

The Sentinel

WE
STAND
WATCH

DISTRIBUTED BY EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH



July/August, 2022
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The Great Jungle Adventure!

By Pastor Troy Bassham



Coming in August, the kids of our church and community will have the opportunity to participate in an exciting summer program.

August 1–5 we will be conducting our annual Vacation Bible School program. Every night from 6–8 pm kids can have a great time singing, playing games, making crafts and, most importantly, learning about Jesus.

Jungle Theme!

All of this will be done in an exciting Jungle theme, where children will follow the adventures of **Dr. Indigo Jones** in the daily skits as she searches for the Lost City.

I hope that you join us by praying for this week. Pray that God would do a great work in the lives of both the kids and the leaders. Make sure to remember the many kids of our community who do not have a relationship with Jesus. Our greatest hope is to share Christ's love with those who do not know it.

Invite Kids to Join Us

Think of who you could invite to this special week. VBS is for all kids Kindergarten through 5th grade: children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors, all are welcome. As a

point of clarification, a child's grade is the grade they will be entering in the coming fall.

Can YOU Help?

Finally, if you would like to help with VBS, you can call the church office and ask how you can get involved. We have a good group of helpers, but we could always use a few more hands. ✝



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Deadline for September ISSUE is:

Monday, August 29, @ 5:00 pm

know. grow. go.

Holy Land Report

By Pastor Troy Bassham



This past May, I had the privilege of leading a group from EBC on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The 22 of us who made the trip had the opportunity to step into the land of the Bible and see its places with our own eyes. Of course, there were many obstacles to navigate.

Long Anticipated

Our trip, originally planned for the fall of 2020, had been postponed multiple times. We had to navigate personal schedules, COVID-19 protocols, and long plane flights. In the end, it was all worth it for the chance to see the land and to fellowship with a great group of travelers.



Garden Gethsemane (Photo by Pastor Troy Bassham)

What's So Special?

Some of you may be wondering, *"What is so special about traveling to Israel anyway? Aren't there other interesting places close to home for a fraction of the cost?"*

It's a good question. A trip to Israel is different than a standard vacation. While the travel may be enjoyable, it is a chance to interact with one's own faith. It is educational and biblically informative.

Seeing the places of Scripture firsthand adds a greater depth of understanding to the biblical accounts.

Saint Jerome called the land *"the 5th Gospel."* Seeing the places of Scripture firsthand adds a greater depth of understanding to the biblical accounts. It affects both the head and the heart: providing a confirmation of

belief as well as being emotionally moving. Experiencing the places with our own senses can enrich future biblical study—giving a mental picture that lasts far beyond the trip.

When?

I don't mean for this to come across as a spiel from Israel's department of tourism. However, we are thankful to have been able to go and are happy to share our experiences.

Many of you have asked when I will be planning the next trip. No



Galilee (Photo by Pastor Troy Bassham)

dates are set yet, but I am looking forward to that possibility. Much sooner than that, however, we will be putting together an evening presentation for any of you who would like to hear more from our group about our trip. Dates haven't been finalized, but we are looking forward to late August or September—we'll let you know.

In closing, I wanted to leave you with a couple more pictures. Thank you for your prayers. We had a wonderful trip. ✝



Garden Tomb (Photo by Pastor Troy Bassham)



Shoebox Ministry of Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child



By Kay Whitney

EBC Shoebox Ministry Coordinator

Please consider purchasing some of the following items to include in this year's shoeboxes.

Toiletry Items: Such as bar soap (*left in original packaging*), washcloths, toothbrushes with holders, combs, brushes. (*Hair ribbons, barrettes for girls*) Please, **NO** toothpaste or deodorant.

School Supplies: Crayons, erasers, pencil sharpeners, spiral notebooks, pencils, colored pencils, pens, markers, glue sticks, pencil cases, index cards, solar powered calculators, blunt scissors, small rulers.

You Have Options

If you would prefer to pay for postage rather than purchase items for the shoeboxes, the cost is \$10 shipping for each box (*it has been \$9 for several years, but due to an increase in postage costs an increase in shipping for the boxes is needed.*) Make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse or put cash in an envelope with OCC on the outside of the envelope.

Thank You

Thank you for your support of this ministry where children around the world are given the gospel message and have the opportunity for an on-going Bible Study.

It Matters!

I was privileged to meet a woman who now lives in the United States that received a shoebox when she was 9 and living in Honduras. She expressed how much it meant to her.



From the EBC Office!

Office News and Notes

By Alison Johnson
Office Manager

Summer gets quiet around the church building. That just means it is time for projects.



Directory Updates

Starting in July there will be a clipboard in the foyer and office to

update directory listings. If you are new and want to be added, you can fill out a section in the back. If you have moved or need to edit email or phone number information, you will be able to edit in your section from the current directory I will have available.

90's Club Updates

Another annual summer project is working with the healthcare team to update the 90's Club book. This is a fun book that comes out sometime in August each year. It is a great way to read about some of our oldest and wisest member's life stories.



Many Talents & Gifts!

As we work through projects and look towards fall when a lot of ministries start back up again, one of the things I think of the most is how amazing our church family is. There are so many talents and skills here in our church body. It is so great to learn more about others and see how God has gifted them in different ways.

September will bring a lot of activities and events. Be watching the bulletins and website for updates.

Picnic Coming!

For now, we will have our annual church picnic on September 11

after the second service. The main dish will be provided.

People with last names starting with A–M, bring a side dish to share. Last names starting with N–Z bring a dessert to share. ✝

YOUR Board of Elders



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Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28 (NIV) ✝



Elders' Epistle

By Nathaniel Thomas

In the last issue of The Sentinel we discussed principles of “continuous improvement”, where we as a church corporate body and we as individuals need to frequently evaluate how can we improve. I'd like to report that the Elder leadership team has recently made two steps forward in continuous improvement:

1. The search team for an associate pastor has begun their work

2. A “town hall” meeting was held on June 12 to address suggestions and questions from the congregation.

Search Team

The search team, under the experienced leadership of **Galen Harms**, has constructed a position description. They have sent it to various agencies, requesting qualified pastors to apply. When the search team has identified three or four viable candidates, the Elder Board will vote on a potential candidate to come and introduce himself to EBC. Then the congregation will have the final vote on whether to hire the candidate after meeting and hearing from him.

Town Hall

The Elders and **Pastor Troy** hosted the first town hall meeting to foster more open communication. Following are

meeting highlights. As requested, people sent various questions for the leadership to thoughtfully consider. Pastor Troy gave a short devotional on **1 Corinthians 12**, and made a call to work together as the body of Christ.

We received about 25 questions which we categorized and assigned to an Elder to discuss with the congregation.

We started the meeting confirming EBC's purpose: ***“To glorify God by making disciples through Bible-centered teaching, worship, fellowship and service”.***

Darrel Hiebenthal answered Christian education-related questions, including the functioning of the Christian Education committee and Sunday School.

Joe Cacka responded to the discussion about fellowship in church and financial issues. In particular he noted it may be possible to hold potlucks every couple of months to improve opportunities for fellowship. Joe also relayed that the finances of EBC seem to be in good shape.

I answered leadership-related questions. Highlights included how the proposed

associate pastor will be an asset to the leadership team with his participation in administration, worship, and visitation, increasing leadership's capacity to minister.

I also addressed how the Elders are available for prayer and how EBC is guarding against false teaching. One sub-point was about “culture creep” and I challenged the audience that stopping culture creep starts in the home.



Alan Casey discussed questions regarding safety, security, and other topics.

Numerous people were interested in safety security issues, including crisis-level interventions such as a fire, medical emergencies, or violence.

Alan did a fine job addressing these concerns, noting that it is currently a work in progress.

Our discussion noted that given the situation of the world today we, as a church, are behind in establishing standardized policies and procedures for safety and security issues. Please know that we are actively working to rectify such policy and procedure gaps.

New Sign

Other miscellaneous news includes the Trustees' report that the trench for power to a new EBC sign has been dug and electric cable is out at the site of the new sign.

Parking

The Trustees also report that the new side parking lot for the church vans



→ Please see ***“Elders”*** on page 6.

Elders

← (Continued from page 5.)

is almost complete as well. This will free up four more slots in the gravel lot on the west side.

FEBC Annual Meeting

The Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (FEBC) annual general meeting was July 8 at 9 am. We sent delegates to participate, including Troy, Alan Casey, myself, and Darryl Hiebenthal.

As a side note, here's some information about FEBC. This group of approximately 40 churches is referred to as a "fellowship" rather than a denomination. Most congregations are in the Midwest and central Canada. Our congregation is the furthest west, but one of the larger ones in the fellowship.

In summarizing leadership's recent continuous improvement efforts, please know that helpful suggestions and thoughtful discussions with leadership help make EBC a congregation that is working together in a loving manner. Let's work together in continuous improvement. We all have personal preferences, but let's apply EBC's purpose *"to glorify God by making disciples through Bible-centered teaching, worship, fellowship and service"* in our lives and as a church.



Search Committee Update

New Associate Pastor

By Galen Harms
Chair, Search Committee

The Governing Board of Elders has selected a team of EBC members to engage in the process of searching for an Associate Pastor. Those on the team are **Cheryl Loewen, Patty VanWell, Jim Fowler, Larry King, Ken Quiring, and Galen Harms.**

In 2018 one of the recommendations from the Transition Team, led by **Interim Pastor Bill Murphy**, was to hire another full-time ministry position. Though we have not been able to follow the timeline given in that recommendation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is now time to begin the search process.

Five Areas

The Elders and **Pastor Troy** have formulated a job description that delineates five areas of potential ministry for the Associate Pastor—administration, member care, Christian education, worship, and communication. So the team will look for candidates with gifting and skills in several of these areas.

Many Meetings

The Team met three times in June and will meet again three times in July. In our June meetings Pastor Troy gave an explanation of our task, we made an effort to get to know each other, we produced a church profile and a community profile which are part of the job posting, and we had a prayer time at each meeting. In July we will consider traits that are important to the position of associate pastor, develop appropriate interview questions, and begin reading resumes that have been submitted.

The team has the announcement of the position opening posted on www.churchstaffing.com. Anyone can visit that website to view it. The job posting is also on the church's website as well as several seminaries and Christian universities.

Please Be In Prayer!

The Associate Pastor search team asks that you pray for the team that they sense God's direction in selecting the candidates that are to be forwarded to the Elders. Also pray for candidates that God will place this job on the hearts of those He has chosen.

We will continue to keep you informed of the work of the search team. ✝



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Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC



June 26, 2022

I spent part of my day adding names to badges for Connect22, and what started out as a mundane but necessary task turned out to be a true blessing.

The past couple of weeks, I have struggled a bit. You see, we have only held Connect once since I took this position, and that was three years ago. I feel like I have already forgotten more than I know about organizing this event. I look back at my notes from 2019, sometimes feeling reassured that we're doing okay and other times feeling panic that some detail hasn't yet been attended to. I mostly just wonder if I am doing whatever it is that I am supposed to do. I pray that God will grant me, the staff, and each of the host church volunteers the wisdom and energy that we need.

So, amidst the flurry of communication with fellow staff members and church organizers, between the questions from church leaders and coordination with speakers, amidst the planning with directors and commissions and scheduling and organizing, all the while preparing my home for Canadian guests—I was sitting at my computer typing names and church names onto badges. And somewhere along the line, I was truly moved by the blessings of God.

I could picture almost every individual, and the church he or she represents. Churches in Manitoba, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Saskatchewan, and Wisconsin. And I began to think about these ministries and pray for them. I began to think of the joy we will experience in just over a week, as we finally gather and celebrate connection. The family of God being a family. That's exciting! I may not completely have it together, but **2 Corinthians 12** tells me that God will shine through my weakness. HIS Connect22 is going to be incredible!

I forwarded a link to our YouTube® channel to each church. Hopefully if you did not join us in person, you were able to watch as every event in the Worship Center was livestreamed.

Serving Him together, ✝



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EBC Women's Ministry

IN HIS IMAGE

Relationships

By Alison Johnson
Chairwoman
EBC Women's Ministries

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During this past month or so, I have been reading books and articles in preparation for the upcoming events for Women's Ministry.

I did this partly to prepare myself for the task of coordinating with **Lori Bassham** and partly to get an idea for a book that would be good for the January journey.

A Connection

All of these books ended up being related to each other in theme. The main idea in each is developing a genuine relationship with others. This not only includes other believers, but others who have yet to accept Christ.

Building relationships with others in our church and in our neighborhoods has been on my heart the past couple of years.

Society Disconnected

Society becomes more and more centered around online friendships, and texting has become such a handy tool with which to communicate. This has led us to a place where we tend to not have as in-depth a relationship with each other as in the past.

But HOW Are They?

It is easy to see what our family, friends, and neighbors are up to online, but how are they *really*? You can send texts back and forth, but can you see how they actually are

if they are not face to face? When you move into a new neighborhood, do you get to truly know your neighbors? It is so easy to live your life at home and not branch out.

Same With Church!

The same thing is true with church. It is so easy to say *hi* to people that look new. BUT ... it is super easy

→ Please see *"Relationships"* on page 9.

2021-2022 Women's Ministry Leadership Team

We want you to know our team! Feel free to contact us with questions or comments.

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Chairwoman	Alison Johnson	503.623.2331	office@ebcdallas.org
Recording Secretary/Treasurer	Julie Brewen	503.917.8431	brewen5@msn.com
Publicity	Sue Dunham	503.510.5950	sue@dgd.bz
Hospitality (weddings, receptions, & showers)	Ruth Quiring	503.930.6137	ruthmarieq@gmail.com
Edification (Bible studies)	Sylvia Thomas	503.931.4565	natandsylvia@gmail.com
Events	Lizette Chaffee (503.831.1924); Alison Johnson (503.510.4010); Colleen Shinn (503.507.0310); Cassie Kroeker (503.910.7819); Lori Bassham (760.271.1936).		





to get wrapped-up in conversations with your friends here.

There are some amazing people here at EBC. People here are probably the most welcoming folks I have ever met.

Had it not been for **Joyce Harms** the first week my family came to try this church out, we may not have returned.

Good Example

One of the books I read was by a man who first visited a church because his wife made him come with the kids. Once he came in, however, he was greeted by a man who was so genuine with his welcoming that he kept coming back. These two men became the best of friends over the years, but the relative newcomer still did not become a believer.

It took some big life events to change his heart, but in those big life events, his loyal friend was there and walked with him. That one relationship was his best example of Christ's love in his life.

Think Of the Difference

That likely is not the case for most of us, but what a difference we could make if we take the time and energy to genuinely love our neighbors. My hope for the book that the women read this January is that it will be an encouragement to all of you. In the meantime, if you want to be inspired, I will happily share the titles with you! ✝

Heartfelt Thanks!

By Jerry Thiessen



How does a person even begin to tell the experiences of April, 2022 that **Bob, Sue, Rod, and I** had. (Not to mention all you dear ones).

First, I want to give THANKS & PRAISE to GOD! He was with me I know.

Next, I wish to let you, my church, along with so many friends and family that I feel that on Palm Sunday (*when I was so weak and the family knew I might not live*), your prayers were what God listened to and He assured me that I would be with you ALL a while longer. So when I am well again...put me to work for He has a purpose for me to be here.

Thank you for all your gifts of cards, the Easter Lily from church and ALL of your prayers.

Last, but definitely important: I want to thank the 'Meal Train' that **Gaye Stewart** and you dear ones have provided. A person cannot help but heal with such great food. It sure has been a big help.

As of today, I still have more doctors to follow-up with. My strength is growing daily and the tremors have pretty much ceased. It has been so good being back with you all in church.

Your love and kind words have been very much appreciated, along with many hugs.

Please keep praying for continued wholeness. **THANK YOU!** ✝

LMF News

By Joyce Harms

In June the Ladies Missionary Fellowship met for a work day. We spent time making LU pads and quilt tops.

Farewell Friends

A special lunch was planned by **Wilma Fast** and **Sherri Fobert** as a farewell for **Bonnie Scheese**. Bonnie and her husband, **Al**, are

moving to Washington state to live closer to their children. We thank her for many years of service in sewing and leadership of LMF.

Doreen Godeaux stopped by as she too was in the process of moving

→ Please see "LMF" on page 10.

Reminders and a New Event Coming

Health Care Ministry Team

By Sherri Fobert
Chair

EBC Health Care Committee

The EBC Health Care Committee has some special reminders for our church family!

Reminder #1: Blood pressure checks the first Sunday of the month in the kitchen alcove

Reminder #2: As some of you had noticed, there is still a request out for “Helping Hands”. A big **THANK YOU** to those individuals

who have responded and helped out in an emergency situation. Yet, there is still a need, especially for strong and willing men to help with moving requests. Also transportation help is often requested. So if you haven’t considered becoming a “helping hand” in an emergency situation, please do so. *(There are several other areas that help is sometimes needed.)* You can truly make the difference for someone.

1. Red blood cells can be extracted and used by patients who have lost blood due to trauma or recovering from surgery.

2. The liquid part of blood, the plasma, is used by patients requiring treatment to improve blood clotting.

3. The third component, platelets, are used to clot the blood when an individual has a serious cut or other open wounds. They can also be used by cancer patients or those patients undergoing organ transplants.

4. The fourth and final component, cryoprecipitated anti-hemophilic factor (AHF) is used for clotting factors.



You Got It ... Share It!

Speaking of making a difference for someone.....

Coming soon..... Mark your calendars for **Monday, August 29**, EBC will be hosting a **blood drive**. More information will be coming, but let’s think about why one should donate in the first place.

The River of Life

Blood is often discussed as the “River of Life”. Here is your opportunity to give to others in their time of need. While the actual donation of blood takes approximately 10 minutes, the entire process of donating 1 unit of blood can take 45–60 minutes.

So Much Benefit

From this single unit of blood, it can be divided in four components.

LMF

← (Continued from page 9.)

closer to her family. We included her in our farewell. We’ll miss both of these friends and wish them well in their new ventures.

August Meeting

At our August meeting we will again have a work day. Join us...if you can cut with a scissor, sew with a sewing machine, measure with a tape measure, or iron seams of quilt blocks....

COME JOIN US. WE NEED YOU. Bring a food dish to share at the potluck at noon. ✝



Reasons to Donate

From a survey of 5,000 blood donors, 75% stated they donated blood to help others. Other reasons were to feel good about themselves, support the local community and hospitals, and “pay back” for when they or someone in their family needed blood.

Please Consider...

So please consider becoming a donor on August 29, here at EBC. Look for more information on the Health Care bulletin board. ✝

Pictures on this page from Pixabay.com

Youth Perspective

THANK YOU!!!

AdobeStock

By Natasha Griffiths
FORGED! Youth Reporter

Mentors, grandparents, leaders, pastors, older siblings, guardians, parents and older relatives have all played a huge part in my life, and I'm sure have played a huge part in your life.

In **Philippians 3**, Paul talks of how we should look to the older, more experienced Christians for how to walk in our faith, ***"Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you."*** (Philippians 3:17)

In Titus, Paul commands the older generations to teach the younger generations how to live (**Titus 2:1–8**). I see a demonstration of this in the leaders at Youth Group.

A Huge Part

Leaders are a huge part of what keeps Youth Group running and what helps it run smoothly. Over my four years of Youth Group, I've grown to deeply appreciate the commitment these adults (*and sometimes seniors, for middle school youth group*) illustrate.

They show up almost every week preparing food, lessons, or games.

They choose to make us kids a priority and continue to invest in our lives. I used to take this commitment for granted until I began helping in Awana® and Mom2Mom®.

It can be a lot to show up every week, put aside your personal life so you can focus on interactions with the kids, and not rush through the time to get back to the busier things in life.

I don't know much about the personal lives of my leaders, but I do know that whenever I see them, they take the time to smile, have a conversation, make a joke or ask about something I had mentioned before.

A Sacrifice of Time

The commitment our leaders show can only come from them sacrificing something else in place. The biggest sacrifice I see leaders make is the *time* they give to us. Not only at youth group do they give us time, but they answer our questions and invite us out to coffee or some other adventure that could help them get to know us.

During the 2022 spring retreat, I asked the leaders if they would

answer a few questions for me. During our interview I was excited that they seemed to be open to whatever conversations arose from my questions. With most of the leaders, I had about a 30–60 minute long conversation.

The questions I asked reflected the big theme of the retreat—**Hopelessness and Hope in Jesus**, but also had to do with their personal goal for the weekends and what ways God was working in their lives, specifically that weekend. During our conversations, I saw such a different perspective of my leaders. Before this I saw them as the persona I had made for them, but as our conversations carried on, many preconceived notions dropped to the floor.

Wrong Assumptions

Things I assumed were proven wrong or true and I believe they were able to get to know me better as well.

I was impressed with the level of raw thought the leaders shared with me as well. I know that during the conversations with the female leaders specifically, we were able to get down to a deep level of understanding and shared experienced.

I learned so much from just listening to what these leaders had to say and that impacted how I saw them interact with others. It's crazy how

.....
If these leaders think my walk with Christ is important enough to sacrifice their time and invest in my life, why wouldn't I think my faith is important?

→ Please see **"Leaders"** on page 15.

Training Up Our Children

By Gwen Griffiths

During a senior recognition night this year, nine graduating seniors were asked what person had the most influence on their spiritual formation. Without exception, each teen mentioned one or both of their parents.

HUGE Responsibility!

This reminded me of the importance of the role that parents play in the lives of their children. Parents are called to ***“train up a child in the way he should go”*** (Proverbs 22:6, KJV)—a huge responsibility! We may not fully realize the responsibility that comes with that calling, we may feel inadequate to fulfill it—but the calling doesn’t change.

What?

And what is our responsibility to the children in our lives? To provide spiritual training for their mind and heart. It’s a tricky thing. We must fulfill this responsibility while somehow still depending fully on Christ’s work in their (and our) mind and heart. We must ensure that they hear us as we teach them God’s principles and that they see us living

these principles out—and correcting our walk when we fail.

How?

So how do we do this? God gives us two gifts to enable parents in this undertaking.

First, we are given a vast amount of time with our children, and we must choose to use it wisely. Every moment, every interaction is a chance to lead our children down the path towards a life that honors God.

It’s true that it isn’t feasible to somehow leverage every single moment for teaching and modeling, but if our hearts are geared towards seeking those moments out, we will be less likely to waste them as they come.

When?

When we choose to engage with the kids in the car instead of zoning out to our favorite Spotify® list, **when** we feel little eyes on us and determine to respond to a challenging situation in a God-honoring way, **when** we set our phones down and look into the eyes of our children while they tell us something long and drawn-out—in each of those every day situations and **in so many more**, we build a relationship that serves as the foundation for bigger spiritual influence.

The gift of time ties closely with the gift of formative

hearts. God gives us the most time with our children when they are young. We must intentionally choose to spend time with our children and then take the next step of engaging with them in conversations about spiritual matters.

“train up a child in the way he should go”

Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)

Even the youngest toddler can demonstrate the actions from a Sunday School song and chat about the meaning of the words. An elementary school student can converse about whether their actions honored God and what they might do differently in a future situation. Middle school kids can discuss hard cultural topics and search with you for Bible passages to back up their stance. And we can walk with our teens as they question and seek to make their faith their own. Each encounter of this sort leverages our spiritual influence for God’s Kingdom.

Take A Moment...

So, if you have children, take a moment today to consider how you might more fully utilize the influence God has given you. And if you don’t have children (*or if your children are grown*), consider if there is a child in your life that needs a godly influence. Then, in either situation, take a new step to train up the child(ren) in your life! ✝



Concerning Our Missionaries ...



Positive Reassuring Action Yielding Eternal Results

P.R.A.Y.E.R.

Submitted By Patty Van Well
EBC Missions Committee

Yount: **Jerusha** is having digestive health issues. Pray that they will be resolved before they travel to Brazil in September.

McFarland: Pray for their transition from Ecuador to the US as this is not an easy task after nearly 29 years of missionary service overseas.

Bulande: The family is traveling to **Diana's** home country of Romania where they will stay until February, 2023. Pray for their time in Romania and for the team that will be continuing the work in Mozambique in their absence.

Burke: **Dan** is preparing his lessons for the August discipleship classes and currently working on the commentary for the book of **I Corinthians**.

Goossens: **Mary** tested positive for COVID-19 as they were trying to return to Brazil from a conference in Panama. This has complicated their return and they ask for prayers as they figure out the details in getting back to Brazil.

Hedeen: Pray for the family as they work through the transition of getting **Stephen** settled at Moody Aviation in Spokane and for the rest of the family as they return to PNG.

Brooks: Pray that the Lord would call teachers to Wamena for the upcoming school year.

Stent: Wisdom and opportunities for meaningful conversations with new friends and neighbors.

Praise The Lord!

Yount: They are thankful for the opportunity to go on a month long 'vision' trip to Brazil this Fall.

McFarland: *"God has shown His strong arm on our behalf as goodbyes have been said to precious people in Ecuador"*

Hedeen: For safety in international and local travel and that the boys all finished the school year well.

Brooks: The family is settling into life in Wamena and enjoying the expat community and the weather.

Stent: Praise that the process of moving to Turkey and settling in has gone relatively smoothly and that kind people are letting them practice Turkish! ✝

Faithful Service!

By Ian and Linda McFarland

Hello family and friends,

First and foremost we send our gratitude to those who have been praying for us. We have felt God's hand of protection, guidance, and provision as we have moved through the process of leaving our ministry in Ecuador.

Busy Times

A brief summary is all we will give of these past few months.

The last two caravans that **Ian** organized were encouraging to us. In Kurintsa the church continues to grow and leaders are being mentored by **Pastor Walter**.

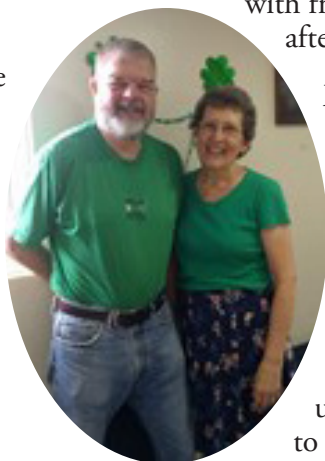
The Mashient church has been lead by **Pastor Carlos** for years as he served on his own with the help of his wife. Now there are several men who have returned to the Lord and are willing to assist in leadership. These are answers to prayer! May they continue to mature in their faith.

The two girls in the cleft lip program are coming closer to the finish line. **Linda** hoped to accompany



them to Quito on June 23 but this was cancelled due to the unrest in Ecuador. **Rosa**, who assists Linda in coordinating the program, put together a lovely meal and farewell for us along with our mission supervisor and his wife.

There have been many sad goodbyes with friends here in Ecuador after 28 years of ministry.



Most of these people we will not see again, but it has been good to thank them for their input in our lives.

A Wonderful Fairwell!

Our mission had a wonderful farewell for us with the opportunity to hear from co-workers.

We could not enjoy the cake though or hugs from our friends as we had to participate via a zoom call!

Roads are blocked into Quito so we stayed in Shell. The evening before we left Shell we enjoyed a meal out with our local mission team. What a blessing they have been!

The church in Mera surprised us with a farewell event after worship service a couple of weeks ago. There was special music, words of appreciation, and blessing to us, a chance for us to share, and a short video featuring areas we had ministered in during the eight years there. It has been a privilege to be a part of that fellowship.



Unrest

So what of the unrest we alluded to earlier? You may have heard something about it on your international news. June 13 was the beginning of what has become an aggressive protest of the indigenous nationalities against the government.

Roads are blocked in many areas, police buildings have been burned, banks sacked, and the daily movement of supplies and goods basically halted. Shop shelves are getting bare, gas stations are having difficulty receiving gasoline, butane gas (*widely used here for cooking*) is scarce and crime has gone up. Our task as believers is to pray for those in authority and that is what we are doing. Wisdom is needed to control the situation.

The Affect?

How does this affect us personally? We decided to try and go through with our plans to close up our ministry here in Ecuador and begin a new phase of life in the USA. Of the personal possessions we had in Shell, we separated out what we wanted

→ Please see "Faithful Service" on page 15.



to ship to Oregon, then sold or gave away everything else.

With sadness we turned the key in the door of our house for the last time. Our faithful 1989 van has potential buyers, but due to the protests and roadblocks they could not close on the purchase.

God marvelously answered our prayers for guidance the last week in the wisdom of our local mission director. **Vinicio** offered to deal with the van sale for us and also to meet the shipping company when they are finally able to come down from Quito to pack our things. What a relief this was. Our bank account, in the nearby town of Puyo, needed to be closed but four road barriers had to be passed to get there! We went with Vinicio and prayed and watched as each one was successfully passed. The van was searched and men with spears were just outside our windows. We don't lightly ask you to pray for us.

Prayers for Peace

The protest continues and we trust that peace will soon return to this country that we love.

Flying to Oregon

Our flight to Oregon left from Quito on June 26. Since roads are blocked, we had to take one of the airlift flights that MAF in Shell is offering.

The Glory to God!

To God be the glory for all He is

doing in Ecuador and may His Spirit keep on changing lives and hearts.

It has been an honor to work here. Thank you from our hearts for your part in this ministry! We look forward to what the Father has in store for us in the future. ✝

Update!

We would like to briefly follow up on our last email to you. We arrived safely in Oregon on Monday with no further problems. We know that many of you were praying for us and we appreciate that so much.

Thursday was the 18th day of the protests and road closures in Ecuador. It looks like the government and the protesters have reached an agreement and we trust things will soon open up there. It will take time to recover from the setback so pray for the people there.

Currently we are setting up our home with the basics and rejoicing in God's provision of this place! It has been fun to see family and friends. Sunday we plan to be in our home church in Dallas (Oregon).

The next venture is a trip to Britain, leaving on July 12. We will be visiting supporters and friends on this final home ministry assignment to that part of the world. We look forward to spending time with Ian's family in N. Ireland as well before we settle down in the USA.

*Rejoicing in God's grace,
Ian and Linda ✝*

Leaders

← (Continued from page 11.)

simple conversations, commitment, and persistent attempts to get to know us kids leaves a huge impact. I can tell you that in those simple 8 conversations I had with our leaders my perspective was changed. I learned and I grew in former ideals and thoughts. The commitment and sacrifice our leaders show makes me feel valued, important, and see a higher priority to my faith.

Why Wouldn't I?

If these leaders think my walk with Christ is important enough to sacrifice their time and invest in my life, *why wouldn't I think my faith is important?* Not only are the leaders impacting me presently, I know they are leaving a lasting impact in my life. Our leaders aren't only working to help us through high school, but also to equip us for the future. I've read books leaders suggested that have helped me grow in my faith and helped me understand the Bible better. I remember conversations I had with past leaders that still last with me to this day. There are lessons I was taught that have shaped my every day life.

In conclusion, I want to say ...

✝ **THANK YOU** to all who invest time and prayer into we teen's lives.

✝ **THANK YOU** for the time you have given us and all the times you have chosen to be open with us.

✝ **THANK YOU** for your commitment and sacrifice on our behalf. ✝

Missionaries & Ministries EBC Supports!

Note: EBC is committed to supporting missionaries. Some supported missionaries are purposefully omitted from this page to protect their safety in hostile political or social climates.



Tim and Sondra Armstrong
Wycliffe

the_armstrongs@the-armstrong-family.net

- ✠ Serving in Chang Mai, Thailand
- ✠ Tim is involved with training nationals in linguistics and Bible translation
- ✠ Structuring online class training for staff
- ✠ Sondra is involved in new member orientation and human resources within their organization



Tim and Mallory Brooks
Missionary Aviation Fellowship
tbrooks@maf.org

- ✠ Serving in Winema, Indonesia
- ✠ Tim is a mechanic for MAF planes on the base
- ✠ Both Tim and Mallory are studying to gain proficiency in the language
- ✠ Support for team members on the MAF base



Joshue and Diana Bulande
SIM
dianaafrica@gmail.com

- ✠ Serving in Lichinga, Mozambique
- ✠ Church planting, discipleship training
- ✠ Women's Bible training
- ✠ Children's ministry and tutoring



Dan and Judy Burke
Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)
dan_burke@ntm.org

- ✠ Serve in Bolivia in Cochabamba and San Borja
- ✠ Development of a discipleship center in northwestern Bolivia
- ✠ Work with the Chimane people group
- ✠ Write and produce books and commentaries in Chimane for the tribal people
- ✠ Teaching, construction, leadership development



Kevin and Jennifer Domes
IN FAITH
kjdomes.ministry@yahoo.com

- ✠ Work at Bethel Bible Camp in Wellfleet, Nebraska
- ✠ Involved in youth ministry, maintaining the camp facility
- ✠ Teach in the Awana program, lead a high school youth ministry
- ✠ Administrate retreats
- ✠ Jennifer also works in food preparation for the summer camps



Ivan and Mary Goossen
Avant Ministries
ivary@avmi.org

- ✠ Serve in Mucambo, Brazil
- ✠ Involved in evangelism and discipleship

→ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 17.

EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 16.)

✠ Adminstrate programs such as a coffee shop outreach

✠ Long time involvement with a Christian radio ministry



Eric and Judith Hedeon

Ethnos 360

eric_hedeon@ntm.org

- ✠ Serve in Papua, New Guinea
- ✠ Mentoring new missionaries to the field
- ✠ Translation work
- ✠ Judith works in the medical clinic and member care
- ✠ Leadership development among the indigenous people



Andrew and Rachel Kruse

Youth For Christ

andrew@tacomayfc.org

✠ Area Director with Youth For Christ in Tacoma, Washington

✠ Andrew provides training, supervision and mentoring in three sites, reaching youth between 11-19 years of age

✠ Has an outreach program at Joint Base Lewis-McChord military base for military connected youth and their friends

✠ Interim pastoral role at Tillicum Baptist Church

✠ Rachel is involved in mentoring youth and a group for young mothers



Ian and Linda McFarland

Reach Beyond

mcfarland7@gmail.com

- ✠ Serve in Shell, Ecuador
- ✠ Administration of medical team outreach to rural areas via medical Caravans
- ✠ Administration of a program for repairing cleft lips in children
- ✠ Help with relief programs for families



Steve and Mikki Schmidt

SIM Missionaries

steve.schmidt@sim.org

mikki.schmidt@sim.org

- ✠ Steve is the SIM regional Director for West Africa
- ✠ Supervises country directors in 11 countries
- ✠ Both Steve and Mikki work in SIM's Global Leader Development Program
- ✠ Mikki does educational consulting work, and also works in the Paths to School Improvement program which trains Christian school leaders throughout Africa



Andrew and Jerusha (Dressel) Yount

Proclaim Aviation Ministries

andyandjerusha@gmail.com

- ✠ On staff with Moody Bible Institute's Mission Aviation School
- ✠ Learning Avionics in preparation for future Missionary pilot position ✚

Other Outreach Ministries We Support:

◆ Awana
◆ CEF

◆ Crisis Pregnancy
◆ River of Life

◆ Prison Ministry
◆ SAT-7 (Dennis & Cindy Wiens)

◆ Village Missions
◆ Weekday School of the Bible

◆ Mission Connexion

The Global Family of Believers

Spotlight on Village Missions Churches

Quaker Street Bible Church

PO Box 63
Delanson, NY 12053
518.895.2543

By Andrew & Sherri Strickland

Quaker Street is a town that “used to be” – it was once an important town and hub off the railroad line, but since a through-highway was built, Quaker Street now only exists in the Delanson post office and as a name on a sign here and there throughout the area. We are in the southwest corner of Schenectady County, in close proximity to the “capital district” that includes Albany, Troy and Schenectady. The nearest towns to us are Delanson (1 mile) and Duanesburg (4 miles). There is not much employment in town, but Duanesburg has an elementary school and high school, along with several small businesses.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ✠ Pray that we would find creative ways to engage the community with the Gospel.
- ✠ Pray that visitors would return even in the midst of “Covid confusion.”
- ✠ Several members of prominent families in the community have died recently, leading to confusion and questions

about what the future holds for our little community.

✠ Pray that the younger generation would commit to Christ and a Biblical worldview. Pray that they would also come alongside the older generation of leadership and finally step into their shoes.

Land O'Lakes Bible Church

PO Box 689
Land O' Lakes, WI 54540
715.547.3183

By Frank & Lynn Puffer

Land O' Lakes offers outdoor activities and sports all year. Recently the population has grown due to people moving from the cities and suburbs. Our little community and church are growing, and along with that we have new opportunities to serve.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ✠ Please pray that the Lord would add to the church those who would be saved.
- ✠ Pray that we would maintain the unity of the body as the Lord adds to our congregation.
- ✠ Pray that all the ministries within the church would honor and accomplish God's will and that we would do all things for His glory.

Breezewood Community Church

PO Box 79
Breezewood, PA 15533
814.735.4593

By Tim & Kelley Kirschner

Breezewood is set in a beautiful mountain area right between two major highways and is a rest stop for weary travelers. The population is about 1,400, who either farm, work at the truck stops, or rely on government assistance. Our goal as the Body of Christ is to love our community so that they might come to know Christ! We do that through six annual outreach events: we start the year with a Youth Retreat, then Easter Egg Hunt weekend, end-of-the-school-year Backyard Bible Club, community Worship @ the River picnic, Trunk or Treat, and finally a Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ✠ Pray that our community would be open to hearing the gospel.
- ✠ Pray that our church body would continue to grow in God's Word!
- ✠ Pray for Kelley and me as we adjust to a new phase of life—we became empty nesters this year. We miss our ministry sidekicks, although the cheaper lunch costs are nice! ✠

For additional information on these and other churches served by Village Missions, please visit: <https://vmchurches.org/>

Stories from the FIELDS

Editor's Note: Stories from the FIELDS is produced monthly by Village Missions. They contain inspirational accounts from many of those supported by Village Missions who are currently working in the mission field.

If you would like to receive your copy directly from Village Missions or desire more information on this organization, please contact Tim Griffiths at:

tgriffiths@villagemissions.org.

Taste of Eternity

Our church hosted a Singspiration, the first since my family came to Ridgway. I am not a skilled singer, so I dreaded leading an hour of singing. I didn't expect many people to come, either. But God surprised me. Our church was packed with 59 attendees (twice the number in a usual worship service). My nervousness melted away with the sound of so many brothers and sisters in Christ lifting praises to God. At one point I looked at the clock, and time was not dragging—it was running out too quickly! During the challenges of life and ministry, the evening uplifted me and gave me hope. It was a taste of how we will spend eternity together!

Andrew and Staci Hall
Ridgway, MT †

Activity Resumed

We restarted our Olympian Club after a two-year hiatus. The number of children was significantly lower, but our volunteers persevered. Following tradition, we planned a "Grand Fun-al-e" for the last club meeting of the school year. The Lord gave us a beautiful day; at least 80 people came to enjoy the celebration and awards ceremony. We hope this not only encourages children to return to Olympian Club in September but also draws more children to learn about Christ at our summer camp program in August!

Russ & Linda Richardson
Sauvie Island, OR †

Great Turnout

For our AWANA closing program, we held a Grand Prix featuring race cars designed and decorated by the children. Many children received prizes, and we capped off the day with ice-cream sundaes. Aside from the festivities that took place, the greatest blessing was being able to share the Gospel with the 100-plus people who attended! (Our average church attendance is 30 people.) I was so grateful that this event allowed me to meet so many new people. Our church is delighted to shine the light of Christ through the AWANA program. We pray that God will continue to work in the hearts of people in our community.

Rocco & Kimberly Gammone
West Bethel, ME †

Sunday Worship Services:

9:00 & 10:30 am Sunday Morning
Worship Services
10:00 am Coffee Time!

Awana: (September through April)

Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm

**Please check the Sunday Bulletin and
the EBC website for updated calendar
items as they are announced.**

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encouraged. Please use one of the following:

Text: 503.931.8239

Email: bob.disher@charter.net

The opinions expressed herein are
those of the author of the articles and
are not necessarily endorsed by the
leadership of EBC.

**Thank
you!** ✝

UPCOMING

July 17 (Sunday)

- ✝ **Bridal Shower for Francesca Dow**
- ✝ **Membership Class**

July 29–31 (Friday–Sunday)

- ✝ **EBC Family Camp**

August 1–5 (Monday–Friday)

- ✝ **Vacation Bible School**

August 28 (Sunday)

- ✝ **Youth Groups Parent meeting**

September 11 (Sunday)

- ✝ **All Church Picnic**

September 18 (Sunday)

- ✝ **Ministry Fair** ✝



**Article Deadline for September ISSUE is . . .
Monday, August 29, @ 5:00 pm!**

The Bible is a guide for our lives; for example **Psalms 119:105** tells us that ***Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*** (NKJV).

This principle is certainly true for us as individuals, but is also true for organizations and ministries. *The Sentinel*, as a ministry, views **Romans 14:19** (***Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*** NIV) as a guiding passage for what to include and/or exclude for print. ✝

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:29–31 (NIV) ✝