesday Night Wellness Classes. Upcoming will be a Prayer Breakfast in late January. Leader – Carol Prince (513) 365-1788

OTHER EVENTS

Honoring Veterans: Fifteen veterans were honored in 2022, as well as 3 posthumously. Some had their faith strengthened and grew closer to God as God showed them how to depend on Him in all circumstances.



Thanksgiving baskets: This year we were privileged to serve more than forty families with Thanksgiving Baskets. This is always a great opportunity to share with families in need during the holiday seasons. Through this outreach, we had the opportunity to minister to a young couple who had recently lost their jobs and were trying to get back on their feet. The donation baskets were made possible through the partnership of Crossroads Church, North College Hill Elementary school and our church contributions.

Counseling Ministry: This year we have opened faith-based counseling that can be provided via zoom. We are here to help you resolve relationship problems for marriages, family and life issues; to learn to improve communication and resolve conflicts. All information is held in strict confidence. Appointments can be made by calling the church office or requesting on our church website under counseling.

2022 Celebration of Life: We lost two of our cherished members this year, Sister Laura Brown and Sister Jean Gibson. Both were faithful members at ALFF for many years. While we know their passing has left a void in our lives, we remember with joy and gratitude the life we shared with them. Both will be deeply missed by their church family.



Dare to Believe

2022 was a good year, as we made new strides in relaunching ministries after coming through the setbacks of COVID, but I believe God has a lot more for us. When it comes to the purpose and plan of God, I want all He has for us. I desire the vision and mission God has given us to become a living reality. What we have done in 2022 is great, but I desire a greater experience of the outpouring of the blessings of God as we walk together through the promises of God's word. I have a saying, "If you are not living on the edge you are taking up too much space."

I invite you to join me on the edge of the happenings of God and let's see together what God will do in us and through us in 2023, as we truly become vessels of honor. I **Dare** you, I double dog dare you, to imagine what our church could be like.

Imagine an even more generous church, if that's possible. I believe the series on giving that we began this year, has been God ordained.

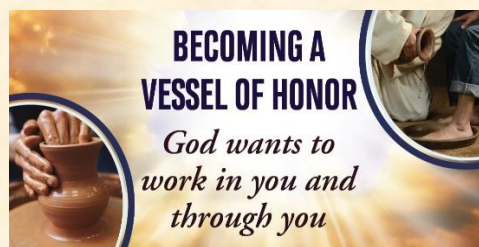
Imagine a church that is a nontraditional group of people who love Jesus and others, like Christ loves the church. Imagine a church that has open arms to the lost and others who don't look like them. Imagine a church that gives immature believers a chance to grow into a mature man or woman of God without unfair condemnation. Imagine a church with surrendered and transformed souls, that are open-minded, spiritually balanced, and hopeful. Imagine a church who are dreamers who march to the same drum beat of nothing is impossible with God. Imagine a church who are workers together with God, not caring who gets the credit, other than God. Imagine a church with no big I's, and little U's, they have truly become one body in Christ. Imagine a church who understands no one can make it alone; so, they are grace givers and team players who strive together for excellence. Imagine a church who is truly willing to seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, above their own life. Imagine a church who truly understands what it means to be a living sacrifice. Imagine a church who are risk takers and dreamers, young and old, who are excited about God, and enjoy sharing the Good News in a creative, culturally current way. They serve together, play together, worship together and share each other's triumphs and trials. They are family.

They Are Us

Elder Steve

Thanks for your support:

Your financial contributions helps us make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, local communities and overseas missions. We are equally grateful for all our volunteers for creating time and using their skills and talents to serve others. May the Lord continue to bless you.



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