October 2026

The Lighthouse

False Idols

Jeremiah 2:[11]*Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.*
[12]*Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the* LORD, [13]*for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.*

Who is your God? The Bible makes it clear that there is actually only one true, real, living God. His name is Yahweh. There are other so-called gods that human beings worship and follow; but they are not real, nor are they living. These were all simply idols that human beings made out of wood, metal or stone.

"*For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*" (Romans 11:36, ESV)
All things are from our God. He created everything, and anything you have is from God. All things are through him. Nothing happens that is not allowed by God. Everything passes through him. All things are to him. Everything is about him. To him be glory forever! To him be *glory* – weight, value, honor. He is the ultimate thing that matters. Everything pales in comparison to him. Nothing in this world, in the universe, in all of anything is as important as he is. He is the pinnacle, the apex, all in all.

This is Yahweh, the one, true, living God. Is he your god? Is he the god you follow? Is he the god you worship? Is he the one to whom you ascribe ultimate worth and value?

Do you treat him as if all things are from him and through him and to him? Do you treat him as if he matters more than anything else in your life? I am certain that not one person, including myself, truly and perfectly treats God as

if he were our God. We treat so many other things as more important than God - our careers, our financial status, our families, our own comfort, our pleasure. These are the things that we are tempted to actually believe are most important in life – not God. We look to created things to bless us and to satisfy us rather than the Creator.
When you really look deep and boil it down to the most basic thing that matters – it comes out to be ourselves – what we want, what we desire. We are as guilty as these people to whom Jeremiah is preaching.

What we have done when we look to something beside God for blessing and satisfaction is exactly what the people in Jeremiah's day had done. They worshipped carved idols. We worship our own counterfeit gods. When we give something besides God the place of utmost value in our lives, we have changed from the true god, to a god that is no god . We have traded that which is our glory, or value for that which does not profit. We have forsaken the fountain of living waters, and hewed out broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Verse 11 says, *[11]But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.* The language here is financial language. The word glory comes from the word meaning "weight" or "value." So the accusation here is that the people have exchanged something that was theirs and was of the utmost value for something that is worthless, something that is of no gain.

Idols, other gods, the created things we worship – they are false and they cannot give you what only God can give you. An idol cannot give you love, security, peace, joy – neither can a bank account, neither can pleasure or fame. Only God can bless you fully and eternally. Worshipping anything besides God is a bad investment. It is a poor trade of indescribable magnitude.

Not only is it a bad investment but, it is unsatisfying. It is foolish for a person to leave a living fountain and seek a cistern for water. Cisterns are dry and depend on water coming from somewhere else; but a fountain has its own spring. The water is flowing, clean and safe. An idol is a broken cistern. It cannot hold water.

John Calvin comments, "We now perceive what the Prophet meant, — that we cannot possibly be free from guilt when we leave the only true God, as in him is found for us a fullness of all blessings, and from him we may draw what may fully satisfy us. When therefore we despise the bounty of God, which is sufficient to make us in every way happy, how great must be our ingratitude and wickedness? Yet God remains ever like himself: as then he has called himself the fountain of living waters, we shall at this day find him to be so, except he is prevented by our wickedness and neglect."

John 7: *[37]On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38]Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "*

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Tim

Meet the Missionaries:

John and Cathy Rug

John and Cathy Rug have been part of our mission outreach for many years. John is blind and has been blind from birth, but that has not kept him from a life of service to the Lord. The Rugs have served as church planters in Chile since 1986. They live in Concón, Chile, where they are part of an international church planting team. In addition to being part of the church planting team, John and Cathy established the CEMIPRE (Presbyterian Ministry Center) Foundation to reach those with visual disabilities, seeking to address their spiritual, emotional, and physical concerns. This ministry is especially needed there because there are so few resources available in Chile for the visually impaired.

The Rugs have a very fruitful and diverse ministry. They have housed people displaced by recent devastating fires, helped victims of abuse, and even helped teach a blind man to use a chain saw (yikes!). They are dedicated to applying the gospel to Chile's "disposable" peoples, especially the blind.

Their ministry with CEMIPRE encourages sound local churches and church plants to disciple those with disabilities. CEMIPRE also provides training for eye clinics, hospital staff, and businessmen, preparing them to better serve those with low vision and blindness. They are excited to be part of sharing a biblical world view, not only to the church, but the community at large.

John has been to our church for several mission conferences, always accompanied by his seeing-eye dog. During one mission conference John was staying with me and his seeing-eye dog, Mason at that time, ate an entire packet of freeze-dried coffee, foil and all. Of course it was on a Saturday night. We called the emergency vet, and they said get him here at once – that coffee could be deadly poison to a dog! We raced to the vet and they were able to make him throw it up and save him. He was okay, and was able to guide John the next day at church. One sad note: some months after getting back to Chile, Mason got into some rat poison.

They took him to the vet and explained what the vet here did, but the vet in Chile delayed too long and Mason died.

John's dogs have always been a great source of interest for the kids in the church. When John removes the guide harness, the dog is off duty and can be petted. John's dog not only helps John to get around, but is a source of encouragement to the visually impaired with whom he ministers.

John always makes clear that he is not disabled; he is differently enabled. We hope to see him again soon, but don't pet the dog when he's on duty!





Dear friends and family,

As I sit down to write a new prayer letter, it sometimes can be overwhelming! How can I possibly communicate the richness and blessings to be able to participate in the ministry here in Chile. There is no way to express the joy of leading a person limited to visual darkness into the Light of Jesus. How can I describe the heartache of receiving a battered wife in our home, only to see her return to the aggressor with an apology to us for having "blown things out of proportion....she was in no danger, really". Or how do I share the humbling experience of receiving a note of gratitude from someone we ministered to 35 years ago? It truly is an amazing, gratifying, heat breaking, and thrilling journey! Nevertheless, I will try to bring you all up-to-date in a small way.

The Lord has been busy in our churches!
Trinity Church of Reñaca--August 9: Three new deacons ordained, relieving the strain on the original two deacons; August 16: 12 new members received, two baptisms, (John had the privilege of preaching and doing the baptisms).
Trinity Church of Concón--August 16: 26 new members received (where MTW missionaries David and Danielle Grotton minister).
La Dehesa, Santiago--August 16: First worship service (long term dream of many, including MTW missionary, Verne Marshall).



CEMIPRE, our ministry to those with a visual disability, also has been blessed! Just in April, we had 25 new people participating in braille

classes, technology (how to use computers and phone with adaptive technology for the blind), physical therapy (including cane travel) and personal spiritual counseling. We are more convinced than ever that this ministry is from the Lord and a vital resource for the communities we serve.

Since March, the CEMIPRE team has visited 6 local churches to share the vision of this ministry, prepare them to receive and embrace the blind in their fellowship, as well as raising prayer support, financial backing and volunteers. Recently we held a training session for the new volunteers providing them with information, a short practical lesson in cane travel and demonstrations of the different classes we offer. We are thrilled that six of our participants are currently involved in 4 different churches!


Visiting churches


Orientation session for new volunteers





However, we are facing enormous financial necessities. We are currently falling short of our monthly needs by over $4,000 USD! This is because of various factors including several rent increases (these are totally appropriate for the property, but still overwhelming), increased personnel to cover all the instructional and physical plant needs, a part-time chaplain, as well as being able to meet the needs of the increasing number of participants.

Please prayerfully consider supporting CEMIPRE with either a monthly pledge or a one-time gift. We truly believe the Lord is in this ministry, and we trust him to provide according to His perfect will.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you.

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New Sermon Series!

Beginning on November 1st, Pastor Kyle will be preaching an 8-week sermon series on the lives and ministries of the prophets, Elijah and Elisha, during our evening service. We will look at how God sends the prophets to call Israel and Judah back to the Lord and how their impact extended far beyond the boundaries of Israel. Their stories form the framework of 1 and 2 Kings and continue to show us how God will always provide for his people. Please join us at 5:00 p.m., beginning on November 1st, as our new sermon series will help us to reflect on the two basic frameworks that allow us to see Jesus Christ in Elijah and Elisha.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kyle

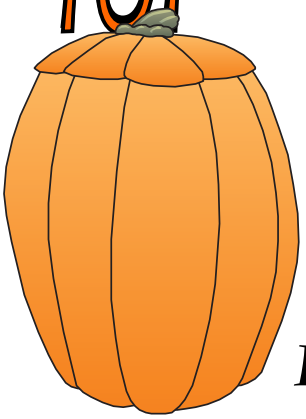
Shepherding List

David Allen	Ben Bowden	John Chaney
Bowden, Diane	Bagby, Andy	Allen, David
Chaney, John	Brookhart, Warren	Glidewell, Lenny
de La Rie, Anky	Brookhart, Linda	Glidewell, Joy
Gosnell, Ken	Clark, Mike	Glidewell, Joy Lynn
Gosnell, Joan	Clark, Kim	Kuhn, Karen
Kooienga, Marilyn	Genzer, Frank	Mann, Greg
Malthaner, Scott	Lustig, Steve	Pennell, Ken
Moseley, Jim	Lustig, Michelle	Rydbeck, Lynne
Moseley, Elizabeth	Mavar, Nancy	Smith, Aaron
Pennington, Phillip	Palmer, Kyle	Smith, Chris
Rhett, Charlotte	Palmer, McLaurin	Smith, Ellie
Washington, D'Andre	Palmer, Navarro	Smith, Gideon
	Palmer, Solomon	Smith, Evelyn
		Turney, Tammy
Regular Attenders	**Regular Attenders**	**Regular Attenders**
Bergland, John	Collins, Glen	Bowden, Opal
Hicks, Bryce	Collins, Susan	Curry, Marolyn
Hicks, Gayle	Harrison, Tom	Eckel, Matthew
Hung, Leo	Sprague, Heather	Kornman, June
Tsai, Phoebe		
Jasinski, Cathy		
Smith, Maria		

Mike Clark	Jeff Harrison	Aaron Smith
Bagby, Fran	Bowden, Ben	Blakeney, Jonathan
Bagby, Norman	Bowden, Julia	Blakeney, Elizabeth
Gauthier, Joan	Bowden, Gabbie	Blakeney, Peter
Gauthier, Tricia	Butchers, Kayleigh	Blakeney, Matthew
Harding, Phil	Davenport, Kathy	Blakeney, Hannah
Harding, Vielsa	Edwards, Kathleen	Estabrook, Galadriel
Harrison, Jeff	Gryder, Eloise	Estabrook, Asilia
Harrison, Katherine	Handel, Fran	Clark, Nick
Misner, Janet	Misko, Amy	Horn, Sarah
Misner, Jim	Roach, Rachel	Horn, Tim
Pringle, Kay	VanderKooy, Steve	VanderKooy, Aaron
Roch, Carol	VanderKooy, Kathy	Willson, Ben
Venning, Mike	VanderKooy, Ashley	Willson, Kerri
Venning, Laura	O'Malley, Harriett	Willson, Lane
Venning, Jacob		Willson, Claire
Venning, Eli		Willson, Corinne
Venning, Rachael		Willson, Rosie
Regular Attenders	**Regular Attenders**	**Regular Attenders**
Dent, Mike	Bishop, Linda	Diaz, Manuel (3)
Dent, Elaine	Butchers, Simon	Diaz, Ashley
Garrett, Dan	Gonzales, Maria	VanderKooy, GG
Garrett, Christine	Olmstead, Tom	Paul, Buddy (4)
Williams, Ron	Parker, Sharon	Paul, Jade
	Roach, John	
	Shaw, Pat	

Updated September 14, 2026

BIRTHDAY for OCTOBER



Corinne Willson 2nd

Solomon Palmer 10th

Samuel Smith 11th

Gayle Hicks 12th

Tricia Gauthier 20th

Frank Genzer 24th

Lane Willson 24th



Dates to Remember for October



October 3rd. Men's breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall

October 4th. Communion

October 5th. Men's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor

October 8th. Ladies Circle

October 12th. Session Meeting at, 6:00 p.m. in the library

October 18th. Meet the Pastor Sunday, for our new and recent church visitors

October 18th. Stephen Atkinson, missionary we support, will be here for the Sunday evening service at 5:00 p. m.

October 19th. Deacon's Meeting, 5:45 p. m. at the church

October 19th. Men's Bible Study at 6:30 p. m. in the parlor

October 25th. Reformation Sunday



October 25th. Monthly Luncheon after the worship service, please bring a dish to share

Operation Christmas Child (Nov. 16-22). Asking if you want to put a box together to have it to the church by Sunday, Nov. 15th. More info to come, check the announcements in the Sunday bulletin.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BILOXI

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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America.

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Janet Misner	Interim Pianist
Kim Clark	Secretary
Greg Mann	Facilities Manager
Kerri Willson	Nursery Coordinator

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