

# The Sentinel

WE  
STAND  
WATCH

DISTRIBUTED BY EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH



December, 2022  
VOL 6 • NO 11

## Christmas, 2022!

By Pastor Troy Bassham

***For my eyes have seen  
Your salvation which You  
have prepared before the  
face of all peoples, A light  
to bring revelation to the  
Gentiles, and the glory of  
Your people Israel.***

***Luke 2:30-32 (NKJV)***

It's that time of year again. Colorful lights, family gatherings, gift-giving, carols, and food. Even if I just awakened from a long hibernation, I would immediately know that it is Christmas time.

### In a Forgotten Corner

Yet, the night our Savior was born, His birth almost passed without notice. In a forgotten corner of the Roman Empire, a baby was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. The young couple had traveled many miles to register for a

government census. They were poor and away from home. That night, their firstborn had been born in a cave where animals were kept.

It was hardly the scene we see on the cover of so many Christmas cards. I'm sure that Joseph wasn't standing alongside his wife, looking certain and regal. Mary wasn't as we see her depicted in our nativity sets,

kneeling beside her baby, poised and confident with perfect hair and clothing.

### Earthy and Gritty!

It was a far cry from many of the celebrations we see today, full of color and light and laughter. The first Christmas was earthy and gritty and it almost passed undetected.

*Almost.*

→ Please see "Christmas" on page 3.



know. grow. go.

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Deadline for December ISSUE is:

**Monday, January 2,  
@ 5:00 pm**

From the EBC Office!

# Office News and Notes

By Alison Johnson  
Office Manager



**D**ecember is here which means the calendar fills up, the days go faster, and we get to celebrate the birth of Christ. I personally love this time of year. While it might seem like things should slow down in the building the week of holidays, the office stays pretty much the same. The quiet days in the church mean I can catch up on some projects and filing.

## New Phone System

We have a new phone system! However, sometimes when we return your call, the phone number may not be the same as our normal number. You should still use the same number to call the office, but when I call out the number can show up differently. These phones are great and the system is far more reliable than our previous one so this is a really big improvement.



Pixabay

## Please Note!

A few things to remember when it comes to the end of the year:

☒ Please turn in any reimbursements you have for your ministries by December 23. The last round of checks will be going out the last week of the month and we start on a new year and new books January 1.

☒ The last day to **drop off contributions for tax write offs** is December 30. I will work until 4 to get those in for last minute people. Be sure to check on mailing details! Our local Post Office isn't generally open on Saturday and so donations will need to be **postmarked by December 31** to count towards 2022 donations.

☒ The **office will be closed** on Monday, December 26, for Christmas. ✝



# A King Coming to Town?

By Lori Bassham

“**A King is Coming to Town!**” declares a sign, posted anonymously, in the little town of Rumor’s Mill.

*Just who is this king and why is he coming?* No one seems to know. The citizens all have different ideas of who it might be but only **Paige** and **Ellie** know the truth. Join the cast as they discover the true reason that we celebrate Christmas.

## December 17

On December 17, the EBC youth will stage the festive Christmas musical, “**A King is Coming to Town,**” created by **Geron David**, **Sue C. Smith**, and **Craig Adams**.

The youngest EBC children will open the event by singing songs coordinated by **Dale Hawes**. Following the Children’s Choir, the musical will begin.

## Many Behind-the-Scene Helpers

The show is directed by **Lori Bassham** and **Sarah McFarland**. It will feature sound design by **Sheldon Schmidt** and lighting by **Andrew Wheeler**.

Fourteen of EBC’s youth have been working hard to present this show to our congregation and community. We are blessed to have the talented **Sophie Lyman** and **Priscilla Domes** leading our cast as *Greta VanHorn* and *Ms. James*. **Noah** and **Grace Sakrisson** will

→ Please see “*The King*” on page 3.

# The King Christmas

← (Continued from page 2.)

perform for the first time on our stage as *Sheriff Badge* and *Ellie*.

**Maddi Fuller**, also new to our stage, will take on the role of the Mayor. We're happy to have **Eva Casey** (*Barbara Booster*) and **Arianna McFarland** (*Paige*) joining us again. Rounding out our cast in supporting roles are **Mercy Harris**, **Anna Johnson**, **Libby Rand**, **Daphne Toma**, **Orrin Casey**, and **Tabitha and Boaz Domes**.

## Mark Your Calendar

The musical will play at **4:00 pm and 6:00 pm on December 17** in the EBC sanctuary.

The event is free and should not exceed one hour. We look forward to seeing you there! ✝



← (Continued from page 1.)

Except for the fact that the Hosts of Heaven could not contain themselves. Bursting forth with great excitement, they proclaimed the good news to an unlikely audience of shepherds working in nearby fields.

***I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10b-11 (NKJV)***

## The Messiah Had Come!

The Savior was born. The long awaited Messiah had come. The angels rejoiced while the shepherds tried to absorb the news they had received in such a dramatic encounter.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

***"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:14 (NKJV)***

## No Longer Quiet

Today Christmas does not pass by quietly. We begin to hear familiar carols being played in mid-October. Homes are decorated, merchandise



is sold, and dozens of Santa Clauses begin appearing at local malls. Yet, despite the cultural festivities, many are unaware of the true meaning of Christmas, the reason behind the celebration.

## Keep the True Meaning

Certainly, there are songs about peace and goodwill. There are acts of kindness and prayers for human strife to end. *But the essential part of Christmas is the child that the angels proclaimed.* Jesus is more than a holiday feel-good story or nativity decoration. Our peace is found in God through Jesus Christ. God's goodwill brings about our salvation.

Jesus Christ was God eternal and He came in human form, to save us from our sin. He was our sacrifice to bring peace with God. Jesus Christ came to save. As the Angel announced, *"You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."* He was Immanuel, God with us.

## Remember THE Reason

At Christ's birth, most of the world continued, unaware of the great gift that had been given. That continues to be the reality for so many today. *We need to remember the reason we celebrate.* Christmas is all about Jesus

Christ, our salvation. Let us join with the angels in celebrating God's mercy. May we remember to proclaim this truth to others. ✝

.....  
***Our peace is found in God through Jesus Christ. God's goodwill brings about our salvation.***



# YOUR Board of Elders



**Pastor Troy Bassham**

(W) 503.623.2331

[troybassham@ebcdallas.org](mailto:troybassham@ebcdallas.org)



**Nathaniel Thomas**  
**Chairman**

(C) 503.385.3252

[natandsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:natandsylvia@gmail.com)



**Joe Cacka**  
**Vice Chairman**

(C) 971.287.1583

[cackajoseph@gmail.com](mailto:cackajoseph@gmail.com)



**Alan Casey**  
**Secretary**

(C) 503.931.8825

[alanrdh@live.com](mailto:alanrdh@live.com)



**Andrew Connolly**

(C) 503.877.0544

[aconnollyhome@gmail.com](mailto:aconnollyhome@gmail.com)



**Justin Ens**

(C) 503.689.3099

[justiniq@yahoo.com](mailto:justiniq@yahoo.com)



**Darrel Hiebenthal**

(C) 503.559.2893

(H) 503.623.5858

[dwthal@outlook.com](mailto:dwthal@outlook.com)

*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 Nat Thomas  
Chairman, Board of Elders

I trust each one had a nice Thanksgiving celebration! Often Thanksgiving is spent with family and friends gathered around a table sharing in a feast. Many times it is a time to get reconnected with family or friends that you have not seen for awhile—college student home from school or a relative visiting from out of state. Gathered together, eating together, talking together, and laughing together. *Together.*

## Something Bigger

The Bible tells us that we are each a part of something bigger. We as Christians are members of various entities all at the same time:

**1** We are soldiers in the army of God (**2 Timothy 2:3-4**).

**2** We are stones in a living temple (**1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Peter 2:4-5**).

**3** We are described as sheep in a flock (**John 10:14-16**).

**4** And...we are children of God in the household/family of God (**Ephesians 2:19; Romans 8:16-17**).

Notice how the Bible tells us we are members of *something*, **not** intended to be isolated individuals.

## Community

People have an internal, innate desire for community that is natural. Each of us come from a family of origin with a mother and father, some better at parenting than others. Often we grow and mature and create our own families by marriage.

The ultimate family we belong to is the family of God, whether in this world we are married, single, widowed, or divorced, our Father in heaven gave us His son Jesus by whom we can become the children of God. *Beautiful.*

Our local church is the gathering together of members of this family of God in order to worship God together, to serve God together, to serve *one another* and to love *one another*. This phrase "*one another*" is used in over twenty verses to describe how the family of God is to relate together:

**a** **Colossians 3:16**—*teaching and admonishing one another*

**b** **Galatians 6:2**—*bear one another's burdens*

**c** **Romans 12:10**—*love one another*

**d** **1 Thessalonians 5:11**—*encourage one another*

**e** **James 5:16**—*pray for one another*

**f** **Ephesians 4:2**—*tolerating one another in love*

**g** **1 Peter 4:9**—*showing hospitality to one another and*

**h** **Ephesians 4:32**—*be kind to one another.*

It is a tall order, *but God does not give us commands that we can not obey.*

These verses and others show us a picture of our place in the family of God as a warm, secure place that many people did not have growing up in their families of origin.

## Keeping Tabs

One of the tasks that our elder team has this next few months is to identify who is in our EBC family in terms of official membership and who has moved on to other endeavors.

There is a list of hundreds of names that have accumulated over the years and has not been regularly updated

→ Please see "**Elders**" on page 6.



*The ultimate family we belong to is the family of God ... our Father in heaven gave us His son Jesus by whom we can become the children of God. Beautiful.*

# \$\$\$ Gifts for Our Missionaries!

By Kay Whitney  
EBC Missionary Box Coordinator

Christmas Missionary Boxes continue to be available for pick-up in the foyer on **Sunday, 12/4/22** and even on **Sunday, 12/11/22**. However, they are due on the 11th, so be sure to bring your donation to church with you on that day to add to a box **IF** you haven't yet picked one up!

The gifts are sent directly to the missionary as a special gift during the Christmas Season. It does not go through their ministry and thus is **NOT** tax deductible.

Boxes can be filled with coins, bills or checks. If you include a check, please be sure to make it out to **EBC**. Checks can also be placed in the box on the Welcome Center and need to be designated as a **Missionary Christmas Gift**. **THANK YOU** to those of you who have already given or still plan to give.

This gift lets the missionaries EBC supports know that we think about them and care about them. ✝



## Shoebox Update

By Kay Whitney

A total of 211 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) were packed this year and taken to Dallas Church for shipping to a fulfillment center where the boxes will be reviewed and sent to children who most likely will not receive another Christmas gift.

Enclosed in each shoebox is a copy of *The Greatest Gift*, a colorful presentation of the Gospel in their own language. Each child is given the opportunity to have a follow-up Bible study.

Families and friends of the shoebox recipient are often impacted by the gift and learn about the love of Jesus too.

Thank you to everyone who packed a box or boxes, donated items or shipping costs. ✝

# Elders

← (Continued from page 5.)

for who has moved or even who has passed away. We will attempt to locate folks on the list and ask what their intent is to be a member, an associate member, or former member.

We want to be respectful of people's wishes. For example, maybe someone had to move away and has family members still here at EBC or they are doing something that is temporary and wish to move back then they can remain on the list.



Whether you are a long term attendee or a member of EBC, it is important that we have some points of teaching on what it means to be involved in our church. There is a book available for no cost to you from the elder team called "*I am a Church Member*" by **Thom Rainer** that outlines how we as family can make a positive impact on each other.

Although the language assumes that you are desiring to have an official membership status, the principles are none the less good for folks that, for personal reasons, do

not want to have their name on a roster in the office.

If you desire to have a copy of this 79 page book or its updated version by the author's son, **Sam Rainer**, please pick one up at the welcome center in the lobby or ask at the church office. The six chapters in this small book cover topics such as body functioning, unity, priorities, prayer, and love for the church.

## Love One Another

Paul tells us in **Ephesians 5:25**, **Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it (NKJV)**.

As we enter the holiday season and celebrate the coming of Jesus to die for our sins, we have the opportunity to love one another in the church as He loves the church. ✝



Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

# News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone  
President, FEBC



December 1, 2022

## A Christmas Analogy:

**P**erhaps some of you have experienced this first-hand: You come up with the best Christmas gift ever, searching multiple stores before practically having to fight for the last one in town. You lovingly wrap the gift and place it under the tree. On Christmas morning, your young child opens said gift, and spends the next hour playing with the wrapping paper and box.

The cause of this scene, repeated over and over throughout history, is unclear. Perhaps the parents do not understand their child's wants very well. Maybe the child is more interested in the flashy wrapping than the substance within. Whatever the case, there seems to be a disconnect between the expectations of the giver and those of the receiver.

I think we repeat this scenario over and over with our Heavenly Father. He loves to give us amazing gifts, and yet we often focus on the wrong thing – missing the glory he intended.

## For instance:

- ◆ God's Word contains the gift of abundant, eternal life. Do we focus on that gift, or do we get distracted by shiny theological arguments involving debatable issues?
- ◆ Maybe this Christmas, God will send your church the gift of some visitors. Will you be enchanted with your glittery attendance numbers, or will you make an effort to get to know these newcomers, enjoying the gift of their fellowship among you?
- ◆ When the message of Christmas is shared in your services, will you be enthralled by the wrapping of how well the preacher spoke or how beautiful the songs were, or will you allow the actual message of Immanuel to pierce your heart and stir you to true worship?



My prayer for our Fellowship this Christmas is that we would open the gifts God presents us and experience the full depth of his amazing love and grace. Merry Christmas!

**Serving Him together, ✝**

Office: 402.965.3860 📞 Cell: 402.541.6099  
[www.fellowshipforward.org](http://www.fellowshipforward.org) 📧 [president@febministries.org](mailto:president@febministries.org)

## EBC Women's Ministry

IN HIS IMAGE

# January Journey

By Alison Johnson  
Chairwoman, EBC Women's Ministry

Coming this January, Women's Ministry will again be doing the January Journey where women in the church will work through a book throughout the month and then all gather in February to talk about and reflect on it.

### Gracelaced

This year we will be working through "*Gracelaced*" by Ruth Chou Simons. This book does not have a lot of heavy reading

daily, but does have Scripture suggestions to go with each daily section.



The books are \$15 each and the cost includes the gathering event that will take place on February 3, 2023. (Save the date!)

We will have books available in the church office as well as at the Candlelight dessert and a couple of Sunday mornings. ✝

## Secret Sister

By Alison Johnson

This year secret sisters will launch January 2023, and end November 2023. It is open to all women at Evangelical Bible Church.

### Silent Prayer Partners

Secret sisters is a program through the Women's Ministry. Our goal is to give the opportunity for women to become a silent prayer partner and secret encourager for another lady within our church family. She will not know who you are, but she *will* know you are there praying for her needs.

Forms will be available starting December 11 and will need to be returned by December 25. ✝



If you have questions about how to become a part of EBC Women's Ministries, please contact Alison Johnson at 503.623.2331! ✝

## 2022-2023 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	<a href="mailto:office@ebcdallas.org">office@ebcdallas.org</a>
Recording Secretary/Treasurer	Julie Brewen	503.917.8431	<a href="mailto:brewen5@msn.com">brewen5@msn.com</a>
Publicity	Sue Dunham	503.510.5950	<a href="mailto:sue@dgd.bz">sue@dgd.bz</a>
Hospitality (weddings, receptions, & showers)	Ruth Quiring	503.930.6137	<a href="mailto:ruthmarieq@gmail.com">ruthmarieq@gmail.com</a>
Edification (Bible studies)	Sylvia Thomas	503.931.4565	<a href="mailto:natandsylvia@gmail.com">natandsylvia@gmail.com</a>
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).		



## The Attributes of God

# Who Has the Power?

By Gwen Griffiths

Editor's Note: This is the third part in a series on the Attributes of God.

*Stay tuned!*

There's this thing that Americans are known for: **independence**. It probably stems from a history of settling a new land in a "*I did it my way*" sort of way and is so deeply steeped in our culture that it can be difficult to recognize. It's also a trait that comes into direct conflict with the next attribute of God that we'll discuss: His sovereignty.

To talk about a quality, one must be clear on its definition, so off to [merriam-webster.com](http://merriam-webster.com) we go. After a slew of phrases about "*possessing supreme power*" and "*exercising supreme authority*" and "*of the most exalted kind*" there's this paragraph:

*Sovereign has everything to do with power. It often describes a person who has supreme power or authority... God is described as "sovereign" in a number of Bible translations. In addition to describing ones who have power, the word sovereign also often describes power: to have sovereign power is to have absolute power—that is, power that cannot be checked by anyone or anything.*

### God's Sovereignty

As Christians, we readily admit God's sovereignty. We like verses like **Romans 8:28**, depending on God's sovereignty to work out every situation for our good, assuming that "*our good*" equates to our happiness or our ease...or at least something good for a few comments on social media.

### We Want It All

The truth is, though, that even as we acknowledge God's sovereignty, we often try to grab it for ourselves (*and sovereignty is one of those immutable attributes that just doesn't transfer to humanity*).

We are limited, bound by time and place and energy, with much *less* power than our independent selves would like to admit to. And yet, we continually grasp for control, seeking to manipulate the circumstances in which we find ourselves, attempting to exert power over the people around us.

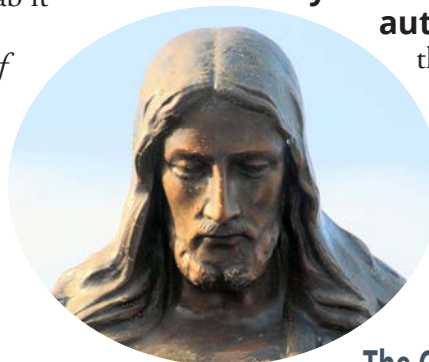
### Living Under God's Sovereignty

To truly acknowledge and live

### Check It Out!

To read more about God's sovereignty, check out this article: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/gods-sovereignty-and-our-responsibility>

under God's sovereignty requires three things of us. We must **admit our dependence** on Him and **submit to His direction** in our lives. We must **yield ourselves to His authority**, understanding that He directs the entire span of history, from beginning to end—every inflection and nuance of every interaction—and He works out His purposes in it.



### The Cornerstone: TRUST

Each of these three things relies on trust—**trust** that the hard things and the things that seem wrong in our world are the right things God wills. We must **trust** that God's way truly is better than our way, even when we desperately want our way to prevail.

### How...?

*So...how do we interact with God and others in view of His sovereignty?*

***We must trust that God's way truly is better than our way, even when we desperately want our way to prevail.***

→ Please see "*Attributes*" on page 10.

# Ladies Missionary Fellowship (LMF) End of the Year Report

By Joyce Harms

**T**his past year a group of 12–15 women have met monthly at the church to work on projects for missions, to hear from and pray for missionaries, and have fellowship together.



## Much Activity

In one corner of the room there was a group of about 5–7 working on LuoPads that were sent to a mission office in Florida. The 200 LouPads made this year went to countries where women need hygiene products for personal care.

They can't just go to a store to buy these necessities.

Next, you'll see two quilts out on quilt frames waiting to be tied. Women sit on chairs around the quilts tying square knots in specific corners. Twenty-five quilts were tied this year and given to UGM, Sable House, wedding couples, and new babies. Another table has a couple of ladies cutting out or sewing clothing protectors for adults.



These will go to Dallas Retirement Village. Two ladies are busy going around removing the quilts on frames or putting up new quilts for the next tying project. Someone will be at the ironing board, ironing the wrinkles out of fabric. This busy work happens for about 2 ½ hours. At 11 am, sharp projects are put away and our program begins.

## Program Meeting

The president opens our meeting with prayer. We read/recite our Scripture verse for the year. Minutes are read, old or new business is discussed, and our speaker for the day is introduced.



We try to have a missionary give our devotional, or someone may speak from Crisis Pregnancy Center, **Sable House**, **Union Gospel Mission** (UGM) women's home or even one of our own ladies may give her testimony or life story. We try

to always have at least 15 minutes to pray in small groups for the requests given.

## Meal Time

At noon we have our prayer of thankfulness for our potluck lunch together. We have been blessed to have two couples serve us in

preparing the food, heating it and setting it out, then later cleaning up after the lunch. *We are so blessed.*

Any lady that would like to join our group is welcome to come. Come early to help in our projects or come just for the devotional meeting and lunch. *We'd love to have you.* ✝



## Attributes

← (Continued from page 9.)

We must continually give our will over to God, purposefully growing our trust in Him by acting on what trust we currently have. When life spins out of control, *when our nature prods us to reign it all in*, we must instead find our rest in the One Who truly does direct our paths.

And, as we interact with others, we must trust that God will use our successes and our failures for his purposes. This can free us from the fear that we'll say the wrong thing or do something in the wrong way—God will use it! Instead of wavering between needed action and worry about our ability, we can step confidently into action, trusting God to use us as we strive to serve Him. ✝



Photos by Joyce Harms.



# It's Going to Be a New Year! New Dates!

By Sherri Fobert and the Health Care Ministry Team

**Y**ou'll have just enough time to ring in the New Year and begin recovery before TWO "make a difference events" will be offered at EBC.

**1.** A **blood drive** will be held in the Activity Center on **January 9, 2023, 11 am to 4 pm**. Each donation can help save three lives! You can sign up with **Alison** in the church office or register on-line at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Walk-ins are accepted but you must arrive no later than 3:15 pm.

This is an opportunity where you can really make a difference in the life of a person who is facing a physical health crisis. Spread the word and encourage your friends and neighbors to consider being a donor. May you find the courage inside to overcome a needle aversion if that is what is holding you back. I don't like needles either, but I tell myself in 30 minutes the needle part

will be over and with that, I can find myself being a donor.

**2.** And then come **Saturday, January 14 (9:30 am)**, for an event in the Builders Room. *Doing so can make a difference in your life.*

**Catia Garibay**, a Health Educator, from Salem Hospital—Community Health Education Center will give a 30–40 min. presentation titled **"Good Food, Good Mood"**.

## A Side Note:

**A**n awesome reference book on the Mediterranean Diet is *"Good Food, Great Medicine, A Mediterranean Diet and Lifestyle Guide"*, by **Miles Hassell MD**.

The author references trials and the results with regard to the effect the Mediterranean diet has on heart disease, strokes, diabetes, weight loss, cancer, depression, and more.

Lots of great information, recipes, etc. A copy of this book will be available for you to review at the presentation. There will also be several informative handouts and spice blend samples for those in attendance. ✝

## In a nutshell...

### Monday, January 9

#### Blood Drive

**11 am to 4 pm**  
**Activity Center**

### Saturday, January 14

#### Good Food, Good Mood

**9:30 am**  
**Builders Room**

It will be followed with a healthy snack break, and then end with a group activity and time for questions. The Health Care Committee had hoped for a presentation on the Mediterranean Diet (see *A Side Note on this page*), but one can look forward to learning some simple ways to break the cycle of food that influences our mood and change what we eat to influence how we feel.

Even one change can make a big difference!! Let's improve our lives by building more positive eating habits and making small changes that can improve our health.

### Get Off to a GREAT Start!

Start the New Year off right by making a difference for three other people and yourself. *You'll be glad you did!* ✝





## Youth Perspective

# Forging a Purpose!

AdobeStock

By Natasha Griffiths  
FORGED! Youth Reporter

**O**n Friday night at the high school Forged Fall Retreat 2022, Pastor Andrew dropped the question: **What is our purpose?** The chilled light from the A-frame windows behind him mingled with our pondering breaths. From that one question, others started to form.

"What is our purpose?" was the lead-in for "What even is purpose?", "Do I have a purpose?", "Am I good enough for a purpose?" and "Is my purpose worthy?"

They were swirling questions in our minds, stemming from our hearts. Questions that we have all been looking for the answer, whether we know it or not.

## A SHARED Purpose

Pastor Andrew started out with showing us that the human race has a collective, shared purpose. In **Genesis 1** we saw that from the beginning we were meant to love, to rule, and to enjoy. Things that

no other creature in creation gets to experience, and yet we do. God's chosen, "very good" were **meant** to have this common purpose.

**a youth'; for to all whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord. Jeremiah 1:7-8 (ESV)**

**God Can Use ANYone!**  
**Mathew 16:13-19** was a great

example of someone who made heavy mistakes and yet God *still* used him. God promised that Peter would be the foundation of the church, that he would stand at the gates of heaven and hell, and yet this man still denied Jesus later on.

But God wasn't done with him then. He still used Peter for the things God had intended him for, even if Peter stumbled along the way.

## Test Time

Through all these realizations of our purpose through God, many of us still wondered if we had a purpose. So we did a *Spiritual Gifts Test*.

→ Please see "Purpose" on page 13.

**But God wasn't done with him then. He still used Peter for the things God had intended him for, even if Peter stumbled along the way.**

## A Small Gift

Saturday morning we were given a short devotional to go through. We studied **Exodus 31:1-11** where we saw that God had given Oholiab and Bezalel a gift in wood working and art. This small gift would help to build God's Holy and beautiful temple. God had prepared them for a specific purpose and used them.

In **Jeremiah 1:4-8** we saw that Jeremiah was given a specific purpose by God. We saw that God promised to be with Jeremiah: **Do not say, 'I am only**



Photo By Pastor Andrew Wheeler

# Awana Store Reminder ...

By Kim Disher  
Awana Store Curator

The Sparks® will have an opportunity to shop in the Awana Store on **Wednesday, December 7**, and the T&T® will be shopping on the following week, **Wednesday, December 14**.

**HUGE sales await!** This store is also a great opportunity for the youth to buy gifts for people on their Christmas list.

Finally, it's not too late to donate new or gently used items to the

store. Always popular items are Legos®, stuffed animals, 18" dolls, Matchbox® cars and trucks, flashlights, balls ... and more!

A special **THANK YOU** to our EBC family for all of your generous donations to this store that make it a special time for our youth. ✝



The test itself doesn't assign you to what your gifts are, but it helps you see what God has given to you to naturally thrive and do well in.

I know I wasn't the only one who was surprised at what my results were. We asked each other if they really see us as a *leader* or *hospitable* person.

Some of us felt that we got exactly what we had expected to get. But some of us wondered if the gifts we scored highest in were even needed or worthy.



as others. We started to ask how we could use those gifts. If God would use those gifts. Maybe we were naturally talented in some areas, *but what does that mean when we step out into the real world?*

## Calling ALL Gifts!

During the last session of the weekend we looked at **1 Corinthians 12**. This passage helps us come to realize that all the gifts are needed, all of God's chosen people are helpful in the body of Christ.

We need everyone, every gift, to function and reach the lost. Some of the questions went unanswered. Some of the questions we're still wrestling with. But the pot has been stirred, and it's something we're thinking about now.

## Some Better Than Others?

This was when the lies we started to believe about purpose began to surface. We began to verbalize with our trusted leaders the idea that some spiritual gifts aren't as helpful

If our life has a purpose, will that change how our teens live? If we **believe** we have a purpose, that is. ✝

# Awana Update

By Alison Johnson

**A**wana has been off to the races ... or they will be soon. The annual Grand Prix is coming in January. Contact **John and Julie West** if you want to help. This is a fantastic event every year.

## Very Popular!

Week to week Awana consistently sees over 120 kids come to our meetings who are eager share the verses they have memorized.

In November, the kids were also excited to bring canned food as a part of the food drive to support Dallas Christmas Cheer.

These Awana kids really showed up with food. What a blessing this will hopefully be to the families in need this year in Dallas and the surrounding area. Thank you to all those that participated! ✝

.....  
**... all the gifts are needed, all of God's chosen people are helpful in the body of Christ. We need everyone, every gift, to function and reach the lost.**

## Missionaries of the Month!

# Ian and Linda McFarland



**H**ello. We are **Ian and Linda McFarland**, missionaries sent out from EBC in 1986.

Ian is from N. Ireland and Linda from Dallas, Oregon—we both are registered nurses and met in Scotland in 1978, when we were working and studying there.

### After Bible College

Following Bible college in England, we felt God was leading us to work in Madrid, Spain, with Bible Christian Union. Our focus there was learning the language and culture, and doing friendship evangelism. As part of a team there, the goal was to plant evangelical churches in the Madrid area.

### On To Quito!

By late 1991, we realized that we needed to make changes and work in the medical area where we were most gifted. We both were familiar with the work of HCJB in Ecuador and applied to work with them as nurses. We were accepted and after some additional fund raising, we left with our four boys for Quito, Ecuador, in January of 1994.

Ian's tasks in Quito initially were at Hospital Vozandes working

on the wards, in the pharmacy, and in central supply. He ran the tuberculosis clinic for a time as well.

In 1995 the opportunity arose for him to organize the medical caravan work from Quito. This he did faithfully for about 19 years with his base in Quito. His truck would go out to the mountain (or coastal) villages for a week at a time with pastors, doctors, a dentist, helpers, supplies, Bible literature, and Bible based films to show the village people.

### Mixed Response

Response to this work was mixed—the indigenous people were thankful for someone who would give them medical attention as they often were a long distance from any clinics or hospitals. The spiritual response was varied, but God's word was taught and seeds planted.

Before our first year in Ecuador was completed, we had added a daughter to our team of four boys! Linda's primary job in those first years was as wife and mother. The children attended the nearby Alliance Academy and all graduated from there.



### Children Off to School

When the children were in school, Linda was able to begin part-time work at Hospital Vozandes as well. She worked in emergency, outpatient clinic, wards, wound clinic, and taught prenatal classes to groups of expectant parents.

In 2006, she accepted a ministry job at the Alliance Academy and worked there part-time in the nurses' office until 2013. This was an open opportunity to speak into the students lives as they came in to see her with their ailments.

**We were able to take part in other ministries and learning opportunities as well when we lived in Quito.**

We were able to take part in other ministries and learning opportunities as well when we lived in Quito. These involved Bible studies, Pan de Vida (*an outreach to the underserved population*), Spotlight (*sharing Christ while teaching English*), and involvement in the local Ecuadorian church.

### Empty Nest

The year 2013 brought more changes to our lives. Our last child

→ Please see "McFarland" on page 15.





graduated from the Alliance and flew the nest. The mission's community development department (*which Ian's caravan was a part of*) wanted to move its base to the jungle where there was more need for the ministry. We were now available to make that move, and when we returned from a home ministry assignment in January, 2014, we moved our worldly goods down to Shell, near the edge of the Amazon jungle.

## Busy Times

The need for medical/dental caravans in this jungle area is great. Ian had many opportunities to take his teams out to various places far from health centers. His mode of transport was usually in a Missionary Aviation Fellowship plane, or by road in a truck and sometimes by canoe. He prepared the equipment, gathered the medications, made application to the health ministry for permissions to do the caravans, organized getting the team together, then set up the caravan in the outlying village, assisted the doctors and dentists as needed, took down equipment again, brought the team and his supplies back home, and cleaned things up for the next trip. *It kept him busy!*



Meanwhile Linda worked for several years as coordinator of the short term workers and summer intern ministry in Shell. She also filled in for about 18 months as coordinator of the maintenance department (*what a job for a nurse!*) and learned a lot from the workers.

When the administrative assistant left the Shell office, she worked part-time at the front desk to receive guests, keep some finances balanced, and do whatever was needed.

In 2018 the missionary who organized the cleft lip program retired to Australia. After a

few months, the mission released Linda from her other responsibilities, and she took over leadership for the group of children who were left.

This group of four

needed more surgeries and dental work. This required trips to Quito for doctor visits, hospitalizations, and treatment with braces.

## Caravan Outreach

The medical caravan outreach was something both of us were able to do together at times. What a blessing to see people respond to the preaching of God's word in their mother tongue when Ian took out a pastor who could speak their language.

We saw growth in jungle churches and praised God for His Holy



Spirit who draws people to Himself. The longer we worked in Ecuador, the more we saw very clearly that the work is God's! We are His instruments but it is He who moves ahead, beside and after us in the spiritual realm.

## Retirement Awaits

December 31 of this year will be the last official day of our mission work with Reach Beyond (*HCJB changed its name along the way*). It has been a tremendous privilege and challenge to work cross culturally. We have learned far more than we have taught and have grown deeper in our own faith in God.

## THANK YOU!

We are currently living in Dallas and are so thankful for the EBC. They have backed us and supported us for many years and it is with some sadness that we say farewell to that phase of our lives. But God continues to have a plan for our lives and we trust Him to show us the way ahead.

From the depths of our hearts, we say **THANK YOU** to God for His great faithfulness to us in so many ways and to you who have prayed so faithfully for us and backed us financially as well for many years.

We look forward to sharing in the fellowship of this church in the days ahead. ✝

.....  
***What a blessing to see people respond to the preaching of God's word in their mother tongue when Ian took out a pastor who could speak their language.***

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Hedeem

Ethnos 360

[eric\\_hedeem@ntm.org](mailto:eric_hedeem@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](mailto:andrew@tacomayfc.org)

- ✠ City Life/Leader In Training 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
- ✠ Rachel is involved in mentoring youth and a group for young mothers



## Ian and Linda McFarland

Reach Beyond

[mcfarland7@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:steve.schmidt@sim.org)

[mikki.schmidt@sim.org](mailto: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](mailto: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





## Concerning Our Missionaries ... Positive Reassuring Action Yielding Eternal Results

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

Submitted By Patty Van Well  
EBC Missions Committee

**Kruse:** The *Leader in Training* program is recruiting new applicants for the spring semester.

**Schmidt:** Pray for finances as they travel to their son's wedding and for **Andrew** and **Hannah** as they start their life together.

**Weekday Bible:** They want to buy more Bibles for the students and pray that more students will join as the year progresses.

**River of Life:** Pray that all the ladies in the women's house are able to find permanent homes to transition to by the end of January.

**Stents:** Please pray for the many Christmas events, including a city wide gathering hosted by the local churches. Last year's attendance was over 1,500.

**CEF:** Praying for paid staff.

**Yount:** Please pray with us as we process our time in Brazil and seek wisdom about the next steps toward God's calling.

## Praise The Lord! (P.T.L)

**Kruse:** Praise God for providing for all of our needs and for new relationships with students to share the Gospel with.

**Schmidt:** Praise for a healthy grandson and that their son is getting married in January.

**Weekday:** Many new students are attending Bible this year, especially at the middle school level.

**River of Life:** Praise for God's provisions as He always makes sure they have more than they need.

**CEF:** There are four Good News clubs being taught this year. ✝

## 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](mailto:tgriffiths@villagemissions.org).

## Significant Questions

Our youth group draws students from several towns, most of whom do not attend church. Recently many have been concerned about eternity and interested in accepting Christ. Each week, students have been asking significant questions. We were very excited when one girl committed her life to Christ and was baptized in front of the youth group! Pray for her as she begins her new life in Christ.

**Nathan & Claire Walters**  
Chambersburg, IL ✝

## Fall Outreach

Over the past years, we have had a tradition of an annual Chili Cook-off, Pie Bake-off, and Family Festival. The first two are for the church family, and the Family Festival is for our entire community. It features children's games, activities, and fun for the whole family. We handed out information about our church's ministries along with gospel presentations. We estimate that between 350-400 people participated!

**Keith & Kim Walker**  
Pahrump, NV ✝

## Ready to Meet God

I did the funeral for a man named Rick. He never made it to a church service. In February 2021, he was diagnosed with acute lung failure and was given 12 to 18 months to live. I started meeting with him at his home a few months later. I spent many hours walking through Scripture and praying with him and his wife. A couple of months ago, he told me he was ready to meet God since he was now sure of his salvation in Christ. I knew all along that I was becoming friends with Rick so that he might die well. The funeral was an excellent opportunity to share the Gospel with his friends and family and describe how Jesus had transformed the last year of Rick's life.

**Rick & Stephanie Sherman**  
Lookingglass, OR ✝

## 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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1175 SE Howe Street

Dallas, Oregon 97338

503.623.2331

[office@ebcdallas.org](mailto:office@ebcdallas.org)

<https://ebcdallas.org/>

Comments, suggestions and/or constructive criticism  
of the content and layout of this publication are  
encouraged. Please use one of the following:

**Text:** 503.931.8239

**Email:** [bob.disher@charter.net](mailto: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!** ✝




## December Calendar

<b>DECEMBER 2</b>	CANDLELIGHT DESSERT, CRAFT BOUTIQUE, COOKIES BY THE POUND
<b>DECEMBER 3</b>	CRAFT BOUTIQUE
<b>DECEMBER 6</b>	LADIES MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP
<b>DECEMBER 12</b>	HYMN SING
<b>DECEMBER 13</b>	MOM TO MOM
<b>DECEMBER 17</b>	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 3:30 & 6:00 PM
<b>DECEMBER 24</b>	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00PM
<b>DECEMBER 25</b>	ONE SERVICE 10:00 AM
<b>DECEMBER 26</b>	OFFICE CLOSED
<b>DECEMBER 30</b>	LAST DAY TO DROP OFF 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS
<b>JANUARY 2</b>	OFFICE CLOSED

**Article Deadline for December ISSUE is:  
Monday, January 2, @ 5:00 pm!**

**T**he Bible is a guide for our lives; for example **Psalm 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. ✝

***Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will  
be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great  
company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in  
the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."***

**Luke 2:11-14 (NIV) ✝**