

The Sentinel

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WATCH

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December, 2023
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Count On It!

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel

I was struggling with what to write for this month's *Sentinel* article. I figured I'd write something about Christmas as the holiday is fast approaching.

At some point, I found myself humming the tune to "*O come, O Come Immanuel.*"

Perhaps it was to be expected: Israel has certainly been in the news, and I've been thinking about that part of the world a lot.

Current Events

My thoughts have been more than regular Biblical study, thinking on the events that are happening

By Pastor Troy Bassham
Senior Pastor

there today. Many of you are aware that recently I gave a Sunday night presentation to our church on Israel, Gaza, and the history of the region.*

What We Know

I don't know when this current round of conflict will end. I do know that there is more to come—if not now, then at some point in the future.

A day *is* coming when Jerusalem will, once again, be surrounded by



her enemies and will need a deliverer. It *will be* a time of great trouble. We *know* it as the Tribulation, but it is also called the "*time of Jacob's trouble*"

because of the suffering that the Hebrew people will endure. *But* in those dark days something amazing

→ Please see "*Foretold*"
on page 2.

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Deadline for January, 2024 ISSUE is:

Monday, January 1,
@ 5:00 pm

know. grow. go.

Foretold!

← (Continued from page 1.)

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will happen. There will be a spiritual revival and the nation of Israel will mourn for the one they have pierced (**Zechariah 12:10**). Then the Lord Himself will return to deliver His people and to rule the nations in justice and righteousness.

Truths In Uncertainties

There are many questions and uncertainties about how this will come to pass. However, these two things are true:

✠ Christ is returning.

✠ Israel will finally recognize Jesus as the Messiah and will turn to Him (**Romans 11**).

Rejected At First

In His first advent, Jesus came to the nation and was rejected by the multitudes. **John 1:11** says, "**He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.**" (NKJV)

He was *not* the Messiah people were looking for. They were looking for a lion, but instead he came as the lamb. As John the Baptist declared, he was "**the lamb of God who**

takes away the sin of the world." (NKJV)

This, of course, is why we celebrate. For those of us who recognize what Jesus has accomplished, we marvel at the beauty and mystery of God's plan to reconcile sinful humanity to Himself. The baby in the manger was the Savior of the world—our salvation achieved by His willingness to offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. Because of what He has accomplished, for those who receive Him, we have peace with God. We have been given eternal life.



And Yet...

Yet, most of the world still does not know peace. The multitudes still miss the reason for Christ's coming. The nations may celebrate Jesus's birth with lights, gifts, food, and

song, but they do not realize that the baby is the Savior. They may celebrate His birth but the reason for His coming and His true identity are neither known nor recognized.

And so, people continue to walk in darkness and this world is just as broken as ever.

But ...

But Christ IS coming. When He comes the second time, He *will* be recognized by everyone. He *will* return to rescue the remnant of Israel and *will* defeat the armies of unrighteousness. He *will* then rule

justly from the throne of David. The Messiah who brought peace with God *will* bring peace to the nations.

Our Hope!

This is the promise that Scripture gives us. This is the hope found in so many of our Christmas carols. We celebrate that Christ has come even as we also look expectantly for His return. We long to see the people of Israel receive the Messiah, to see peace on earth, and for our Savior to reign. For those of us who belong to Jesus, our future is secure. The future of this world is just as sure. **Jesus is coming.** His victory will bring righteousness and healing to the nations. Maranatha.

*for those of you who might be interested in this presentation, it can be viewed on our YouTube® channel: [EBCDallas](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBcDallias).

Travel Mugs For Sale!

By Sandie Radke

The Life Ministry Team has purchased some EBC insulated travel coffee cups. We will be selling them during Coffee Time (*in the Activity Center*) for **\$10 on December 10 and 17.**



They'll make great Christmas gifts!

.....
There will be a spiritual revival and the nation of Israel will mourn for the one they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10).

EBC Christmas Program Coming Soon!

Angels Aware

By Lori Bassham



The musical is directed by **Sarah McFarland** and **Lori Bassham** with set design by **Troy Bassham**, sound design by **Sheldon Schmidt**, and light design by **Ethan Broten** with special help from **Noah Sakrisson**.

Gabrielle is a little girl with a big imagination. Like most kids, she can't wait for Christmas. Join her as she goes back in time. She, and the cast of **"Angels Aware"**, will take you to a time before the shepherds and wise men. They'll take you back to when the angels found out about Jesus. After all, that's when Christmas really began!

All Come!

We invite you to join Gabrielle, Millie, Hannah, and the angelic host as they proclaim the good news about the coming Savior. Written by **Kathie Hill** and **Janet McMahan** and adapted for the

EBC stage by **Troy and Lori Bassham**, **"Angels Aware"**

Come to the performance!
4:00 pm and 6:00 pm
Sunday, December 10

features **Maddi Fuller** as *Gabrielle*, **Eva Casey** as *Millie*, **Arianna McFarland** as *Hannah* and 18 additional youth actors.

Much Dedication and Practice

The students have dedicated their Sundays, for the past three months, to preparing this musical for you. The show will be performed at **4:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Sunday, December 10**.

Those in attendance will first be entertained by a children's choir which will be followed by the youth musical. Expect the entire program to be about an hour long. **The event is free.** ✝

Rehersal Photo By Lena Calef

From the EBC Office!

Office News and Notes

By Alison Johnson

Not a lot has changed this last few weeks. A couple of dates to remember as we head into the last month of 2023 are listed on the calendar on the back page of **The Sentinel**.



Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve will have two morning services as well as the Candlelight Service at 6:00.

On Vacation

I will be on vacation from December 16–27.

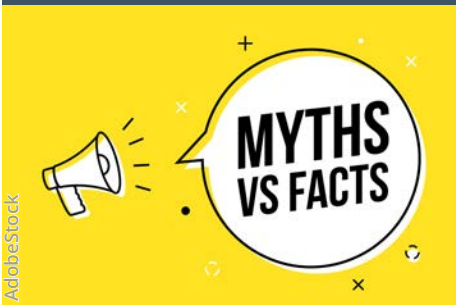
I will be in the office on December 28 to close out the books for the year and get last minute deposits in.



THANK YOU all in advance for being so kind and patient with the very kind and wonderful people that will cover the office in my absence.

Office Closed

The office will be closed December 25 and January 1. ✝



Mythbusters #7

By Administrative Pastor Mike Fast
mikefast@ebcdallas.org

Christmas is a special time to reflect on the depth of love God was willing to go for us. Scripture describes the extent of sacrifice God endured for our salvation (cf. **John 3:16—He gave His only Son; Philippians 2:–8—Jesus left Heaven taking on the form of man and died on a cross**).

Focus: Forgiveness!

In this article the focus is on *forgiveness*, and more specifically, **the myth that Forgiving means forgetting.**

This myth has damaged people emotionally, relationally and physically. There are people who want to encourage someone who has been hurt, and they come alongside that person and tell them just to forgive *and forget*.

There are other people who want to manipulate someone, or maybe they just want to avoid facing any kind of accountability or consequence,



so they tell the other person to just forgive and forget (an act I have seen in many abusive situations).

Biblical Mandate?

We quote the statement like it's some kind of biblical mandate, but it's not. People have recklessly quoted **Jeremiah 31:34**, where God says He will remember Israel's sins no more, or **Isaiah 43:25** where God is saying He will not remember your sins. And we often misrepresent these *without* doing a careful study of the context and the idea behind the topic, which tells us something different.

We must answer Scripture with Scripture, so in the context of **Jeremiah 31**, God is recording their sins, stating them and physically recording them to be seen for the past 3,000 years. In a similar way, in the context of **Isaiah 43**, God has listed a long set of sins prior to v. 25. If it's all written out, then forgetting must mean something different than disregarding or overlooking sin.

Infinite!

Psalms 147:5 tells us that God's understanding is infinite. **Psalms 139 and 147** and many other places in the Bible remind us that God is all-knowing, omniscient. If God keeps forgetting more and more

sins with each day that passes, He would become less infinite in His understanding. So, "forget" means something different than we are quick to assume, perhaps something more in line with *"not holding it against us."*

We would do well to focus in more on the word *"forgiveness."* **1 John 1, verses 8 and 10** remind us of our condition, our need for serious help. We have a terminal disease, and we need a cure. **Verse 9** tells us the cure, there is something available to me, something God has made available to all of us, something absolutely vital to our eternal existence—it is forgiveness.

The word in the center of verse 9 is *"forgive."* I pray we grow to understand and appreciate this word more every day. It is something all of us critically need from God, **and it was not free for Him.**

1. The cost of forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:22 reminds us that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. The verses prior to that statement talk about the blood of Jesus being the perfect and permanent and better solution than the temporary and constant sacrifice of animals on the

→ Please see "MYTH" on page 5.

If it's all written out, then forgetting must mean something different than disregarding or overlooking sin.



← (Continued from page 4.)

altar. God demanded a payment be made for the wrong, *but God provided the payment.* God, through Christ, absorbed the cost.

Take the time to read **Matthew 18:21–35** and remind yourself of the importance of forgiving others, but also the fact that God forgave us of so very much more.

2. The value of forgiveness.

We are all sinners in need of forgiveness, and we need to repent and turn to Christ to receive new life. The penalty incurred by sin (eternal death and Hell) is cancelled, but not because God has become lenient, and equally not because that person suddenly became good and deserving.

God's forgiveness is not based on His feeling sorry for the sinner, but on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is because Christ paid the full price with all the requirements, that God can forgive us all our sins and wrongs. When we trust Christ as Savior, our sins no longer condemn us because Christ bore the penalty for us. God has absorbed the debt Himself.



The value of forgiveness is obvious as it pertains to our salvation, but King David brings up another side to its value in **Psalm 51**, where he writes about the sins he has committed *even as a believer*. He wrote of how it affected his body, mind, and soul. He said that when he was holding onto unconfessed sin that his body

God has made it very clear that we are called to forgive.

groaned in pain, but when he experienced forgiveness there was an obvious, tangible change, a physical value.

3. The call to forgiveness.

We understand the cost and value of forgiveness. And thanks to the promises and faithfulness of God, we know that if we blow it as His children, which we will, our relationship will not be broken but our fellowship with Him will be damaged.

Now think of how this truth affects your relationship with others. God has made it very clear that we are called to forgive. Occasionally, as we apply forgiveness to our personal relationships, we may encounter myths like today's.

I was visiting with a Christian counselor and therapist who mentioned the misconceptions

of forgiveness that he often encounters. I have seen the same through my years of ministry, so I want to provide seven simple points that prayerfully eliminate some of those misconceptions. These are seven good reminders



for all of us as we fellowship and work with one another.

a. You don't have to see or talk to a person to forgive them. I have even seen incidents where someone needed to forgive someone who had already passed away years ago.

b. Your forgiveness can be sincere even if you don't forget. *(This one is today's myth)* Forgetting is not a prerequisite to forgiveness. This has a great deal to do with the topic of trust. I visited a lady who was sexually abused as a child and she had been taught that forgiving the offender meant trusting them again. *That is not the truth*, and it unfortunately led to a long string of abusive situations.

c. Your forgiveness may not change that person's attitude. In fact, forgiveness makes some people angry. So, perhaps consider the first tip and how you approach it.

d. Forgiveness is not tolerating, accepting, or excusing people. Forgiveness is not the act of tolerating and accepting what people do.

→ Please see "MYTH" on page 6.

Avoid Criticism and Promote Unity

By Greg Sykora

There are a plethora of verses calling Christians to walk in unity. **Ephesians 4:3** tells us to **"... keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."** (NKJV)

The Bible is also full of verses telling us not to have divisions among us. **1 Corinthians 1:10** tells us **"... there should be no divisions among you."** (NKJV)

Differing Opinions

While we strive for unity among us, it's no secret that we often have different opinions on small matters. *How* we handle these differences in opinions can make a huge impact on whether or not we stay united.

If we talk to people long enough, we are going to eventually disagree on something. It's just going to happen.

How we handle disagreement is important. **Proverbs 15:1** gives us good wisdom on this. **"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."** (NKJV)

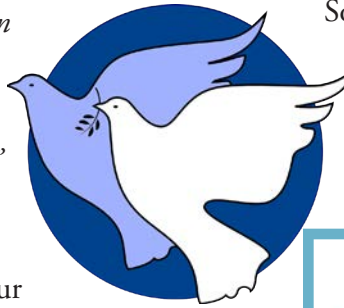
Harsh Words...

Criticism is a harsh word. When someone tells us our ideas are bad, we rarely respond by saying something like, *"Thank you for pointing out the errors in my ways. Please allow me to sit*



back and listen kindly to what you have to say to correct me."

We get emotional and defend our ideas, often with even more harsh words that stir up increased anger!



What We DON'T Like!

People don't like to be told they are wrong, so let's try to avoid it.

Ephesians 4:29 says **"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."** (NKJV)

Offering alternative viewpoints is much more likely to become grace to the hearers than descriptions of why our ideas are insufficient. It would be impractical to suggest that we will agree on everything, but our discussions will be more peaceful without criticism. It's very hard not to get defensive while being criticized.

A Difficult Road

Agreeing on stuff can be hard. One thing that shouldn't be hard is being kind to one another while trying to agree on stuff. Criticism isn't kind. **Ephesians 4:32** tells us, **"be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."** (NKJV)

So let's avoid criticizing each other. And if we are criticized, let's be tenderhearted and forgive the one criticizing us. Avoiding criticism will help us to remain united. ✝



← (Continued from page 5.)

e Forgiveness and reconciliation (restoring a broken relationship) **are two different things.** The last two tips explain the reconciliation part a bit more.

f Forgiveness may never lead to Reconciliation.

g Reconciliation cannot happen without true forgiveness.

Final Thought



Ephesians 4:32 commands us to forgive one another, and to remember how God in Christ forgave us.

Another great verse is **Daniel 9:9** **"The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him."** (NIV) ✝

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC



December 1, 2023

Christmas is the story of God giving us a gift beyond comprehension. God made flesh, dwelling among us, suffering a gruesome death to spare us from the penalty of our own choices, and being raised to life to defeat death. It is utterly amazing.

We respond to this gift in many different ways, from our initial acceptance of salvation to the daily worship we offer in response to the gift. The wise men recorded in Matthew 2 knew little of what Jesus would endure, but they knew he was the Christ, and they worshiped him by presenting tangible gifts. This moment eventually inspired the current tradition of giving gifts at Christmas. During this season I am often reminded of the awesome gift God gave us, as well as the appropriate and worshipful response of the magi.

But this is not the limit of our worship-giving. Throughout the year, as you follow the Biblical instruction to give to your church faithfully, you are worshiping God with your gifts. I am inspired by the generosity of God's people. I am moved by the fact that the needs of our churches are consistently met. But you do not stop there. Over and over again, I see you give sacrificially for additional projects, missionaries, separate ministries, and worthwhile causes. You truly demonstrate a love for Christ in your faithful giving.

Our Connect23 project to assist Fisher Bay Bible Camp with upgrades to their chapel had a goal of \$20,000. You gave about \$18,500! While this is a bit short of the goal, it is amazing since we added Ministries Coordinator support as a new need during this same timeframe!

During Connect, the delegates asked us to raise support for the Ministries Coordinator position by April 2024. Our need is \$6,400 per month for salary, benefits, travel, and other expenses. Currently, we have over \$3,400 in monthly pledges, along with almost \$19,000 in one-time gifts. Again, I am inspired and moved by your generosity.



As you contemplate the gift of Christmas this year, I ask that you consider helping us reach our goal. Even a small monthly gift will make a difference for churches across North America.

I thank God for his indescribable gift, and I thank him for you. Merry Christmas,

Kevin Stone ✝

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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

The classic family exercise around the Thanksgiving table is to name several things they are grateful for. Common answers range from being grateful for family or for things we own.

We're Told to be Thankful!

The Bible teaches us to be thankful; even during negative events.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV).

Not only is gratitude an attitude that the Lord wants us to have but studies show that gratitude has numerous benefits for us in this life on top of being obedient to God. In general, gratitude can be associated with an emotion when something has a positive impact in our lives. But also gratitude can be dispositional where we see beyond ourselves or our situation and are grateful for something greater than ourselves, such as attributes of God even while we travel in a valley.



In the case of having a positive emotion, it is usually linked to accomplishments or getting something material. This is not an enduring type of gratitude. To develop an *attitude of thankfulness* through positive or negative times develops resilience.

This type of gratitude is what the Bible is talking about. There are side effects of gratitude when we develop a habit of being and expressing gratitude to others.

Studies show that being thankful can boost physical health such as lower blood pressure, increase sleep patterns and decrease inflammation. Additionally, reports show several psychological benefits for being grateful, like decreased severity of depression and the ability to "bounce back" after a negative event. Relationships are helped as well; people that are thankful tend to be more generous and compassionate.

Attitude Blockers

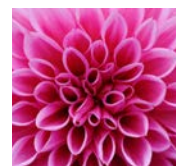
There are several attitudes that can block someone from having a capacity for gratitude. These include envy, materialism, self-centeredness,

and/or cynicism. (*Adapted from several reports*). Again and again we are admonished in the Bible to be thankful.

Thank You!

I AM Grateful!

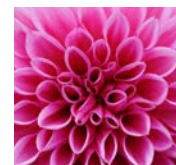
I am grateful for the many people working together at EBC as a team to further the Kingdom inside and outside our church walls.



Thank YOU, Team Teachers, that are increasing our Bible knowledge across all ages. Teachers spend a lot of time preparing lessons, praying for students and sharing lessons in the classrooms.



Thank YOU, Ron Kenaston, for keeping the classrooms ready for action during the week and on Sunday!



Thank YOU, Team Librarians. You do great work purchasing, organizing, and tracking all the books people read.



Thank YOU, Team Life Ministries. You work hard to welcome folks as they come to church as well as visiting people.

.....
Studies show that being thankful can boost physical health such as lower blood pressure, increase sleep patterns and decrease inflammation.

→ Please see "Elders" on page 10.

Elders

⬅ (Continued from page 9.)



Thank YOU, Team Awana. You work weekly to share Jesus with children from several churches and the community; thank you!



Thank YOU, Team Children's Church. You serve our younger members with patience and care—again we are grateful!



Thank YOU, Team Nursery. You make it possible for parents to attend the service undisturbed—indeed a reason for thanks.



Thank YOU, Alison Johnson. You work hard to keep people scheduled and organized as well as the bills paid.



Thank YOU, Team Trustees. Your hard work keeps the physical plant functioning with all it's quirks. This is much appreciated!



Thank YOU, Team Missions. Those serving Christ around the world appreciate the hard work that you do on their behalf.



Thank YOU, Fellow Elders. You have put in long hours working on some tough issues this past year.



Thank YOU, Team Ushers and Team Safety. You provide a safe, but welcoming environment and are constantly on the lookout for potential problems throughout our building.



Thank YOU, Team Kitchen Crew. You do such an amazing job organizing and preparing delicious meals.



Thank YOU, Team Connect Group. You have done a great job organizing our small groups.



Thank YOU, Gaye Stewart and Team Flowers for brightening the sanctuary each Sunday with flowers.



Thank YOU, Sheldon Schmidt and Team AV for their work in the background to bring the services to our community.

Thank YOU, to some of our other amazing ministries, such as:

✠ **Ladies Missionary Fellowship**

✠ **Health Care Committee**

✠ **Christian Education Committee**

✠ **and to all those who serve in countless ways.**

Last But Not Least...

Lastly, it is with much thankfulness to each of our pastors who lead us spiritually. Yes, we have an exceptional team working together to be the Body of Christ serving at EBC. After all of that thankfulness, I think that my blood pressure just decreased! ✠



Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

It's a Wrap!

By Kay Whitney
OCC Coordinator of EBC

This year's annual Shoebox Ministry of Samaritan's Purse came to a successful close at EBC.

A total of 180 boxes were packed and \$500 was donated for collecting, processing and shipping the shoeboxes.

THANK YOU so much to those who donated items, packed boxes, and/or paid for collecting, processing and shipping of the shoeboxes. ✠

know. grow. go.

Awana Spreading Cheer

By Matt and Lena Calef
Awana Ministry Directors



Awana Praise & Prayer

By Matt and Lena Calef

Praise God!

✠ That most of our youth are returning regularly **AND** youth and families are excited to be there.

✠ That Fast Track is gaining participation and clarity.

Prayers!

✠ For the continued health of our leaders and youth.

✠ For the ability to fill empty leader spots in Sparkies and Security.

✠ That our youth and leaders have a safe, enjoyable, and Christ-filled Christmas break later this month.

✠ That leaders can be intentional about sharing the Gospel with youth and families. ✠

For the months of October and November, our Awana Club collected food for Dallas Christmas Cheer. We were able to contribute several boxes/bags of food for this year. This is a way to share the gospel with our youth and community.

What is Dallas Cheer?

Dallas Christmas Cheer (<https://www.dallaschristmascheer.com>) has been around for 50 years and is a grass-roots program started by local community members who wanted to make sure children and families in need would not go hungry over the holidays.

The program evolved over the years and joining in the effort those many years ago was Dallas Volunteer Fire Department and other volunteers who set about fixing toys and gathering up items for a meal for those in need and served about 50 local families.

It was then that local resident, **Curt Lamb** took over the reins. Curt continued to manage the program for over 40 years and in 2000 handed the reigns over to his son, Warren and family, Sue, Scott and Eric to continue the legacy and to honor their father and grandfather who loved our community.

From these roots Christmas Cheer continues to grow and is a well-known, well-respected local non-

Get Ready! Awana Grand Prix Saturday, January 27

profit 501(c)(3) organization that helps families who have fallen on hard-times.

Christmas Cheer has a Board of Directors and committee members who work hard to keep this program running smoothly.

Christmas Cheer reaches over 300 local families, approximately 1,000 individuals each year. This includes 500 children and 100 senior citizens. These families live in the greater-Dallas area and receive a food box that has enough food for the holiday meal and beyond. The box also includes books for the children, gifts for senior citizens and, *if donated*, toys for children.

Additional Info

If you would like to help or receive additional information, please contact Christmas Cheer at:

info@dallascc.org

Please see page 17 for an article about the upcoming Awana store nights! ✠

The New EBC Security Committee

What the Bible Says!

AdobeStock

By Paul Lyman

Co-chair of the EBC Security Committee

What does the Bible say about physical security in the church? How are we to respond to physical threats today?

We recognize as followers of Christ we must hold to a Biblical worldview in all areas of life, *but what does that look like when we talk about security?*

This is the second in a series of articles examining what the Scriptures teach us about security related topics.

In the last month's Sentinel, I presented the argument of the "WHY" of church security.

This month, I would like to introduce the "what and who" aspects of church Security in my series introducing church security as a formal part of the ministry here at Evangelical Bible Church.

And he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The

land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side." So, they built and prospered. 2 Chronicles 14:7 (ESV)

Security of Today

Today when we think about physical security many things may come to mind. We have locks on the doors and windows to our homes. We have fences and walls to mark boundaries and property lines. Surveillance cameras, access control, alarms, and other technology assist us in protecting both people and property. *What does the Bible say about physical security?*

Walls and Towers

The scriptures clearly describe cities as having walls and towers. Examples include Rahab hiding the spies (**Joshua 2:1-24**), Solomon building and fortifying cities (**1 Kings 9:15, 1-23; 2 Chronicles 8:3-10**), Hezekiah fortifying Jerusalem (**2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chronicles 32:2-8, 30; Isaiah 36:2-22**) and Nehemiah completing the wall (**Nehemiah 6:15-16**). Walls provided physical protection from other people groups and defined territory. Towers are used to describe fortification, a structure used for the purpose of strengthening defenses.

Gates provided access to the cities and had different functions, whether it was a celebrated entry way serving as a main entrance to the community or a gate used for dung removal or other utility. Gates were places where business was conducted, and disputes were arbitrated. They did provide for the physical security of the city by providing an entry point for normal and invited users through natural surveillance of those entering the gates. Bars which were made of wood or metal were placed across doors and gates to secure them, acting as a lock providing protection for the people inside the door or gate.

Parallels to Today

When we examine the scriptures, we can see physical security was often a need just as it is today. Many of the same solutions we use today are found in the Bible. Those include walls, gates, towers, bars, and other means of fortification. In our present sense, for EBC today, physical security is our building and the methods we use to "fortify" the house of worship, ie: doors, locks, and procedures.

Activity Entrance Upgrade

Many of you have noticed and commented on the new Activity entrance door lock. This includes a "doorbell feature", remote electronic

→ Please see "Security" on page 13.



PhotoBay



(Continued from page 12.)

locks, and associated cameras so that we know who is seeking entry, coming, and leaving the facility.

The combination lock formerly used was highly insecure. I was able to ask youth group members, as well as many randomly selected people if they knew the combination, and amazingly enough... **it was not a secret!**

Part of the operation of the new lock set will involve the issue of proximity keys (*credit card size*), as well as bluetooth phone “keys”. These are capable of being set up for an event, a limited duration, or even a single use key.

Your Patience is Appreciated

Please be patient and understanding as the Security Team and church leadership navigate the sensitive process of securing the building. Your old physical key will no longer work in that lock and you will not be able to share a code with others, your access will be unique to you, and your ministry needs.

Requests for a “key” will be processed through the church office/



Security Team and evaluated for access, duration, and need.

We would like to ask you to actively participate in the security of our house of worship by making sure the doors are shut and not propped open, and that you act as the eyes and ears of the church security team, and if something does not look right, contact an usher by the doors or a church security team member for assistance.

Gatekeepers!

This brings us to the second part of this lengthy article. *The Gatekeepers.*

The scriptures include many individuals and people groups we are familiar with as followers of Christ.

One of the many groups that may not have stood out to you was the *Gatekeepers*. As we discussed in last month's article, part of the physical security

utilized in Biblical times were the walls and gates used to provide security for the occupants and control access to the communities.

One of many scripture passages that describe the Gatekeepers is found in **1 Chronicles 9:23-27**. I used this supporting text in the first article, but there is a part that bears repeating as a reminder and call to action.

23 So they and their sons were in charge of the gates of the house of the Lord, that

is, the house of the tent, as guards. 24 The gatekeepers were on the four sides, east, west, north, and south. 25 And their kinsmen who were in their villages were obligated to come in every seven days, in turn, to be with these, 26 for the four chief gatekeepers, who were Levites, were entrusted to be over the chambers and the treasures of the house of God. 27 And they lodged around the house of God, for on them lay the duty of watching, and they had charge of opening it every morning.

1 Chronicles 9:22-27 (ESV)



What They Did

The Gatekeepers, at this time, were charged with providing security for the Temple. We read here they were Levites entrusted over the chambers and treasures of the house of God (**verse 26**). Temple gatekeepers were in charge of access to the Temple including those who entered and who exited. They ensured the order and reverence for God's house.

→ Please see "Security" on page 14.



(Continued from page 13.)

They were tasked with protecting Israelites from themselves, if they chose to try and enter the Temple, when they were unclean (**2 Chronicles 23:19**). They also protected it from those outside the Israelite tribes. We see then the Gatekeepers were tasked with guarding against both internal and external threats. The Gatekeepers were also responsible for guarding the Temple treasures and the storehouses (**1 Chronicles 9:26, 20-22; Nehemiah 12:25**).

We see throughout the Old Testament, after the exile, the need for Temple Gatekeepers. They provided protection against both internal *and* external threats to the Temple and God's people.

Looking Forward

They also provided protection, asset control, and watched over the physical property of the Temple including its treasures and storehouses. These tasks are very similar to what many church security teams do today. As we utilize volunteers to train and supervise and staff this important function, we covet your prayer and support while we adjust the local security landscape of EBC.

Questions?

As always, if you have questions regarding security policies, contact the church office, **Rod Dunham** or myself. ✝

COMING SOON TO EBC!!!

Blood Drive

By Sherri Fobert
EBC Health Care Committee

In another month we will be starting a new year. I look forward to it as this has been a difficult year for me and for other people I know. So as I look to the possibilities in 2024, one opportunity arrives within the first eight days! EBC will be hosting its first blood drive of next year.



Who Needs It? LOTS of People!

Who needs blood? A 3-year-old has cancer. Leukemia strikes a high schooler preparing for college. A young mother has unexpected complications after giving birth. A grandfather needs open heart surgery. Every day, patients across the U.S. need an average of 44,000 units of blood. That's about 17 million donations—or *nearly 23 million blood products*—transfused to 5 million patients a year.

From the last EBC blood drive, collected blood products went to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, OHSU Hospital, Good Shepherd Health System, Kadlec Regional Medical Center, and Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital. They were a blessing to recipients. In some cases, saving a life, helping others to heal, and many other blessings.

Please Pray About Being a Blood Donor

Please begin to consider and pray about becoming a blood donor. Mark your calendar for Monday, January 8! The drive will be held in the Activity Center from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

You can make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code: **EvangelicalChurchDallas** or call the church office. By making a donation, YOU can make a difference in the lives of three other people. *How awesome is that!* ✝

Missionary Christmas Boxes



By Kay Whitney
Coordinator, Missionary Boxes

Boxes are still available to pick up and a box to put filled boxes is in the foyer for EBC's congregation to donate funds for a Christmas gift to the missionaries EBC supports. *The last Sunday to donate is December 10.*

THESE DONATIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE! ✝



EBC Women's Ministry

By Alison Johnson
Chairwoman
EBC Women's Ministries

office@ebcdallas.org

503.623.2331

I want to start this month's update with a huge **THANK YOU** to all those that helped and participated in the Candlelight Dessert this year. This is a big event each year and without the help of so many, it would not go as well as it does.

Reflection and Preparation!

As the year wraps up and we look towards 2024, we hope that the women of EBC were able to connect with other women in the church at some point this year.

We, as a team, tried some different ideas and events this year to see how we could meet more of you this

past year. I have gotten to know so many more people here and have enjoyed that so much this year. I grew through studies I took part in as part of a group and one-on-one with others.

As we prepare to plan for the next year, I would like to hear from you if you have any ideas and events this next year.

We will be meeting in early January to plan for the coming year and pray for all the women that will come to EBC.

Our Focus

In 2023, we focused on **Dwell** and **Psalm 91:1**. This coming month we will seek God and his guidance as we pray over the coming year and what HE would have us aim for in studies, events,

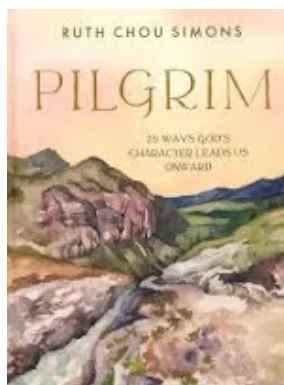
and relationships with others here at the church and in our daily lives around our community.

Get Ready for January Journey!

January Journey next month will be "**Pilgrim**" by **Ruth Chou**

Simons. Books will go on sale after the Candlelight dessert. Books are \$25 and that includes the dessert and recap event in February.

Also available is the next bible study book "**Remember your Joy**" by **Courtney Doctor** and **Melissa Kruger**. These books are \$15.00.



You will be able to get books for January Journey and the Bible study starting in January during coffee time or at the office throughout December. ✝



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		

From idle pondering to ...

Developing Discipline

By Gwen Griffiths

Our daughter **Natasha** is spending the year in Germany, and that has me thinking. Currently I'm considering Christmas traditions.

This afternoon Nattie's host mom messaged me to ask about favorite cookies. She told me about some of their family traditions—some seemed familiar while others were different. I'll have put up my Christmas tree by the time you read this article, but Natasha won't see one at her host home until right before Christmas.

New Traditions?

Perhaps she will bring home a tradition or two for us to integrate into our customs; maybe her host family will retain something "American" for years to come. ***Our families' celebrations will be richer for her time in Germany.***

Will It Matter?

"Will it matter?" I wonder. Is it just novelty—something less meaningful to me than a dill pickle ornament hidden

on a Christmas tree—or is there lasting value?

Idle pondering gives way to focused thought, and realization dawns. These traditions that we carry from year to year and generation to generation, patterns that shape us even as we alter them—they hold weight and value. During Christmas, we practice the discipline of the Christian life in a way more intentional and focused than in the rest of the year.

You see, these carols we sing until we know each word by heart lead us to meditate on truths of the Christmas message, as does the repeated reading of the Scripture that narrates it. Advent devotionals lead us into deeper study of these same truths. And the entire season draws the Christian body together in corporate celebration.

These traditions draw our eye to the greatness of God and His plan and cause us to focus on His story for the world.

You may regard spiritual disciplines as something mysterious and perhaps even a little off-putting. Discipline, after all, brings thoughts of uncomfortable consequences or forced self-control—and *who enjoys either of those concepts?*

Do We Have It Right?

But what if we've got it all wrong?

In *Celebration of Discipline*, **Richard Foster** describes spiritual disciplines as a door to depth in the Christian walk. These practices—not legalistic laws—can lead us "further up and further in," as Aslan encourages in the Narnian "The Last Battle".

To Be More Christ-Like

Spiritual disciplines are a way to train our hearts and minds to be more like Christ. Some are more

→ Please see "Discipline" on page 17.

.....

During Christmas, we practice the discipline of the Christian life in a way more intentional and focused than in the rest of the year.





commonly practiced than others. Some will connect better with your heart than others. But each one, when explored, will grow your faith.

What They Teach

The spiritual disciplines teach us to slow down and focus more on being like Jesus than on doing things for people to see and praise. They develop patience and the ability to delay gratification. They help us see Christ and our relationship with Him in new ways. As 2024 opens up before us, I invite you to join me on an exploration of these disciplines. We'll discover what each one means and how we can integrate them into our lives. ✝

Ladies Missionary Fellowship

LMF

By Christine Schneider
Secretary, LMF

Ladies' Missionary Fellowship will be meeting on **December 5 at 11:00 am.** We are wrapping up the year that day with our Annual Christmas Party.

There will be Christmas carols, a message from **Pastor Mike Fast**, and a delicious soup lunch. Please come out and join us. Husbands are welcome! ✝

Awana Store Coming Soon!

Shopping Opportunity

By Kim Disher
Awana Shopkeeper

Three times a year the girls and boys who participate in Awana are able to spend their hard-earned Awana Bucks in the Awana Store.

Working Hard!

They earn their 'money' by memorizing Bible verses, completing sections in their books and participating in special theme nights. The first store this year will be on **December 6** for the **Sparks** (K–2nd graders) and **December 13** for the **T&T** (3–5 graders) and the **Trek** (middle schoolers).

Our Inventory is DOWN!

Thanks to a lot of hard work by our Awana kids, the store inventory is down. In order to continue to reward the dedicated efforts of our youth, additional items are still needed.

New and Gently Used

As you look around your house or while out at the store, please keep the Awana store in mind. New and gently used items are welcome.

Specifically ... WHAT?

What can you donate? Well, anything that children in K–8th grade might like. Below are some ideas. Please keep in mind that the list is not all–

inclusive, so if you have something that you think is appropriate but not on the list, please donate it.

All donations can be put in the Awana store box in the hallway outside the Activity Center.

Ideas

This is our Christmas Store where many children purchase items for their family. Accordingly, we are in need of items for the children to give as gifts to teen and adult family members. Items such as nativity sets, flashlights,

headlamps, tape measures (other tools such as levels, hammers, screwdrivers), hand lotion, bubble bath, lip balm, soaps, various kitchen items.

As with before, we are also still in need of board games, Legos®, cars and trucks.

Please note that we will not be selling food items this year. So please, no candy, chips or other food items.

Thank YOU!

Whatever you find to donate, we are greatly appreciative of your support of our Awana program. ✝

Store Days!
December 6:
Sparks
December 13:
T&T and Trek

Youth Perspective

Reality of Forever

AdobeStock

By Isabelle Lovell
FORGED! Youth Reporter

Forever is a term we use a lot, *but do we really grasp the meaning of it?* I know I can only wrap my head around a tiny piece of it, and that's probably about as much as I'll get until it begins.



Trying to Imagine

The very thought of eternity is beyond anything I can picture, try as I might.

There have been many times when I'll be lying in bed and the thoughts start pouring in as I try to picture what a new earth would look like, and how our new bodies would work, but it's impossible. The Bible gives some details about the end of this world and the beginning of a new one when Christ returns but even with that, we are left with only pieces to try and imagine the reality of that time.

Matter of Perspective

Perhaps it is for this reason that we tend to shorten our view of life to only what we know and can see now. In the video we watched on Sunday, one of the speakers used a rope as an example. At one end the rope was red, but it was only a few inches, while the rest of the rope was white and it went on for several feet.

Now I know, in reality, the white part of the rope wouldn't just go

on forever, but I liked the imagery of it. We often keep our eyes on the horizon but only as far as the mountains let us see, but in truth there is so much more beyond them. This life is just a tiny fragment of our lives with God.

Eternity in Mind

We know there is a future coming and that knowledge should change the way we live. We can't let ourselves get lost in the routines of this life, but instead must allow ourselves to stand out and not keep our eyes on what will only last for a little while. It's kind of crazy to think about though. That one day we—*mere humans*—will stand face-to-face with God, our Creator and Savior. *If that's not both exciting and scary ... I don't know what is.*

Prepared?

When I stop about think about the reality of forever most of the time the idea overwhelms me, and *honestly*, scares me. I have no doubt that I'm not the only one who feels that way.



Pixabay

So, can we prepare for that day? I know I certainly can't... while I will grow in my faith throughout my life, I'm sure I can say now that nothing will ever prepare me—or anyone—for the moment when we are standing in front of God.

It's hard to even think about, but

That one day we—mere humans—will one day stand face-to-face with God, our Creator and Savior.

perhaps part of that is because the thought of it is rather terrifying. I know I shouldn't feel that way, but it's God. He created everything with mere words and then there you are, standing before Him. No, I don't think anyone can truly be prepared for that moment, but that shouldn't prevent us from longing for it.

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NIV)



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.

Generous Gifts

One Sunday evening our church family enjoyed a soup and sandwich supper and then packed 300 shoe boxes to send to Samaritan's Purse. The church family donated more than needed to cover shipping costs, too. Their generosity is very encouraging!

Frank & Lynnette Knoop
Balsam, MN ✝

It's Just What We Do

We have the privilege of serving three little churches in rural Montana: Carlos Heights, Sula, and Jackson. One day I drove about 100 miles to the Grasshopper Valley to visit some people who come to the church in Jackson. The following Sunday a woman from a ranch that I visited asked, "Why did you come all the way out to our place to see us?" I said I wanted to get to know them better. She said, "Wow! We've never had a pastor come out to see us." What could I say? *It's just what we do.*

Del & Colleen Abbey
Jackson, MT ✝

What Do You Mean?

During junior church, Leslie described the angels appearing to the shepherds and how excited the shepherds were that the long-awaited Savior had come. She told the children that the shepherds were probably as excited as we will be when the Lord comes back for us. A nine-year-old boy interrupted her to ask, "What do you mean the Lord is coming back?" She explained that the Lord will return for those who have surrendered their life to Him and have Him as their Savior. The boy immediately said he needed to be ready and wanted to ask Jesus to be his Saviour. So Leslie prayed with him. She noticed some of the other kids who know Jesus were praying as well—they realized what a holy moment it was. The boy was very excited! After the service, he found me and told me about his decision.

Dennis & Leslie Burke
Amsterdam, NY ✝

Lending Our Support

By Sylvia Thomas
EBC Missions Committee

EBC has a great focus on supporting missionaries. We currently support 11 full-time missionaries who serve either internationally or in the USA. We also support 10 local ministries and a mission agency that produces evangelistic programming to the Middle East.

As a missions committee, we regularly listen to presentations and updates from missionaries and from other organizations as we carefully try to manage church missions giving.

The year is closing out and as I review some of the things that the committee was part of this year, I hope that we represented you as a congregation well. There will always be more projects, more missionaries that we might like to support, but we try very hard to balance taking care of the missionaries and organizations that we already support before expanding too far. Here is a brief recap of some extra things that were accomplished this year.

The Year in Review

✠ We gave a **retirement reception** for **Ian and Linda**



McFarland after their many years of service in Ecuador.

✠ We put together a **short-term mission trip to Bolivia** to assist our missionaries **Dan and Judy Burke** in their work with the Chimane people.

✠ We **raised funds for a new commercial copier for the Burkes.**

✠ We **took part in the Hope Pregnancy Bottle Drive** to raise support for the pregnancy center.

✠ We **updated our approved mission agency list.**

✠ A **new missions bulletin board** was made by **Kayla and Sue Dunham.**

✠ We **began supporting Paul and Leslie Lanquist** who serve with Village Missions.

✠ We **updated our missionary bookmark for the EBC congregation** to remember to regularly pray for our missionaries by name. If you would like a copy, please pick one up at the Welcome Center.



✠ **Arrangements were made** to have **Dr. Eisenhut** speak about her work with SIM in Africa.

✠ **Support was given to our youth group to attend the Missions Connexion conference.**

✠ We **began regular support** of Young Life and The Gate, both local ministries to youth.

✠ We **helped support miscellaneous approved projects** through a few one-time gifts.

The Need is Great

THANK YOU for praying regularly for these and other missionaries and

→ Please see "Support" on page 21.

Focus on Missions

Daniel and Aubrie Stent

*Gobble gobble one, gobble
gobble two;*

*Gobble gobble me, gobble
gobble you;*

*Gobble gobble three, gobble
gobble four;*

Gobble gobble

Please can I have some more.

As the Thanksgiving song by **Matthew West** played loudly, the English Club students passed the "hot potato" around the crowded room at the culture center. During the month of November, we have several events focused on the topic of *thankfulness*: English Club, Sunday Gatherings, and Thanksgiving meals.

In October, we had a small but energetic group of students attend English Club. Yesterday, we gave thanks as a large group of eager students showed up. **Praise the Father!**

Many of the students expressed their excitement to be a part of the other events during the next two months. Please pray for opportunities to share the Hope we have in Him.



New Hope

"Do you think that we could come to see things the way that Joseph did? Joseph said to those who had hurt him, 'Do not be afraid. You meant to harm me, but the Father used what happened for good - not just for me—but so that many other people could be saved.'"

My friend **Lydia** and I (**Aubrie**) have begun a new study with some of our Turkish friends at the culture center. We are focusing on the question above about Joseph's life. Our desire is for our friends to find healing for their heart wounds as we read the Word, listen to each other's stories, pray, drink coffee, and journey together. Each week, we will look at a different passage, but we will return to the story of Joseph and his journey from hurt to new beginnings. Please pray for these dear women and their families.

Prayers, PLEASE!

Over the next few weeks, please join us in praying for the following requests.

✠ Please pray for Turkish brothers and sisters. Pray that their families will also embrace the Father.

✠ Please pray for the Sunday gathering. Especially pray for new people who are attending for the first time.



✠ Please pray for the men's Word study at the culture center.

✠ Praise the Father for the ladies coming to the "New Hope" study. Pray that they'll encounter Him in a personal way and find the healing that He gives.

Thank you for your prayers and friendship! ✠

Support

← (Continued from page 20.)

projects. I know that there are other missionaries that individuals in our congregation support too. *This is also very important.*

There are many worthy Christian organizations and people that are in need of financial support to be able to continue their work. The Bible talks about our **tithes and offerings**.

Part of your tithe goes to the mission budget of our church. Offerings represent giving to other people and projects the Lord may put on individual hearts to support personally. It is an encouragement to be able to give to others as we are able. You have heard it before, but missionary work has two parts: people to go *and* people to support. **Blessings to those of you who are "goers" and to those who are "givers". ✠**

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
- ✠ Teach in the Awana program, lead a high school youth ministry



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 23.

EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 22.)

✠ Administrative 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

✠ Administrative 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



Paul and Leslie Lanquist

Village Missions at Tanwax County Chapel, Washington

360.832.3584

pastorpaullanquist@gmail.com

✠ Developing outreach programs for the homeless in their area

✠ Starting a women's ministry program

✠ Leading the church in new directions after Covid divisions and other issues left the church without a senior pastor for nearly a year.



Steve and Mikki Schmidt

SIM Missionaries

steve.schmidt@sim.org

mikki.schmidt@sim.org

✠ Steve is the SIM regional Director for West Africa

✠ Supervises country directors in 11 countries

✠ Both Steve and Mikki work in SIM's Global Leader Development Program

✠ Mikki does educational consulting work, and also works in the Paths to School Improvement program which trains Christian school leaders throughout Africa



Andrew and Jerusha (Dressel) Yount

Proclaim Aviation Ministries

andyandjerusha@gmail.com

✠ On staff with Moody Bible Institute's Mission Aviation School

✠ Learning Avionics in preparation for future Missionary pilot position ✚

Other Outreach Ministries We Support:

◆ Awana
◆ CEF

◆ Crisis Pregnancy
◆ River of Life

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

◆ Village Missions
◆ Weekday School of the Bible

◆ Mission Connexion
◆ The Gate

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.**

The Sentinel is produced by Evangelical Bible
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Comments, suggestions and/or constructive criticism
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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 graphic.

***Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or
praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard
from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.***

Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)