

The Sentinel

DISTRIBUTED BY EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH



WE
STAND
WATCH

July/August, 2023
VOL 7 • NO 7

Why Are We Here?

By Pastor Troy Bassham
Senior Pastor

I don't mean why are we alive, why are we existing on the third planet in our solar system. I mean **here. At church.** *What purpose does God have for those of us who are His followers?*

What We Need!

It's a question we need to ask ourselves every now and again. We **need** to make certain that we are not just going through the motions of church attendance.

Acting out of habit. We **should have** a purpose greater than warming a seat or getting another gold star on our attendance chart.

We **need** to have a reason greater than *"it's what we've always done"* and *"what would other people think of me?"*

Good Enough?

And **sometimes** we need to ask, *"Why do we do things this way?"* If the answer is *"we've always done*

things that way," we need to do some serious thinking, because that's **not** good enough.

Making Buttons!

OK, it's an acceptable answer if you're Amish and you enjoy churning butter and making your own buttons. But, since I haven't seen any of you coming to AM service in a horse drawn buggy, I'm going to guess that isn't your situation.



Actually ... I'm more than certain because I've seen many of you pull up in new cars wearing the latest fashions, talking on your iPhones® and looking up Bible verses on an app. You **can** handle change **if** change needs to happen.

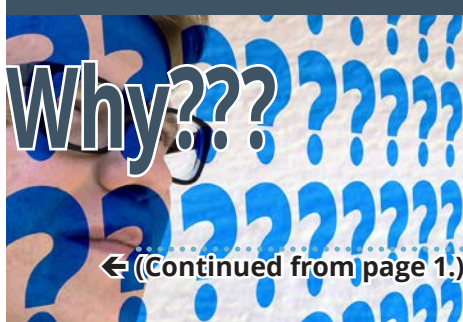
→ Please see "WHY???"
on page 2.

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Deadline for SEPTEMBER ISSUE is:
Monday, August 28, @ 5:00 pm

know. grow. go.



← (Continued from page 1.)

Back to the Question...

Which brings us back to our purpose. *Why are we here?*

Thankfully the Bible is really clear on this one. We have been commissioned to make disciples. That's our charge. We are to become disciples and make disciples. We need to make sure that we were on task and are committed to putting in the effort to living out our calling.

Just To Be Clear ...

Now let me pause to say I'm *not* typing this out because I'm upset about anything or because one of you is not pulling your weight. Rather, I began asking myself, *are we fulfilling our charge?* Am I, as your pastor, leading you forward for the Kingdom's sake or are we content to sit comfortably with our friends and whoever God directs our way on any random Sunday. Because it isn't

Thankfully the Bible is really clear on this one. We have been commissioned to make disciples. That's our charge. We are to become disciples and make disciples.

the goal to simply attain more Bible knowledge so that you can win your next game of Bible trivia. Rather, I hope to see all of us growing in real knowledge of God and in conformation to His character. I hope that God will pour out His Spirit and we could be the part of a real revival in our community. Whether or not this happens, I hope we are about *His* business. I hope that He is pleased with what we are doing.

NOT Playing Church!

Because I don't want to play church and I don't think you do either. Let's pray for God to move. Let's pray that He would start by moving in us—that we would be willing to ask the hard questions, follow His lead and do whatever it takes to do what He has called us to do. ✝

River of Life House Update

Submitted By Patty Van Well
EBC Missions Committee

River of Life House is a local (Dallas), faith-based transition home for those on supervision in Polk County. This recent email came from them:



Thank you so much for your email, dedication and prayer. There haven't been many changes for us following our women's house closing at the end of January. Things have been fairly stable with the men's house over the past months.

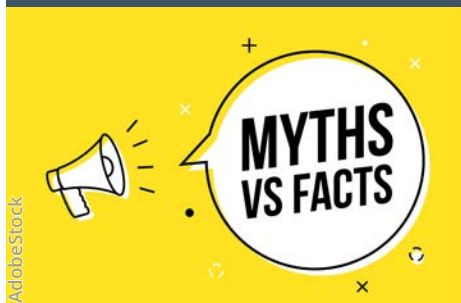
God has been providing amazing opportunities in the lives of the men at River of Life House. Our guys who are able to work have all had jobs and have been seeking even better employment with success. Our house manager was just given an opportunity to go to Alaska for the summer with a friend to do some work and enjoy some fishing. It may end up being a place for a whole new start for him or he may come back to Dallas after summer is over but either way the opportunity for either is exciting!

Thank you to your missions team and congregation for all of your generosity and support. It is so appreciated! **Blessings!**

To learn more about this important ministry, please check:

www.riveroflifehouse.org

This is a combined July/August issue of *The Sentinel*. Please note that the next issue is scheduled for production on Monday, August 28. Have a safe, enjoyable summer!



Mythbusters #3

By Associate Pastor Mike Fast
mikefast@ebcdallas.org

Myths originate for various reasons. Sometimes we are taught wrong, and other times we just want to believe something that regrettably isn't true.

Falsely Safe?

We will find that today's myth, if it were true, is one that leaves all people feeling falsely safe and comfortable while believing in an innocuous God who holds no one accountable.

What Is Love?

I recently saw a big poster that said "Love is God." Not "God is love," but love is God. There are a lot of obvious problems with that Sikhism kind of belief, so we will stick with just the standard version, God is love, which will give us plenty to talk about.

God *is* love. It's a safe statement—PC safe enough for a hippie to wear on the front of their tie-dyed T-shirt at the Summer of Love.



But the statement is actually far older than that. Two thousand years ago, the apostle John, penned it in his first epistle, **God is love (1 John 4:8).**

Of course, almost 4,000 years ago, God said it of Himself to Moses in **Exodus 34:6**, that He was love.

From the Bible = TRUTH!

It's a statement from the Bible *and* it is true. **God is love.** However, to say that He is only love, that presents a problem. I was reminded of this after reading a quote out of a book by New Ageist **Deepak Chopra**, where he declared that "God is only love."

But it's not just one person that makes that statement. There are a variety of ways that this myth can be manifested in a person's life. Those who are not saved enjoy the myth that God is only love. It means that the need for repentance and salvation is non-existent, *and* there's no penalty or judgment for living however you want.

False and Misleading!

There are also groups that *profess* to be Christian—that I struggle to believe truly are—who hold to the same myth, that God is only love, and all people will be saved, no one will go to Hell. It's called **Universalism**, and it's a false, misleading myth.

And then there are Christians, who from time to time make comments that reflect this very myth, and sometimes are even linked to the last two myths. They may utter something like, "The innocent (like me) won't deal with hardship," or, "God will heal me because He is love," or, "My loving God will not allow suffering." These are thoughts that reflect a slide into this myth.

Consider This...

Let's consider the following three points:

.....
God is love.
However, to say
that He is only
love, that presents
a problem.

1. Advising others that God is only love cheapens the character of

God. God is love, yes, but to say that God is only love is to sell God very short. We know that love is one of God's perfect attributes that functions in harmony with His other character traits.

Love is an attribute of God and a core aspect of God's character, His Person. And contrary to what people want to think with this myth, God's love is in no way in conflict with His other qualities, like holiness, righteousness, justice, or even His wrath.

All of God's attributes are in perfect harmony. What this means, is that

→ Please see "MYTH" on page 4.



← (Continued from page 3.)

everything God does is loving, and everything God does is holy and is right and just.

2. Advising others that God is only love cheapens the message of the cross. John 3 confirms this point. Verse 16 reminds us of God's love for the world, but verses 14–15 inform us that the cross of Christ was necessary for those who will believe in Him.

If God were only love, and if everybody was already bound for heaven, then Jesus died for nothing. Verses 17–21 remind us that there is condemnation for those who don't believe, receive and trust in Jesus Christ. And verse 36 declares: ***if you don't believe and obey Jesus, then you will not see eternal life and you will see the wrath of God.*** (ESV)

If we don't balance and understand the entire message, then we risk forfeiting eternal life. And this fact is what takes us to the third and last point.

If God were only love, and if everybody was already bound for heaven, then Jesus died for nothing.

3. Advising others that God is only love cheapens the significance of salvation.

Declaring God to be only love actually undercuts the preaching of the Gospel. God would be perfectly just to leave us in our sin and punish us eternally in hell. But God is loving and gracious, and out of His mercy He desires to save people, and will save those who believe and obey. So, in order to show mercy to us *without* compromising His justice, the Father sent His Son so that in Him our rebellion, our sin, would be punished, our debt paid, and our relationship with Him restored. At the Cross, God satisfied His justice and demonstrated His mercy. God is love, but He's not love only.



Romans 5:8 is a verse we love to quote, ***"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*** (ESV)

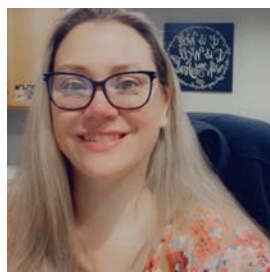
But the very next words are Romans 5:9; ***"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."*** (ESV)

We need to be saved from the wrath of God. That's the Gospel. God is love, *but* He is more than just love. ✝

From the EBC Office!

Office News and Notes

By Alison Johnson



Summer is quieter in the building which means I do nothing all day long ... according to my son.

However, I have been hard at work getting the EBC app up and ready, changing the online services and registrations programs over to the new program, and normal day-to-day office functions.

Calendar News and Notes

Some things on the calendar to note and remember:

✝ The **office will be closed** on **July 4** for Independence Day.

→ Please see "Office" on page 5.



✠ On **July 24** (*date could change*) at **6:30 pm**, **city council members will meet here at EBC to discuss the coming shortfall in the city general fund.** While this is not an EBC event, the city manager was inspired to try to get as much information out to the community as possible. The meeting proves an opportunity to ask questions and get clarification from the council in a smaller setting.

✠ **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** will be held **July 31–August 4.** Since it is in the evening, many groups will not be able to meet that week or will need to meet in a different room. Please contact the church office to discuss alternate meeting rooms.

✠ The next **blood drive** here at EBC will be on **August 28** from 12–5 in the Activity Center. *Watch the bulletin and website for a chance to sign up to donate soon.*

✠ **The office will be closed on September 4** for Labor Day.

As always, check the calendars for these and more events.

There's An App for That!

As we announced at the recent business meeting, EBC now has an app. I am brand new to app programming, so there will be bugs at times. Please bear with me as I work those out. For now, you can enjoy a calendar to check the upcoming events, the latest sermons (*complete with the Scripture reading and sermon notes*), registration for

Congratulations to Our 2023 High School Graduates!

- ✠ **Madison Johnson**
- ✠ **Elizabeth Lutz–Calef**
- ✠ **Evie Olliff**
- ✠ **Jaxon Brateng**

May God continue to richly bless you in all of your future endeavors!

Picture Credits: Top - AdobeStock

events, the youth calendar, and more. Once the full range of options is finished we will have an online directory, messaging options for small groups and committees, a Bible reading plan, and more.

My hope and prayer is that this will be a useful tool for you to use to keep engaged throughout the week, read more of God's Word, and feel connected here at EBC. ✠



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 are praising God for His faithfulness on many fronts! New members, several baptisms coming up, unity of the Dallas churches on Sunday at the *One in Christ* service are just some of the things to praise God for. Pastor Mike and Dick Fobert's new Sunday evening class is going well! Praise the Lord for all this and more.

Membership News

Pastor Mike

facilitated a membership class and on June 18, he and the elders interviewed eight folks for final steps in becoming members of EBC.

At least three people plan to be baptized in Rickreall Creek during the annual church picnic in September.

On the Air with Pastor Troy!

The Polk County Itemizer

Observer (I/O) newspaper owns a radio station and the manager was looking for a pastor who preached Bible-based sermons.

The I/O contacted EBC to ask if **Pastor Troy** would give his permission for the radio to air his sermons on a weekly basis. Apparently the manager said that Troy's sermons were Biblically sound *without* an agenda.



Town Hall Meeting

The Annual Town Hall meeting was held June 25 at 4 pm and several folks told me they thought it went well. Members of the congregation forwarded nine questions ahead of time covering numerous topics which the elder team answered.

One question was about the status of the van we bought to be able to transport our members from DRV. Members of the trustee committee went to pick up the van last Friday and discovered a minor electrical problem. This will be resolved soon.

Awana Continuing Forward!

Darrel Hiebenthal reported that the Awana leadership is transitioning from **John and Julie West** to **Matthew and Lena Calef**.

Who to Call?

Another question was about the organizational structure and communication lines. I explained that the leadership team was comprised of the pastoral staff and the elder team with Pastor Troy bridging the two teams. If there are questions from the congregation about leadership issues, then that

person can call any of the pastoral staff or elders.

The implementation of the church mission is accomplished by the numerous committees here at EBC. For questions for a particular committee, someone can call the church office to identify the chair person for a specific committee.

The I/O contacted EBC to ask if Pastor Troy would give his permission for the radio to air his sermons on a weekly basis.

Worship Team Update

Alan Casey answered a question about the status of a Worship Team leader. He reported that several people had been approached about working at EBC as a lead for the Worship Team, but so far there has not been anyone to take the position.

In the meantime the music team members have been working to make the worship time in the services more consistent. They have been developing a library of music selections to choose from which have been screened for doctrinal content.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Time

Joe Cackca talked about the revival of the Wednesday evening prayer service and Sunday evening services post-Covid. He reminded

→ Please see "Elders" on page 8.



AdobeStock

Elders

← (Continued from page 7.)

people that the Wednesday prayer service is being held at 6:30 in the room by the youth center and the Sunday service is the class being held in the Builder's classroom at 6:00.

Policy Development

This past winter and spring, among other tasks, the Elder Team has been working on developing several policies as a part of helping EBC function smoothly administratively. There are several policies that are legally required of any public organization. A couple of examples that we worked on, with the policy expertise of **Elly Ens**, were a “*whistle blower*” policy and a *conflict of interest* policy.

At EBC we depend on volunteers for most of our ministries. We worked on a volunteer policy to guide the process of signing people up to serve as volunteers in Awana, leaders in the youth ministry, and many other positions. This policy has an attached volunteer application form and procedures for getting a background check.

Other policies in the pipeline include:

- ☒ Abuse Prevention
- ☒ Anti-discrimination
- ☒ Hiring
- ☒ Staff Performance Evaluation

THANK YOU, Elly, for your guidance on forming these

policies that are essential to our administrative functioning.

THANK YOU, ALL!

We rejoice in God's work in both Body of Christ issues and tedious administrative issues. Thank you to all who help make EBC a good church! ✝



THANK YOU, Alison Johnson, for providing the above graphic.

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC



July 1, 2023

Do you ever have that moment when everything just seems to be really hard? I do not wish to bore you with detail, nor elicit sympathy, but I do think some context might be helpful.

As you know, we're trying to adjust to a new financial plan, which means sadness over the impending loss of coworkers, and adjusting to new methods like the transition to an online magazine. It also means planning for the sale of our office—which comes with a host of adjustments, details to figure out, and tasks to complete.

All of that is coming at the time that we are preparing for Connect. This always is my busiest time of the year—as I try to ensure that each church is registered properly, that all sessions are planned for, that my presentations are prepared, etc.

Amid all of that, in the past two weeks: we helped our son move, my wife had her gallbladder removed (unexpected, and delayed our travel to Connect), my car had to go to the shop for repairs, my work computer died and had to be replaced—which involves hours of restoring programs, preferences, drivers, etc. I could go on – but you get the point. It has been hard to keep my head above water, and frankly, it has been frustrating.

Meanwhile, I was asked to preach at one of our churches a few weeks ago, and the text they requested was from James 1—God uses trials for our good. Then last week, my pastor preached from Genesis about the life of Joseph—noting that God is working in and through the worst circumstances. It is as if God is trying to tell me something that I thought I already knew.

Folks, I do not know what you are dealing with today, but do not give up. Persevere, and know that God uses trials to strengthen us. Your ministry in your town is critically important, and lives are being impacted, even when that is hard to see. *Be encouraged!*



Serving Him together, ✝

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4 (ESV)

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



Get ready for some summer fun because Family Camp Weekend is a blast! We believe that this event is a fun and relaxing way to get together with our church family.

Basic Information:

When: July 28–July 30

Where: Triangle Lake Camp
(Memorial Community Church)

Cost: \$40 per family/night (See cost note below)

Activities to Enjoy:

You can be as busy or relaxed as you want. Some of the many ways to spend your time can include:

- ☒ Campfire
- ☒ Fishing
- ☒ Relaxing with Friends
- ☒ Sandy Beach
- ☒ Yard Games
- ☒ Small Boating (e.g. kayaks)
- ☒ Swimming Area
- ☒ Visiting



- ☒ Volleyball
- ☒ Water Skiing*
- ☒ Ski Biscuits*

***Available IF people bring appropriate boat(s)!**

Campground Information

We camp in an open field with some trees around the edge. There are no RV hook-ups, but showers and restrooms are available. Additionally, there is a dock complete with a swimming area and a large sandy beach.

IF we have gas-powered boats available to use, we will take donations for fuel from those enjoying these activities.

Weekend Schedule

Friday: Plan to arrive any time after 12:00 noon on Friday, July 28th. Come for all or part of the weekend!

Saturday: Enjoy the day and the many opportunities available!

6:30 pm: Campout fellowship meal. Plan on getting together around the campfire for the meal.

Sunday: Attend church at Triangle Lake Memorial Community

Church. Service is located on the grounds of the camp (*weather permitting*). Casual clothes are fine.

More Info?

Ron Brooks and **Marie Vinson** are the primary contacts this year should you have any questions. They can be reached at:

503.991.4574

ron.brooks@alryca.net

We hope to see you at Triangle Lake later this summer. Please be sure to register for a camping spot via the Church Office.

Happy Camping! ✝



...those who wait for the Lord...
shall mount up with
wings like eagles.

Isaiah 40:31

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S BREAKFAST



TICKETS
\$5.00

JULY 15, 2023
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30
BREAKFAST SERVED AT 8:00 AM

Come and try out the 4 flavors of
pancakes, toppings, and more!



VBS @ EBC

2023

ADVENTURES AT SEA



←
Registration is open online

THANK YOU, Alison Johnson, for providing the above graphics.

Get Ready for ADVENTURE!

By Alison Johnson

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming soon! Join us for **Adventures At Sea July 31—August 4.**

All youth entering Kindergarten—5th grades are welcome to come. Parents will come with them on Friday for a family night of dinner and a showcase to see all that the kids have learned and done over the week.

A Kid At Heart?

All kids at heart are welcome to join in on the fun by serving as volunteers. If you are interested in this opportunity, please come to the next volunteer meeting on July 9. It will be held following the second service in the Ambassador Room (*across from the kitchen*).

Help Us Recruit!

☒ *Do you have children or grandchildren in the above age group?*

☒ *Do you know of children in your neighborhood who could benefit from sound Biblical teaching? (As in, ANY child!)*

If you answered **YES** to either of the above questions, help them get signed up for this year's VBS.

Questions?

Please contact **Alison** at the Church Office!



EBC Women's Ministry

Ladies, please lend **YOUR** voice and **YOUR** energy to help EBC's Women's Ministries flourish. We have a lot of exciting programs and activities planned for the year and we will **ALL** benefit from your help and enthusiasm to make them all happen.

Contact **Alison Johnson**, Chairwoman, to discuss how **YOU** can lend your support to this important ministry.

Alison: office@ebcdallas.org
503.623.2331 ✝

2023 Women's Ministry Event Schedule

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	YOUR name here!		
Treasurer	Linda Baton		
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		



SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
RETREAT

When: September 15-17

Where: Fern Hill Lodge
(6000 Fern Hill Rd, Monmouth)

Speaker: Jen Tompkins

Cost:

Early Bird Overnight Rate - \$110 (Available through July 16)

Overnight Rate - \$130 (After July 16)

Day Rate - \$75 (Sleep at your own house)



For more information contact: EBC Office: 503.623.2331 • E-mail: office@EBCDallas.org

Join us!



Pixabay

LADIES
BEACH DAY

Friday, July 14, 2023

All ladies of EBC are invited to join us for a summer beach day. We plan to meet at the church at 9:30. We will then carpool or caravan to Lincoln City. The plan is to walk, eat lunch (bring a sack lunch or money to go out) and then some shopping.

THANK YOU, Alison Johnson, for providing the above graphics.

When God Seems Far Away ...

Spiritual Drought

By Gwen Griffiths

The pen falls from my fingers and skitters across the floor as I jerk awake.

I sigh—I've fallen asleep during my personal Bible study time. *Again.* Frustrated, I snatch up a new pen and struggle to find my place in the passage, only to find myself drifting once more. After a few more moments of effort, I give up and grab my phone. I'm getting nowhere here, and if I send these texts now, at least that will be off my mind.

Continuing Pattern

Days pass, the pattern continues: I force myself to the chair and open my Bible and my prayer journal, hoping that today will be the day I hear from Him. I wonder, *"What is wrong with me? Why is this once-sweet time now dry and stale?"*

I used to envision myself sitting close to God and sharing with Him everything on my heart. Now, my mental picture has morphed, and God sits in a huge throne far away—unattainable, unreachable.

It seems that no matter how hard I try, I can't find my way to a place

where I feel connected to God. Everything is dry, desolate, barren. *Desert-like.*

Spiritual Drought

The fact of it is that many—if not most—Christians will experience arid times of spiritual drought. We are relational creatures, sustained by the rains of connection and in turn pouring into the lives of others through further relationship.

Emotional connection can confirm for us the presence of God in our lives, and when that connection seems sparse or absent, we can begin to doubt the status of our relationship with Him.

So, over the next couple of months, we'll talk through what we can—and should—do when God seems far away. We will also consider why we might feel an emotional disconnect.

the motions in our spiritual life is to keep going through the motions. The pursuit of relationship with our Father is a discipline. Each time we choose to pick up our phone instead of our Bible, to watch the next episode in our show instead of spend time in prayer or walk past the spot where we meet with God (*because "nothing is going to happen anyway"*), we've already made the decision that we won't find communion with Him today.



Quitting Too Soon!

We can compare it to a new fitness plan. If I start a new regimen, but become discouraged and quit because I don't see any change after a week,

I'm never going to experience any results—at least not for the good! But if, day after day, I keep on doing what I know is better, trusting that the plan will someday work, I am much more likely to eventually see the change I hope for!

When we continue to hold space in our spiritual life for that connection, we show our trust—our expectation—that our faithful God is in control, *is listening*, is here even when we can't sense Him.

It's a Discipline!

In my mind, the most important thing we can do when in it feels like we are just going through

.....
The fact of it is that many—if not most—Christians will experience arid times of spiritual drought.

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

Drought

← (Continued from page 14.)

Heart Follows Mind

Heart *follows* mind. We can see this play out in ourselves. As children, we often followed the sinful nature of our hearts, acting in ways that served our own purposes. Our parents worked to train us to instead honor Christ and others by first telling us (*our minds*) what the expected attitude and behavior were.

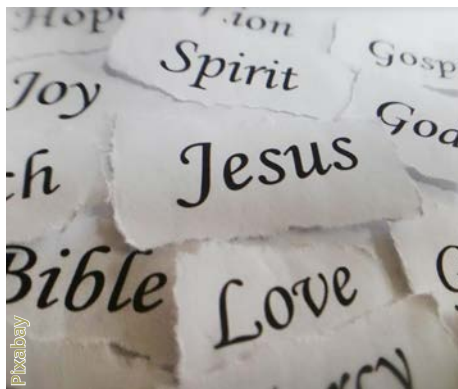
As we then learned to obey, our hearts slowly began to understand the joy of obedience and service to others. Our more mature heart now seeks to honor and serve others instead of self.

So the first step to regaining that feeling of connection with Christ is to continue to pursue that connection. We must keep digging into the Word of God, keep talking to Him through prayer, keep depending on Him and trusting His faithfulness.

Importance of Prayer

In addition, I cannot overemphasize the importance of prayer. Sometimes

We must keep digging into the Word of God, keep talking to Him through prayer, keep depending on Him and trusting His faithfulness.



we fail to bring to God our doubts and feelings of disconnection. But He wants us to talk to Him—even

about feeling distant from Him! There are times that it might feel like we are just flinging words towards the ceiling, but we can count on the fact that He is listening—and that He cares.

HOPE!

When we experience one of the “deserts” of life, feeling little or no connection with God, we must take heart. We are not alone. God is with us, and we stand in the company of saints and patriarchs. **There is hope.** †

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START
THINKING ABOUT FALL!

*Mark your calendar now
so you don't miss out!*

COUPLES
Date Night

Saturday

OCTOBER 14

@ EBC



THANK YOU, Gwen Griffiths, for providing the above graphic.

This and That in Missions

By Sylvia Thomas
June 26, 2003

The camp season has begun for children and teenagers all over the world. We have several wonderful camps available for our EBC kids and teens as well.

EBC also supports the **Domes family** who run camps in Nebraska with InFaith®. Camps are a very effective way to share the Lord. There is usually a week of concentrated time for teaching and questions as campers begin to trust their leaders and become open to the Lord working in their lives.

Many people point back to having begun their walk with the Lord *at camp*. Please be praying for those who come to camp and for those who lead.

Romania Camping Opportunities

The organization that **Nat** and I have worked within Romania for

.....
Many people point back to having begun their walk with the Lord at camp.



over twenty years begins the camp season as well.

This year, we are stepping back from physically directing the camps and instead are placing this task in the hands of our staff whom we have trained for many years. It is heart-warming to see the Lord work in their lives as they do camps *"solo."* At the camp facility there, we have finally been able to drill a well a few months ago so that the camp has a consistent supply of water. ***What a blessing this will be!***

Focus on Fall

Please be praying for the staff as they step into this new role and also for the campers to have hearts open to the Lord. Nat and I will instead be heading to Romania for several weeks in the Fall since we oversee several other programs such as discipleship training schools and will conduct three marriage seminars. Please pray for wisdom for us as we lead these ministries.



Missionary Change

You may have heard that our missionaries, **Andrew and Rachel Kruse**, are undergoing a change in their ministry with Youth For Christ in the Tacoma area.

Their focus area, called ***City Life***, was cut from the budget two weeks ago, and the building is being sold.

The director expressed their sadness at losing the Kruse's due to this budget cut. Please be in prayer for them as they seek where God wants them to serve.



As of July 1, financial gifts to Rachel and Andrew can no longer go through Youth For Christ or EBC, due to policies. Should you wish to send a love offering to them, please send it to them directly.

THANK YOU Kayla & Sue!

I hope that you take time to read the new Missions Bulletin board in the breezeway hall. **Kayla Dunham** has graciously taken on this project with the help of **Sue Dunham**. It looks wonderful, is informative, and has up-to-date information on it for you to read. ***We are so blessed to have their talents at EBC!***

Inspiring!

Our recent visit by **Dennis and Cindy Wiens** was inspiring. Their

→ Please see ***"This and That"*** on page 18.

The Unconventional Ministry Podcast

By Dennis Wiens
Sat-7

Over the years, various people have suggested numerous hobbies for me to consider doing in my retirement. None seems to appeal for my skill set and experience.



I love and appreciate the travel opportunities that come with my ministry work with SAT-7 USA (www.sat7usa.org).

I'm *always* meeting new people, hearing their stories and learning from them. It's so inspiring to see how God is working through His people across America in ways that are fun, interesting and creative!

Another Podcast?

After hearing so many stories, I decided to share them. One way to do that was to start a podcast. With more than 5 million podcasts in the world, with over 70 million episodes among them, I questioned if we really need another podcast. But 78% of Americans have heard of

podcasts. Of those who have heard of them, 28% listen weekly, meaning we definitely need another podcast!

Each Tuesday there is a new episode of the **Unconventional Ministry Podcast** I host. Subscribe so you don't miss an episode as I share the stories I hear of the innovative and creative ways people are making a difference for others. The podcast is a conversation about fresh ministry ideas, new approaches and collaborative efforts.



Join Us!

Find the "Unconventional Ministry Podcast" on your favorite podcast platform like Apple Podcasts®. It's also available on <https://sat7usa.podbean.com>

Here are some samples of podcast episodes:

- ✦ Revolutionizing Church Mission Displays—Creating an Interactive Experience
- ✦ Lessons Learned Visiting 57 Immigrant Churches
- ✦ Music's Powerful Force in Healing People From Trauma
- ✦ Ending the Epidemic of Poor Vision in the Developing World
- ✦ Missions Innovation in the Context of Urbanization, Globalization, and Multidirectional Migration



✦ Pastor Retirement—Why Too Few Plan or Prepare

✦ Finding Meaning in the Midst of Personal Tragedy

✦ The Third Culture Kid (TCK) Cultural Adaptability in a Multicultural World

What Do You Think?

Let me know what you think. Which episode was your favorite? Please, give a review as this helps position the podcast for more people to learn about it. *Could this be my retirement hobby?* ✦

Contact Me!

Please reach out to me and let me know your favorite episodes or if you have questions about the SAT-7 ministry.

Dennis Wiens—Podcast Host
SAT-7 USA Senior Impact Catalyst
denniswiens@sat7.org
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/denniswiens>



This and That

← (Continued from page 16.)

work with SAT-7 reaches countless people in the Arab world.

There are so many miraculous stories of how God has used this satellite network and programing to lead people to a relationship with Jesus. To understand more the scope of the work God is doing through SAT-7, visit their website at: <https://www.sat7usa.org>.

Unconventional Ministry

Dennis has started a weekly podcast called **"Unconventional Ministry"** where he highlights some of these stories. *Please see related article on the previous page.*

Beyond Borders

Dennis also is the host of the **SAT-7 USA's Beyond Borders Prayer Zoom**, a monthly meeting connecting ministry partners and friends of the ministry with on-the-ground SAT-7 staff from the Middle East and North Africa.

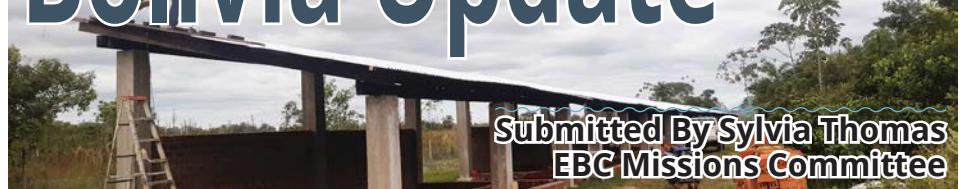
It is a time to hear firsthand about the challenges of ministering in a region where 97% of people are non-Christian and how to pray more effectively to make God's love visible.

Check It Out!

Here is a link to register for the monthly **Beyond Borders Prayer Zoom** <https://www.sat7usa.org/join-the-prayer-team/>



Bolivia Update



Submitted By Sylvia Thomas
EBC Missions Committee

As you recall, EBC recently sent a short-term mission team to Bolivia to assist in the excellent—and necessary—work being carried out there by **Dan and Judy Burke**. We received this note that we would like to pass along to our church family.



2023 EBC short-term missions team.

Dear friends at EBC,

Just a quick little note to let you know that we greatly appreciate the generous financial support that you send so faithfully each month! We are so thankful for a great mission's committee that does an awesome job! We are grateful that you all understand that over and above dollars and prayers we value the

relationship that we have with you as a church and we are so pleased that you have chosen to send some of the cream of the crop from Dallas to visit us in Bolivia.

Thank you for truly being a part of the ministry to the Chimane people! The Lord is blessing and the construction during this time is going ahead full steam. Our bricklayers are putting up the walls on house four of ten. It is taking them about three days per house to put up the remaining walls. Then all we will lack on those houses is floors, doors and beds.



New classrooms being built at ministry center in Horeb.

We are waiting on a brick order or else the first three houses could already have their floors.... Our brick maker is on his own time frame. It looks like we will have all the necessary housing that we will need to start up discipleship courses in August. Dan has been taking care of the very last things that were lacking in the kitchen facility, the storage room. First he chased all the bats out, then he put up screens and had the guys put cement all the way up against the roofing. (Our bats are small mouse sized and can get in the smallest opening!) Lord willing, meals will be served out of the new kitchen on August 3!

Thanks again! We are blessed to know you all and when I read the bulletin and see all that you have going on there, I wish I could divide myself and be a part of all that too!

Dan and Judy Burke ✝



Editor's Note: Regular readers of *The Sentinel* will quickly recognize the name of this author as one of our regular contributors.

Natasha has had a regular column in this newsletter as she kept the EBC family informed of youth activities, first for the middle school program and, more recently, the high school group. It has been fun to witness, firsthand, the development of her writing style throughout the years. Regular readers, I think, will agree that Natasha has a gift for writing that has been well-honed with a great deal of practice.

Please keep Natasha in your prayers this next school year. Pray that she stays safe and have many positive and amazing experiences, that she stays rooted in the Word, and that she returns to the Dallas-area in a year full of positive, lifelong memories. Remember, also, to pray for Tim and Gwen and for her German "family".

Writing for *The Sentinel* has been such a joy for me over the years. I've gotten to interview students and leaders, share my experiences in the group and speak on some topics I felt were important to teens today. Through this I've gotten to know my leaders better, I've listened to my peers more and I've gained



Natasha in Nebraska



opportunities to get to know some of you better! In all, I've been so thankful for a spot in this newsletter.

A New Adventure

However, I am going to be living in Germany from August until June of the 2023/2024 school year. Since I will be in Germany, and not here where I can be involved with the youth ministries, I won't be able to write about Forged Youth Group experiences! Instead, I will be experiencing a Christian lifestyle in Germany by attending church and youth group there.

Many of you have helped me in my journey of going to Germany, and I am so thankful for all of you! Through jobs, prayer, and encouragement I have become aware of what an amazing blessing it is to have this community around me.

Living Abroad

I was asked to give you some updates on what my life will look like while I'm abroad.

I just got accepted by a host family this past week and they are a complete answer to prayer. First, they are a Christian family with two kids who are active in youth group. Their oldest is a girl my age which is the second blessing because I have been praying for a Christian friend while I am there. They seem like such a nice family! Because I know who my host family is, I will start getting to know more about my life while I'm there.

A New Adventure

However, I am going to

I will be leaving Oregon on August 8 and my family is holding a send-off party on August 2.



Natasha pictured recently talking with her host family.

Thank You for Prayers!

Once again, thank you all for your prayers and encouragement. If any of you have a desire to continue praying for me, which I would be grateful for, a few passages from the Apostle Paul's letters come to mind: **Ephesians**

1:17-21, Ephesians
3:16-19, Ephesians
5:15-20, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-14.

Once again, I appreciate you all greatly and hope to share some of my experiences while I am on my adventure! ✝

Missionaries & Ministries EBC Supports!

The focus of the Mission Committee is to follow the mandate Jesus gave to go into the world for the advancement of evangelism, discipleship and Christian education in a manner effective for the culture being reached. The committee exists to be a supportive and evaluative conduit between EBC and the work on the mission field that the congregation supports, maintaining an attitude of advocacy for missionaries and corresponding projects.

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



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



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

→ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 21.

EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 20.)

- ✠ 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
- ✠ Administrate programs such as a coffee shop outreach
- ✠ Long time involvement with a Christian radio ministry



Eric and Judith Hedeon

Ethnos 360

eric_hedeon@ntm.org

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



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

Domes: The summer camp season has ended and the family appreciates prayer for a restful July and a new school season in August.

Goossen: Pray for VBS that will be July 27–30 in Mucambo. Also, for **Mary** as she is dealing with hearing issues and is in the States for treatment.

River of Life: That the men would continue to receive His provision and blessing and that they would recognize the origin of those blessings as they learn to seek Him.

Village Missions: Many VM churches are holding VBS or sports activities. Pray that they will be effective in reaching children and families in rural communities. Pray that God will lead the right person to apply for the VM position of Payroll Specialist.

Hedeen: **Eric** is stepping into a new role as manager of the Lapilo Centre. He needs God's grace and wisdom in order to be successful.

Yount: Pray that **Andy** would do well in Flight Instructor ground school during the first 3 weeks in July and that Jerusha and baby would continue to have good health throughout the pregnancy.

Brooks: They are awaiting baby **Micah's** necessary paperwork so they can return to Indonesia. Pray that they will trust God's timing.

Bulande: **Josue** and his team are working hard on the church building in Lichinga and pray that the roof will be on before the rainy season.

PTL (Praise The Lord!)

Domes: Praise God for a good camp season and for the opportunity to share the Gospel with unsaved kids.

River of Life: Praise for the amazing opportunities being given to the men at River of Life house.

Bulande: They just returned from Malawi where they attended the annual SIM Spiritual Life Conference. ✝

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.

Intergenerational Ministry

I recently began a Bible study at the local retirement home (they haven't had one in several years). I began with a Q&A style study to explore the Bible for answers to some of life's questions. A few people who aren't residents of the retirement home are coming as well as some people from our church. In addition, I hold chapels at the local nursing home. The residents are so excited when Katie and our daughter come with me!

JD & Katie Milton
Buskirk, NY ✝

Gospel Opportunity

We recently held a funeral for a special boy who was part of our church family. He had a condition known as Prader-Willi Syndrome. He passed away after surgery to straighten his spine. The family couldn't find a casket that fit his personality, so at their request, a couple of men in the church made one. They spent about 50 hours on it, working in their spare time, and the casket was amazing! We held the service outside because the space where we usually meet is small. About 200 people came; many stood because we didn't have enough chairs. It was a difficult day but also a great opportunity to share the Gospel with many people.

Del & Colleen Abbey
Sula, MT ✝

Women's Outreach

Our Women's Ministry Coordinator organized a big outreach event. It began with a dramatic monologue about Naomi's life from the book of Ruth entitled, "From Bitter to Blessed" (produced by Rebecca Small with Reservoir of Grace Ministries). The Gospel was presented with an opportunity to respond. Then the women enjoyed a lunch and formal tea complete with full tea service settings on all the tables. About 100 women attended including several who do not attend church. God was glorified in this special outreach!

Craig & Shelley Curtis
Camp Creek, 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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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!** ☩



THANK YOU, Alison Johnson, for providing the calendar graphics.



7.4 Office Closed

Ladies Missionary Fellowship

7.9 VBS Volunteer Meeting

7.14 Ladies Beach Day

7.15 Men's Breakfast

7.24 City Budget meeting

7.28-30 Triangle Lake Family Camp

7.31 VBS



8/1-8/4 VBS

8/1 Ladies Missionary Fellowship

8/9 Awana Training

8/16 Awana Training

8/23 Awana Training

8/28 Blood Drive

8/30 Awana Training

**18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without
deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds 26 As the body without the spirit is dead,
so faith without deeds is dead.**

James 2:18, 26 (NIV)