

Making Disciples Aflame for Christ

JANUARY 2026

Jesus said, "Go...and make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:18-20)

2026

A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU!

GOD HAS GIVEN US THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR!
What will this next year hold?

Before we move forward, we (Ray and Tressa) want to take a moment to look back at 2025 in order to Praise God for His faithfulness!



Lighthouse of Hope
Ministries

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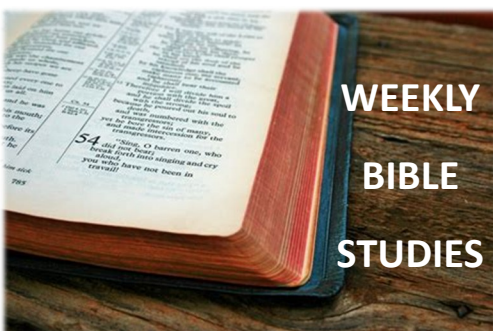


In February, God used Ray to minister His Word to a large group of Pastors. In their time together, God encouraged His shepherds to persevere in their calling to shepherd their flocks and to make disciples. God is faithful.



In May, we encountered a time of great sorrow in the tragic loss of our beloved son-in-law who was struck by a semi-tractor trailer on Mother's Day. His loss is deeply felt by us all and especially our beloved Heather and their four children. In this time of great sorrow and loss, the nearness and faithfulness of GOD is our good.

For seven months of 2025, we labored in cleaning out Tressa's late Uncle Norman's home (which is located 40 miles away from our home). What a massive undertaking! GOD supplied every need including sending us the strong and talented people we needed when we needed them! HE also supplied us with the physical strength we needed! Thankfully, Uncle's home sold in July!



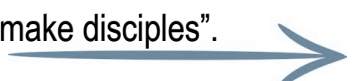
Of course, during all these challenges, by GOD's grace, we persevered in the weekly teaching of GOD's Word to 80+ people in six weekly Bible Studies as well as one-on-one times of counsel in the Word! WE REJOICE IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS to ENABLE and EQUIP us to TEACH THE SCRIPTURES as HE transforms lives in SALVATION and MAKES DISCIPLES strong in the LORD, growing in HIS grace and Truth.

Many of those in our studies are going through hardships including cancer, the loss of a loved one, fractured families, chronic pain, and more... We have participated in too many funerals recently. BY GOD'S GRACE, we share HIS Word to comfort and exhort. Sometimes HE sends us to just be near and listen. It is a privilege to serve HIS people. GOD is faithful and HIS lovingkindness is everlasting.



In December, GOD blessed Ray's Annual Cancer Screening with yet another "No Evidence of Cancer" reading! After being given only six months to live, GOD has provided us with 6 more years! Evidently, the LORD has more work for HIS servant -- especially in ministry to men to renew their minds daily in the Word in order to stand firm in the faith; to live holy and godly lives; and to lead their families in Christ, to Christ, for the glory of Christ.

Also in December, we held our SECOND ANNUAL MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP DINNER! 68 people attended! Everyone enjoyed Non-Zoom, personal fellowship! We greatly missed the Bible Study participants that live outside of our local area from: Southern West Virginia; Pennsylvania; North Carolina; South Carolina; Florida; Tennessee; Kansas; Texas; and Oklahoma. In addition to our time of just visiting with one another, we took time to PRAISE GOD for HIS faithfulness to fuel and sustain this ministry these 24 years, and we will continue to trust in HIM for however long HE chooses to use us as HIS instruments to "go and make disciples".





One of these days, we will remember to take pictures during this event! However, someone did take a picture of the three of us...

As we stand in these first days of 2026, Tressa just turned 64 on January 4th. Ray will turn 79 in February. Gwen turned 81 in November. We've aged! But we know that our physical bodies may be growing weaker, but our faithful GOD continues to renew our inner man each day! We are merely HIS instruments -- weak vessels indwelt by a Mighty GOD! We rely on HIS strength and ability, and we will joyously persevere and run the race of faith until HIS glorious appearing!

**AS WE LOOK BACK ON 24 YEARS OF MINISTRY,
WE THANK GOD FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS!**

- HE HAS SAVED SOULS!
- HE HAS STRENGTHENED BELIEVERS!
- HE HAS CALLED MEN TO SERVE AS PASTORS AND ELDERS!
- HE HAS ENCOURAGED PASTORS IN THEIR CALLING!
- HE HAS CALLED MORE BELIEVERS TO SERVE AS TEACHERS OF HIS WORD!

**AS HE PROMISED,
HIS WORD HAS NOT RETURNED VOID!**

**WE ALSO THANK GOD
FOR EVERY PRAYER AND PARTNER
THAT HAS BLESSED AND SUPPORTED THIS MINISTRY!
YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPACTING COUNTLESS LIVES
AS GOD MAKES DISCIPLES AFLAME FOR CHRIST!**

DEAR FRIENDS, WE ALL STAND HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF 2026. Time is a gift! It is valuable! GOD gives us time to prepare for eternity! Where people spend eternity is decided in time. When eternity begins, it will be too late. Let us not waste time! Let us not lose heart! Let us pray to our forever faithful GOD to give us grace to spend our time in HIS service doing HIS will HIS way for HIS purpose and HIS glory.



May the Lord's Grace and Peace be yours in the fullest measure.



Ray, Tressa and Gwen

*May the Lord direct your hearts
into the love of God
and
into the steadfastness of Christ.
(2 Thessalonians 3:5)*



Visit us at: www.TheLighthouseofHope.net OR E-mail us at: TShaw@thelighthouseofhope.net

Making Disciples Aflame for Christ filled with His Light and Hope.

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