

# THE SHRIVNAUTHs

Proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ



Piercing the darkness of this upside-down world with the

**Light** of the Gospel



- Soulwinning**
- Establishing Churches**
- Training Through Discipleship**

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## “For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ

September 2023

Dear Pastors, Churches, and Friends,

We recorded **80** salvations and **7** baptisms for the months of July through August. Thank you, Lord!

For the first time in five years, we were able to have Vacation Bible School. We held VBS in August. We had a huge VBS. A total of 869 children ages 4-18 came for the three days, Monday through Wednesday. Fifty-six teens got saved in the VBS. Each day for opening assembly, we sang “Apple Red Happiness” and “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus.” We wrote the VBS lessons and made the skits and decorations to go with the theme. It was beautiful and the whole idea was about the sweetness of Jesus and the Christian life. The atmosphere at VBS each day was like a candy wonderland. We gave out lots of “sweet” prizes for those who brought the most visitors each day, memorized verses, and answered questions from the VBS lessons.

On Monday, the lesson was The Word of God is Sweet – Jeremiah 15:16. We sang the Scripture song Psalms 19:7-10 to go with the lesson. Every day we incorporated salvation’s plan into the lesson. For this we used John 14:2-3: Knowing Jesus as my Saviour is sweet because I can live in heaven with Him forever. 1. He has gone back to heaven. 2. He is going to return for us one day soon. 3. We must be ready/prepared. How? By seeing our need. The world has nothing to offer us that will last forever. Only Jesus can offer true **purpose, hope, joy** and **forgiveness**.

On Tuesday, the lesson was Talking to God is Sweet. It is called prayer – II Chronicles 7:14. We taught the children that when they are **troubled, frightened, worried, or feel alone**, God is a friend who will be by their side ready to help. That is so, so sweet! With the lesson we sang the song “I Come to the Garden Alone.”

On Wednesday, the lesson was Telling Others About Jesus is Sweet. Others who get saved can have a family called the family of God – Acts 8:26-35 (verse 35 being the memory verse for this day). The song for this lesson was “The Family of God.” We told them that Satan is the destroyer of families. We described to them that the



**Fullhouse in VBS**



**Opening assembly with Apple Red Happiness**



**Winners for bringing the most visitors**



**VBS decorations “Sweet Shop”**

**for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:” Romans 9:3**



**VBS teen class**

following things will destroy a family: alcohol, drugs, immoral sexual behaviors, gambling/betting, and many other things. We told them that God is the maker and builder of families. He wants them to have a family in heaven, even if on earth their family is removed from them or they come from a home where some of the things we mentioned had destroyed their home and family.

Each day we had a continuing puppet skit about Mr. Baldi, the sweet shop owner. His two employees were Sugar and Spice. One day, the sweet shop was robbed. Both Sugar and Spice set out independently to catch the robber. One night Sugar sees Spice in the store hiding behind a shelf. So, he thought that Spice must be the thief. Spice sees Sugar hiding outside the store. So, he thought that Sugar was the thief. The next night they saw a hideous looking dinosaur named Sugar Stealer trying to steal more candy. Both Sugar and Spice caught the thief, called the police and asked each other for forgiveness, since each accused the other of being the thief. It was hilarious and the children learned good lessons from it all.

August also saw 143 teens from 10 sister-churches come for Youth Camp. Many made life-changing decisions and heard heart-stirring messages from several camp speakers. It is the only youth camp in the country for independent Baptist teenagers. The camp is run by a church we helped to start many years ago. Also in August, we had 14 people from our church complete Level 3 of Foundations of My Faith discipleship course. That was a blessing. Pray as we continue to disciple others with these lessons.



Starting in September last year, we have had four of our key men in positions of leadership in our church fall out of the spiritual radar screen. It started with one, then another a week later, then another four months later, and another seven months later. If you are familiar with spiritual warfare, you may be able to guess as to some of the reasons for their fall. Mrs. Marlene Evans used to teach us that behavior is caused, and causes are multiple. We are not a large ministry and we can hardly spare anyone. These kinds of things hurt the body of Christ incalculably (I Cor.12:26). Oh, how we need to take heed, lest we fall. One preacher I heard said, "Satan is like a sniper." One false move, one lax time, just a little easing of the armor down, and he will get you, me, us. His time is running out and he knows it. Jesus is coming back. Satan is mad, like a wounded, devouring lion. He cannot win the war, but he can knock you out of the fight, out of the race. By the way, if you stand up, even one more time, he cannot win. Once you keep standing back up, he loses. Stay bold, Christian. Stay strong. He that shall come, will come (Hebrews 10:37). He is the killer of all wounded, devouring lions. His name is The Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5-6). You ask, who might that be? His name is The Lamb, the Root of David, Yeshua, Messiah, Jesus, Saviour, and Coming King who takes away sin!!!

Please continue to pray for us as we stand against the wiles of Satan. Thank you. Your prayers have helped us. We are not running from nor backing down from battle. Sometimes we need to back up, regroup, refresh and recoup, but we never back out. It is one glorious fight and the Commander is going before us (Hebrews 12:2). He is not giving up and we never will. Thanks for standing with us and using the weapon of prayer to scatter the enemy so that we can go in and pull from the fire those who are ready to perish (Jude23).

In Christ Jesus the Anchor holds,

*Noel Shrivnauth* (Ps.25:5; I Thes.2:4)

The Shrivnauth family

Noel, Charlene, Rydal, Gretel, Elsie and Nolan