



**"Let the little children come to me..."**

***Matthew 19:14***

Following the success of our Summer Holiday Club (see our [July Newsletter HERE](#) for details), it seemed that God was directing us to focus on children's ministry. A bit of market research revealed a need that could be filled by a ministry that had been closed by COVID - and so Little Lambs was resuscitated! We re-engaged the dormant Facebook page and repurposed our Tuesday Cafe time slot to focus on moms and toddlers.



(Above) A typical "Little Lambs" morning. We have a time of singing, and Sheryl tells a *short* Bible story to engage little attention spans.

(Below) Some young moms having a "natter".



It's a wonderful time full of irresistible energy. The Lord has been steadily growing the number of children and moms. It's heartwarming to see the older ones (3-4 years old) bound up the ramp into the church, excited to get inside to toys and friends. Most of the moms walk to church, and even though it has turned cold, they say, "I'm just happy to get outside and take the bairn for a wee walk."

### **Another Opportunity Beckons**

We have no photographic evidence - you'll have to take our word on it - but Peter and I are able to do school assemblies at the primary school where Sheryl volunteers. The Head Teacher (Principal) noted incidents of bullying and name-calling. So, we did a short talk from James 3:3-5 with the visual aids of a ship's rudder, a horse's bit, and a fire starter, culminating with the gospel. The schools are required to teach about religion, but nobody in the school goes to church, so they generally "outsource" it. As long as you preface what you say with, "What Christians believe is...", you can say just about anything. And we do - especially the gospel. It's a marvelous opportunity, and it has resulted in families coming to our invitation events.

### Speaking of invitation events:

We recently had a week of outreach events including a magic show by an "Illusionist" who is also a Free Church Minister. He spoke of Truth vs Illusion - an obvious lead in to the Gospel.



### Finally - A New Tradition Continues

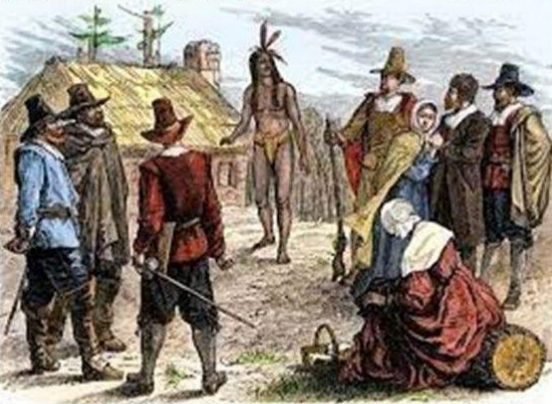
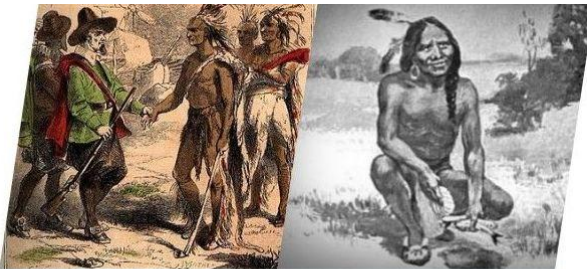


And of course, a simple way to get children - and adults - into a church is with food. The now-traditional 2nd Annual American Thanksgiving was a smashing success with over 60 attendees devouring 3 turkeys, a ham, and skads of sides and desserts. While people dined, I spoke in some detail of God's providence in preserving and ordering the affairs of the Separatist "pilgrims" who came over on the Mayflower in 1620, and whose story provides a grounding for our present holiday.

We looked at the Mayflower Compact which states the community's goals - "...the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith..."

Having undertaken, for <sup>the</sup> glory of God, and advancements of <sup>the</sup> Christian <sup>faith</sup>, and honour of our king & country, a voyage to plant <sup>the</sup> first colony in <sup>the</sup> Northern parts of Virginia. Do by these presents solemnly & mutually in <sup>the</sup> presence of God, and one of another, Covenant, & combine our selves together into a Civill body politick; for <sup>our</sup> better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of <sup>the</sup> ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just & equall Lawes, ordinances, Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete & convenient for <sup>the</sup> generall good of <sup>the</sup> Colonie: unto

We spoke of God's amazing providence and how He even uses human evil, such as slavery, and the brokenness of disease to achieve His purposes.



Three Native Americans Used By God

**Samoset, Ossemequin, and Squanto**

Lots of guests came to the dinner. We had teachers from the school where Sheryl volunteers and many friends and co-workers of church members - none of which normally attend church. All expressed a desire to "do this again."

## **"... and a little child shall lead them."**

The familiar quotation from Isaiah 11:6 comes to mind as we look at what the Lord seems to be doing in Elgin. Two families come regularly and at least 6 have come on occasion for the same reason - "The children said they really wanted to come." We strive to make our Sunday School inviting, engaging, and biblical. We have a great team of volunteers who work together and ensure that happens.

## **Thank you for your prayers.**

This is no secret - God answers prayer. Not always as we want, almost never as we expect, but always for our good and His glory. I will continue to send out periodic prayer requests from my personal email. If you would like to join us as we pray on specific occasions for Elgin Free Church, please let me know, and I'll put you on a special prayer list separate from this newsletter. There's a link to my email at the end of this newsletter.

### **Specific Praise and Prayer**

- Praise for the growing ability of church members to invite friends and co-workers.
- Praise for the new families worshipping with us.
- Praise that God DID raise up helpers for our children's Sunday School. (This was a request in our last newsletter)
- Pray for continued integration of the new families into the life of the church.
- Pray that God would continue to use us in Elgin to call His people to Him - even those who don't yet know they are His.

## **And don't forget social media.**

Many of you have already connected with us on Facebook and YouTube. Thank you!!

Below are the links to our Facebook, YouTube, and our website. You can listen to sermons and whole services on the Elgin Free Church Facebook page or the Burghead & Elgin Free Church YouTube channel. We also put as much as possible on the Elgin Free Church website. Like, subscribe, ring the bell... you know the drill.

We reiterate a deep and sincere thank you to those who are partnering with us financially and in prayer. If you've been meaning to join us financially and haven't had the chance... here it is.

**[TO PARTNER FINANCIALLY WITH BRIAN AND SHERYL, CLICK HERE.](#)**

And of course, if you have any questions, please contact us

[HERE \(Brian's email\)](#)

or

[HERE \(Sheryl's email\)](#)