# The Sentinel

WE STAND WATCH

May, 2024

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# Bigger Bases!

By Pastor Troy Bassham Senior Pastor

ur family has spent a lot of time watching and/or playing baseball. When Lori and I were first married, we lived in San Diego and spent many evenings watching the Padres on television. Occasionally, we'd purchase tickets and attend a game.

During most of my married life (and

before), I have played church league or city league softball. Granted, recreational softball isn't really baseball, but it is similar: there are gloves and bats and

balls and strikes and most of the rules are the same.

### **Family Activity**

Our commitment to the sport began to pick up speed with our

children's involvement. All three of our boys have had some degree of participation in the sport. There have been games, practices, lessons, and countless hours of dad throwing batting practice or hitting fly balls.

This isn't to say that we are raising future professionals or that the sport is the center of our lives—only that

there is a lot of baseball in the Bassham home.

### **Rule Changes**

And so, it did not escape our notice when, last season, Major League Baseball (MLB)

decided to tinker with some of the rules of the game—at least at the professional level.

→ Please see "Bases" on page 2.

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Deadline for <u>June</u>, <u>2024</u> ISSUE is:

Monday, May 27, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

know. grow. go.



Beginning in 2023, bases were slightly increased in size and some defensive formations were banned. Most notably, a pitch clock was implemented limiting the amount of time that a pitcher had between pitches.

All of these changes were put in place in order to keep the game more interesting for younger audiences. The goal was to speed up play and to increase offense. In our fast—paced society, it was deemed, even America's pastime needed to move more quickly.

It is all well and good if a professional sports league wants to tinker with rules to attract fans (though they were not popular in the Bassham house). However, it is another thing when this way of thinking, "we need to make changes to attract a younger audience," creeps into other areas of life. This most certainly includes our faith.

### **Change With The Times?**

More than once, I have heard someone say some version of, "Christians just need to get with the times," or "If Christianity is going to survive, it needs to join the 21st century." This viewpoint suggests that our beliefs and values are flexible and should be adjusted to the prevailing culture. I could not disagree more.

Jesus did not come into the world to condemn it, but rather to save it from eternal condemnation. Speaking to Nicodemus, He said, "And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were

Many who listened to Jesus rejected Him *because* He didn't give them what they wanted and conform to their expectations. They wanted a different type of Messiah, but Jesus didn't change to make His listeners happy.

evil." (John 3:19 LSB)

In **John chapter 6**, when Jesus taught hard truths, many deserted Him. But He didn't run after them apologizing in order to win back the crowds. He wasn't, "I'm sorry, is that too hard? We can make a few adjustments and I'll work on giving a more culturally sensitive presentation."

**NO!** Jesus unashamedly proclaimed truth just as **He was, in fact, the truth.** The world needed to adjust to Him and not the other way around. His message was authoritative and relevant even if it was *not* being well received.

#### No Amendment!

I hope we remember this. *Our faith is built on Christ's teaching and His teaching does not need to be amended.* If the crowds leave because of our unwavering belief in God's Word, we need to be OK with that. Like the prophet Jeremiah or the Hebrews in Nebuchadnezzar's

court, we need to be prepared to stand alone, if necessary.

This doesn't mean that some things can't change. That could be a whole different article. *Many things change stylistically:* clothing, music, architecture, etc.

However, the substance of the message and the truth that we are called to are not negotiable.

#### Be Aware!

So be aware. Many people want to make both Jesus and His teaching more inclusive. Driven by preference, or perhaps fondness for certain sins, we are told that it is the Scriptures that need to change, or at least the clear understanding of them.

Many would like to stop calling sin for what it is or would prefer that we stop proclaiming Jesus as the only way. But we need to hold unswervingly to the truth of Scripture (1 Corinthians 1:23, 1 Timothy 2:5). We need to stand firm, even if others do not. To return to the earlier metaphor, if our faith was the grand old game, we cannot turn baseball into slow pitch softball, just because it is easier for the masses.

In 2 Timothy 4:2-4 (LSB), we are given a warning: "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to

This viewpoint suggests that our beliefs and values are flexible and should be adjusted to the prevailing culture. I could not disagree more.

→ Please see "Bases" on page 3.

**Points to Ponder:** 

# "What's On Your Mind?"

By Administrative Pastor Mike Fast mikefast@ebcdallas.org

ften, I find myself contemplating some simple idea or thought. When I share them with others, I have called them my Between Sunday thoughts or points to ponder. One of my recent points to ponder was this:

I was reading in **Matthew 16** this morning, and I read of when Jesus spoke with the disciples of how He would suffer and even be killed. And if you are familiar with the account, you know that Peter steps up and rebukes Jesus and informs Him that this will never happen. At that moment, Jesus responds by saying: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." (v. 23, MSB)

Think about what Jesus said: "you do not have in mind the



things of God, but the things of men."

### **Getting It Backwards**

So often we get it backwards when we have the mind of man instead of the mind of God. Each of us struggle with this more often than we would like to admit.

Like Peter, we sometimes just react and then we discover that our reaction was not based on God's will or desires, but on what humans accept. Sometimes our reasoning and rationalizing has mankind's thinking at the core of it and not God's.

Often, we focus more attention and resources on the temporal things around us than on those things which will reap eternal benefits—that's man's thinking.

Sometimes our reasoning and rationalizing has mankind's thinking at the core of it and not God's.

It seems like a simple question, but don't let it fool you; Do you have in mind the things of man or the things of God? When the men and women of God have the mind of God wonderful changes will become very evident.



their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths."

#### **Stand Firm**

So let us not be like these people we are warned about. Let's hold firm, unashamedly to our Savior. Knowing that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8 LSB). His Words will not pass away (Matthew 5:18 LSB) and His words are life (John 6:68 LSB).



### Hello Happy Campers!

for some summer fun because Family Camp Weekend is a blast! We know this event is a fun and relaxing way to get together and make new connections with our church family.

et ready

### Campground Information

We camp in an open field with some trees around

the edges. There are *no* RV hook—ups, but showers and restrooms are available. Additionally, there is a dock complete with a swimming area and a large sandy beach.

IF we have gas-powered boats available to use, we will take

### **Basic Information:**

When: August 2 through August 4.

Where; Triangle Lake Camp (Memorial Community Church)

Cost: \$40 per family/night

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

**Ron & Marie** 

Cell: 503.991.4574 brooksfamily@alyrica.net

We hope to see you at Triangle Lake later this summer. Please be sure to register for the campout via the Church Office or on the webpage.

Happy Camping!

donations for fuel from those enjoying these activities. Sorry, no pets allowed.

### **Weekend Schedule**

Friday: Plan to arrive any time after 12:00 noon on Friday, August 2. *Come for all or part of* 

the weekend!

Saturday: Enjoy the day and the many opportunities available!

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

Funday: Attend church at Triangle Lake Memorial Community Church. Service is located on the grounds of the camp (weather permitting). Casual clothes are fine.

### **Activities to Enjoy:**

- **X** Campfire
- **溪** Fishing
- Relaxing with friends

- - Water skiing<sup>∗</sup>
- \*Available **IF** people bring appropriate boat(s)!



Come for all or part of the weekend!

### Coming to EBC!

## SeeLife24



OMING SOON! Saturday, June 15, from 5:00 to **7:00 pm**, EBC will be hosting a simulcast "SeeLife24" at ■ EBC. This simulcast is sponsored by Focus On the Family and is an encouragement for attendees to "see life the way God sees it."

We will experience engaging talks, heartfelt messages, and inspiring speakers. This event reminds us to value every life and be like Jesus by coming alongside with the pregnancy centers in your area.

With your support, we can make a real difference by connecting with the pregnancy center in our communities, all in the name of championing life and showing compassion.

God values every life and the hope is for people to examine one's thoughts and consider how they view life. Is it in alignment with God's perspective? More specific information will be included in June's edition of the Sentinel, but you may go online to SeeLife24 for more information. (https://www. focusonthefamily.com/ seelife24/) 🕆

### **Breakfast** By Sherri Fobert ecently the EBC Men's Ministry hosted a breakfast

Men's

for EBC men, young and old. There was great food, fellowship, and a wide-spoken desire to continue with such regular gatherings. 🕆



### Starts on Mother's Day!

## **Baby Bottles for Hope**

By Kay Whitney

ope Pregnancy Center's 2024 Baby Bottles for Hope campaign starts Mother's Day, May 12 and ends Father's Day, June 16.

Participation is easy! Just take a bottle (or two or three) home with you. They will be available for pick up on May 12. Fill with cash, coins, and checks. Then, return them on or before Father's Day. All the funds raised go directly toward Hope's free services.

The 2023 campaign brought in \$101,602! Every cent counts! 🕆



Photos By Gwen Griffiths.

### **Office Update**

# From the Desk of ...



# Alison Johnson EBC Office Manager

ay has arrived and I hope it brings lots of sunshine and warm weather. I love spring and the changes it brings. Changes are happening around here, too. This last month we added **Kari Sampont** to the office staff. Kari will be here two days a week as my assistant. I am so excited to work with her.

### **Back to Full-Time!**

I am back to working full time during the week. I am healing well and will be getting more information at the end of May or early June. **THANK YOU** again for all of your prayers. I am still working to get everything up to date and caught up.

### **New Projects**

As we look towards summer there are a few projects that we will be taking on. One is the new directory. There will be a new printed pocket—size directory and an online directory. In the coming weeks we will have clipboards out containing current directory information for you to update. Please take a moment to make these updates while they are out.

If your information is up to date and correct, just initial that you did, in fact, check it.

### **Get Ready for Summer!**

Summer events to look forward to include:

Family Camp at Triangle Lake (August 2–4)

Mallas Days Parade (July 27)

₩ VBS (looking for a coordinator) (August 5–8)

★ The annual church picnic (September 8)

I know that many families will be taking road trips and the like in the coming months, but please mark your calendars to attend as many of our summer events as you are able.



# Keeping an Eternal Perspective

By Greg Sykora

recently met an elderly man who told me something important he would say to his kids. He would say, "If we get separated, we will meet in heaven."

It reminded me how much more valuable God's will is over the cares of this world, and how easy it is to get caught up in something that will not matter once we get to heaven.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) says, "do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God."

In Mark 4, Jesus explains the parable of the farmer scattering seeds. To prevent ourselves from being conformed to this world, we must not be like the seed that falls among the thorns, which hear God's

Our time, focus, and energy should have its main focus on things that will build-up treasures in heaven.

There's no eternal reward for a well-manicured lawn!

word but continue to seek after other things.

We all know that growing disciples is much more important than household chores, gardening, organizing the garage, etc.

#### **Main Focus**

Our time, focus, and energy should have its main focus on things that will build up treasures in heaven. There's no eternal reward for a well—manicured lawn! It is so much more important to focus on teaching God's Word to our children and others we have contact with.

Revelation 21:4 (NKJV) says, "God will wipe away every

"...whoever would be

great among you must be your servant." Mark 10:43



tear from their eyes; there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

#### **What Matters Most**

If someone's dog poops on my lawn every day and I have to clean it up, my frustrations about this will be gone when I get to heaven. Thinking about what will and won't matter once we get to heaven should change our perspective on how we act on earth.

### **VBS Needs YOU!**

lease prayerfully consider serving as a coordinator for this year's Vacation Bible School. Let the church office know of your interest.

### **YOUR Board of Elders**



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Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28 (NIV) ⊕



# Elders' Epistle

By Nat Thomas Chairman, Board of Elders

ontinuing with our theme from the last two months, below are the condensed testimonies of **Nat Thomas** and **Troy Bassham**.

Trusting the leadership is important for folks to be willing to be involved in the various ministries at EBC.

Knowing a person is a part of developing trust and this is a part of why we are sharing our testimonies here. Should you have any questions about the testimonies, feel free to ask the author and hopefully you will have a better sense of trust in the leadership.

**Testimony of:** 

**Nat Thomas** 

An interest in the things of God began as I read the new red Bible my parents gave me in 1965 when I was in fifth grade.

### **Early Years**

I read the Old Testament and all the stories there which were intriguing and at times appalling, such as "how could anyone possibly swear to sacrifice



the next person that came out of the front door of their house"??

Our family went to church, first to the United Methodist denomination then switched to an Assembly of God church. There we heard the Gospel and at a Christian rock concert (Second Chapter of Acts) I made my commitment to

I went to Northwest
Bible College in Kirkland,
Washington and got a degree
in Biblical Literature with a
minor in Counseling.

Jesus as my Savior.

**Marriage and Family** 

A number of years later, after marrying my sweetheart and having four daughters, I finally finished my doctorate in Psychology. I worked at the Oregon State Hospital as a psychologist for ten years on the maximum security unit and also had a private counseling practice. There I learned how to obey the command to "love one another" no matter what the person's background was. This was especially challenging at times in these setting.

### **Romania and Oregon**

In 2000 the Lord led us to move to Romania and work at a Bible school there as professor and administrators.

We saw God work in marvelous ways over the years, but in 2007 we moved back to the states to help our daughters get through college.



I went back for ten more years to work in the geriatric medical unit at Oregon State Hospital, after which I retired in 2018.

**Sylvia** and I continue to go back to Romania every year to teach classes and encourage our team there and are directors of the organization.

We are involved in ministry at EBC as well and enjoy the wonderful fellowship of so many friends and acquaintances at EBC and all over the world.

**Testimony of:** 

Troy Bassham



t was a great privilege to grow up in a Christian home. My father was in full time ministry and both my parents were active in my

spiritual development, teaching me the truth of the Bible from an early age.

**Receiving Him As My Savior** 

As a young child, I became aware that I needed to personally trust Jesus for my salvation. I understood that Jesus had paid for my sins on

→ Please see "Elders" on page 10.



the cross and that I needed to receive Him for salvation. At five years of age, during our children's summer program, I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior.

In the years that followed, I was baptized and I grew in my understanding of what it meant to be an obedient follower of Jesus. Because my father worked in church planting and turn—around ministries, we moved often.

This gave me a lot of different life experiences and opportunities to be active in my local

church. This pattern of participation continued as I became a member of the youth staff in my years following high school.

### **Early Church Work**

While working with the youth ministry at Grace Baptist Church (Salem, Oregon), I attended college at Corban University (formerly known as Western Baptist), majoring in Youth Ministries.

Even though I was pursuing a ministry degree, I was still wrestling with whether the Lord was calling me into vocational ministry. During

this time, the Lord opened doors for ministry service.

As I served in these roles, there was the recognition of a specific call to ministry from my local church as well as other mature Christians. I continued to prepare myself for service as I waited to see what the Lord had in store.

### **Youth Pastor**

In the fall of 1995, I was offered a youth pastor position in Albany, Oregon. After seeking godly

counsel and spending considerable time in prayer, I accepted a youth ministry position at the First Baptist Church of Albany, (Willamette Community). After several great years in Albany, I moved to Whittier, CA where I served as the youth pastor at Calvary Baptist Church.



Pastor Troy's Installation. (Photo by Gaye Stewart.)

### **More Schooling**

In 2000, I took a break from working in church in order to finish my Master's degree. I had hoped to work with youth and to finish my degree at the same time, but this was not reality.

### **Meeting Lori**

It was during this break that I met my wife, **Lori**. Lori and I served together in the church I was attending, working in adult and children's plays at the church. What began as a casual friendship eventually led to us getting married in the summer of 2003. Lori is my

best friend and full partner in life and ministry. It has been a blessing to have a wife committed to serving the Church, wherever God may lead us.

### **Raising a Family**

During our marriage, God has blessed us with three boys: **Garrett**, **Matthew**, and **William**. We love being parents and are active in our sons' school, sports, and hobbies. Most importantly, we work to teach them to grow up to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

### **Work Since Marriage**

Since our marriage, I served as the Associate Pastor of Mountain View Community Church (*Ramona*, *CA*) and as the Lead Pastor of Sonrise Baptist Church for nearly twelve years in West Valley City, UT. Each experience has been challenging and rewarding. I have found great fulfillment in using my gifting for service. I know what a privilege it to be used in ministry to Christ's Church.

### **Coming to Dallas!**

Finally, in 2019, Lori and I felt God was preparing us for another change. In 2019, Lori and I moved our family from Utah to Dallas, Oregon to accept a call to EBC.

We are happy to be a part of our church and community and are excited to see what God has in store for the future.

Whatever my life situation, it has been my desire to serve the Lord faithfully and well. I look forward to continued opportunities to serve Christ and His Church.



I continued to prepare myself for service as I waited to see what the Lord had in store.

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

## News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone President, FEBC



May 1, 2024

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

**Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV)** 

bviously, this passage deals with the marriage relationship and how husbands should treat their wives, but it also tells us how Jesus feels about the Church. He gave himself up for "her" (the Church). We know that Jesus died to save all those who would believe, but I love how Paul does not separate "believers" from "the Church." Jesus' plan is to present the Church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle... holy and without blemish.

It seems to me that Satan has spent a lot of effort over the past few decades attacking the Church. Have you noticed how popular it is to say, "I don't need to attend church, I can worship at home?" Have you noticed how many popular church leaders have either been exposed in some sin or have decided to deconstruct their faith?

The effects of these public failures trickle down to our local churches. People have trouble trusting their local leaders. People think the pastor is probably an overpaid attention-seeker. Some people suspect that everyone at church is a hypocrite, or that they will inevitably be hurt if they attend.

Every church is full of human beings, so mistakes will be made, problems will arise, and folks will be hurt (usually unintentionally). But the fact is, if you and I want to be like Christ, we must love the Church! The outpouring of Christ's love was that he "gave himself up for her... that she might be holy and without blemish." Perhaps when I am ready to fight over some preference at church, I should instead give myself up, so that we can move forward in unity and without blemish.



At an organizational level, this is what the FEBC is really all about. We are working to strengthen churches, with the goal that each one may be as splendorous, spot-free, wrinkle-free, and blemish-free as possible. We are joining our hands to strengthen His church.

Register for **Connect24** and check out our new online magazine at: **www. fellowshipforward.org.** Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement!

Kevin Stone President

www.fellowshipforward.org 🏺 president@febcministries.org

# Awana Awards Night

he Awana end of the year awards program was on April 24. We were so excited to celebrate with all our youth and recognize those who completed their books.

Since January we have consistently had 90–100 youth in attendance each night.

### **Fun Evening!**

We started the night with a hot dog dinner and ended with awards. We want to thank everyone who helped make this night happen.

**Pastor Andrew** 

**Wheeler** opened with prayer and a Gospel message.

### **Amazing Helpers**

We had some great helpers for the evening: **Sue Dunham** (who helped serve food), **Kathy Reynolds** (who helped serve and clean up the kitchen and food during the awards program), and **Ellie Ensz** (who jumped in and filled items as they got low).



Additionally, there were so many others who jumped in when they saw a need and were ready and willing to help. Awana—and especially the awards night—happened because of those who willingly serve behind the scenes.

#### THANK YOU, ALL!

### A Challenge to ALL

Last August during training, all leaders and volunteers were

challenged to complete youth handbooks alongside youth. Several leaders took the challenge and we recognized layne Domes and

### Jayne Domes and Monica Robertson

were recognized for completing the Trek® handbook; they both received the Milestone Award®. In addition to the Trek® handbook, Monica worked alongside her girls in their handbooks and received her Sparks® First Book award and T&T® Alpha award!

### Thank You, Cassie!

After 12 years of being Sparks Director and 27 years in Awana **Cassie Kroeker** is retiring from Awana. Her Sparks team honored and thanked her with a beautiful send off and a dahlia.

We recognized **MANY** youth for their hard work this year. As you can see from the following list, this was a very busy and productive year!

#### By Matt and Lena Calef EBC Awana Co-Commanders



### Trek (6th-8th Grades)

#### Milestone Award:

### T&T (3rd-5th Grades)

### Alpha Award (Completed 1 Book):

- 🔀 Ethan Bergerson
- 🔀 Paisley Brown
- ⊠ Boaz Domes

- 💥 Evi Ensz

- Maira Robertson
- ★ Addy Parsons
- 💢 Teagen Sheirman

→ Please see "Awards" on page 13.

### **Awards!**

← (Continued from page 12.)



### Excellence Award (Completed 2 Books):

- X Linnea Ellsworth

- **M** Hudson Keller
- Manabelle Peters

### Challenge Award (Completed 3 Books):

- Daphne Toma



### **Silver Extra Credit:**

- X Ethan Bergerson
- **X** Elaina Bergerson
- **X** Paisley Brown
- X Linnea Ellsworth
- Maddi Fuller
- McKenzie Hlavinka
- X Audrey Howard
- **Menry Lathrem**
- X Libby Rand
- X Linnaea Rand
- Maira Robertson
- **M** Annabelle Peters
- ∑ Daphne Toma

### **Gold Extra Credit:**

- X Libby Rand
- X Linnaea Rand
- **M** Annabelle Peters

### Sparks Awards (Kindergarten-2nd Grade)

#### 1st Book Award:

- **Esther Domes**
- **Emerson** Dunham
- **Riley Fuller**

- **M** Amaris Koens



- ₩ Winston Parsons
- Daniel Rand

- Micah Sire
- Joel Smith
- Menry Steinbock

### 2nd Book Award:

### Sparky Award (Completed all 3 books):

- X Lois Domes
- ★ Leif Ensz
- **Emery Fuller**
- **Evelyn** Peters
- **X** Levi Smith



→ Please see "Awards" on page 14.

## **Awards!**

← (Continued from page 13.)

## Cubbie Awards (3-4 years old)

### **Appleseed Award:**

- ★ Adam Burgess
- X Taitum Cruickshank
- Madelynn Hans
- M Oliver Jackson
- **X** Raelynn Juhasz
- **Everly Larimore**
- **Mathan Mann**
- **Moses Morrison**
- Mani Ohanesian
- X Logan Parmer
- **Micah Peters**
- Susie Rand
- **Keziah Smith**
- 💥 Cash West 🕆



Photos for this article by Matt and Lena Calef.



# Women's Events Summer 2024

Campfire by the creek June 22

Beach Day July 17

Oreanies Creamery Ice Cream Oate August 17



Thank you to Alison Johnson for providing the above graphics!

pril has been a busy month. We've had some new moms join, and we see attendance around 35 moms each week.

Many of our moms have faced difficult situations and experiences this past month so our Steering Team's focus is still on intentionality and loving on these moms and each other through the ups and downs of life. Our goal is to meet our moms where they are.



On April 9, Lori Dressel spoke on Chapter 9 "Lady, Do you know where you are going?" Haggai 1:5 (NIV) says "Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your wavs.'"

Carrie Cruickshank was given Chapter 10 "What messages are our kids getting?". Due to illness, her daughter-in-law, Brooke, presented Carrie's notes, and did a fantastic job!

One of our moms has stepped up to help with crafts and came up with some great spring ideas for the rest of the year. 🕆

of the Ladies **M**issionary **F**ellowship

Admission Ticket to Another Great Gathering





Photos By Lena Calef

**Ladies Missionary Fellowship** 

### **IMF**

### By Christine Schneider

he next meeting of Ladies' Missionary Fellowship is on May 7 at 9:00 am.

We have several projects we are working on and can always use more hands to get the work done. At 11:00 we will have our meeting and Janis Thiessen will share a missionary story. All ladies are welcome. †

### YOUR Ticket to LMF Fun!

### **NEXT Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 9:00 am Work Time Projects 11:00 Program\*/Meeting 12:00 Potluck Lunch

> \*Program: Janis Thiessen will share a missionary story.

# Discipline of Simplicity

By Gwen Griffiths

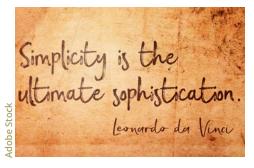
here's a book on decluttering that has been popular for a few years now. The author encourages readers to hold each individual item they own and consider if it brings joy. If it does, keep it. If not, throw it away. As the joke goes, I've already thrown away the kale in my fridge, the electric bill, and the dog.

**Searching for...Something** 

Why is a book—and the movement it is a part of—about decluttering so popular? At face value, it's about owning fewer things, having fewer demands on our time, living a simpler life. But when we dig a little deeper, we find that we're trying to solve an age-old problem: emptiness.

I ran across an interesting fact in my Growing Leaders email this week. In the early 1970's people, if asked, would list about 35 items that they felt were necessary for survival. Today, the people surveyed listed around 300 items! Things once thought of as unnecessary or luxuries are now considered necessary—and we have the houses with stuffedfull garages and the storage units to prove it. Yet somehow, we are always reaching for more: *more* items, *more* activities, *more* experiences.

People easily fall into the trap of believing that "more" will make us fulfilled or happy. And then, when we discover that our lives are full of useless stuff and frenetic activity, we throw ourselves into simplification and decluttering. But when the calendar and all the surfaces are clear, we too often discover that we still lack something; we still feel empty... and the cycle begins again.



The Discipline of Simplicity

In my mind, the problem is that we try to fill emptiness in our life the wrong way. We try to pack holes in our heart full with things and activity, when in reality the only thing that can ever bring true happiness and fulfillment is a relationship with God. And here's where we finally arrive at the spiritual discipline for this month: *simplicity*.

"But wait," you say. "You just said decluttering and simplifying my life isn't the answer!" As it turns out, we must understand what simplicity is before we can begin to correctly apply it.

Put simply, *simplicity is a lifestyle that looks first to God*—foremost to God—*to fill any emptiness in our lives.* And this is born out of a whole-hearted faith that God will provide for any need that we have: physical, emotional, spiritual, relational.

**Undivided Loyalty** 

Now, this doesn't mean that owning possessions or participating in life's activities is wrong. Instead, applying the discipline of simplicity means that we consider God and His intentions for us first every time we face a decision about how to fill up a space in our life. When we make Him our whole focus and give Him our full allegiance, we will find that matters of possessions and activity become much simpler.

Remember Jesus's teaching in Matthew 6:24 (NLT): "No one

→ Please see "Discipline" on page 17.

We try to pack holes in our heart full with things and activity, when in reality the only thing that can ever bring true happiness and fulfillment is a relationship with God.



can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other..."

Later in the New Testament, we see James comparing someone with divided allegiance (*loyalty*) to an unsettled wave of the sea, "unsettled in everything they do."

Our world challenges our undivided focus on Christ. Ads blare at us, telling us we need more things. Media pushes us to start this new habit or join that group or participate in this activity. Our own innate sense of comparison drives us to own what our neighbors own and to do what our friends do. We desire the approval of others. Each of these things can divide our focus and diminish what we have left to give to our Lord.

We must continually pull our focus and our loyalty back to God. *An undivided life is a simple life.* 

### **Living It Out**

So how can we live a simple life, one that is stable and settled on Christ? We begin by applying some of the spiritual disciplines we've already discussed; prayer, Bible study, memorization and meditation help us to understand the heart of God and His purposes and plans for us. Then, as new opportunities arise we can discern if we desire to enter into

them because they will help us know or show Christ, or if we're simply hoping to fill up empty spaces that only God can fill.

### **Next Steps**

Consider the items you purchased over the past week:

- ♦ How many were necessary?
- ◆ Could any of them have been borrowed or done without?
- ♦ What about the activities in which you engaged?
- ◆ Did any of them further the Kingdom of God?
- Or were they ways to try to gain approval or otherwise fill a sense of emptiness?

For example, did you say "yes" to that volunteer opportunity because it gave you an opportunity to show Christ to the people you would be serving? Or because saying "yes" brought gratitude and praise that fill a desire to be highly thought of by others?

When new opportunities present themselves to you, take the time to pray and consider the ramifications of stepping forward. Continue to question your motives for each purchase, each new event scheduled on the calendar. Will adding this activity to the schedule take away from your ability to disciple your family or encourage those around you? Will this purchase require funds that could otherwise be used for Christ's Kingdom?

Determine that your loyalty to Christ will be undivided—and then live out a simple life that honors Him.

We must continually pull our focus and our loyalty back to God. An undivided life is a simple life.



**Awana Store Update** 

## **Shop Talk**

### By Kim Disher Awana Shopkeeper

he third and final Awana Store has come and gone. **THANK YOU** everyone who donated items to the store.

The children had a large selection of items to choose from. As usual, stuffed animals, dolls, cars, LEGO° Sets, games, and sports equipment were popular. We had two small desk lamps that left with two excited children, a small cassette/DVD player, some arts and craft supplies. Thanks to our countless donations, the children had a lot from which to choose.

### A Long Wait!

The next store won't be until December. That means people have a lot of time to do spring cleaning or get things ready for a garage sale. As you do, please consider donating items to the Awana Store.

Thank you again for all your support of the Awana store and the children in the Awana program.



# Pouth Perspective Beschool Chernale By Isabelle Lovell

here are many stories in the Bible that show us how we are supposed to go about our God given mission, but what about a story that shows us what not to do?

**FORGED! Youth Reporter** 



The book of Jonah is a prime example of what we should not do, but tend to do.

### Why this Matters

Jonah's story matters because it is what often happens today. When we are told to share the Word, and we go and take a look at the world around us, we have a tendency to want to run in the opposite direction. I know I certainly feel that way.

The world is a mess and when I hear

that I have to go out into it, I am terrified. But what if we did? What would it look like if we shared God with those we find easy to label as our enemies?

Helping students:

Meet Jesus,

Trust Jesus,

Follow Jesus!

### **Loving Your Enemies**

Even though Nineveh was full of evil people, God still loved them and wanted to send Jonah to them. Jonah, however, knew that God was loving and merciful and did not want to see his enemies gain eternal life. No one should be left out, no one is so invaluable that we can decide that they are not worthy of life. It is not up to us to decide. God called Jonah and He calls us to share the gospel with His enemies so they can become like our brothers and sisters. We must submit our lives to Jesus and obey Him, not run the other way.

#### Lesson in the Storm

While Jonah was running from God, He still sent for Jonah and created a storm to keep him from running. If we rebel against God, we will find ourselves in storms of our own. They are the consequences of our sinful actions which God allows or uses to catch our attention. While

we may not like these storms, they wake us from our sleep so we can realize what truly matters. All storms are an opportunity to grow, but we must let ourselves learn instead of running away.

### **Habit of Compromise**

When we have a goal set, but then something else comes along that looks better, easier, or safer, we can find it all too easy to go with that instead. Compromise is accepting

### **Youth Group Meetings**

Compass (Middle School) Youth Group: Thursdays

**6:30 pm**—Official start time **8:30 pm**—Official end time

FORGED (High School) Youth Group: Sundays

**6:30 pm**—Official start time **8:30 pm**—Official end time

### Spread the word!

lower standards to avoid doing what needs to be done. Usually when we are tempted with compromise, it works through two things: trusting

→ Please see "Youth" on page 23.

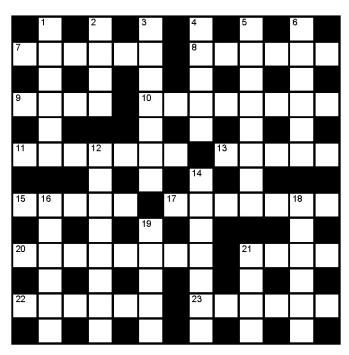


Pastor Andrew Wheeler 0: 503.623.2331

C: 503.747.9300

youthpastor@ebcdallas.org

### **James**



# Answer Key: Page 23!

#### Across

- 7 Hannah's son who later became a priest. (6)
- 8 "And the Lord struck the child that \_\_\_\_ wife bare unto David, and it was very sick." 2 Sam 12:15 (6)
- 9 "Holding \_\_\_\_\_ the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." Titus 1:9 (4)
- 10 "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and
  of the mysteries of
  God." 1 Cor 4:1 (8)
- 11 James says that God is not able to be \_\_\_\_\_ by evil. James 1:13 (7)
- 13 "Shall a trumpet be \_\_\_\_\_ in the city, and the people not be afraid?" Amos 3:6 (5)
- 15 'But ye have despised the poor.

  Do not rich men oppress you,
  and draw you before the
  judgment \_\_\_\_\_?" James 2:6

  (5)
- 17 'Now thanks be unto God, which always us to

- triumph in Christ," 2 Cor 2:14 (7)
- 20 A promise between Noah and God. Gen 9:11 (8)
- 21 "I have neither \_\_\_\_ on usury, nor men have \_\_\_ to me on usury;" Jer 15:10 (4)
- 22 "It is he that sitteth upon the of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers;" Isa 40:22 (6)
- 23 What a tree does if cut down. Job 14:7 (6)

#### Down

- 1 Where Peter sat when a damsel approached him about Jesus of Galilee. Matt 26:69 (6)
- 2 "And Esau went to the field to for venison, and to bring it." Gen 27:5 (4)
- 3 Those who endure temptation are \_\_\_\_\_\_. James 1:12 (7)
- 4 The province in Ezra 5:8. (5)

- 5 Jesus performed these during his ministry. John 2:11 (8)
- 6 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither \_\_\_\_\_ of turning." James 1:17 (6)
- 12 Faith works this. James 1:3 (8)
- 14 "One Lord, one faith, one ," Eph 4:5 (7)
- 16 Hebrew name for God in Genesis 1:1. (6)
- 18 According to James, man cannot tame this. James 3:8 (6)
- 19 A servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. (5)
- 21 "And they lay wait for their own blood; they \_\_\_\_ privily for their own lives." Pro 1:18
  (4)

### **Focus on Missions!**

# The Domes Diary

hanks for your prayers and support friends there at EBC! We are getting ready for our summer ministry, as our school year ministries are wrapping up.

### Starting Soon!

Camp starts the weekend after Memorial Day, beginning with Staff Training and heading right into High School Camp. We will also have our Junior High Camp and two Junior Camps. There is much on our "to-do" list in preparation for the summer so please be praying that everything comes together.

#### Dorm Help Needed!

But what we'd love many prayers for is God's provision of volunteer staff for camp. We have a few gals ready to be dorm leaders, but only a couple guys. Please be praying for more guy dorm leaders!

### Entrance Sign Needed

One new need at camp will need to happen fairly soon is replacing the entrance sign. The wind has been strong this last month and apparently the posts have deteriorated at the bottom. Pray for the project details to be decided and funds to come in to pay for a new sign.

### Doing Great—Thank YOU for Your Prayers!

Many of you may know that **Kevin** had surgery at the end of February to repair a large abdominal hernia. Kevin is doing great now! He is past the recovery time and has been released to lift whatever he wants. Kevin says he feels like he has a whole new stomach! Thanks so much for your prayers during that time!

Thanks again—and may God continue to richly bless you—for all you do!

Kevin and Jennifer Domes

### **Contact Us**

PO Box 115 Wellfleet, NE 69170 308.963.4205 (Home) 425.308.4203 (Kevin) kjdomes@infaith.org



By Kevin and Jennifer Domes

### Hi to ALL Our Friends and Family!

ur very busy lives will soon get even busier as we continue the work to get ready for camping season.

### **Bethel Bible Camp**

Gearing up for the camp season is always a fun and busy time! It's funny, when camp is over it seems like forever until we start up again, but in reality, the time flies faster and faster each year!

This summer, our theme is "At Work Within", focused on learning more about the Holy Spirit and how he works in our lives. Our verse is John 14:26

(NLT) "But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."

Staff Training starts May 31 and the four weeks of camp will follow. There is much to accomplish before that day, including (but not limited to!):

Cleaning up the camp grounds and trails

💥 Prebaking pizza crust

→ Please see "Domes" on page 22.



- **X** Putting together the workbook for small group time
- Replacing the camp sign by the entrance (as the wind has knocked the rotting posts cattywampus)
- Mand various other work projects!

### Ministries at Church

We just wrapped up our last regular



Secret Agent Domez

night of Awana, and what a fun year we've had!

The kids can be very wound up and chatty at times, but even with all the crazy,

we've seen God at work! A couple

Katie's Korner

# Henry's Informational News

i, it's me again. I just want you to know that I got baptized. I was 10 years old when I came to know Jesus. Baptism is important because it is to show people that you've come to know Jesus. I am looking forward to Junior High/Middle School Youth group and to be in Junior High Camp at Bethel Bible Camp. I've make a lot of progress in school.

weeks ago our church held a baptism Sunday and out of the 20 people that were baptized, 8 of those were kids that we see come to Awana and the kids ministries at church!

attending! This last time, the lesson was on Psalm 139 and how God has created us all unique and for a purpose. The kids got to also make

### **Becoming Agents!**

This last unit of the Awana year, what **Jennifer** taught for the T&T

clubbers was "Agents of ...", in which the kids were taught to be Agents of ...

- **X** Courage
- **Humility**
- **Wisdom**
- Obedience
- **M** Honor
- **K** Grace

It was really fun to play the Mission Impossible theme song each Wednesday as the kids came in, but more importantly, they got to really learn how to apply God's truth to their lives. We even had a visit from Agent Domez! I am happy to report that the kids all passed their Agent Training and received badges!

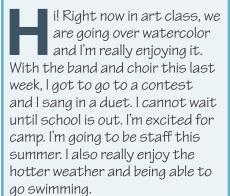
We've been teaching once a month for Kid's Church (although we will take a break during camp season). We've seen 15 to 20 kids

→ Please see "Domes" on page 22.

Ryan's Ramblings

n April 7, I got baptized and I wanted to get baptized because I accepted Christ as my Savior in 4th grade.

Something I'm looking forward to during summer is seeing some friends if they come to camp. And another thing I'm looking forward to is during Junior High Camp there is a night swim on Thursday that sounds like fun.







their own creations out of playdough and tell what they made!

### **Family News**

As far as family news, many of you know from a quick email we sent out at the end of February/beginning of March, that Kevin had surgery to repair a hernia that had been previously repaired, but failed. The hernia originally was the result of the surgery he had back in 2014 when Kevin had cancer.

The surgery went well, and the repair job this time is said to be much stronger and has a very low chance of failing. We are glad to say that Kevin's recovery from the surgery has gone great and he is released to lift even tractor tires!



This school year has been good for the kids, they've learned much and been able to work hard. The challenging part about this year has been that it seems there's been quite a few sick days among our kids. We are thankful that with Spring comes more days to get outside and fresh air!

### **Prayer and Praises**

Praise God for a good surgery for Kevin and good results! Pray for our family's health, that we stay well.

Please keep the camp season in your prayers, May 31 to June 29. And that the plans and tasks can be completed!

Mary Pray God's provision for more male dorm leaders for camp!

Pray for Katie, Henry, and Ryan while they continue to grow in their faith and walk with Christ.

Please pray about supporting us financially, the cost of living has increased and we are seeing the need to raise more support as well.

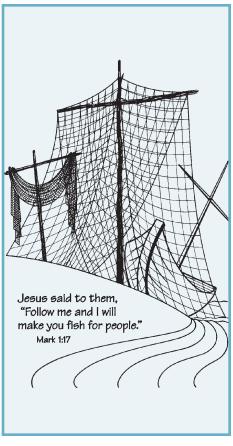
Pray for God's direction in our lives, that we can always keep Him #1!

We are so thankful for such a supportive network we have surrounding us with prayers and encouragement! Thank you for all you do! Blessings to you and yours.

One thing our family is looking forward to is our annual summer trip. This July we will head out to see and explore Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons!

Kevin Jemiler Henry Katie







in something or someone other than we are supposed to, or talking instead of doing. Our culture today tells us we are supposed to follow our hearts and do what we want to do, and while this makes me think of all those Disney movies, it is true. Everything is about us, but it should not be.

### Jonah's Example

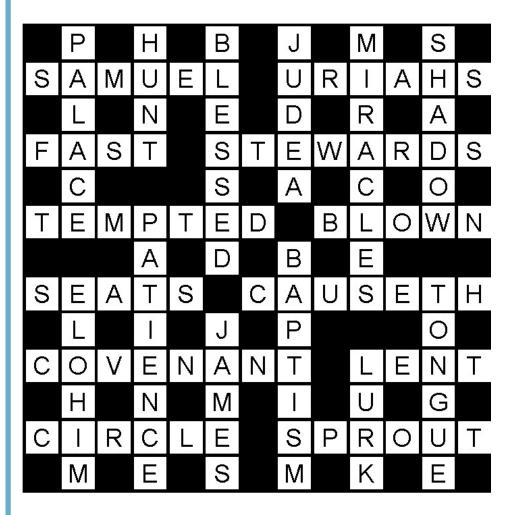
When God told Jonah to go and preach to the Ninevites, Jonah chose to be disengaged. While people were suffering in sin, he turned the other way because he did not care for those who were lost.

This is exactly where we see what not to do. So instead of being like Jonah, we should realize that his example really points to what we should do. We should pray for people to go out, but must also be willing to see that we can go as well. God's love engages! He can do amazing things through us when we engage with the world.

God's love engages! He can do amazing things through us when we engage with the world. James Crossword Puzzle

# Answer Key!

← (Continued from page 19.)



How did you do?

# God IS In Control Close Call By Janet Rosenquist Administration office@febcministries.org

of our readers may know Janet in the Administration Office of FEBC (Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches). While communicating with Janet regarding the monthly FEBC update article (please see page 11), I happened to ask her if her property suffered any damage from the tornadoes that swept through part of Omaha, Nebraska on April 26.

The following is her reply to my inquiry and shows how life can literally change in the blink of an eye. If you believe that you can make firm plans about your future, you may wish to spend some time in the Book of James!

### Hi Bob,

Thanks—we're safe. Glad your son's okay—too bad about the hail damage. We only had just a bit of small hail at our house—no damage.

Interesting story though, my younger brother is moving from Cedar Rapids, Iowa to the Omaha area. They closed on the purchase of a new construction house in Elkhorn Friday afternoon.

Then they drove to their new house and not an hour later the sirens were blaring and they saw the tornado in the distance and coming their direction. They took cover in their basement before the tornado swirled overhead. The noise of the tornado, the loud banging, the whole house



shaking and their ears popping from the air pressure was terrifying.

My sister—in—law thought they were goners. Can you imagine closing on a brand—new house and in the same afternoon experiencing this? When they came out from under the stairs, they didn't know what they'd find.

### James 4:13-15 (NIV):

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."

14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

Fortunately, it was better than they thought. Their house is damaged (hopefully not structurally) including broken windows, damaged siding, gutters, shingles, skylight, etc. There's broken glass and debris everywhere including a large part of a neighbors' roof that was slammed into their backyard, parts of it are wedged into the yard from the force of the wind. It could have been worse—they were on the edge—houses very near them had extreme damage.

They did meet some of their neighbors sooner than they would have otherwise!

I bet their new insurance company was surprised to hear from them to file a claim so soon after closing. This will complicate their transition process and move, but they'll be okay.

We praise God that they were safe and their damage wasn't more severe —they're pretty levelheaded and, more importantly, trust that God is in control.

### Thanks, Janet Rosenquist 🕆



# 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.

## Bible, Bus, Baptism

e welcomed two new kids to JOY Club and gave them each a Bible. On the school bus the next day, one had her Bible out and was reading Jonah. On Easter Sunday, I baptized three children who were confident in their salvation and wanted to identify with Christ. The church is excited and thankful to see the Lord moving in children's hearts!

Daniel & Kimberly Waide Formoso, KS 🕆

# Good Impressions

Rebecca took youth group kids to an event at a Bible college near Grand Prairie, Alberta. They had lots of fun and little sleep, but the speaker also made an impression on them. Afterward, several teens told me the event encouraged their faith. One young man, the only Christian in his family, is now considering Bible school.

Mark & Rebecca Bueckert Ryley, AB 🕆

### Multi-Cultural Outreach

local greenhouse hires workers from Thailand. The owner is a Christian, and he organizes occasional activities for the workers that allow them to hear the gospel. So far, 12 have become believers, and up to 16 meet regularly. A Thai pastor comes bi-monthly to disciple them. The owner invited me to speak at their Easter event, and with an interpreter, I shared God's salvation plan from creation to the cross. We pray that God will draw many more to himself through this ministry.

Richard & Rhonda Adrian Meadowbrook, AB 🕆

### **Missionaries & Ministries EBC Supports!**

he 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
- - Support for team members on the MAF base
     ■



### Joshue and Diana Bulande

dianaafrica@gmail.com

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



### Dan and Judy Burke

Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)

dan\_burke@ntm.org

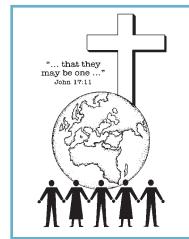
- 💥 Serve in Bolivia in Cochabamba and San Borja
- Mercelopment of a discipleship center in northwestern Bolivia
  - Work with the Chimane people group
- Write and produce books and commentaries in Chimane for the tribal people
- ★ Teaching, construction, leadership development



## Kevin and Jennifer Domes IN FAITH

kjdomes.ministry@yahoo.com

- Work at Bethel Bible Camp in Wellfleet, Nebraska
- Teach in the Awana program, lead a high school youth ministry
- Administrative retreats
- Jennifer also works in food preparation for the summer camps



→ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 27.

### **EBC Supports**

← (Continued from page 26.)





Ivan and Mary Goossen **Avant Ministries** ivary@avmi.org

- 💥 Serve in Mucambo, Brazil
- Involved in evangelism and discipleship
- X Administrate programs such as a coffee shop outreach
- X 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
- 💥 Judith works in the medical clinic and member care
- X Leadership development among the indigenous people



### **Paul and Leslie Lanquist**

**Village Missions at Tanwax** Country Chapel, Washington

360.832.3584 pastorpaullanquist@gmail.com

- Meveloping outreach programs for the homeless in their area
  - X Starting a women's ministry program
- X 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

- Moody Bible Institute's Mission Aviation School
- X Learning Avionics in preparation for future Missionary pilot position 🕆

#### Other Outreach Ministries We Support:

- **♦** Awana **◆** CEE
- **♦** Crisis Pregnancy
- River of Life
- **♦** Prison Ministry
- ♦ SAT-7 (Dennis & Cindy
- **♦** Village Missions
- ♦ Weekday School of the
- **♦** 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 Church (EBC) of Dallas, Oregon.

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office@ebcdallas.org https://ebcdallas.org/

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

**Text:** 503.931.8239

Email: bob.disher@charter.net

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.

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13–14 (NIV)