The Sentinel

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Good Little Sinners

Raising kids can be difficult. You try to give them instructions, boundaries, and love and encouragement in the hope of turning out well–developed good little human beings. We try to teach right from wrong, affirming good behavior and correcting the bad.

A while back, I came across an article on INFO for families that addressed this issue. It stated:

Every Imperfect and Normal Family wants their kids to turn out right. So, we establish goals for character development and try to create an environment

where our kids can mature. Church, school, sports, family relationships . . . unfortunately our "good" objectives might have absolutely nothing to do with the gospel of Jesus Christ. And we inadvertently end up raising pagans instead of Christians.

By Pastor Troy Bassham Senior Pastor

Barrett Johnson, the writer of the article quotes **Phil Vischer**, creator of VeggieTales[®] on this same subject.

I looked back at the previous 10 years and realized that I had spent 10 years trying to convince kids to behave Christianly without actually teaching them Christianity. And that was a pretty serious conviction. You can

say, "Hey kids, be more forgiving because the Bible says so," or "Hey kids, be more kind because the Bible says so!" But that isn't Christianity, it's morality...

Now there is no need to throw out old VeggieTales[®] episodes *(people still watch that show, right?)*. After all, there are some really good Biblical

> → Please see "Sinners" on page 2.

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Monday, February 19, 2024 @ 5:00 pm



WE STAND WATCH

February, 2024

know. grow. go.

THE SENTINEL—Evangelical Bible Church of Dallas, Oregon



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truths communicated. *And who doesn't love talking peas with French accents?*

What Are We Teaching?

But the point is well made. Are we teaching our children how to live like Christians or are we teaching them about Jesus Christ and their need for Him?

Paul teaches us that the Law was powerless to save us from our sins. On the contrary, the Law only revealed our guilt and our own inability to live up to God's standards. Our own righteousness is no more than filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) before a Holy God. It is Jesus Christ alone who has the power to save us from the guilt of our sins and to heal our broken lives and spirits. A man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ . . . (Galatians 2:16).

Morality OR Jesus?

Are we teaching our kids morality or Jesus? Are WE trying to live the Christian life on OUR own or do we realize our utter dependence on Jesus not just for salvation, but also to live obediently and righteously?



I would hate to raise up a generation of good church–folk who look good on the outside but are dead on the inside without any real knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Savior (Matthew 23).

Well Spoken

And because Mr. Johnson articulates this so well I'll give you a few more of his thoughts in closing:



I want my kids to be good. We all do. But as our kids grow up, the truth of the gospel can easily get lost somewhere between salvation (where we know we need Jesus) and living life (where we tend to say "I've got this"). My experience is that the vast majority of parents are encouraging moral behavior in their kids so that God will

> → Please see "Sinners" on page 3.

"We Are In This Together"

2024 Missions Conference

February 3 - 5, 2024 (Saturday - Monday)

Conference Speakers: Steve and Mikki Schmidt

Saturday, February 3rd Breakfast 9:00 Presentation: "We Are In This Together"

(Please sign up for breakfast during coffee time, Online, in the EBC app, or by calling the office.)

Sunday, February 4th - Morning Services

Evening Service Informal Sharing 6:00pm

February 5 - 6 - Monday and Tuesday Steve & Mikki available to meet with other groups.

Bus service is available at Dallas Retirement Village for Saturday morning (pick up at 8:30), and on Sunday evening (pick up at 5:30).

From the EBC Office!



s of January 29, I sent out all the contribution receipts that were not picked up or



that I caught corrections on.

There were a few designated giving funds that did not print correctly

when I ran them at first so if your receipt is not correct, please feel free to call or email and I can send a corrected one out to you.

New Directory ... Coming Soon!

I plan to get started on the new directory in early March with a few people to help get it assembled and entered into a sheet for the printer.

I will also be putting out a clipboard at both Welcome Centers. Please check your information and make sure that it is correct. I will make edits that I have before putting them out, but, as I do not know every person here *(yet)*, I cannot be sure I have correct information without your help. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Major Milestone

In February, the city of Dallas is celebrating 150 years of being a city. There are a handful of us making a float for the parade that will take place on February 17. If you would like to help, please let me know.

By Alison Johnson

Outreach Opportunities

There will be several opportunities for us to minister to our community this year. More helpers means more of an impact on our town.

The next event will be the community Easter event that we have done for a few years with Grace Church, Faith Church, Dallas Foursquare, and Weekday School of the Bible.

We will be stationed at a tent in the park as families enter the event this year, *unless* there is a group that would like to take on doing part of the story. I am all ears if you have ideas and want to help.

Facility Use Requests

Facility Use Requests are already coming in for this year. It's shaping up to be another busy year for our EBC ministries and outreach!

Please be sure to submit your requests early for events. This way you have a greater chance of getting the room/space you need *AND* it gives us adequate time to prepare the space. Also, early planning gives all of our committees and ministries plenty of time to prepare if their area or supplies are needed for your event. *Thank you!*





bless their (usually self-centered) pursuits. It's the American Dream plus Jesus. And it produces good, moral pagans. . . . If your goals are focused on your kids' behavior, their happiness, or their accomplishments (but don't include a dependence upon Christ and a submission to His will and work), then you might want to make some adjustments.

"The world has plenty of pagans. Even plenty of nice ones." Too many times our message can come across as moralism instead of pointing lives to Jesus. So let's make sure that we are teaching kids about the Savior and that we are not just giving them a set of behaviors that no one can accomplish without Jesus anyway."

Family Peace of Mind Seminar **Rescheduled!**

By Sherri Fobert

he Family Peace of Mind Seminar has been rescheduled to **Saturday**, **March 16**. It will be in the **Builder's Room starting at 9:30 am.**

Please check the bulletin and website for additional information as it comes available. 🕆



Mythbusters #9

By Administrative Pastor Mike Fast mikefast@ebcdallas.org

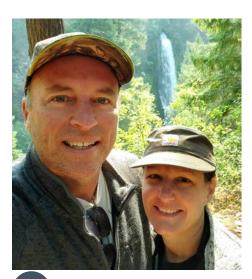
ach of the myths have sent us back to Scripture. We answer Scripture with Scripture. In truth, today's myth would have been a good one to start our series with as this one addresses the reliability of Scripture. This myth is often presented to us as *"the Bible is not reliable."*

When debunking this myth, let me offer one handy tool to use when other resources are not immediately available. It is a simple 4–letter acronym that helps explain what makes the Bible reliable. That word is **MAPS**.

So, let's start with the first letter in our MAPS acronym:

M is for ...

Manuscripts. Manuscripts refer to the copies made of the original documents penned by the Scripture writers. We do not possess



When it comes to verification, the more copies, the better. ... There are over 24,000 NT manuscripts!

these originals *(autographs)*, but we use manuscripts to determine the reliability of accurate renditions of the original. Therefore, manuscripts are used to test the reliability and authenticity of the original documents.

There are three criteria used to evaluate manuscript evidence:

Timespan between copied manuscripts. The closer in time those are to each other, the more accurate the copy. The timespan between many ancient writings and their earliest copies is over 1,000 years, whereas the NT has the shortest timespan of only 20 years, which lends to a much higher accuracy.

Quantity of manuscripts. Sir Frederic Kenyon was a

manuscript scholar a century ago, and he stated, "Scholars are satisfied they possess substantially the true text of the principal Greek and Roman writers whose works have come down to us, of Sophocles, of Thucydides, of Cicero, of Virgil; yet our knowledge of their writings depends on a mere handful of manuscripts, whereas the manuscripts of the New Testament are counted by hundreds, and even thousands."

When it comes to verification, the more copies, the better.

For instance, there are only 10 manuscripts ever found of Julius Caeser's <u>Gallic Wars</u> published around 50 BC. Archaeologists count every find the same, regardless whether it is whole or even a fragment, and most manuscripts are incomplete. The number or volume of New Testament (NT) manuscripts far, far and away exceeds the number of other manuscripts. There are over 24,000 NT manuscripts!

> **C**.**Quality of** we compare the 24,000 NT manuscripts, we find a remarkable 0.2% distortion rate, or variation between manuscript copies which could potentially change the meaning of the text. Whereas, the Mahabharata (one of the major epics of ancient India) has a 10½% distortion rate

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among the copies, and Homer's Iliad has a 5% distortion rate among the copies. Incredible accurate quality found in the Scriptures.

Prior to the 1947 discovery of the Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest surviving Hebrew manuscript was from the ninth century. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls enabled us to check the accuracy of our current manuscripts against ones from 100 BC. When we compare the 100 BC Dead Sea Scrolls to our ninth–century manuscripts (*a 1,000year gap*), we find that an amazing 95 percent of the texts are identical, with only minor variations and a few spelling discrepancies (again *nothing that would affect doctrine*).

Nearly all of Scripture's original documents were recorded by men and women who were eyewitnesses of what they wrote, which yet again lends to the reliability of the Bible. In addition to that, many of the events, people, places, and customs in the NT are confirmed by secular historians who were almost contemporaries with NT writers.

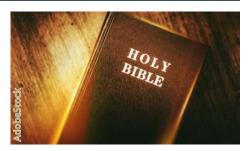
Secular historians like the Jewish Josephus (*before A.D. 100*), the Roman Tacitus (*around AD 120*), the Roman Suetonius (AD 110), and the Roman governor Pliny Secundus (AD 100–110) make direct reference to Jesus or affirm one or more historical NT references. Early church leaders such as Irenaeus, Tertullian, Julius Africanus, and Clement of Rome—all writing before AD 250—shed light on New Testament historical accuracy.

Even skeptical historians agree that the NT is a remarkable historical document. Hence, it is clear that there is strong evidence to support the Bible's manuscript reliability.

The A in MAPS Stands for ... Archaeology. Over and over again, comprehensive field work (archaeology) and careful biblical interpretation affirms the reliability

of the Bible. It is telling when a secular scholar must revise his biblical criticism in light of solid archaeological evidence.

For example, Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible *(the Pentateuch)* in about 1500 BC. Interestingly, about 150 years ago, during the late 1800s, skeptics of the Bible claimed that Moses could not have written these books. Their reason was that they claimed that writing wasn't invented until after his death. This caused quite an embarrassment when in 1901 Jacques de Morgan and Jean-



Vincent Scheil excavated the ancient city of Susa and discovered the Code of Hammurabi etched in a stone tablet. Hammurabi lived in 1795 BC, 300 years before Moses wrote.

The Old Testament *(OT)* makes frequent reference to a people group called the *Hittites*. For centuries, historians were unable to find a trace of these supposed neighbors of the Israelites, so they concluded that the Hittites never existed. According to

these historians, the Hittites were a myth cooked up by some Biblical authors to make certain points that couldn't be substantiated by actual history. This caused the credibility of the Bible to be called

into question. But, in 1906, an archeological dig confirmed the existence of the Hittite nation. Archeologists even unearthed the capital city of the Hittites and 40 other cities of its empire. The Biblical account *was* the accurate account.

One of the most well–known New Testament examples concerns the

→ Please see "MYTH" on page 6.

"Through the wealth of data uncovered by historical and archaeological research, we are able to measure the Bible's historical accuracy. In every case where its claim can be thus tested, the Bible proves to be accurate and reliable."



books of Luke and Acts. A biblical skeptic, **Sir William Ramsay**, trained as an archaeologist and then set out to disprove the historical reliability of this portion of the NT. However, through his painstaking Mediterranean archaeological trips, he became converted as one after another of the historical statements of Luke were proved accurate. Archaeological evidence thus confirms the trustworthiness of the Bible.

Scholar Jack Cottrell sums it up this way: "Through the wealth of data uncovered by historical and archaeological research, we are able to measure the Bible's historical accuracy. In every case where its claim can be thus tested, the Bible proves to be accurate and reliable."

Archaeologist **Nelson Glueck**, who visited 1,500 archeological sites, said, *"It may be categorically stated*

One of the most compelling pieces of evidence for the truth of the Bible is its uncanny track record of fulfilled prophecies. that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."

To date, more than 25,000 archeological sites have been explored, and all proving the accuracy of the Bible.

The P in MAPS Stands for ... Prophecy. This third principle of Bible reliability, prophecy, is often referred to as *predictive ability*.

The Bible records predictions of events that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense. Surprisingly, the predictive nature of many Bible passages was

once a popular argument, by critics against the reliability of the Bible. Critics argued that the prophecies were actually written after the events and that editors had merely dressed up the Bible text to look like they contained

predictions made before the events. Evidence has shown that nothing could be further from the truth.

"The Bible contains about 2,500 prophecies, over 2,000 of which have already been fulfilled" (Hal Seed). Wars and their victors and losers were prophesied by name. The exact method of destruction and fall of specific cities were detailed by name. Specific events and the nature of events were prophesied *in perfect* detail. One of the most compelling pieces of evidence for the truth of the Bible is its uncanny track record of fulfilled prophecies.

Between 400 and 1,400 years before Jesus was born, 332 bold prophecies were made concerning Jesus Christ's first coming. And they were all fulfilled, very specific prophecies of His life, death and resurrection. Predictive Prophecy is a principle of Bible reliability that often reaches even the hardest skeptic.

The S in MAPS Stands for ...

Statistics. Think about it this way: It is statistically preposterous that any or all of the Bible's very specific, detailed prophecies could have been fulfilled through chance, good guessing, or deliberate deceit.

One pastor, Hank Hanegraf,

said this this way, "When you look at some of the improbable prophecies of the Old and New Testaments, it seems incredible that skeptics—knowing the authenticity and historicity of the texts—could reject the statistical verdict, that the Bible is the Word of God, and Jesus Christ is the Son of God, just as Scripture predicted many times and in many ways"

The Bible was written over a span of 1500 years by forty different human authors from all walks of life, and in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), on hundreds of subjects. And yet there is one consistent, noncontradictory theme that runs through it all: God's redemption of mankind. Clearly, Statistical probability is a powerful indicator of the trustworthiness of Scripture. **‡**



Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone President, FEBC



February 1, 2024

ollowing are some questions I have recently been asked about our fundraising
 efforts for the Ministries Coordinator position. This position exists to support and encourage local churches.

What is the status of Ministries Coordinator funding?

We are still working to achieve our goal of full support for the Ministries Coordinator position. We currently have about \$3,700/month pledged toward our \$6,400/month goal.

The monthly amount seems high. Does the Ministries Coordinator have a big salary?

The total budget for this position includes much more than salary. For instance, we must budget for the Ministries Coordinator to travel to our churches, for other ordinary expenses, and office equipment. The FEBC must pay standard employer costs such as insurance and the employer portion of taxes. All benefits, employee costs, and salary are included in the total goal. The actual salary is significantly lower than the monthly need.

Are you asking churches to add this to their regular FEBC support?

No. The goal is for individuals who have a burden for local church ministry to take on this challenge and see that the Ministry Coordinator position can continue. However, some churches have decided to offer a monthly pledge, or to take this position on as a new supported missionary.

What is the duration of a pledge?

As with support for missionaries, we are looking for long-term partners who will continue to support as long as there is a need. However, any amount or term of giving will help.

What happens if we do not reach full support?

The directors will continue to consider every option to provide the best support for the longest term possible. Rest assured; all donations will support the work of the Ministries Coordinator for as long as possible. Any change of plan will be promptly communicated to all donors.



How can I help?

Please help us get this word out to your congregation and consider whether you can join in this effort. For more information, check out our website: **www.fellowshipforward.org**

Please let me know if you still have questions. Thank you for your help, and for your prayers!

Kevin Stone President 🕆

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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

hat a blessed time of rejoicing for God's work and resources at our annual business meeting on Sunday afternoon! projects ahead, including a garage for the vans. He asked that we pray for a resolution with the city planners regarding some expensive alterations.

Mission Presentation Next, Sylvia Thomas

presented the Mission Committee's budget. She reported that the committee is sending funds to help Matthew Schneider and Nick and Marissa (Brewen) Hossley

get out on the field this spring. They hope these

opportunities will provide enough incentive for each of them to consider long term careers in missions.

The mission team budgeted for a larger project fund to be able to respond to various mission projects that our missionaries need help with.

Elder Team Update

I then shared about the changes in the Elder Team budget. This included a large increase in our elder ministry fund as we anticipate new ways to reach out to our community as well, such as reaching out to first responders or maybe sponsoring a concert, or ... we will be brainstorming ideas at our spring elders retreat.

Other Outreach

Lest we forget what God is already doing I will say that EBC has a great number of outreach programs, both formally and informally. Just yesterday Sylvia and I went to the Awana Grand Prix to watch our grandkids race their cars; we observed that there were many parents coming to support their kids in the program. **Matt Calef** had a nice, short encouraging devotional and the kitchen crew put on a tasty breakfast buffet.

Other outreach programs are happening in the men's and women's ministries: BBQs, meals, and other programs that are all open to non– church folks.

Mom to Mom has many young women coming to their program including those from the community. The Healthcare Committee has seminars open to the public. EBC participates in the annual Easter egg hunt, we have a booth at the annual Krazy Dayz festival, and our annual Christmas play is open to the community.

Batter Up!

Troy organized a baseball team that played in the county church league. There are several informal outreach programs, such as a women's knitting club and book club, the old mens pickleball club has several men from the community see us and join in.

The Mission Committee supports several outreach programs locally, including River of Life for men transitioning from jail to life on the outside, and the Crisis Pregnancy Clinic. **Praise God for all of these efforts!**

Budget Update

Randy Flaming summarized the changes to the annual budget. He was grateful for the resources God has provided, as well as glad that EBC is using them for His work.

Thank you one and all for your work in our local Body of Christ; as Paul

→ Please see "Elders" on page 12

After I called the meeting to order and prayer, **Pastor Troy** shared an inspiring devotion.

Pastoral Updates

The pastoral team shared about their respective ministries which are leading our church forward into 2024.

Pastor Mike and Lora

had been scheduled to attend an FEBC conference in Nebraska, but the airline canceled their flight leaving them with no way to get to the conference on time, so he was at the meeting to share in person. He noted that it has been just a year serving on EBC staff and he is enjoying working with our church. In addition to his regular duties, Pastor Mike will be the speaker at our men's retreat this spring and will have other opportunities to share with various groups.

Pastor Andrew was optimistic about the growth of both the middle school and high school youth groups.

Pastor Troy was grateful to the Lord for blessing us with resources that allow us to continue the current ministries and watch for opportunities to expand our impact on the community around us.

The Trustee Chair, **Jim Walker**, talked about their budget and the





he Awana clubs annual Grand Prix race day took place on January 27 at the EBC Events Center.

This event has been in the works for several months as many volunteers secured and lined up the new track, assembled and tested it, and ordered car kits. Excitement was building during the Friday evening check in and test running of the cars. Of

the 82 cars handed out to Awana kids and families, 78 were lined up and ready for racing the morning of the 27!

New Track This Year

EBC's Awana program was eager to try our new aluminum race track. The new track was donated to us through contacts with Immanuel Baptist Church in Klamath Falls.

The new track guides the cars with a raised center rail between the wheels rather than the guide pins that were used on the old wood track. We did not realize how much this would streamline the check—in process! Rather than a pit crew of 6 men to



set up the cars, we only needed 2 to weigh the cars and they were ready for test runs.

Start Your Engines!

Race Day! Doors opened at 8:30 am. Once the racers and fans had all filed in, the program began. We opened the event with a short introduction, volunteer thank you, brief Gospel message, and prayer. **1 Corinthians 9:24 (ESV)** says:



"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it."

The *race* Paul refers to here is the race to know the salvation of Christ. After the the racers had an instructional meeting

at the finish line, the racing commenced!

Our announcer, **"Johnny**

Lightning", called the heats as the racers battled it out for the fastest times going down the track. Once all the initial heats were complete, a short intermission full of dad jokes and long groans from the audience followed as the timing crew assembled the final races for the fastest boys' and girls' cars along with the slow–poke final.

Once all the racing was complete, awards were handed out for each



division and for creative race car design.

Thank You!

We would like to say **THANK YOU** again, to all the volunteers that helped bring this event together for the children (and grown up children) to come and have a fun Saturday morning with us. Not only did we have lots of racers participate, but also many adults came to support their kids.



Our prayer is that someone in that crowd needed to hear and see the hands and feet of Christ in action and that picture would motivate them to discover the love of Christ in their own life... *As that is truly the greatest race indeed.*



hank you so much for the donations that you gave to our first *(of three)* Awana store events that was held in December!

Working Hard!

The children have been working hard to earn their 'money' by memorizing Bible verses, completing sections in their books and participating in special theme nights. They are looking forward the second Awana Store, which will be on **February 14 for the Sparks** (*K*–2*nd graders*) and **February 21 for the T&T** (3–5 graders) **and the Trek** (*middle schoolers*).

Our Inventory is DOWN!

We had a lot of business in December and so the store inventory is down. In order to continue to reward the dedicated efforts of our youth, additional items to sell are 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 under the bulletin board outside the Event Center (gym).

Ideas to Consider

Legos[®], games, sports items (balls, bats, gloves, etc.), trucks, cars and tracks, dolls (all sizes), dollhouse items, doll clothes, stuffed animals, small framed pictures, knick–knacks, crosses, arts and craft items (markers, paints, coloring books, stickers, pompoms, etc.), jewelry, flashlights, headlamps, speakers, tape measures, tools (hammers, screwdrivers, etc.), small lotions, lip balm, bubble bath, hair items, items for gifts for moms, dads and siblings (kitchen items, tools, etc.).

As you can see, the list is huge! Some of our more unique items have been: a Little Kitty Toaster[®], a bean bag chair, a cooler, a clock, a suitcase, fishing poles....

Please note that we are not 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. ¹



We Have an App!

By Alison Johnson EBC Office Manager

BC has an app! Every week you can catch the latest sermon and open the notes for the week as well. There is the Bible reading plan, and eventually it will house a pictorial directory. For now, there are several groups, such as the youth, young adults, January Journey, and a new Bible study (*that begins March* 1).

EBC upcoming events and registrations for some events are also on the app. This is an excellent resource since almost everything that is on the website is also on the app. If you haven't done so already, check it out. We hope you find it both easy and convient.

Where to Find

Search for **EBC Dallas** on the Apple Store[®] or Google Play Store[®] to find our new app. ¹



Brief But Deep Women's Bible Study Jump In, Ladies!

Biblical illiteracy is a growing problem. Knowing about Creation, Jonah and the big fish, Noah and the Ark, Jesus being born in Bethlehem and later dying on the Cross to pay for our sins is just a portion of what God wants us to know.

Not Enough!

Part of the problem is that Christians sometimes live as though a Sunday sermon is enough. While important, there is no comparison to reading the Bible yourself and thinking about what you read as the Holy Spirit teaches you. God wrote His Word so that we would know Him, how to be right with Him, the way of His planned salvation, and how to live in obedience to Him. Besides, it's exciting!

Elders

← (Continued from page 9.)

tells us in **1 Corinthians 12 4–7** (NKJV): "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."

God bless us, each one! 🕆

By Sylvia Thomas

Not Intentional, BUT ...

I don't think that Christians consciously choose to be unknowledgeable about the Bible. It just gets on a list of things we mean to do but don't each day. I'm amazed how quickly even children learn this same excuse.

In Awana each week, I have several 3rd graders who just *"did not have time"* this week to learn their verse. Third grade ... *and no time?* Are they cooking, cleaning, doing homework, shopping and working full time?

We understand the time issue for adults, especially while raising kids or countless obligations. For this reason, because the consequences of not knowing the Word is so great as we steer through these evil days, we have designed a women's Bible study for those who are *"time challenged"*.

With just a short time each week, you *can* be a part of an EBC online study. You don't have to go anywhere. It's possible anytime day or night.

How It Works! This is how it works: Each

week on Monday, there will be a short passage to read and study for the week. You will then look for the answers to 5 questions from the passage:

What do I learn about God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit?

(This is important because it is a book about Him, not us!)

What do I learn about humankind?

Are there any commands, promises or warnings?

Is there something that I can apply to my life?

Are there any insights to share?

Keep a notebook with what you discover so that you can build your own resource.

Up First: Colossians!

The first book we will study is **Colossians**. Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center for how to join in. These are the basics:

You will need to download • the free EBC app on the Apple Store[®] or the Google Play Store[®].

2. On the Home Screen click the messaging button on the top right corner. Click "Discover".

3. Scroll down until you see EBC Ladies Bible Study group page.

4 Click "request to join". After you are accepted in the group, the tab will show in the messaging section as *Conversations* and *not Discover* anymore.

After that, jump into the study and add your comments as you desire no obligation, but I'm sure others would like to read your insights.

What Are You Waiting For? So jump in and join the Brief But Deep Women's Bible Study with us. If you have any questions, call the church office or text Sylvia at 503.931.4565 or email to natandsylvia@gmail.com.



n January 19 and 20, I had the privilege of attending the entire Mission Connexion Conference, including Leadership Connexion and the general sessions. One summary from Leadership Connexion was "like drinking water from a fire hose," which was an understated summary.

Dual Benefit

I went to this conference with both Mom to Mom and Awana in mind and was super excited that the focus of the weekend was focused on the mission field in our community.

I love missionaries! I love reading and hearing stories of those who answered the call boldly and have shared the Gospel to other counties and in situations that can be down right horrific. And at times I can feel a little guilty that I am not out there in other countries. The reality is we are not all called to other countries, but our call to share the Gospel is no less important.

Called for Different Roles

I have had a strong conviction for years that, while I'm not called to go to other countries, I have been called to share the Gospel with those around me, including those in my own home. And that conviction was



definitely solidified after this intense weekend. We listened to speakers like **Mark Mittleberg**, **Wendy Palau**, **Sean McDowell**, and many others from churches around Oregon and the world.

The theme woven through the whole weekend was **evangelism**, a noun,

meaning the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ.

One of the workshops we attended was with Mark Mittelberg, *"Refocusing Our Ministries on the Main Mission"*. The most impactful comment from Mark was, *"The* only thing I can take to Heaven with me is people."

I would love to turn on the fire hose and share with you all my information and notes collected from the weekend, but I will spare

you all my messy note taking.

Application

So what does this all have to do with Mom to Mom? Our heart this year at Mom to Mom has been love on and support the moms that attend. We have strived to think outside the box and come up with activities and ideas that our moms will like, but also point them back to Jesus. Our goal has been to keep the Gospel front and center.

Many Backgrounds

Many of our moms do come from other churches, but we have a few



that have no church, some even have strong feelings about church. After Mission Connexion, I came home with a stronger conviction that our job at Mom to Mom is to make sure that the Gospel is front and center and we don't miss a chance to share it.

A Renewal

As Coordinator, I came home with a renewal mission that when we look at our missions in our community, Mom to Mom is so important. That importance was confirmed by a text message to our Steering Team from one of our **Titus 2 Moms**.

Through Mom to Mom we have been able to create a community that moms look forward to, desire, and need. Our moms feel it and voice it. I look forward to taking the things I have learned and building on the foundation we have started with Mom to Mom.



"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ lesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

he theme for the Women's Ministry team this year is Masterpiece and we base it on Ephesians 2:10.

This verse can be taken several ways, but we wanted to focus on a few things when we think about this verse.

The two verses before this one talks about how we are saved by grace through faith. That our salvation is not from anything that we can do or say. It is God's gift to us because he loves us. We are HIS creation.



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

By Alison Johnson Chairwoman **EBC Women's Ministries**

office@ebcdallas.org

503.623.2331

It is *not* from works. That is on purpose—this is not a competition. With grace through faith nobody can boast about or compare with each other on it.

His Masterpiece

God calls us his workmanship or masterpiece. This comes from the Greek word poiēma which means something made. This shows us that we were intentionally created by Him for a purpose.

God has a plan for each one of us and made it in advance. He has *already* prepared opportunities for us to use our God given skills and abilities for His good. When we focus on Him and what He wants for us, we can find so many things. In His presence there is ...

- 🔀 Joy
- **Reace**
- **Comfort**
- **X** and more!

Day-to-Day Worries

As women and moms we can get overloaded and overstimulated with day-to-day life. Society bombards us with all these "perfect' women. It is hard to find our value and worth when you see so much of the impossible standard that we see online and in

the media. Moms that have immaculate houses and make everything from scratch. Women with perfectly coordinated outfits all the time and perfect hair or makeup

or whatever the case is they want you to notice.

Easy to Become Discouraged

It is so easy to become discouraged or feel inferior because all we see

online is "perfection". But we **need** to focus on the fact that we were intentionally created by God for His good. We have different skills and abilities that make us unique

> → Please see "Masterpiece" on page 15.

But we need to focus on the fact that we were intentionally created by God for his good.



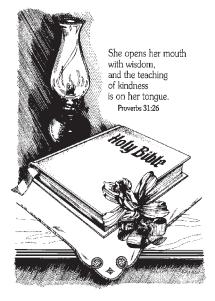




for Him. We were not made to make strangers online impressed. We were made for so much more through our salvation in Christ.

Masterpiece is an opportunity to celebrate our great salvation that God gave to us through His Son. We want to keep that in our focus and celebrate the different skills and abilities He has given to all the women at EBC. We hope that you can join us for some of the events and studies this year. 🕆

We want to keep that in our focus and celebrate the different skills and abilities He has given to all the women at EBC.



2024 Women's Ministry Event Schedule

January Journey Book Review Pizza Party Monday, February 12 at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Come enjoy pizza and discussion about "Pilgrim" by Ruth Chou Simons

Bunco Night ~ Friday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

MASTERPIECE Gardening Workshop Saturday, April 20th Come for coffee & muffins at 9:30 a.m. Workshops will begin at 10:00 a.m. Workshops offered on vegetable & flower gardening, container gardening, floral design, a floral craft and more.

May Festival ~ Friday, May 10th at 6:00 pm Bring a friend! Enjoy a floral celebration of the season as we eat a delicious meal with time of encouragement, music & entertainment.

Campfire by the Creek ~ Saturday, June 22 at 7 pm Location: Sylvia Thomas's home (more info to come)

Beach Day ~ Wednesday, July 17

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

Dreamies Creamery Informal Ice Cream Date Saturday, August 17th at 1:00 p.m.

Meet us at Dreamies Creamery downtown Dallas for a fun Ice Cream break and stroll through downtown shops!

Women's Retreat ~ Friday - Sunday, Sept. 20-22 Location: Fern Hill Lodge (more info to come)

Bingo ~ Friday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Candlelight Dessert & Boutique Friday, December 6 at 6:30 pm Boutique ~ Saturday, December 7 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 or by E-mail: office@EBCDallas.org

From Idle pondering to ...

Pray with Discipline

By Gwen Griffiths

Part of the bedtime routine in our home always involved prayer. I remember one of **Natasha's** earliest prayers: "*Pway Daddy, pway Mommy, pway Kai* (*Tyson*), *pway Defwyn (Jesalynn), pway me. 'Men.*"

Over the course of years, we heard those first connections with God morph into conversations. For all of us, this process takes time and effort, because prayer is a discipline that must be developed in our Christian walk.

Tension in Prayer

There's always been a tension for me with prayer. I believe strongly in the sovereignty and omnipotence of God, and that my efforts to direct events or sway the mind of people are futile. If God "needs" my prayers to complete His work, that conflicts with His attribute of self–sufficiency (*needing nothing*). **Yet, we are commanded to pray.** In fact, **James 5:16b (NLT)** tells



us that "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

The Bible contains many instances of people who prayed and saw direct results. Elijah prayed, and no rain fell on Israel for over 3 years. Hannah prayed for a son, and God gave her Samuel.

Still, I can't help wondering: *if I pray* for someone's cancer to be healed and it isn't, does that mean my prayers were somehow wrong, since they didn't "work"? If I had prayed more often, more fervently, would the situation have had a different outcome?

So where does that leave us?

For me, it means trusting that even when I don't fully understand how my prayers can affect situations that God charted millennia ago, He has told me to pray and expects me to do it. It means realizing that obedience in prayer draws me closer to Him and helps me to align my heart with His. Sometimes it even means telling Him, *"I know you've commanded me to pray about this, but right now I have no idea how to even pray for it. I need your Spirit to be the go-between here, communicating my heart to You."*

Developing the Discipline

Once we've committed to making prayer a part of our life, we must then develop the discipline to follow I Thessalonians 5:18

(NLT): "*never stop praying.*" This means making prayer a part of each area of our lives, a continual conversation with the One who hears every word.

If you're like me, you may desire to find a few quiet moments to spend with God each day. But it can be so easy to start off with good intentions, only to reach the end of

> the day and realize that your conversation with God got put on hold sometime after breakfast and you never picked it back up again.

I think, to truly begin an on-going conversation, we must be very intentional. First, set aside some time for prayer each day. Putting a specific system in place will help with this. You might use a notebook with different pages for various people or categories of requests and responses.

> → Please see "Discipline" on page 17.



Or maybe you take a page from the movie "*War Room*" and post items for prayer on the wall near where you meet God. For me, a small deck of index cards has become my portable war room—easy to bring on trips and containing everything I need to pray for each person whose card I turn up that day. You can also include verses you can pray back to God, lists of things to praise or thank Him for, and other prayer prompts.

Then, to continue that conversation throughout the day, find prompts that will remind you to enter back into prayer. This may mean choosing to talk *(out loud, if it helps)* to God in an empty car or singing a praise song as a prayer to Him when you hear it come on.

It could mean sticking post-it notes around your house to remind you to stop and thank or praise Him or connecting a prayer concern with a specific chore. For years, I prayed for my friend **Amy** when I sorted laundry because she had told me how she hated that chore.

... prayer is the place where we join the Father, seeking His will and His favor and sharing the minutiae of our lives.

Next Steps in Prayer

Wherever you are in developing a discipline of prayer, I encourage you to take another step. Here are some ideas:

Read "<u>*The Praying Life*</u>" by **Paul E. Miller.**

Read this short article: https://relevantmagazine.com/ faith/does-god-need-our-prayers/

Try adding "God" to your thought life (from **Dr. Alison Cook**, *The Best of You* podcast). When you find yourself thinking *"Im so discouraged,"* change that to *"Im so discouraged, God."* Suddenly, you've started a conversation with Him and made space to listen for His voice.

Try using "<u>Be Though My</u> <u>Vision: A Liturgy for Daily Worship</u>" by **Jonathan Gibson** when you meet with God. Each of the 31 days in this guide include calls to worship, confession, intersession, and more.

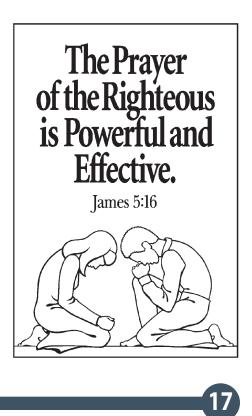
Use the **ACTS** method to guide your prayer time by spending time in ...

Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplication.

Choose a Scripture and pray it back to God. The Psalms are a good place to start with this.

Let yourself slip into prayer during your first waking moments and last moments of alertness each day. I have found that there is nothing sweeter than opening and closing each day in communion with Him. And when I can't sleep, I work through my mental prayer list, asking Him to bring to mind those I need to pray for.

I find it interesting that prayer is something we often do alone...but that is *never* lonely. Of course, this is because prayer is the place where we join the Father, seeking His will and His favor and sharing the minutiae of our lives. Every time we draw near to Him in prayer, our heart becomes a little more like His and His Kingdom is advanced. \clubsuit





THE SENTINEL—Evangelical Bible Church of Dallas, Oregon



few months ago I started to miss North Dakota. Very strange, considering I've never lived there, nor do I remember ever setting foot in the state. Regardless, there I was, in class. Per usual, I was watching through the open window, my chin resting on my balled up fists. A crisp breeze tickled my ears and I breathed deep. Whatever scent my jacket carried caused my eyes to well as I ducked my head to hide the coming tears.

The scent threw me back to driving my grandpa through the sunflower fields while listening to country music on the radio, it threw me back to a crackling fire as I watched the birds dance in the snow through my grandmother's window. But it wasn't just the midwest—my lovely grandparents—that I missed. I didn't miss what I knew, I missed what never was. Specifically, I missed Bismarck, North Dakota.

This might seem strange, and it really is. I was missing a place that I had only had dreams of living in — a year prior. I even made a whole playlist containing songs that brought forth the nostalgia for the place I've never been. All



that strangeness is a great taste of homesickness.

It comes at the strangest of times and comes in the strangest of ways. Sometimes I'll be laughing and remember how I laughed harder with my sister. Or, perhaps, I'll be eating a spoonful of peanut butter and remember dancing in the kitchen with my mom. Or I could break a salt shaker and spend the next seven hours crying harder than I've ever cried before because everything I love is out of reach.



It hurts. Sometimes only a tug at the mundane activities, reminding me that my life was completely different six months ago. Or perhaps it's the kind that grabs hold of my heart and chokes me till I fall asleep. Whichever way the pain comes, *it does come*.

However, what is even stranger than what makes me homesick is the *idea* of homesickness itself. Homesickness is sitting on my host family's sheep stool, desperately wishing for a hug that feels like home while laughing with my host sister over some story she's telling me. My only resolution that I've settled upon, to make the best of it, is: *I must create stories now that I'll miss later*.

Or I could be wishing for an inperson conversation with my best friend while simultaneously (did anyone else know that wasn't spelled 'semitaneously'?) dreading the day I'll have to call my host sister rather than bursting into her room to tell her what I just read about.

How can one miss something while knowing that the situation that has ripped them from prior love, is the same situation they'll miss in 6 months? I know for a fact that when I'm home I'll miss this second home I've been so blessed to be involved in. I know I'll miss making up stories in my free time at school, I'll miss laughing with my host dad and I'll miss the stupid buses that I curse daily.

My only resolution, that I've settled upon, to make the best of it is: *I must create stories now that I'll miss later.* I must make myself more homesick, in the future, for Germany so being homesick now is worth it. I must make the kind



of memories that will feel like a thousand stones in my chest so that when I'm home I can say that all this was worth it.

Making the Most of Life

I don't always succeed, but most days I remind myself that even if today feels mundane, I must make something of it for the sake of home. I refuse to return and be the same as I was a year ago, to return and not miss Europe, to return empty handed of stories, accomplishments, and lessons learned.

Homesickness has put a new perspective on John 14:1-4 (NIV) as well. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus preparing a place for me in heaven never meant more than that

camp song about playing football in the yard of our Father's Big Big House. I thought, *"Well that's cool I'll have a special place, how nice of Jesus to keep my seat warm*" Now, it's a little different.

There's a Place

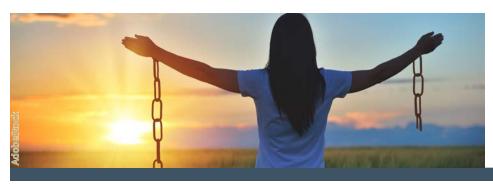
Oregon has a place waiting for me. I have a room waiting, a church full of people I love and a community I can never be thankful enough for. I feel I belong to Oregon because that's where I look forward to. I hope I will be proud when I get there for what I've seen God



accomplish while I've been here.

But currently I live in Germany. I have the same snow days as other German kids. I sleep, I eat, and I cry here. I make friends and go to the movies like any other German. My name is on a German post box.

But I don't fully belong here because my heart is still in Oregon. My sights are set on Oregon for the long run, *not here*. I live here, but



I get a little more why we do things on earth for heaven. I get a little more running the long race knowing there's a place for me in heaven.

> most of the time I don't feel like I 100% belong here. Often, it's the homesickness that reminds me this *isn't* my final home.

I think I understand the feeling a little more of *"Being in the world, but not of the world"*. I get a little more why we do things on earth for heaven. I get a little more running the long race knowing there's a place for me in heaven. Jesus having a place for me is just a little more comprehensible to and special for me.

Well Done!

So, just as I'm trying to make the most of living in Germany so I can feel triumphant when I return to Oregon, I am also trying to make the most of living on this earth so I might hear the words *"Well done, my faithful servant"* from the lips of Jesus.

Just as the days in Germany might feel mundane, so can living on this earth. But each small decision that pleases the Lord is one more step in the direction of having lived a satisfying life for the Lord.

It might look like being extra friendly to the lonely kid in class, or praying for my friends extra hard or even doing whatever I can to help the little girl who threw up on the bus. No matter what it is, God sees it and these 'stories', these choices, will only make getting to Heaven a little more rewarding.

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s a result of the help of several regular Café & Graça youth, 3,000 Christmas devotional booklets were handed out to many of the homes in Mucambo. People could read a devotional each day of December. Also, some of these same youth read these devotionals for recordings to be aired each day on the local radio station.

PRAY for those who received these devotionals about Jesus and that many will be saved!

Encouraging the Young

This Christmas devotional distribution was also a way of encouraging the young believers we are working with to keep reaching out with the Gospel. We had good participation in getting them handed out.

At the coffee shop we are just trying to be innovative as far as the business goes and as far as the outreach/ discipleship goes. We have a regular church service at the coffee shop on Wednesday nights. Here, church services on Sunday are usually in



the evening with Sunday school in the morning. However, we chose to have a service on Wednesday night and a Bible club on Saturday morning. This way we can be open on weekend nights to receive customers and have opportunities to make friends and share the Gospel. Sunday night is usually our busiest night, and there are some regulars who have already believed in Christ for salvation.

How about some of you coming down to see for yourself? You would be quite welcome!

An Invitation!

It is difficult to put life and ministry in a nutshell. How about some of you coming down to see for yourself? You would be quite welcome!

Welcome Addition

We will be visiting family February 16 to March 16. The primary reason is the arrival of our 12th grandchild! Our youngest, **Stefanie**, will have a baby at the end of February. She and her husband and two daughters live in Indianapolis. The Christmas gift from EBC will definitely be used toward this trip.

THANK YOU!!! 🕆

Bylvanand Mary Goossen AVANT Ministries

AVANT: Who We Are?

Avant Ministries is an interdenominational, multinational missionary sending organization that has focused on planting and developing churches in the unreached areas of the world since the 1890's.

Avant defines unreached as places where less than two percent of the population is evangelical Christian.

More than 2 billion people still need to hear the gospel!

Avant trains, sends and serves missionaries in 50 countries globally.





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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.

Cookie Outreach

he church packed over 80 gift boxes of cookies for our Christmas Cookie Outreach. Each box included a letter from the church with the gospel message, a Christmas devotional, and an invitation to our Christmas Eve service. We gave the boxes to people in our community and friends of church attendees. This outreach opened doors in the community for us.

> Thomas & Micah Hoetzler Blodgett Mills, NY 🕆

Special Deliveries

Period new ways to bring the message of Christmas to our community. The children in our Olympian Club painted 72 rocks with Nativity themes: shepherds, angels, Mary and Joseph, the star, Bethlehem, and baby Jesus. The next week, we delivered one painted rock to each house in Helix. On December 24th, we went caroling around Helix and gave bags of homemade cookies. The day was cold, but the warmth and love of our church family was excellent.

> Mark & Karen Woolbright Helix, OR 🕆

Blessing Baskets

ur church helped support and bless a family in our community who lost their husband/ father earlier in the year. We prepared a gift basket and included a Bible and a note about life, hope, and comfort in God's Word. We pray that God reveals the greatest gift to this family: the gift of salvation through Jesus.

Darren & Shiloh Goetz Gold River, BC 🕆

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.



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

dianaafrica@gmail.com

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



Dan and Judy Burke

Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)

dan_burke@ntm.org

🕱 Serve in Bolivia in Cochabamba and San Borja

Development of a discipleship center in northwestern Bolivia

💥 Work with the Chimane people group

Write and produce books and commentaries in Chimane for the tribal people

Teaching, construction, leadership development



Kevin and Jennifer Domes

IN FAITH

kjdomes.ministry@yahoo.com

₩ Work at Bethel Bible Camp in Wellfleet, Nebraska

Involved in youth ministry, maintaining the camp facility

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



➔ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 23.

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EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 22.)

🔀 Administrate retreats

ĭ 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

K Long time involvement with a Christian radio ministry



Eric and Judith Hedeen

Ethnos 360

eric_hedeen@ntm.org

💥 Serve in Papua, New Guinea

💥 Mentoring new missionaries to the field

💥 Translation work

 \fbox Judith works in the medical clinic and member care

 \bigotimes Leadership development among the indigenous people



Paul and Leslie Lanquist

Village Missions at Tanwax Country Chapel, Washington

360.832.3584 pastorpaullanquist@gmail.com

 \fbox Developing outreach programs for the homeless in their area

💥 Starting a women's ministry program

Eeading 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

Moody Bible Institute's Mission Aviation School

 \bigotimes Learning Avionics in preparation for future Missionary pilot position ~

Other Outreach Ministries We Support:

♦ Awana♦ CEF

Crisis PregnancyRiver of Life

Prison Ministry
 SAT-7 (Dennis & Cindy Wiens)

Village MissionsWeekday School of the Bible

Mission Connexion
The Gate

THE SENTINEL—Evangelical Bible Church of Dallas, Oregon



But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15 (NIV)