

# Angel Tree

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Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship. Angel Tree reaches out to the children of inmates and their families so that they have the opportunity to receive the most important gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. Further this ministry provides a pathway for incarcerated parents to strengthen or restore their personal relationship with their children and families.

In October 2018, we received the names of 88 children in 43 families that we were entrusted to make contact with. We were able to successfully reach 33 families totaling 73 children. Through the generosity of this congregation, a total of 146 gifts were purchased as each child receives two gifts – an item of clothing and a fun gift. Then in the week prior to Christmas, church families delivered the gifts to these children. But more importantly, the true meaning of Christmas was shared – the “Good News” of Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, there are always families that we were not able to contact on behalf of the incarcerated parent. The following circumstances were encountered:

2 families/2 children	- Phone not working, letter sent, no response
4 families/7 children	- Left messages, letter sent, no response to either
1 family/3 children	- No phone number, letter sent, no response
1 family/1 child	- No working number/moved
1 family/1 child	- No parent information
1 family/1 child	- Prisoner not parent/step-parent

Thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve in this ministry.

In His Service,  
Tim and Laura Giordano

# AWANA

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AWANA is an outreach ministry whose mission statement is that *“all children and their families in Oroville would come to Know, Love, and Serve our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

During the course of a typical AWANA night, we minister to an average of 72 children and youth from the ages of 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. At the end of 2018, our club had 56 registered families with the following breakdown per club:

Cubbies – 3 & 4 years old	26 clubbers
Sparks – K thru 2 <sup>nd</sup>	36 clubbers
T & T – 3 <sup>rd</sup> thru 6 <sup>th</sup>	28 clubbers

Also there were 5 Puggles until the Camp Fire displaced their Director. We are still praying to find a new Director as these little ones greatly miss their Puggles club.

In addition to the above information, the following is a breakdown of our Club Families - included with these numbers is a family who our club sponsored financially as they lost everything in the Paradise Camp Fire :

- 10 families	EFC	18%
- 23 families	Local Churches	41%
- 23 families	No stated church affiliation	41%

Furthermore on a regular basis, our clubbers are inviting friends. Some choose to join our club, others not, but most importantly the “Seed of the Gospel” has been planted that God will grow in HIS time. We pray that these “seeds” grow and mature in Christ during their life.

Our annual Grand Prix is enjoyed by clubbers and their families. The Grand Prix is car race based Outreach Event that provides an opportunity for a Salvation Message to be presented to those that attended this fun family event.

AWANA is blessed with many committed servants from high school age to seniors. Each night clubbers are memorizing God's Word, learning Biblical truths, and hearing a Gospel presentation thanks to our dedicated staff. Our staff “gets as much of God's Word as deep in the hearts of as many kids as we can.”

As Ministry Directors we are extremely grateful for our church's commitment to AWANA, both in prayer and financial support, and to our AWANA Staff that dedicates their time each week to minister to the clubbers and their families.

Serving Christ,  
Tim and Laura Giordano

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# Children's Ministries

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It seems hard to believe that another year is past. The Children's Ministry has had a few changes and adjustments this past year. The three main changes started with the implementation of an automated Sunday school check-in system. The next change would be having children attend the first part of church with their families. The third change was teaming up with OCS for the yearly Harvest Party.

The Automated Check-In System was implemented using the churches management system software. This system enables us to keep better track of attendance, allergies or special needs for each child. It was designed to keep the children's areas more secure during drop-off and pick-up. Each child is registered in our systems, checked-in and checked-out via a security ticket that matches the child's name tag. This system took a little time to implement and get used to by volunteers and parents but has been working effectively for the past several months. We will begin to use this system with all our children programs for now own including AWANA.

Near the same time that we started the automated systems we also felt the strong need to help integrate children into "Big Church". Looking around church every morning as you first walked in there was a definite absence of little faces. We wanted the church to have a sense of welcome for all ages and to have families worshiping together. The children have been starting their church time with everyone in the sanctuary singing, praying, and reading God's Word all together for the first 15 minutes of church. They are later dismissed before the sermon starts to go to their own Sunday school class. This has given children an opportunity to see and learn church as it should be with the whole body worshipping together old and young.

The yearly Harvest Party was a great success last year. We decided to team up the Oroville Christian School and join forces to plan an all school and church Harvest Party. The OCS Preschool teacher Mrs. Sylva, Pastor Brian Bell and I teamed up to plan and prepare for the family festivities. The party was scheduled for a Friday Evening with lots of food, games and prizes. We setup several game booths, live music, decorations, bounce houses, and had a scheduled time for a gospel presentation by Pastor Gregg. There were several hundred adults and kids that came and enjoyed the activities. This was such a success that we would like to continue to make this a yearly event and expand to eventually make an event that reaches and brings in more of our community with the goal exposing them to the gospel and Christ love.

Another success this last year was our Answers in Genesis Vacation Bible School with around 175 students registered. We used the new Answers curriculum which was a vibrant, wacky and entertaining Time Travel theme. We had children from all over the community come for five days and travel through time to meet the most important man ever, who wasn't just a man but God. We also used our same Sunday school software system to check the children in making a more cohesive and efficient check-in and check-out. We also for the first time used Answers online director tool which allowed for online registrations and gave us a more comprehensive tool for planning and promoting.

All of these changes have been great successes and we are planning to continue to implement and further develop them again this year with the help of all of our invaluable volunteers without which none of these programs could be realized. Thank you all for a great 2018!

Allissa Bell, Children's Ministry Director

# Missions

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The Missions Committee greatly appreciates the tremendous support from the congregation during this past year. As a church family, we have hosted several missionaries who have actively participated in our services. The church family has contributed to the financial support of twelve missionary families and been faithful in regular prayer support for the missionary ministries. In addition, several families within the congregation have provided personal support for individual children in India, the Philippine Islands, and the Congo through the EFCA ReachGlobal “Fingerprints” program. Thus, as we enter into a new year, the Missions Committee provides the congregation with the following report concerning the missionary activities of this past year.

Three years ago, at the beginning of 2015, the Missions Committee increased the financial support for all of our missionaries and missionary families by more than 40% of previous support levels. It has been a true blessing that the Missions Committee has been able to maintain the increased financial support levels during these past three years, thanks to the faithful support of the congregation. Thank you!

During the 2018 Year, the Missions Committee held 10 committee meetings, hosted two missionaries, planned three receptions for missionaries and brought four new missionaries/missionary families before the congregation for confirmation and support.

Our church financially supported the following EFC ReachGlobal missionaries and missionary families during 2018:

- Emily Hochstetler, Tabitha Ministries, Kinshasa, Congo, Africa
- Carol Johnson, EFC ReachGlobal “Finger Prints”, Philippine Islands
- Lois McMartin, Missionary Support Services
- Gus and Shikha Peters, Kolkata, India
- Steve and Marlene Shickley, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Sam and Jill Tabiendo, Madrid, Spain
- Ken and JoAn Warwick, New Missionary Training/Team Leader Trainer

In addition to the monthly support of our EFC ReachGlobal missionaries, the church has financially supported five additional missionaries/missionary families:

- Ian Carlisle, Ambassadors of Reconciliation Ministries, Jail Ministry, Butte County
- Joel and Virginia Cook, AWANA Ministries, Northern California
- Richard and Keri Nakamura, SEND International Ministries, Japanese Diaspora, Renton, Washington
- Linda Reed, Ambassadors of Reconciliation Ministries, Jail Ministry, Butte County
- Russell and Sharla Wiesner, Pioneers Ministries, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Transitions:** This past year has been another “transition year” for several of our missionaries, with one missionary (Lois McMartin) retiring and four new missionaries selected to replace them. Lois McMartin and her husband, David, worshipped with our congregation on September 9 as they prepared for their retirement in October. During the Discipleship Hour, Lois provided a summary of her services in support of other missionaries.

With the transition of several retiring missionaries during the past two years, the Missions Committee was provided the task of selecting new missionaries to replace those who were retiring. In January, Carol Johnson was introduced to the congregation as a missionary who will coordinate the ReachGlobal “Finger Prints” program for the EFC churches in the Philippine Islands. This is a new start-up program in the Philippines for providing support of needy children who are linked to church ministry. Then, in April, Sam and Jill Tabiendo, EFC ReachGlobal missionaries to Madrid, Spain, were brought before the congregation as replacement missionaries for Vance Johnson, who retired in November 2017.

On July 15, a special commissioning service was held during the morning worship service for Linda Reed, who is serving as Women’s Chaplain with the Ambassadors of Reconciliation Jail Ministry. She began receiving financial support from the congregation in July. Finally, in late July, Don and Penny Remley hosted a luncheon for two EFC ReachGlobal missionaries, Steve and Marlene Shickley, with whom the committee had been corresponding for three years. After hearing their testimonies and learning more about their mission in Thailand, the Missions Committee brought them before the congregation to be financially supported, beginning in August. The Shickleys replace Lois McMartin, who retired in October.

**Summer Missionaries:** The Missions Committee was approached by two young ladies, formerly involved in our youth program, who are currently attending Christian Universities. They were both planning to be involved in Christian mission trips during the late spring/early summer and were seeking support from the congregation. Laura Finn was involved in a medical missionary trip to India, through Simpson University. Katelynn Jarboe went on an International Services Project to Southeast Asia, with other students from California Baptist University. After hearing from both young ladies about their plans and commitment to serve the Lord, the committee agreed to financially support their missions.

**Welcome to New Committee Members:** Angela Brown joined the Missions Committee in April and has become a vital part of the committee. Clara Jones and Allison Cardwell will be joining the committee in January 2019. Welcome!

**Special Thanks:** Special thanks is offered to the Deaconess Committee members who have provided support to the Missions Committee’s activities throughout the year, including the planning for two receptions for visiting missionaries.

The Missions Committee also offers a special thanks and best wishes to Linda Reed who has served on the Missions Committee for more than a decade. Her passion for missions will be greatly missed by the committee as she leaves the committee and expands her jail ministry. The committee also wishes to give special thanks to Maria Farris, and Don and Penny Remley, who “live missions”. They will be leaving the committee at the end of 2018.

Presented by Don Remley, Chairman, Missions Committee

# Sound

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The sound room ministry worked diligently all year in the background, making sure all the AV systems that enhance our Sunday morning worship and special events functioned as they should. We had several issues that complicated that goal and we spent a few months mid-year where technical issues prevented a fully functioning system. With the acquisition of some new computer equipment and software we worked out the “bugs” and was able to have the system working correctly by early fall. We also placed video monitors in the foyer that are full functional showing announcements, Children’s Ministry information, and a view of the pulpit during the sermon for those sitting in the foyer. We also had to replace a choir mic that was mysteriously broken this summer.

As the church grows there will be a continual need for new equipment to keep up with the needs and desires of the church in the area of sound and video. To that end there is also a need for more qualified and dedicated volunteers to be available throughout the week and on Sundays. No one in the sound room is a computer professional and there are times when our limitations are glaringly visible. We appreciate the understanding of the congregation when our foibles are evident. We had one consultation this year with media professionals and will continue to consult as needs arise.

One new face was added to the soundroom crew this year and the team now consists of Rob Kabel (soundboard), Glenn Johnson (does all aspects), Ron Wolcott (working on doing all aspects), Gary Stancik (recording and electronics guru in addition to all other aspects), and Caroleah Johnson (computer visuals and currently training for all aspects). The music ministry has been very helpful in supplying a list of Sunday music early in the week, allowing for prep to be done in advance and less chaos on Sunday mornings. Our thanks to Heidi Lundberg for her part in that.

Because the sound room is used by various ministries, there is ample opportunity for mishaps to occur. It is our desire to offer several “training” sessions this year for any and all who use the sound room to prevent as many of those mishaps as possible. It takes a lot of time and effort to present a smooth running Sunday morning and we appreciate the dedication of all who are involved in doing that.

Humbly serving our great God,  
Caroleah Johnson for the sound room crew

# Student Ministries

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In 2018, we had some exciting new opportunities in our Student Ministries. We saw tremendous growth in both our Jr. High and High School groups. We tried some new things, some that worked, some that didn't. We partnered with the school and with Children's Ministries for some events and saw some great success by combining our ministry efforts. We were blessed this past year and we were challenged.

## **Forge**

Our weekly Bible studies were a strong point for our Student Ministries this year. We saw great growth in both our Jr. High and High School. In the summer of 2018, we saw our High School numbers grow as we had a large number of 9<sup>th</sup> graders come in, and with the mass exodus from the Jr. High we saw those numbers replenish with a new group of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. We did various Bible studies, such as Francis Chan's "Crazy Love" and a video series based on the book "Not a Fan."

## **Refuge**

Our Refuge events did struggle in 2018 as it became more difficult to plan larger group fun events where everyone could participate due to the ever-growing busyness of our teens. We did manage to have some fun events with a good turnout, such as our Day at the Forebay, a trip to Rare Air Trampoline Park in Chico, and a Dodgeball Tournament.

## **Overflow Oroville**

One of the new things we tried this year was a "stay-at-home" mission trip. We expanded our Overflow Oroville concept to a week-long mission trip where our students camped out at the church and did community service projects throughout Oroville. We painted a house, did yard work, built a set of stairs and other jobs. We had wonderful meals provided to us by volunteers and we had other adults camping out at the church with the students and supervising them on their job sites. It was a wonderful way to be "on mission" in our own backyard.

## **Youth Camp**

In 2017, our students attended camp at Hartstone Bible Camp. This was the site of our Family Camp the previous year and we determined that every other year will be Youth Camp. We had 25 students plus several adults attend. Our theme was "Follower" and our students were challenged with what it means to be a true follower of Christ. Pastor Brian did the main teaching with a team of college students leading our small group bible studies. Kate and Jill Jarboe were our worship leaders. The students were split into "color groups" and we had a "Squad War" on our last day of camp with the groups competing against each other in various water activities.

## **Student Leadership Team**

Our Student Leadership team for 2018 consisted of seniors Reid Ross and Becca Graham, as well as junior Amanda Cagnacci and sophomore Andrew Nyberg for the first half of the year, then with the graduation of our seniors we welcomed freshmen team members Devin Naredo, Kailey Krampitz and Sierra Reinhardt. Our monthly meetings this year have been focused on what it means to be a part of the church. We were unable to attend our regular Leadership Retreat in November due to the Camp Fire so it was rescheduled for early 2019.

### **Student Interns**

One of the biggest blessings of 2018 was the introduction of our Student Internship program. We had 3 college students take part in the Summer and Fall of 2018. We kicked things off with Kate Jarboe, who served during the months of June and July, then we had Sarah Hensel who served during July and August and then Lexi Wixom was our Fall intern, during September through November. Our interns were tasked with helping during our youth group nights, planning events, leading bible studies, and various administrative tasks. Our students benefited greatly from the presence of these interns which led to us expanding the internship program through to 2019.

Outgoing Seniors: We were proud to graduate 4 seniors: Tom Gibson, Rebecca Graham, Dylan McHugh, and Reid Ross.

Soli deo gloria,  
Pastor Brian Bell

# White Cross

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White Cross Ministries is affiliated with the White Cross Ministries of Evangelical Free Church of America. They serve the Tandala Medical Outreach project for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa. Our White Cross is still active with eight women currently attending. We collect sheets and tear them into strips, roll bandages and cut some into bandage squares. We can always use clean sheets, just no flannel ones, please. In addition, we can use yarn as some of the women make baby afghans for Caring for Women. We buy flannel baby prints and they are made into receiving blankets for Caring for Women also. We ship the medical supplies to Hands of Hope who in turn ship them to their final designation. We have shipped other supplies along with these: such as leg braces, unopened medical creams, medicines, crocheted blankets, etc., for a total of about 80 pounds a year. All women are welcome. We meet the second Thursday of every month from ten to noon.

We also support two missionaries monthly: the Cooks and Carol Johnston.

We have also started this year a second meeting to focus on knitting and crocheting baby blankets, baby hats, and other items for the ministries we support. We meet at Marion Tangeman's house on the fourth Thursday of every month for fellowship while we knit or crochet.

Contact Virginia Cook at 282-2869 if you have any questions or would like join us in this ministry.

Serving in Christ together,  
Virginia Cook

# Women's Ministries

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As a ministry team, we are convinced of the necessity for women of all ages and stages of life to be rooted in the Word of God, allowing it to guide and transform every aspect of life. We also recognize the need for and benefits of working out the implications of the Gospel together with other members of the Body of Christ, especially women. With these priorities in mind, we have encouraged the women of our congregation to gather regularly to focus on the study and application of the Bible, Scripture memorization, fellowship and outreach. The following activities are a result of these stated priorities:

## **Bible Studies:**

Continuation of previous groups with the addition of a college-age Sunday evening study for young women.

Currently, there are 5 women's groups meeting either weekly or bi-monthly to study the Bible or a specific Bible-related topic.

## **Women's large group gatherings:**

A new monthly opportunity for women to gather regularly.

A twofold purpose: 1) to encourage the study, discussion and application of the Word of God. 2) to encourage fellowship and the living out of the Gospel TOGETHER. Every month, the meeting includes a message from a Word, worship through music, a discussion time on the passage, a testimony of conversion, and time for fellowship.

These large group meetings were launched during the summer with two meeting opportunities every Monday for a period of 6 weeks. These were well-attended and appreciated with the expressed desire to continue the same format of meetings on a monthly basis.

The speakers for these gatherings have primarily been various women from our church with the exception of a guest speaker in September.

The November meeting was cancelled because of the Camp Fire. And in an effort to encourage our sisters of the Paradise EFC, the December meeting was focused on praying for them and encouraging them with some small gifts.

Another activity was the raising of funds for the local ministry of "Caring for Women".

## **Scripture Memorization:**

In line with our desire to motivate women to be women of the Word, one summer meeting was focused on Scripture memorization.

Building on the passion and example of godly women of our church, several groups of women are now helping each other memorize verses, chapters and entire books of the Bible. They are providing encouragement and accountability for each other.

## **Thanksgiving Dinner:**

As in previous years, the all-church Thanksgiving dinner was organized by the women's ministry team.

**Women's Retreats:**

In 2018, the ministry team joined the Chico EFC in their yearly spring retreat at Woodleaf. This time together allowed the team to have ample time for beneficial discussions.

Convinced that the team is not in a position at this time to organize its own women's retreat, the women of our church will be encouraged to join in the Chico EFC retreat at Woodleaf (April 5-7) and the Mount Hope retreat (Oct 4-6).

**Planning retreat:**

In August, the ministry team met for a time of study, discussion, and planning for the 2018-2019 women's activities.

**Change in membership and leadership in the Women's ministry team (summer 2018):**

Several women have stepped down from the women's ministry team. The current team members are Rosie Aeschbocker, Virginia Cook, Gwen Finch, Carol Hensel (Leader), Peggy Schultz and Karen Travers.

**Plans for 2019:**

The desire is to continue in the same trajectory, emphasizing the study and living out of the Word of God together as sisters in Christ.

The Bible studies will continue for the school year with a break for the summer months.

The monthly meetings will continue as well during the school year.

A summer program is a possibility to take advantage of the change in schedule and the added flexibility that the summer provides for many women.

Many volunteers have been an invaluable help to the ministry team over the last few months.

Consistent volunteers are needed to assist the ministry team in its activities, and possibly additional women's ministry team members who have a passion for seeing women grow in their walk with God.

A Christmas Tea might be planned in December as a way to reach out to non-believers with the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Hensel

