

Middletown Messenger

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Reaping A Bountiful Harvest of Souls

On Friday, September 14, over 90 community guests and church members gathered in Middletown's sanctuary for the exciting opening night of the "Unlocking Revelation" prophecy series. Evangelist Romone Gibbs facilitated the topic "The Next World Superpower" in a clear and powerful way.

In preparation for the event, over 18,000 handbills were mailed throughout metropolitan Louisville. Greeters, parking lot attendants, childcare providers, security, and other volunteers



from Middletown's congregation were at their posts, ready to receive their guests.

At least 128 attendees registered onsite, and an average of 40-60 people attended the meetings held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings for seven weekends. A solid core group of church members attended on a regular basis in keeping with the "ministry of attendance" as encouraged by Pastor Marius Serban. Thanks to Middletown's recently-launched live-streaming technology, the

sermons were broadcast live via the church's YouTube channel. This provided an even greater reach for the life-changing lessons being presented.

Attendees had the opportunity to mingle, get acquainted, and enjoy light refreshments in the lobby following each meeting. Members remarked how much they appreciated that the nightly messages were presented in a Jesus-centered way that was brand-new to them. Guests could not say enough about how amazed they were at the Bible-based truths they were hearing that they had never heard before.

The last Sabbath in September was a high day as four ladies were baptized following months of weekly Bible studies with Romone: Mary Jean Thompson-Dietz who first visited Middletown while attending "8 Weeks to Wellness", Pam Kellner who met Pastor Marius through a community group, Heather Wieging who was a Bible study contact of Bible worker Natasha Brown, and Jocelyn Thompson who found Middletown on her own while seeking a new church home after

relocating to Louisville.

Eleven precious souls were baptized during a another high celebration that was truly a family



affair on Sabbath, October 27. This event was the culmination of the evangelistic meetings. Nine young people, including three pairs of sisters, were baptized by youth

leader Elder Joey Karr: Rosestan and Stanley Mae Cooper, Chloe and Krysta Godinez, Aleesha and Tyeshia Izean, Ena Sikes, his niece, Abigail Hosler, and his son, Jacob "Jake" Karr. The youth had prepared for baptism through months of weekly Bible studies with Pastor Marius. Also, two adults rededicated their lives to Christ through rebaptism: Cathy Hosler (baptized by her sister, Elder Stephanie Karr) and Elly Ojwang who recently relocated with his family to Louisville.

Several more individuals have made decisions to be baptized or rebaptized on the first Sabbath in December. Middletown praises God for blessing their efforts to reap such a bountiful harvest of souls for the kingdom!



E V E N T S

NOVEMBER

3•Fellowship Meal

10•Holy Communion

10•Ministry Fair & Chili/Soup Cookoff

10•LAA SA Bonfire @ LAA

DECEMBER

1•Fellowship Meal

1•Community Christmas Concert feat. In Rare Form



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"A safe environment... where people relationships become kingdom relationships"

From Friendly to Family

Middletowners pride themselves on being the "friendly church", and the reason behind this nickname is evident from the warm smiles of our pastor and greeters to the firm handshakes and big hugs offered during "Meet & Greet" time. And while it's a beautiful thing to experience our friendliness as a guest, it gets even better after one becomes part of our growing family.

Believing by faith that the ongoing Bible studies and fall evangelistic meetings would draw new members to the church, leadership decided that a special celebration should be planned to welcome those new members and help them make the transition from friendly to family. To this end,

the Special Events Ministry hosted the first New Member Welcome Celebration on the evening of Saturday, October 27.

The celebration kicked off with brief, personal introductions of the new members by



Romone Gibbs and Pastor Marius Serban followed by a presentation featuring pictures and video vignettes describing how four of them first came to Middletown. Afterwards, several established members shared what they

love most about being at Middletown.

Stephanie Karr and her team provided a delicious meal including chili, fresh fruit, hummus and chips, finger sandwiches, and a beautiful "Welcome To the Middletown Church Family" cake.

Following the meal, Danny Dubosque hosted an energetic round of interactive group games designed to help attendees get to know each other better. As laughter filled the room, several people remarked that they really enjoyed how the games gave them new things to chat about with one another later on.

Hopefully our first welcome celebration will be the start of many beautiful friendships!

The Truth About EACM



Shiny Varughese, a long-time member of Middletown, is also a full-time employee of EACM, a local organization that the church partners with. We asked Shiny...

Q: What is EACM, how does it operate, and what is its mission and purpose?

A: Eastern Area Community Ministries, or EACM, is part of Louisville's Association of Community Ministries. EACM serves families from all walks of life in eastern Jefferson County who are experiencing or on the verge of crisis. They provide emergency assistance such as help with rent, utilities, food, baby supplies, clothing, multicultural services such as ESL classes, one-on-one case management, and referrals to other resources.

Q: What is your role with EACM?

A: I'm a case manager with the Helping Hands Partnership Program which empowers families to become self-reliant. Its goal is to get families back on their feet so that their crisis situation does not become permanent. I help clients to set and achieve long- and short-term goals.

Participants have the opportunity to engage in healthy living activities each month allowing them the option to "shop" for their food in our food pantry. We rely on community donations to stock EACM's pantry in order to provide these items to our clients.

Q: What are some ways that Middletown currently participates with EACM?

A: Middletown has hosted the annual Christmas Store for the last five years. Church volunteers connect with other area churches to bring in donations of cash, clothing, toys, and small household items. During the first week of December, the store opens for three days in our fellowship hall for families to come and shop for gifts. We provide volunteers for things like set-up and gift wrapping. In addition, Middletown provides auction baskets for the EACM spring fundraiser. Client families are also invited to participate in Middletown's health events such as "Diabetes Undone" and "Freedom From Smoking". Throughout the year, our congregation donates food, health literature, clothing, and other items.

Q: Why is Middletown's partnership with EACM so important?

A: EACM's services have been life changing for many of our neighbors and church members in the past. Our church's participation in their programs and events is an outreach and witnessing opportunity that represents our church well in the community. Without the help of area churches like Middletown, EACM could not do what it does for families in crisis.

Q: How can members get more involved with what Middletown is doing to support EACM?

A: Please come and tour our facility because the only way to really understand what EACM does is to see our day-to-day activities. Every first Thursday, we host "Explore EACM" at 9104 Westport Road. You can also just drop in or call me at 502-426-2824 Ext. 306 for more details. In December, please volunteer at the Christmas Store. You can also place food items in the donation barrel in the church foyer and participate whenever EACM projects are advertised in the church bulletin.