

# The Sentinel

WE  
STAND  
WATCH

DISTRIBUTED BY EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH



June, 2024  
VOL 8 • NO 05

# Missionary

By Pastor Troy Bassham  
Senior Pastor

Last week two missionaries from the United States and a local pastor were killed in Haiti.

**David and Natalie Lloyd** and **Jude Montis** passed through the gates of splendor and stepped into eternity, their lives given in service to their Savior. While their deaths may not have been because they were Christians—they were victims of gang violence—it was their faith that compelled them to live in such a dangerous environment as they operated a children’s home.



recognize that these brave Christians have now entered into their eternal reward and are free from the pain and troubles of this world. They have seen their Savior, received the crown of life and heard the words, “Well done.”

### First Thoughts

When I first thought about writing about this subject, I intended to pen a tribute to their faithful service.

I hope that sentiment is still

conveyed in my writing. However, as I began to write, my primary purpose shifted. I hope that we are reminded of the shortness of this life and are challenged to use our time in view of eternity.

### We Are In Mourning

We rightly consider what happened a tragedy and our hearts go out to the families and friends of the Lloyds and Pastor Montis. We also mourn for the damage done to the ministry.

At the same time, we should

→ Please see “Missionary” on page 2.

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Deadline for July/August, 2024 ISSUE is:

Monday, July 8, 2024  
@ 5:00 pm



Pixabay

know. grow. go.

# Missionary

← (Continued from page 1.)

## Where Treasures Should Be

Years ago, **Jim Elliot**, another Christian martyr, penned the following words, *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”*

Jesus taught us the same concept in **Matthew 6:19–20 (NKJV)**: *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*

## One Day Soon ...

One day all of our earthly treasures will be left behind. The Apostle Peter encourages us to set our eyes on *“an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven...”* **1 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)**

Our lives on earth are short. And yet, what we do here on earth will reach into eternity. While it is easy to get distracted by earthly trophies and accolades, I hope we live in a way that shows we understand what is truly important. This world is passing but we can store up true riches in heaven.

By means of illustration, I am reminded by some of the seasonal agricultural workers who would come to our country when I was

younger. Many of the workers would send the bulk of their earnings back home. While working here they would live frugally so that their families would benefit, and they would have money when they returned home.

## Where's YOUR Home?

We need to remember that this is not our true home. We can use our time and resources for passing things or we can use our time and talents and even our lives to make deposits in eternity—in a place where our treasures are not only safe but multiplied (**Matthew 19**).

Beyond any thoughts of personal gain or reward, let us live for Him who gave His life for us. It is our appropriate response to our Lord. Because of our Savior's sacrifice that we have forgiveness and an eternal home where we will dwell with God forever.

## Do His Business

So, we grieve for the Lloyds and Pastor Montis. But their labor is done, and they are with their Savior. But we've still got work to do. Let's be about our Savior's business, looking beyond the temporary and to that which endures. †

# EBC Town Hall Meeting!

By **Nat Thomas**  
Chairman, Board of Elders

**A**s **Pastor Troy** said in his recent announcement, the church body at EBC will have its annual Town Hall meeting on June 30 at 4:00 pm.

## Purpose:

The purpose of this congregational meeting is to provide an opportunity for church members and attendees to ask those questions that have been nagging at the back of your mind. Perhaps you have questions about EBC governance, future goals, scheduling, and so forth. Now is your chance!

## Why Submit Questions Early?

In the past there have been questions being asked that were surprises to us and we didn't feel that we provided a complete response. By having the questions early, we can research and be better able to provide a prayerful and thorough answer.

## Suggestions Welcomed, Too!

We also value **YOUR** suggestions. If you have some ideas or observations about how the church could be run better, be sure to submit them as well. Please write out your questions and/or suggestions and put them in the box at the Welcome Desk by June 9. That way **Alison** can record them prior to our Town Hall. *We hope to hear back from you!* †

Focus on the Family® Presents SeeLife® 24:

# When We See Life The Way God Sees It ...

# We Take Action!

## Why Attend?

At the heart of every journey for change is a fundamental question: **Why?** In the bustling current of everyday life, we seek more than just existence; we seek meaning, connection, and a chance to be part of something greater.

**SeeLife® 24** is more than an event; it's a convergence of hearts and minds driven by a shared vision of hope, unity, and actionable change.

- ✘ Discover Purpose!
- ✘ Foster Connection!
- ✘ Make an Impact!

## Why YOU?

Because *your* story matters. Your values, your quest for purpose, and your desire to make a difference align with a global community that **SeeLife® 24** brings together. This is where your aspirations meet action. This is where transformation begins.

## How We Make It Happen:

✘ **Engagement:** Through a curated blend of inspirational talks and personal storytelling, **SeeLife® 24** creates a platform for

deep engagement with issues that matter.

### ✘ **Community:**

Connect with like-minded individuals, thought leaders, and activists who share your passion for life and positive change.

✘ **Action:** Beyond inspiration, **SeeLife® 24** equips you with practical tools and opportunities to contribute to meaningful causes. From local community initiatives to global campaigns, find ways to put your values into action.



✘ **Jim Daly**,  
Focus on the Family  
President

✘ Retired NFL superstar and pro-life advocate, **Ben Watson**, and wife, **Kirsten** (<https://thewatsonseven.com/>).

✘ **Amy Ford**, President of **Embrace Grace**

✘ **John Stonestreet**, President of **The Colson Center for Christian Worldview**

**Heartfelt Worship:** Grammy-nominated, award-winning recording artist **Danny Gokey** will bring attendees together in a time of worship and reflection.

**Community Connection:** Join Focus on the Family® and a global network of attendees who desire to see life the way God sees it.

**Actionable Insights:** Leave with clear, actionable steps to make an impact in your community and beyond.

## The Benefit of Your Attendance:

By choosing to be part of **SeeLife® 24**, you're stepping into a space where your presence

## SeeLife 24®

An EBC hosted simulcast  
Saturday, June 15,  
5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

*Be transformed!*

## What You'll Experience:

**Inspirational Keynotes:** Hear from world-renowned speakers who lead with purpose, offering insights and stories that ignite action, including:

.....  
**Here, your "why" merges with ours, creating ripples of impact that extend far beyond the event.**  
**Don't just attend—be transformed.**

.....  
→ Please see  
"SeeLife 24®" on  
page 4.



← (Continued from page 3.)

amplifies a collective force for good. Together, we can:

✦ **Illuminate Paths to Purpose:** Discover new ways to infuse your daily life with meaning and intention.

✦ **Strengthen Community Ties:** Build lasting connections with individuals and organizations who share your vision for a better world.

✦ **Drive Meaningful Change:** Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools to contribute to significant, lasting impact.

**Join Us:**  
**SeeLife® 24** is your invitation to transform *your* story into a powerful catalyst for change. Here, your *why* merges with ours, creating ripples of impact that extend far beyond the event. *Don't just attend—be transformed.*

Part of Something HUGE!

EBC is one of many churches throughout the contry to host this event. Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors to join you at EBC on **Saturday, June 15, at 5:00 pm.** You'll be glad you did!

*Livestreamed to thousands of concerned believers just like you!*



You Still Have Time!

# Baby Bottles for Hope

By Kay Whitney



**H**ope Pregnancy Center's *2024 Baby Bottles for Hope* annual fund raising campaign began on Mother's Day and ends on Father's Day.

Participation is easy! Just take a bottle (*or 2 or 3*) home with you and fill it with your change. (*Cash or checks are also welcome.*) 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!* ✦

Points to Ponder:

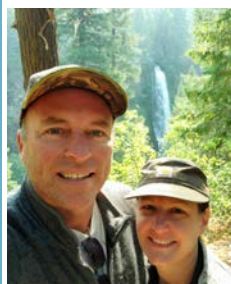
## "It's Unfair"



By Pastor Mike Fast

***"Dead flies will cause even a bottle of perfume to stink!"***  
 (Ecclesiastes 10:1a, NLT).

**E**cclesiastes is a unique book. As you begin reading through it you feel as though you're reading the odd thoughts of a depressed pessimist. Solomon writes this book late in life, and writes of the meaninglessness of everything:



Wisdom, pleasure, work, money, and a few other incidentals.

One of his greatest struggles has to do with the unfairness of

life (*this is a topic I will address from the pulpit June 9*).

### Frustrations

Solomon says you may achieve great wisdom only to learn things that frustrate you even more. You may attain the things in life that give you pleasure, but none of it lasts. You may work to accomplish great feats or realize terrific amounts of wealth only to see it go to someone who didn't work to get it. *"Meaningless, meaningless, meaningless"* is his verdict.

He spends numerous pages reflecting on the thought that life is unjust, life is not fair. Nearly every human has felt that way at one time or another.

→ Please see **"Unfair"** on page 8.



## Hello Happy Campers!

Get ready 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.

### 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.

☒ **Sunday:** 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:

- ☒ Campfire
- ☒ Fishing
- ☒ Relaxing with friends
- ☒ Sandy beach
- ☒ Yard games
- ☒ Small boating (*e.g. kayaks, canoes*)
- ☒ Swimming area
- ☒ Visiting
- ☒ Volleyball
- ☒ Water skiing\*
- ☒ Ski biscuits\*

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

.....  
***Come for all or part of the weekend!***

# 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

In addition to the Elder Board, the rest of the pastoral team agreed to share their testimonies. This month, **Pastor Andrew** and **Pastor Mike** agreed to share their conversion experience and lives in general. **THANK YOU**, gentlemen, for sharing your lives with us!

## Pastor Andrew:

I grew up in a Godly household, for which I am very grateful. It is a huge blessing and privilege in my life that I was raised by God-fearing parents who taught me about Jesus and His salvation. It is because of my parents and our regular attendance to church on Sundays, and other groups like Awana, that I became a believer.



## Accepting Christ

I accepted Christ as my Savior when I was 4 or 5 years old, and of that particular day I have little memory. I do know that it was very important to me and that my parents helped me acknowledge my sin before God and ask Jesus to save me from sin and death.

This decision has changed my life forever, becoming the cause of so much good for me and my family. However, it has been anything but easy as I learn to orient my life to Christ's and walk in step with His Spirit.

Because I accepted Jesus as the Savior of the world and asked for His forgiveness when I was so young, I do not remember much of my life before Jesus. Obviously, as a child, I was selfish and sinful just like every other child, and I can still be that way today.

## A Great and Terrible Fear

What I do remember from growing up was mainly a great and terrible fear after I accepted Jesus. I was terrified that I would lose my salvation if I did things wrong. This

fostered a continual awareness in my life of every time I sinned.

Many times I would want to try to hide my sins, even from God, though I knew that it was impossible. I also thought that I was so sinful all the time so I needed to ask for Jesus to save me from my sins every day. I thought that if I didn't repent every day I would lose my salvation, and that I needed to live as perfectly as possible to maintain it. It was a life full of fear.

## Gradual Transformation

What ended up changing was not a single moment or event, but rather a gradual growing of understanding of the nature of God's grace for humans.

Over time, as I grew in maturity and knowledge, as I studied God's Word; as I talked with other believers, I came across passages like **Romans 8**, telling me that nothing can separate me from the love of God.

Jesus taught me through His Word that He loved me *unconditionally*, and that because of His salvation and grace, He views me as His son no matter what I have done or will do, because I firmly believe that He is Lord and God, that He came and died for my sins, and that He rose again to bring eternal life for all who believe. Now I can live in confidence and assurance that my salvation

→ Please see "Elders" on page 8.

*He views me as His son no matter what I have done or will do, because I firmly believe that He is Lord and God, that He came and died for my sins, and that He rose again to bring eternal life for all who believe.*



rests in Jesus' power and grace, not my strict adherence to the rules or my obedience or even my constant repentance. *Praise the Lord!*

## Pastor Mike:

It's not hard to look back and see God's presence in my life. He has blessed me with seven grandchildren, three children, and a beautiful wife.



**Lora** and I have been married for 35 years and have lived in many parts of Oregon and California as I have pastored churches for nearly the same amount of time.

## Opportunities and Challenges

We have enjoyed the opportunities to spend time outdoors camping, hunting, fishing, motorcycles and long drives.

There have been many challenges and blessings both through the years, but my greatest blessing has been the fact that He chose to draw me to Him, and what a process it has been.

## Accepting Jesus!

Many, many years ago, I was sitting in a circle of other seven-year-olds at Blue Lake Park when I prayed a prayer confessing Jesus as Lord.

My faith journey was unchanged until the week I graduated from high school. At that point, I looked back on a bunch of wasted years chasing what was "cool" and popular. At that point I truly wanted something different, so I surrendered my heart to Christ.

## Deeper in His Will

It was not until after Lora and I had been married a few years that my faith journey went a little deeper and—I surrendered my will to Christ. Up to that point I had charted out what I had planned for my life, but God had plans of His own. From that moment on, the course of my life looked far different than what I had planned, but I knew it was *what He had planned*.

I still struggle with God's plans from time to time, *but not as often as I used to*. It's a process, a process of transformation. **2 Corinthians 3:18** reminds us that followers of Christ are being transformed into

His image.

**Romans 12:2** reminds us that this transformation comes when we choose not to pursue the "cool" and popular things that conform us to the pattern of this world, but to chase after the transformation of our mind, heart and will, which happens as we follow Christ in obedience (**John 14:15, 21, 23; Mark 12:30**).

**2 Peter 3:18** instructs us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, so my Faith Journey continues daily—*and not always at the rate I would like*—but I plod ahead. †

# Unfair

← (Continued from page 4.)

In the end, however, Solomon has an answer. He sums it up in the last two verses of the book: **"Here is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is the duty of every person. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad."** (**Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14 NLT**)



## We DO Have a Purpose!

In the end, we need to be reminded of the fact that our life has purpose, and part of that purpose is to fear and obey God. And we will soon find that God will make things fair and just. †

.....  
*but my greatest blessing has been the fact that He chose to draw me to Him, and what a process it has been.*



Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

# News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone  
President, FEBC



June 1, 2024

Over the past months, I have mentioned the FEBC website many times in different contexts, for different reasons. Today I want to highlight the importance of this vital tool in our ministry.

As our society moves increasingly from paper communication to electronic communication, we who work in ministry have been making that transition as well – some faster than others. As much as electronic communication is vital for a local church, it is even more beneficial for our Fellowship. We do not meet together weekly, and we are geographically separate. Communicating via our website is far less expensive than via the mail. Instead of waiting two months for the next Fellowship Focus magazine, we can instantly provide up-to-date information to our constituents, and they can instantly share any of this information with a friend.

## Our website has a lot to offer:

- ◆ The Fellowship Focus (our bi-monthly magazine) is now exclusively published online.
- ◆ Each spring, we accept applications for scholarships.
- ◆ Registrations for Connect24 can be made right now.
- ◆ We post helpful resources, including a recently added list of resources that are available for FEBC churches.
- ◆ Unclear about our theology or practice? Check out the Articles of Faith and Position Papers.
- ◆ Know a pastor in need of a church or is your church in need of a pastor? Use our “Pastoral Openings” page.
- ◆ Want to understand our organization and leadership? It’s online.
- ◆ Would you like to know more about our history? Read our Constitution? It’s all there.
- ◆ You can find information about supporting the FEBC or our Ministries Coordinator.

All of this and more can be accessed anywhere, anytime, from any device.

If you haven’t checked out the FEBC website in a while, take a look:  
[www.fellowshipforward.org](http://www.fellowshipforward.org)

You can also follow us on social media at: [www.facebook.com/FEBCMinistries](https://www.facebook.com/FEBCMinistries)

Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement!



Kevin Stone  
President †

Office: 402.965.3860 📞 Cell: 402.541.6099

[www.fellowshipforward.org](http://www.fellowshipforward.org) 📧 [president@febministries.org](mailto:president@febministries.org)

Awana Year End Celebration

# Thank YOU, Volunteers!

On May 1, we held our Awana Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. **Matt** and I wanted to focus on making sure all our helpers knew how much we appreciate them and how much of an impact their time and energy has on our youth, oftentimes unseen.

### Many Thanks!

A **HUGE** thank you to **Alli Brown, Ashley Brown,** and **Sandie Radke** who helped serve a lovely taco bar. Assisting them were **Paisley Brown, Scarlett Brown, Daphne Toma** and our own children, **Sam and Naomi**, who jumped in to help with decorating and serving, along with always helping mom and dad with Awana behind the scenes.



### Starfish Story

Twenty years ago I was introduced to *The Starfish Story*; our heart for our volunteers, the theme and decorations reflected that story.

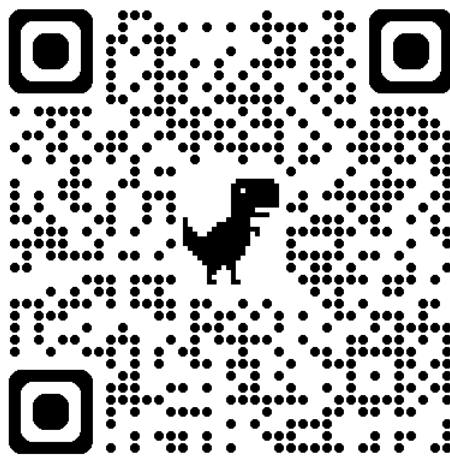
Words cannot completely convey how much we appreciate the time all our volunteers have put in, whether it's listening to verses, game time, moving with the children all night, helping with the Awana Store or being a familiar face in the parking lot or at the front door.

Each connection makes a difference, whether we see it at that moment or never at all.

### Looking Ahead

We anticipate a bit of behind the scenes planning for June and to hit the ground in July with our new online program **TwoTimTwo**. This program will allow us to start online registration and keep in contact with our families and volunteers.

This program will also allow us to record all our youth's hard work in one place, making it accessible to the whole Awana team and retain the information from year to year. We hope with online and early registration we can have more information going into September which would allow us to be ready to go.



Use your smart phone's camera to scan the above QR code!

[ebcdallas.twotimtwo.com](http://ebcdallas.twotimtwo.com)

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

### Upcoming Training

We currently have training scheduled for August; please mark your calendars if you are interested in learning how you can help share the Gospel with our community.

### August 21

Mandatory training with the Awana Missionary ✝

## The Starfish Story

Adapted from Loren Eiseley's *The Star Thrower*

Submitted By  
**Lena Calef**

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean



to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions.

Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused

→ Please see "Starfish" on page 11.

The father makes known to the children thy faithfulness.

-Isaiah 38:19



every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves. When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water."

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference."

The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!" ✝



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

# Solitude

By Gwen Griffiths

A glance at the clock informs me I must leave now—no time to finish up my quiet time. *“It’s okay; I’ll pray on the way,”* I think. As I pull out of the garage, my watch pings to let me know that I’m 14 minutes away from Dallas and my audiobook automatically starts playing through the van speakers. I’m quickly engrossed in the story—until a text notification sounds. I ask Siri to read the text to me and decide the hassle of trying to dictate an answer via talk-to-text isn’t necessary... *then remember that I was going to pray while I drove. And I’m entering Dallas.*

Practicing the spiritual disciplines fulfills us and brings growth—when one actually manages to practice them. But so often life intrudes on the time we set apart for God, chipping away minutes until nothing remains.

## The Answer?

*So what’s the answer? How do we do the things we need to do each day and still somehow manage to cultivate the kind of relational growth with God that we desire?*

The spiritual discipline of solitude can play a key role here. To consider it simply, solitude makes space to listen for the voice of God, to work through a heart issue, to really see ourselves in His eyes.

## A Distracted Life

In today’s world we’re bombarded by notifications and connections and messages. And we utilize those distractions—even go searching for them—to avoid looking into our own hearts and addressing the issues there.

### Feeling lonely?

Jump on your favorite social media platform to see who has left a message or is available to chat.

### Feeling dissatisfied with life?

A run through YouTube or Pinterest will certainly show you how to fix it.

### Feeling convicted?

Scroll for a while to forget. We fill our lives with distractions instead of spending time with

the God who offers the best companionship, gives unending satisfaction, and shows the true condition of our hearts (*and then, through the work of the Holy Spirit, transforms us*).

## Making Room

When life fills up and distractions run rampant, we know less of His presence and work in our lives.

We must intentionally make room for conversations with God. The practice of solitude involves drawing away from the distractions of daily life so that we might devote ourselves to the disciplines of study, prayer, meditation, memorization.



*“In fact, some contend that solitude is not so much in itself a discipline, but a context for practicing the personal disciplines. In other words, solitude is simply putting yourself in a situation where you can be alone for... Bible reading, prayer, and meditation” (Lifeway: <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/spiritual-disciplines-gospel-solitude-donald-whitney>).*

→ Please see “Solitude” on page 13.

**Solitude makes space to listen for the voice of God, to work through a heart issue, to really see ourselves in His eyes.**



### Following the Best Example

The gospels show that Jesus valued solitude. We see Him pull away from crowds—not to recharge His social battery, but to spend time with His Father. One can imagine Him sitting on a rock with His face to the sun as He leaned into the presence of God. I'm sure he encountered distractions (*a pesky swarm of gnats, disciples worrying about how to feed crowds*) during these times, but He knew the value of solitude and placed priority on it.

In the most trying part of His life, Jesus prioritized solitude. He poured out His heart to God in the Garden of Gethsemane and found the strength to walk the path purposed for Him.

### Next Steps

✦ **Plan for solitude.** This may be as simple as going into a room and closing the door to the outside world—leaving your phone and smart watch elsewhere.

Perhaps you turn your phone to airplane mode on the way home from work and use that time to converse with God. You could plan a weekly walk along a secluded path



**EBC MEN'S MINISTRY**

**PIG ROAST**

June 22, 2024  
5:00 pm

16985 Brown Rd. Dallas, OR  
Bring a side dish to share and a chair.

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

with only some prayer cards for company. Or it could take shape as a weekend in a quiet motel room or cabin, surrounded by Bible, journal, and a book that God has put on your heart.

✦ **Now, write down the plan** and tell your family that you have set aside time to be alone with God. This will help lessen interruptions and hold you accountable.

✦ **Gather what you need** (*music to direct your heart toward*

*worship, your prayer list, verses to meditate on*) and take it all with you.

✦ **Begin with prayer and leave space to hear God's voice.** When your mind wanders, ask Him to draw your thoughts back to Him.

✦ **Wait patiently;** this discipline won't develop over the course of an hour or even a weekend. It's called a discipline because it will take work to train your heart and mind. †

.....

***The gospels show that Jesus valued solitude. We see Him pull away from crowds—not to recharge His social battery, but to spend time with His Father.***

Youth Perspective

# Death and Life

AdobeStock

By Isabelle Lovell  
FORGED! Youth Reporter

Normally when we speak those words it is the other way around, but not in this story. This month we went through the sad and happy sides of **John 11** and saw how we all have asked the



question, “Lord where were you?”

### Sitting in the Dark

Every person goes through troubled

times, and while I have yet to experience any serious trials, I will be considered an adult in a few months so I know that will be changing.

My prayer right now is to not lose faith and trust that God will not leave me when those times come, because sometimes we have to wait in the darkness. I am sure I will have an “if you had been here” moment and wish that God would work on my schedule, but my—and our—timing is not what matters.

God has a plan, and—even in the dark—He is working.

### Why Jesus Stayed

Whenever I have read or heard this story, it always felt odd when it says, **“So when he heard Lazarus**

**was sick, he stayed two days longer,” John 11:6 (NIV)** *Why does it say “so?”*

### Why?

*Why did Jesus stay away?* Well, it could have been to teach them to trust Him, and because he had a bigger plan. Plus, at the time, His life was in danger. However, Jesus could have just said the word and Lazarus would have been healed.

*But what would happen if we skipped to the good part every time?* A happy ending can only be happy if there was a hard time before it.

### No Hopelessness

Even when we walk through the dark, we do not have to lose hope because God is always with us. Even if we do not see Him, we can know that He is a God who weeps with us. Maybe we need to roll away the stone of disbelief so we can see that life starts now. No matter what is happening, we should view life

as a blessing. It can be a life full of hope, but that does not come from anything here, it comes from Him. We may not always understand, but He does not ask us to, we must simply trust in Him and we can find our hope.

### Helping students:

*Meet Jesus,  
Trust Jesus,  
Follow Jesus!*

## 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!*

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) †**



**Pastor Andrew Wheeler**

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Focus On Missions

# SIM: Lichinga, Mozambique

Tax deductible donations can be sent to: [www.simusa.org](http://www.simusa.org) to Josue and Diana Bulande support account #015334

of colored cloth which they wear as a skirt) and there is a lot of celebrating as they enjoy "their day."

as the whole Word of God. Some of them go to the Islamic school in the city and very often they are

Christ is risen and is alive forevermore! Much time has passed since I last wrote with news from Mozambique.

A lot has happened since then, and in a few words, allow me to share with you what we have been involved in lately. First of all, I want to **THANK YOU** for not remaining indifferent to our appeal in the last letter. Thanks to your generosity, the group of teenagers and women we work with, our family and also the whole church have been blessed by you. On behalf of everyone, we thank you very much!

## Celebrating Women

You may remember from past years that on April 7, Mozambican women are celebrated. Women all over the country do everything they can to afford a new *capulana* (piece

## Special Church Program

We organized a different, but very beautiful, program with the women of the church.



We had Bible games and songs and it brought them a lot of joy. I think one of my biggest joys, as far as the work is concerned, is seeing this group of women grow, not only in number but also in faith, in wisdom, and in the knowledge of the Word.

Another cause for joy and pride just as great, is the group of teenagers we work with. I don't think I can say exactly in words the deep and sincere friendship that has been formed in this group. I have prayed a lot for this and am so happy for each of them.

challenged to debates on religious topics by colleagues or friends.

## June 1: Children's Day

June 1 is "children's day" and we are preparing special program for the children and teens from the church. The picture, *below*, show the teens in



some special programs we organized for them. They really like to prepare and present dramas or Biblical plays which they then present at church. It is a way by which they learn and retain more from the Word.

We thank the Lord because great progress is being made in the construction work of the church. As you can see in the pictures,

→ Please see "Bulande" on page 16.



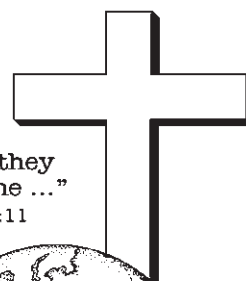
The picture (*above, right*) shows only a few of them, but there are around 30 teenagers with whom we gather every Saturday to study and memorize the Word and to enjoy other activities.

We follow a chronological Bible study through which I hope they will reach a deeper and more complete understanding of the Bible



are also many difficulties, trials, and needs. We invite you to take part with us in this work through your contributions, through your messages of encouragement and through your prayers. ✝

“... that they may be one ...”  
John 17:11



cement was put on the floor which makes a big difference. The church is also growing in numbers, and we are facing a problem for which we are grateful-- we do not have enough chairs for everyone! Many times, those who come later to the programs, must stand or improvise something. We gather three times a week for Bible study, prayer, and worship and on Saturday we have Bible study in groups: children, teenagers, young people and women.

### Rainy Season

We just got out of the rainy season. In some places it did not rain enough, especially where there are many farms where the main income is from agriculture. Here in Lichinga it rained enough. The photo below shows what a secondary street in the city looks like during the rainy season.

### Thankful!

There are so many things for which we are grateful, but there



## Specific Prayer Needs:

✝ **For our health.** In the last months we faced many health problems. Nothing major, but we often prayed that the Lord would keep us away from the hospital since the staff was on strike.

✝ **For the Children's Day program on June 1.** Many will participate, young and old. Let's pray that the message is clear and understood by everyone and that the Gospel is preached not only in the church but also continues in homes through these little ones.

✝ **For the whole church.** May the Lord remain the center of the message for all the groups. May He give us wisdom for every kind of situation.

### A Special Thank You!

**THANK YOU** for supporting us in so many ways. We sincerely appreciate each one of you and we want the Lord to continue to bless you!!!

*Josue, Diana, Cibigail, Naomi, Caleb, Sara, and Ema Bulande ✝*



## 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](mailto:tgriffiths@villagemissions.org).

## Day of Prayer

**T**wo or three times a year, we do a 24-hour day of prayer, where church folks sign up for one or more half-hour slots to pray over a 24-hour period. Our first one of this year was last week. I always put together a Scripture-based prayer guide; this time we focused on current and future ministries of our church. We end our day of prayer with a corporate prayer service in the evening. This stands out as a sweet time of fellowship with the Lord and one another as we praised God for all He has done, is doing, and will do through Hartland Center Community Church.

**Matt & Stephanie Van Gorden**  
Hartland Center, OH †

## Trying Something New

**O**ur church is blessed with several young families. Our historic church building doesn't have classroom space, so we are trying a "Children's Service" at the start of our worship service to meet this need. Volunteers read from a large Bible story picture book. Lately, several kids have volunteered to read. One Sunday, the volunteer was so young that she had to stand on a chair behind the pulpit!

**Josh & Janice Hendrix**  
Virginia Dale, CO †

## Can I Go?

**A** young woman started bringing her 4-year-old cousin to church. This little girl is excited to come every Sunday. She dances during worship and loves Sunday School. Her attentiveness in church is amazing. One week I announced a board meeting would follow the service, and she exclaimed, "Oh, a board meeting, can I go?!"

**Mark & Karen Woolbright**  
Helix, OR †

# Missionaries & Ministries EBC Supports!

**T**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](mailto:tbrooks@maf.org)

- ✘ Serving in Winema, Indonesia
- ✘ Tim is a mechanic for MAF planes on the base
- ✘ Both Tim and Mallory are studying to gain proficiency in the language
- ✘ Support for team members on the MAF base



## Joshue and Diana Bulande

SIM

[dianaafrica@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

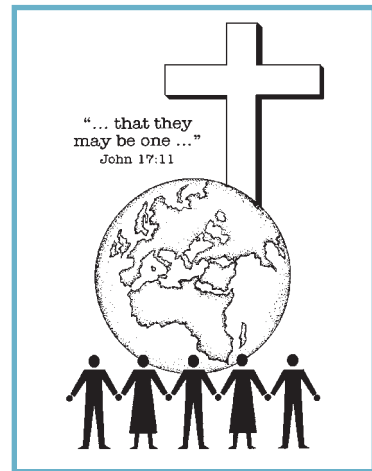


## Kevin and Jennifer Domes

IN FAITH

[kjdomes.ministry@yahoo.com](mailto: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
- ✘ Administrative retreats
- ✘ Jennifer also works in food preparation for the summer camps



➔ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 19.

# EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 18.)



**Ivan and Mary Goossen**  
Avant Ministries  
[ivary@avmi.org](mailto:ivary@avmi.org)

- ✘ Serve in Mucambo, Brazil
- ✘ Involved in evangelism and discipleship
- ✘ Administrate programs such as a coffee shop outreach
- ✘ Long time involvement with a Christian radio ministry



**Eric and Judith Hedeem**  
Ethnos 360  
[eric\\_hedeem@ntm.org](mailto:eric_hedeem@ntm.org)

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



**Paul and Leslie Lanquist**  
Village Missions at Tanwax  
Country Chapel, Washington  
360.832.3584  
[pastorpauullanquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpauullanquist@gmail.com)

- ✘ Developing outreach programs for the homeless in their area
- ✘ Starting a women's ministry program
- ✘ Leading the church in new directions after COVID divisions and other issues left the church without a senior pastor for nearly a year



**Steve and Mikki Schmidt**  
SIM Missionaries  
[steve.schmidt@sim.org](mailto:steve.schmidt@sim.org)  
[mikki.schmidt@sim.org](mailto: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](mailto:andyandjerusha@gmail.com)

- ✘ On staff with Moody Bible Institute's Mission Aviation School
- ✘ Learning Avionics in preparation for future Missionary pilot position ✚

## Other Outreach Ministries We Support:

- ◆ Awana
- ◆ Crisis Pregnancy
- ◆ Prison Ministry
- ◆ Village Missions
- ◆ Mission Connexion
- ◆ CEF
- ◆ River of Life
- ◆ SAT-7 (Dennis & Cindy Wiens)
- ◆ Weekday School of the Bible
- ◆ 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.**

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encouraged. Please use one of the following:

**Text:** 503.931.8239

**Email:** [bob.disher@charter.net](mailto: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.



***Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

***1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 (NIV)***