

Love like Ruth

I still remember the first school I applied to and was accepted. It was this time of year back in 2006 at Harding University. I didn't end up going to Harding. I ended up going to a school I didn't apply to until after being asked to go to play baseball. Though I didn't go to Harding, I still remember the excitement and relief that came with the acceptance. Acceptance is an important part of life. Acceptance is an important part of the book of Ruth. It's not acceptance by the world, however, in the book of Ruth. It's acceptance by God and acceptance by God's people that are being highlighted in the book of Ruth.

In the days of the Judges, a famine in Canaan forced Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, along with their two sons, to leave Bethlehem and migrate eastward across the Jordan into the region of Moab. There, the two sons married Moabite women, one of whom was Ruth. Eventually, both Naomi and Ruth were widowed, hence they returned to Bethlehem. Ruth's magnificent and unselfish plea to accompany her mother-in-law "where you go, I will go" (Ruth 1:16-17) has echoed across the centuries, and is a remarkable insight into the richness of her character. Near Bethlehem, Ruth went to work in the grain fields. There she met and ultimately married the benevolent Boaz, an older gentleman who was a "kinsman" by marriage. God's acceptance came to Ruth through Boaz. They were blessed with a son, Obed, who eventually became the grandfather of King David, from whom Jesus descended.

The book of Ruth is centered around love. Showing love in the right way to please God and to be accepted by God. Ruth's ability to accept the kindness of others is the example of God's love for the world. The book of Ruth should have helped prepare Jewish minds for the arrival of their Messiah. Tragically, many of them rejected him. However, his atoning death is available still for those who acknowledge his identity, and obey his plan for redemption. I hope that the book of Ruth for you can allow you to feel God's acceptance. Use that acceptance and believe in it fully and without doubt. When we are able to do that we can truly seek others and show them the kind of love that Ruth was able to show. That love in the form of acceptance. How will you love like Ruth this week?

Prayers

- **Diane Acock**—health
Lauren Babb's step-mother
 - **Pauline Alvarez**—health
 - **Norma Anderson**—health
Cheryl Pitts' friend
 - **Dawn Clarke**
 - **Paul Faies**—health
Joyce's son
 - **Steven Faies**
 - **Justin Gammons**
 - **Nelle Hahn**—health
 - **Family & friends of Bradley Reese Haile**
The Linds' friend
 - **Brandon Jiron**—health
Paige Mills' cousin
- **The Johnson family**
Serena Gammons' friends
 - **Curtis Jones, Sr.**—Alzheimer's
 - **Curtis Jones, III**—Army
 - **Mandy Kasper**—health
Winegearts' daughter
 - **Jeanette Laging**—health
 - **The Latham family**
 - **Austin & Molly Lind**—health
Henry & Pam's son and daughter-in-law
 - **Martha McCarter**—health
Lauren Babb's grandmother
 - **Ted & Christalina Muniz**—marriage
- **Oretha Pennock**—health
Debbie Fougerat's mother
 - **Don Pitts**—health
 - **Sharon Saint**—health
Zach Babb's mother
 - **Calvin Salois**—health
Winegearts' son-in-law
 - **Dana Spradlin**—health
 - **Casey, Barbie & Elianna Timms**—Elianna's health
 - **Nancy Tuttle**—health
Peggy Walls' sister
 - **Susan Williamson**—health
Lauren Babb's mother

Announcements

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Please join us **next Sunday at 6 p.m.** for our Community Thanksgiving Service, hosted in partnership with the Ministerial Alliance. We will have a meal following the service. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact Shelley Hendershot.

DONATIONS FOR THE HEIGHTS
Donations are needed for The Heights store and auction. A drop-off box is located in the foyer. Also in the foyer is a list of suggested donations.

ISF THANKSGIVING DINNER
Mark your calendars! This year's Thanksgiving Dinner at ISF is on **Friday, Nov. 15.** We will prep the meal next Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. in the annex. Please sign up in the foyer to bring desserts and if you plan to attend.

ROCKY CREEK MAZE
Youth and their families are invited to join us on **Sunday, Nov. 17, at 2 p.m.** at Rocky Creek Maze in Moulton. **If you plan to attend, please sign up in the foyer by Wednesday, Nov. 13.** You may pick up a flyer in the foyer for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: LEGACY RANCH
Legacy Ranch is hosting its annual Christmas Party on **December 14.** First time volunteers must complete a volunteer packet ahead of time. For more information, please contact Charlotte Ludwig at (830) 875-6062.

By the Numbers

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE		
Bible Study—31		
Sunday Morning—45		
ISF Residents—10		
WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION		
	LAST WEEK	YTD
Offering	\$2,801	\$94,519
Special	\$100	
Budget	\$2,142	\$92,049
Difference	\$760	\$2,470

IF YOU HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PRAYER REQUESTS YOU WISH TO HAVE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN, PLEASE CONTACT: VICTORIA JOHNSON AT 325-518-9205 OR VICTORIA@GONZALESCHURCHOFCHRIST.ORG.


Weekly Events

SUNDAY EVENING
There is a small group that meets each Sunday evening from **6-7 p.m.** The Lord's Supper is available.

TUESDAY MORNING
All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Class meets **Tuesday at noon** in the annex.

Youth Sports & Activities

 **MONDAY, OCT. 28**
CROSS COUNTRY
GONZALES HS @ STATE MEET
(OLD SETTLERS PARK, ROUND ROCK)

COACH KEVIN JOHNSON—GONZALES HS CROSS COUNTRY