

The Sentinel

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WE
STAND
WATCH

February, 2023
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The Meaning of Worship

By Pastor Troy Bassham

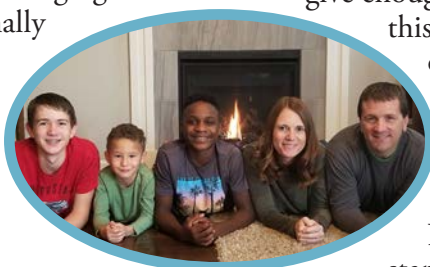
**The chief end of man is to glorify
God, and to enjoy Him forever.**

—Westminster Confession

What Does It Mean to Worship?

If you regularly attend church, when you hear “worship” you might think about singing.

That’s what we normally say before we begin a time of corporate musical praise, “join us in worship.”



More Than Singing!

But that understanding of worship falls short. Worship is much more than singing (*though musical praise may be an expression of worship*). Let’s stop and consider what **true** worship is.

Scratching the Surface

Before you get any further, I want to warn you that we will only

begin to scratch the surface of this important subject. A short article for our monthly publication will not give enough space to address this issue. The subject of worship could fill the entirety of this newsletter and several more months to follow. Nevertheless, let’s start the conversation....

In a Nutshell

Worship is the act of giving honor, adoration and ascribing worth to someone or something. In a

→ Please see “Worship”
on page 2.

***Worship is the act of giving honor, adoration
and ascribing worth to someone or something.***

know. grow. go.

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Deadline for March ISSUE is:

Monday, February 27, @ 5:00 pm

Worship

← (Continued from page 1.)

Christian context, the recipient of our worship is understood to be God.

Got Questions summarizes the words that are translated as worship. These include:

✠ Serving with reverence
(latreuo)

✠ Paying homage
(proskuneó)

✠ Rendering religious honor
(sebázomai)

✠ Revering or adoring
(séboma)

Important!

Worship is important. Scripture clearly tells us that we are to honor the Lord with reverence.

Psalms 95:6

reads, **"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."**

(NKJV) There is *not* a shortage of other such passages in Scripture.

So What IS It?

So what is worship? What might it look like?

Firstly, true worship should be focused on the one to whom it is intended. Our worship is for God. It is for Him, not us. When we worship God, we are making an offering to Him, whether that be through service, praise, or adoration.

If you purchase a Valentine's gift, you try and buy something that the person *receiving* the gift would like. For this reason, I would not buy my wife coconut candies or tickets to a monster truck show. The same is true when we desire to worship God. ***The goal is for His honor and pleasure.*** While offering this gift *might* bring us joy, the true intent of worship should be to please God.

Must be Authentic

True worship must be authentic. God does *not* need our worship—rather, it is the correct response of His people. When we offer praise, service, and adoration, it should be given with sincere motives.

Time and again, God rebukes his people for performing meaningless rituals.

"I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings



and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments."
Amos 5:21–23 (NKJV)

Needs to be True!

Worship should be true. Jesus told the woman at the well, ***"... true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*** **John 4:23–24 (NKJV).**

Our worship must have an accurate view of God. We must honor Him for who He is. We cannot offer our praises to a distortion of God based on our own desires or imagination—that is a form of idolatry. Our desire to honor God should correspond to a desire to know God and to respond correctly.

More Than a Song!

I'm running out of space and we haven't gotten very far. But I hope you already realize that worship *is* much more than our

Our worship is for God. It is for Him, not us.

→ Please see "Worship" on page 3.

Welcome New Members!

By Kathy Reynolds

The following is the list of new members as reported in the 2022 Annual Report.

- ✠ Barbara Eccleston
- ✠ Larry & Guyna King
- ✠ Paul & Beth Lyman
- ✠ Jon & Deb Hansen
- ✠ Patrick & Joy McMurchy
- ✠ Bruce & Claudia McGillavray
- ✠ David & Tammy Wolfe
- ✠ Julie Gilreath
- ✠ Doug & Chris Mollerstuen
- ✠ Dean & Gayle Shriner
- ✠ Paul & Kathryn Ellsworth
- ✠ Kayla Dunham †

Thank You!

By Kay Whitney

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who contributed to our Christmas Gifts for EBC missionaries.

In 2022 we collectively contributed \$5,411.40! †

Welcome!



The staff of *The Sentinel* joins all of the others in our church family in offering a hearty **WELCOME** to **Pastor Mike and Lora Fast**. We are thankful that you are both here!

Mike is our new Associate Pastor and we are all excited to see what great things the Lord does with him here at EBC.

If you haven't yet met Mike, please stop by and say "Hi" in the church office. Or, if your situation prevents you from

doing that, be sure to send him a note to:

associatepastor@ebcdallas.org

Next month, we plan to have a get-to-know-you article on the Fast family. *Stay tuned!* †

Worship

← (Continued from page 2.)

usual understanding. Worship is much more than singing. It is the expression of honor and service to God in everything that we do.

I hope we enlarge our view of what it means to be true worshippers as we increase in our understanding of the greatness and majesty of the Lord our God who graciously calls us His children.

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of

God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NASB)

Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the Lord our God is holy.

Psalms 99:9 (NKJV) †

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 Nat Thomas
Chairman, Board of Elders

We serve God and He answers prayers! This clearly can be seen in the recent hiring of our Associate Pastor and other church matters.

The Plan

Our plan to hire an associate pastor began in 2018 upon the recommendation from the transition team. For several reasons, including the social interruptions caused by the pandemic, we did not begin a formal search until early 2022.

Search Team Formed

A search team was formed in the spring of 2022 and they met regularly to pray for direction and to research where to advertise this position.

One candidate was considered mid-summer, but he withdrew his application. After continued prayer for God's leading, **Mike Fast's** application caught the search team's eye.

The team members all were positive about his credentials, they interviewed him and decided to forward his application to the Elder Board.



Mike Fast sharing at 9:00 am service.

Zoom Meeting

After reviewing his file, we set up a zoom interview in late November. There was a positive consensus in the Elder Board to move forward and a candidate weekend was set for early January.



Mike and **Lora** drove up from southern Oregon on a Friday night to begin the weekend on Saturday morning to have breakfast with the Elders and wives. It was a good time of fellowship and good food (*especially the Brie cheese egg casserole*)!

Mike met privately with **Pastor Troy** to further discuss the responsibilities of the position. Then **Galen and Jonell Harms** took Mike and Lora on a tour of the area. Saturday afternoon there was a dinner provided by our excellent kitchen crew for the chair people of committees, their spouses and church staff to meet them and to have a time for questions.

Positive Vote

Then, Mike shared in the services on Sunday morning and hosted a question and answer session after a potluck in the church gym after the morning services. Following that the congregation met to pray and vote on calling Mike Fast as our new associate pastor. There was an overwhelmingly positive affirmation vote to offer the position to Mike.

I called him that evening and he accepted the position.

Living Arrangements

He and Lora had planned on staying in their small travel trailer while they looked for a house to purchase. The Elders wanted them to have better accommodations, so we took on the task of cleaning and painting the small house on Ash Street which was gifted to the church two years ago. Several people were involved in painting and cleaning the interior, including **Andrew and Gabe Connelly, Joe and Sue Cacka, Darrell Hebenthol, Ian McFarland**, under the direction of **Annie Demmick**, to do a "facelift" of the interior.

Colleen Shinn directed the stocking of their pantry and refrigerator. Many in the congregation contributed to this. When I met and opened the door upon their arrival, they were astonished at how great it looked! **Good job, team!**

There was an overwhelmingly positive affirmation vote to offer the position to Mike.

Mike and Lora will be staying at the Ash street house for as long as they want while looking for a house here in the Dallas area. God answers prayer in 3 ways: "**WAIT**", "**NO**" or "**YES**".

In this case we were to **WAIT**, but the waiting period is over and may

→ Please see "**Elders**" on page 6.

Elders

← (Continued from page 5.)

God bless our next steps with Pastor Mike's assistance to Pastor Troy as they serve at EBC.

New Vehicle

Another answer to prayer is the new shuttle van the congregation voted to purchase last night at the congregational business meeting. This was another "**YES**" from the Lord. *(For those unable to attend that meeting, it went well with some new committee members being voted in and the general budget approved.)*

A couple of years ago our master mechanic, **Tim Sampont**, advised the trustees to sell the old church bus with its unreliable drive train and wheelchair lift. The trustees sold the bus and began researching a replacement. It quickly became apparent that it was not easy to find what we needed.

DRV Coffee Break Chat

In the meantime, the Elder Board began having a "coffee break chat" at DRV (*Dallas Retirement Village*) for an hour of sharing with our members who reside there.

The question was raised, "*When will we be able to resume getting a shuttle service for our members here?*"



We told them that the trustees were working on it. After searching on the internet and visiting dealerships, **Bill Voth** and **Willard Lowen** recently found a new Ford Transit that met our needs for a versatile passenger van with a wheelchair lift.

This van not only has the features we need, but Bill and Willard found it in Salem! There was no need to go to the mid-west to buy a van or order it from the factory and wait a year to get it. Now we can move forward with the shuttle ministry to assist our friends at DRV.



Turn to God!

I hope that each one of us at EBC will purpose to turn ALL of our problems, hurts and trials over to the mighty God

we serve. As way of reminder, here are some verses that speak to the importance of our prayers:

1. Psalms 34:17. God hears our prayers...

2. Proverbs 15:8. God delights in our prayers...

3. Romans 12:12. We are to be steadfast in our praying...

4. Ephesians 6:18. We are to be "always praying"...

5. Philippians 4:6. We can "let our requests be made known" to God...

6. 1 Thessalonians 5:17. We are to "pray without ceasing"...

7. James 5:13-18. We are to pray for one another....

8. Revelations 5:8. There are bowls of incense that "are the prayers of the saints" that are pleasing to God...

Thank YOU!

The Elders wish to thank each one of you for being a part of the body of Christ here at Evangelical Bible Church as we seek to serve God, each other, and those in and outside of our community.

Blessings to each of you!

Nat ✝



After searching on the internet and visiting dealerships, Bill Voth and Willard Lowen recently found a new Ford Transit that met our needs for a versatile passenger van with a wheelchair lift.

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC



February 1, 2023

As I mentioned last month, the FEBC Directors met in January to discuss the direction and vision of the FEBC. These meetings were very productive, and I am pleased with the sense of unity and shared values that these men demonstrate, even though they represent different places and diverse backgrounds. Thank you for your prayers.

As part of our discussion there, we reviewed the progress of our Vision Statement: *"Strengthening our churches with timely resources that strengthen their leaders."*

Engaging with Churches

An interesting thing happened over this past year. We produced less new resources than we had hoped, which seems disheartening, but the reason we were unable to produce more resources is very exciting. The production of resources was slowed by the amount of time we spent actually engaged with our member churches, helping them solve problems. That is **exactly** what we intended the new resources to do.

Our goal last year was to produce at least six new resources. We produced five new resources, along with connecting our churches to other types of help and providing formal and informal training on our resources.

Providing Direct Assistance

But recently, I reviewed the ways in which we provide direct assistance to our churches. Our Ministries Coordinator, **Gary Krehbiel**, and I contacted every one of our member churches last year. The exciting thing is that many of these interactions resulted in providing direct, meaningful support to the church.

We provided a broad range of assistance, such as dealing with a crisis, troubleshooting a specific concern, discussing methods to improve ministry, or teaching someone how to properly use one of our resources. In fact, last year we recorded meaningful assistance provided to 37 of our 41 churches! Many of these churches engaged our services more than once.



Praise God he is using us to make an impact on your church. That is what our Vision Statement is all about.

Your support for the FEBC truly makes a difference.

Thank You! ✝

Office: 402.965.3860 📞 Cell: 402.541.6099
www.fellowshipforward.org 📧 president@febministries.org

EBC Women's Ministry



Mom to Mom

By Alison Johnson

Mom to Mom met in January and heard from **Pastor Troy**.



Photo By Gwen Griffiths

In February, they will meet on the 14th and the 28th. Their annual **Mom and Pop Date Night** will be **February 17th**. Tickets are \$20 a couple and childcare is provided.

We are here to love. Not much else matters.

—Francis Chan †

2023 Women's Ministry Event Schedule

Bunco: Friday, January 13 at 6:30 pm

January Journey Book Review: Friday, February 3 at 7 pm

Come enjoy dessert and discussion about "Gracelaced" by Ruth Chou Simons

DWELL Workshop: Saturday, March 11 from 10 am - Noon

Workshops offered on home decorating, baking, floral design, crafts, home painting tips and more.

Women's Worship Event: Sunday, April 2 from 6 - 7 pm

A special time of praise and worship!

May Fest: Friday, May 12 at 6:30 pm

Enjoy a floral celebration of the season as we eat a delicious meal with time of worship and encouragement.

Bingo: Wednesday, June 21 at 7 pm

Beach Day: Friday, July 14

Join us as we car pool to the beach to enjoy lunch, shopping and the beautiful Oregon Coast. (Time to be announced)

Women's Retreat: Friday - Sunday, Sept. 15 - 17

Breakfast & Bunco: Saturday, October 14 at 9 am

Secret Sister Reveal: Sunday, November 5 at 4 pm

Candlelight Dessert & Boutique:

Friday, December 1 at 6:30 pm

Boutique: Saturday, December 2 from 9 am - 2 pm



All EBC women are encouraged to participate in these events by inviting their friends, attending, and/or helping with the event. Contact the church office with any questions you may have. (503) 623-2331



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

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
Chairwomen	Alison Johnson Lori Bassham	503.623.2331	office@ebcdallas.org
Recording Secretary/Treasurer	Linda Baton		
Publicity	Sue Dunham		
Retreat Coordinator	Lori Bassham		
Bible Study Coordinator	Sylvia Thomas		
Hospitality (weddings, receptions, & showers)	Ruth Quiring		
Prayer Coordinator	Lizette Chaffee		
Events	Allison Brown, Colleen Shinn, Cassie Kroeker		

The Attributes of God

Relying on God

By Gwen Griffiths

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

Stay tuned!

Imagine a day where you don't stop to eat, drink, or even rest. Sure, you might accomplish a lot more in that 24-hour timespan, *but what condition would you be in at the end of the day? What if you had no air during that time?* It's a silly question, because we all know no one can live without air for even a few minutes.

Some Needs

In addition to air, food, drink, and rest, humans need shelter and clothing to survive. And to have a healthy and happy life, you can add things like medicine, safety, relationships, and resources to the list of must-haves. While we, *in our American culture*, often like to think of ourselves as independent, it's clear that we require a wide assortment of necessities for survival and health on this planet.

What DOES God Need?

But God needs nothing. *Have you ever really thought about that?* God sustains Himself. There's nothing that He needs—nothing! He didn't even need to be created because He has always existed.

Check out **John 5:26** —“**For just as the Father has life in Himself, so also He has granted to the Son to have life in Himself.**” (CSB)

Our Label

We call this attribute **self-existent**, and it's one of those incommunicable attributes that can't be imitated or demonstrated by people.

And yet... somehow, we try. We try to appear self-reliant and invincible,

brushing off hurts and covering up vulnerabilities. In a way, we try to be God. And we fail—repeatedly. Because we aren't God, and we can't be. We were created with needs, created to need God. We need Him

to sustain us throughout each day. As the worship song says, “**He's the breath in our lungs.**” He is necessary for every moment of *each* day. He is the supplier of *everything* we could ever need.

Admitting Our Short-Comings

So, how does our interaction with God change when we admit our lack of self-existence and choose instead to rely on Him?

Well, when we realize that God needs absolutely nothing from us, but still chooses to pursue relationship with us, that's a pretty big thing. We can learn to enjoy our relationship and interactions with Him, instead of feeling like we need to somehow earn it.

His Strength Over Our Weakness

We can begin to be vulnerable with God and learn how His strength meets every one of our weaknesses. Even when we think He isn't meeting those needs quickly enough or to the extent that we would hope, we must trust His sustenance for us.

In addition, as we remember that He is the very breath in our lungs,

→ Please see “Attributes” on page 10.

GODFIDENCE

Reliance On God's Promises

AdobeStock

Well, when we realize that God needs absolutely nothing from us, but still chooses to pursue relationship with us, that's a pretty big thing.

Attributes

← (Continued from page 9.)

the supplier of all of our needs, our constant response should be to pour out praise to Him. We praise Him for what He has given us, for what He has done in our lives, for what He has done despite our sinful desires and actions.

What About... ?

And how about our interactions with others? How are they impacted by the self-existence of God? I think this is where it is important to acknowledge how each person has needs and failings—weaknesses, as it were. And as we interact with others, those weaknesses can lead to hurt or offense.

But God's grace can fill in those spaces—if we're willing. We can learn to depend on God when others fail us, to offer His grace to them. And when we fail those around us, we can let our response to that situation point to God and the work He is doing in our lives.

We can learn to depend on God when others fail us

Reliance on God

We *aren't* self-existent. But we have a God who is, and we can depend on Him to meet all of our needs, to be everything we can't. **What a great reason to praise Him!** ✝

Ladies Missionary Fellowship LMF Update

By Joyce Harms

At our Ladies Missionary Fellowship (LMF) meeting in January 2023, 17 ladies gathered to work on LuoPads and tying quilts.

Christine Schneider, our new president, opened our meeting.

Oregon Right to Life Jalaya Taylor from **Oregon Right to Life** (ORTL) in Salem was our speaker. She shared how they are doing a variety of things to talk with people about the importance of saving unborn babies' lives. They have had a few peaceful protests at the abortion clinic in Salem.

Recently, on January 28, they sponsored a **"March for Life"**, starting at the State Capitol.



Give Away Items

Our ladies are going to make some little blanket-pockets with baby dolls in them that the ORTL



people will give away at fairs this summer. The baby doll pocket also includes an informational card describing the stages of growth from conception to 12 weeks of age. The baby doll is the size of a 12-week fetus.

Nice Time

We concluded our time by enjoying a time of praying together in small groups for our missionaries, military, and church family requests. ✝

Photos By Joyce Harms.

THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES

ACCORDING TO JOSHUA PEREZ

Words of Affirmation: Your tacos are delicious.

Acts of Service: I made you tacos.

Receiving Gifts: Here's a taco.

Quality Time: Let's go out for tacos together.

Physical Touch: Let me hold you like a taco.



Illustration shared by Alison Johnson

Men's Ministry Update

By Rich Saum

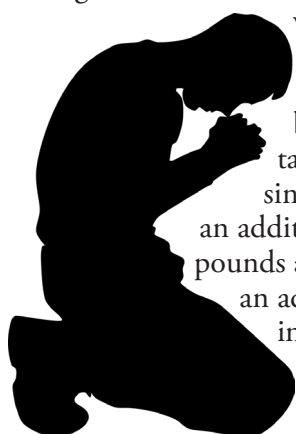
The Blocking Back of the Early Church

Having been raised during my youth in Southern California, UCLA was my favorite college football team. Our high school team used the same offense (*"single wing" formation*) as UCLA, and in the fall of my sophomore year I decided I would like to try out for the "B" team as a pulling guard. I had formerly been known as a pretty good sprinter, and that seemed to be just the right position for me to play on the team.

A pulling guard, always positioned on the opposite side of the center of where the ball carrier was to run, was to pull and cross behind the offensive line, and then block out one of the opposing team's linesmen or linebackers to clear the way for the running back to advance the ball forward toward the end zone.

Short-Lived Career

Having entered as a freshman



weighing about 100 pounds and being 5'2" tall, (I have since put on an additional 15 pounds and grown an additional 4" in height!) one doesn't need to

have much of an imagination to figure out how short-lived my pulling guard career lasted!

Clearing the Way

A decade later, a "prof" of mine (*at the time Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys*) mentioned a man in the early beginnings of the Church whom he dubbed as their "blocking back" (*same assignment as a pulling guard, but just a different position in the backfield*). This individual was infamous for clearing the way for others on the "team" to have success in the positions assigned to them by their Owner and Head Coach.

Pigskin Terminology

Utilizing some more "pigskin" terminology, here are some examples of him doing this very thing in the book of **Acts**:

Providing financial support to assist the Jerusalem coaching staff in instructing and training the newly-formed league of Jewish players [4:32-37; see 2:42].

Introducing and recommending a prospective player with a poor track record to the skeptical Jerusalem coaching staff, and who later was forced to leave town [9:26-30].

→ Please see "Blocking Back" on page 13.

Upcoming Events

Family Super Bowl Watch Party

Family Super Bowl Watch Party in the gym on **February 12, 2023 at 3:00 pm**. Please bring your favorite snack and lawn chair to the event. We will be showing a special video during halftime.

Men's Breakfast

Beginning Saturday, March 25, there will be a Men's Breakfast at the church every other month throughout this year. **Dave Wolfe** will be the contact person **(503.551.2081)** for these bi-monthly events. Volunteers to assist him are more than welcome!

Cornhole Fun!

Cornhole Competition at **Nathan Brown's** place on April 22. Please contact Nathan **(503.507.2385)** if you have any cornhole equipment you could loan for the event. More details forthcoming. ✝

Youth Perspective

Mission Connexion '23

AdobeStock

By Natasha Griffiths
FORGED! Youth Reporter

Mission Connexion 2023 impacted more than just our sleep schedules. It impacted our relationships, our thinking and the limits to our comfort zones. It was a weekend that God used to impact the five students and three leaders in a great contagious way.

Great Opportunity

Because of the small group that went, we all got to know each other on a much more personal level. From the very first thirty minutes in the van to the end of the trip, opinions and ideas were being thrown every which way and being debated.

You could have called our group *chaotic* and *loud*. But I saw a group that was coming from a variety of experiences and backgrounds who were willing to share our thoughts with one another. **AND** discuss these thoughts.

Did we disagree with the worship song? We talked about it and came to our own conclusions with the insight from one another.

Do we have separate methods of expressing our feelings? **YES**, so we explained our reasonings for our

opinions, realizing that this went to a much deeper level than just preferences.

It didn't matter what the subject was, we all had different opinions.

BUT we didn't let that divide us. No, we leveraged it to grow our thinking, test our beliefs and firm up our opinions. Little did we know the topic of the weekend would push us to expand the answers to our faith.

Special Visitor

One of the visitors at Mission Connexion was an organization called Ambassadors. Ambassadors mission is to *"Train Portland area youth, and those who equip them, to know God's truth and think biblically, so that they can recognize and refute falsehoods, and initiate respectful discussions with non-believers and those who have turned away from the Christian faith."*

Three of our students went to their first workshop which discussed five of the most common objections to the Christian Faith. It covered the anger relating to Christians being hypocrites, the pain and the sorrow we see in this world, the judgment of God and more. His logical arguments were exactly what I have been trying to form in conversations with non-believers. The other two students, and myself, were filled with a burning curiosity about apologetics.

Thought-Provoking Booth

Our other two students got involved with the Ambassadors because of the booth they had set up. The Ambassadors team had created a miniature talk show in which volunteers could try to defend their



Above photo by AdobeStock.

→ Please see "Connexion" on page 13.

*You could have called our group chaotic and loud. But I saw a group that was coming from a variety of experiences and backgrounds who were willing to share our thoughts with one another. **AND** discuss these thoughts.*

Connexion

← (Continued from page 12.)

faith. Of course, one of our students had to get in there. **Garrett Bassham** was the brave soul who dragged **Pastor Andrew** in with him.

Throughout the conversation, the two Ambassador workers pretended to have the mind-set of atheists. While the rest of our students silently supported Garrett, he gathered all his knowledge of why the Bible is true to combat the fiery questions the Ambassador workers had for him.

By the end of the conversation, we silent observers had put in our two cents, hoping to help support Garrett in his arguments. Keep in mind that these workers have spent years studying apologetics, so by the end of the conversation they had us all at a stall of how to further prove our faith to them.

After our time trying to prove our faith, we were excited to go to the Ambassador's final workshop. We didn't just learn from this workshop, however, we all had a curiosity formed in us of how to further our knowledge of the truth of Christianity. We even took the

chance to voice some of the fallacies we saw in the man's logical points and push both him and ourselves in our faith.

Amazing!

The weekend was amazing. I think we all want to learn more about apologetics and go further with our knowledge of the Bible. I think some of us also realized that there was more we could be doing as ambassadors of our faith.

Additional Benefit

And we all have a much deeper understanding of one another which I hope we will use to encourage each other to go deeper into our personal relationship with the Lord. ✚



Returning from their road trip, the Gentile and Jewish leagues had some dissension over rule differences, and he and his fellow coach went from Antioch to Jerusalem to successfully settle the matter, resulting in the peaceful merging of both leagues **[15:1-4,12,22,30-35]**.

Later, having a rift with this fellow recruiting coach over his young cousin who had earlier quit their team, he took this young man with him to start more teams in the Cyprus Division **[15:36-39]**.

Apparently, he was able to so train his young cousin that even his former fellow-coach, facing retirement, recognized this gifted young man was now capable to take on a position as a coach-player on his own team **[see 2 Timothy 4:11]**.

Help Wanted/Needed!

We clearly need more "blocking backs" like him to be engaged in the ministry to our men (*and young men*) in our church. Contact any of our Men's Ministry team to see where you might become actively involved in clearing the way for others to reach their goal set by our Owner-Head Coach **[Colossians 1:28]**.

Team Leader: Tim Griffiths

Team Members: Nathan Brown, Joe Cacka, Rand Dow, Darrel Hiebenthal, Ken Quiring, Rich Saum, and Dave Wolfe. ✚

Blocking Back

← (Continued from page 11.)

Scouting out another newly-forming Gentile league in Antioch in behalf of the Jerusalem staff **[11:19-24]**.

Recruiting that former badly-reputed player in Tarsus to join the Antioch coaching staff **[11:25-26]**.

Being sent to Jerusalem with this newest coach on the Antioch staff with funds to assist their beleaguered staff and players **[11:27-30]**.

Being sent out with this same newest coach with an endorsement of the Antioch staff to start up new teams for a world-wide Gentile league, with his young cousin in tow **[13:1-5; see 12:25; Colossians 4:10]**.

Starting out as the team leader, he gradually allowed his fellow coach to take on that primary role **[13:2,7b; 14:12,14; 15:12-13:43,46; 15:2,2,22,25,35]**.



Missionary of the Month

Introducing: The Gate

By Ben Bobeda

Thank you for the opportunity to submit an article for *The Sentinel*. I'm going to write an introductory paragraph since The Gate is a new ministry to EBC and so members of the EBC family may not be familiar with the work we do.

Vision of a Need

In 2003, the youth pastor of the First Baptist Church in Independence had a vision for a space for youth who were not involved in other activities after school. This vision grew and in 2005 **The Gate**

Youth Association was incorporated as a non-profit with the mission of *"demonstrating Christ's love to the youth of our community*

through academic, social and spiritual activities."

Moving Forward

After 13 years of developing afterschool programing and fundraising, ground was broken on The Gate Community Youth Center across the street from Central High School. Now, 2 1/2 years

later, over 250 6th–12th grade students visit

The Gate weekly after school and 150 CHS students come to our Tuesday Lunch program.

Since September 2022, over 800 of the 1800 Central District

students in these grades have been ministered to by Gate staff and volunteers.

At The Gate, students play video games, pool, air hockey, volleyball, and basketball, have the opportunity to eat teen friendly food and connect with safe, friendly adults who love Jesus.

Opportunities!

Our staff and volunteers have the opportunity to share Jesus' love with their actions and words on a daily basis. We are super thankful for our volunteers, ministry partners and support team like EBC who have come together to make ministry happen. Please reach out with any questions or check out the ministry at www.thegateyouth.org.

Welcome!

The Gate is a network of people committed to creating a safe place for young people in this community. A place to be known as individuals, to be encouraged to grow and learn, and to encounter Christ's love.

The Gate Youth Association is a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation whose mission is to demonstrate Christ's love to the youth of our community through academic, social, and spiritual activities.

Our hope is to connect all Gate youth with caring adults who carefully nurture each student in these three significant aspects of life. Our vision is a community where future generations experience, follow, and serve Christ. ✝

Pictures on this page by Pixabay.com

A Safe Place!

The Gate is a safe place for the youth of Monmouth and Independence to hang out from 3:00 to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. Seventh graders to seniors in high school are welcome. Sixth graders are welcome on Mondays and Tuesdays.

**1501 Monmouth St.
Independence, OR 97351
503.837.1243
info@thegateyouth.org ✝**



NEWS

Ukraine Update

By Sylvia Thomas

Many of you have contributed to help those affected by the war in Ukraine. For nearly a year Ukrainians have endured the painful and invasive changes to their daily lives. Food and supplies that have been donated have encouraged and helped the Ukrainian rural pastors and people they serve.

Costs have risen dramatically in Romania because of the war. This has increased negative sentiments and reduced the amount of donations. The next convoy of supplies from Romania will be taken to southern Ukraine sometime this month. If you are able to donate funds, please make a check out to **EBC** with a note *"for Ukrainian Aid"*. If you have questions, please contact **Sylvia Thomas** at natandsylvia@gmail.com †

Romania Ministry

By Sylvia Thomas

Ministry in Romania continues throughout the year. The Thomas family is involved in work in the rural parts of Romania with Romania Outreach Ministries and The Cross Foundation. In addition to taking aid to Ukraine, they currently have 3 monthly Bible schools in Romania that they run, sponsor special large youth events throughout the year and a summer camp program. They also are involved in helping village churches and outreach programs.



Please keep these ministries in prayer that the Lord would use these opportunities to evangelize and train people to serve Him. If you want more information, their websites are: romaniaoutreach.org and also thecrossfoundation.com †

Bolivia Bound

By Sylvia Thomas

The EBC Missions Committee has put together a short-term work team to assist our missionaries **Dan and Judy Burke** in Bolivia. They will be assembling books to be used in the Burke's ministry to the native Chimane people. **Ruth and Ken Quiring, Julie Gilreath, Doug and Chris Mollerstuen** will be leaving April 19 for Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Please keep them in prayer as Bolivia has had some political unrest. We will be doing some fund-raising for book supplies, so watch for how you can be involved! †



Awana Store Reminder



By Kim Disher
Awana Store Curator

The **Sparks®** will have an opportunity to shop in the Awana Store on **Wednesday, February 8**, and the **T&T®** will be shopping on the following week, **Wednesday, February 15**.

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. †

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.)

✠ Administrate programs such as a coffee shop outreach

✠ Long time involvement with a Christian radio ministry

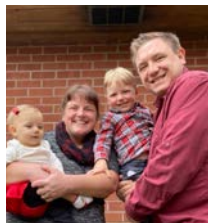


Eric and Judith Hedeem

Ethnos 360

eric_hedeem@ntm.org

- ✠ 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

✠ 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



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 ✝

Please **Pray**
DAILY for
our
missionaries!

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 Gate



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

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

Submitted By Patty Van Well
EBC Missions Committee

Bulande: The family will be returning to Mozambique and the mission field after almost one year in Romania. Pray that the preparations to leave and the trip all go smoothly.

Goossen: Pray as the team evaluates the work of the coffee house ministry and how to improve it.

Stent: **Daniel** will be traveling to search for Central Asian believers. Pray, as he travels with a colleague, for divine encounters.

Kruse: The Youth for Christ high school retreat is February 10–12. Pray that scholarship money will be raised in order to keep costs down and allow for higher attendance.

Yount: Continued wisdom and guidance for the future and Gospel opportunities for friends God has placed in their lives today.

The Gate: They are in the process of hiring a Discipleship Director to mentor youth and staff spiritually and to coordinate youth groups and Bible studies.

P.T.L. (Praise the Lord!)

Goossen: They are thankful for the faithful support from EBC and would welcome visitors to come and see the work they are doing.

Bulande: They have completed repairs on their home in Romania and are having a time of 'rest' before returning to Mozambique.

Village Missions: Pray that God would call more people to be missionary pastors in rural North America. ✝

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.

Power of God's Grace

Shortly before Christmas, a power surge went through the local transformer into the home of a couple in our church. The surge blew a hole in their electrical panel box and shattered the glass of every light bulb and fixture. Smoke filled the house. Fortunately, a firetruck came within minutes, and there was no fire. They were at the church the day after this incident, setting up for our Christmas Eve service. This couple has been through so much, and yet they serve the church faithfully. They caused me to ponder again God's grace and how blessed we are as his people.

Jason & Kathi Berga
New Gloucester, ME ✝

Winter Blessings

In December, we had electrical outages for 17 days due to heavy snow and an ice storm. Cathy and I went to the church early to shovel the fresh snow, start the generator and warm up the building...only to find that the furnace wasn't working. We set up a couple space heaters and notified people that the building would be cold. People came anyway, some with blankets. A technician spent many hours and hundreds of dollars on parts to repair the furnace. He only charged \$350 because he attends a small church, too. Then the week before Christmas, an ice storm caused flooding. Roads were closed, and the power was out again. Our Christmas Eve service went well considering all that people had to go through to attend!

Tony & Cathy Bittner
Skykomish, WA ✝

Open House

We decided to hold an open house at our church's youth center when the local businesses held their annual Christmas open houses. We particularly wanted adults to come and see what the youth center has for the kids of our community. Our newest activity is an air hockey table that flips into a pool table. We grilled hamburgers and hot dogs on the sidewalk in front of the youth center, and at least 70 people came to enjoy the free lunch and see the youth center.

Chip & Laura Farnsworth
Moline, KS ✝

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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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

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

**Thank
you!** ✝



2/3 January Journey Dessert

2/4 31 Day Journey Dinner

**2/7 Ladies Missionary
Fellowship**

2/12 Superbowl Party

2/13 Hymn Sing

2/14 Mom to Mom

2/17 Mom to Mom Night

**2/26 Potluck Lunch for Ian &
Linda McFarland**

2/28 Mom to Mom



**Article Deadline for March ISSUE is:
Monday, February 27, @ 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. ✝

***Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor,
serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's
people who are in need. Practice hospitality.***

Romans 12:9-13 (NIV) ✝