

# The Sentinel

WE  
STAND  
WATCH

DISTRIBUTED BY EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH



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## Opportunities!

By Pastor Troy Bassham

In the book of Judges, we see a depressing pattern among the people of Israel. After a generation of Israelites that were faithful to God, a generation would come that did not know God or honor Him.

As the people abandoned their faith, the consequences were evident. Society would fall into immorality, idolatry, and all sorts of evil until there was a revival or Divine judgment.

### Not Exclusive

This is not something that is exclusive to the Israelites. Time and again, we have seen this happen in families, communities, and even nations. The sincere faith of the

fathers not being embraced by the generation that follows.

### The Same Today

Studies by the Barna Research Group show this same phenomenon at

work in our own society today. The decline in faith, values, and practice is apparent. Barna identifies a "Practicing Christian" as "someone who strongly believes

*that faith is very important in their lives and have attended church within the past month."*



→ Please see "Opportunities!" on page 2.

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Deadline for **March, 2025** ISSUE is:

**Monday, February 24, 2025**  
**@ 5:00 pm**



know. grow. go.

# Opportunities

← (Continued from page 1.)

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## Declining...

Since 2000, the percentage of Americans identifying as a “*practicing Christian*” has fallen from 45% to 25%. Christian belief, religious values, church attendance, and Biblically based behavior all show significant decreases with each passing generation.

Unfortunately, our faith is not something that can just be passed to our children like a relay baton or an heirloom handed down in a will. In every generation, each person must develop their own faith and learn to walk with God personally. While our experiences and examples can impact the next generation, such transmission is not automatic.

## Much to Do

Certainly, there is much that we can do to encourage the development of faith in those that follow us. Being intentional with religious training and modeling Christlike behavior is very important.

At the same time, we need to make sure that people are learning to follow Jesus and not just a moral code or a community system of values.

## What People Need to Know

They need to know the Savior. For it is He who changes our naturally sinful hearts and leads us into obedience.

*So what can we do as our culture drifts further and further from God and truth? I want to offer three suggestions:*

### ✠ First, we need to pray.

We are called to be faithful, but we remember that it is God who brings about real change (**1 Corinthians 3:6-7**). We need to ask Him to change hearts. We need to pray that He would bring revival.

✠ **Second, we need to make sure people are finding Jesus and not just religion.** It has been said before that there is often a three-generation fade from faith. First, there is a generation that knows God and walks with Him in faith. This generation is followed by another which hears about God but which neither lives by faith nor walks with him. Finally, this generation is followed by another which neither walks with God nor knows about Him.

We need to make sure that each new generation starts at stage one: engaged in a personal walk with Jesus.

✠ **Third, as we reach out to our community, we need to realize the unfortunate shift that is occurring in our society.** No longer is Christian faith and involvement seen as a cultural value.



On top of this, many of our neighbors are in stage three: in addition to not following God they don't know anything about Him either. Because of the lack of knowledge and shift in values, we need to be even more intentional about sharing Jesus.

At the same time, we need to lovingly take the time to study our community and build relationships to share Christ. What worked in the past, in a backslidden nation, may not work amongst people who have no knowledge of the truth whatsoever.

## Watch God Do Great Things!

All of this might seem very depressing or disconcerting. We definitely have our work cut out for us. ***But do not give in to hopelessness.*** This is the chance to watch God do a great work.

Remember, when Christ ascended to Heaven there were only 11 men standing with Him on the Mount of Olives. On Pentecost, there were only 120 people gathered, but when the Holy Spirit came down, a great revival happened.

Within a generation, the Gospel had spread widely across Europe, Africa, and Asia. So pray for God to work, be diligent in our own labors, and be encouraged, knowing that it may be for just such a time that God has called us. ✠

They need to know the Savior. For it is He who changes our naturally sinful hearts and leads us into obedience.

## Points to Ponder

# "Rethinking Serving"

By Pastor Mike Fast

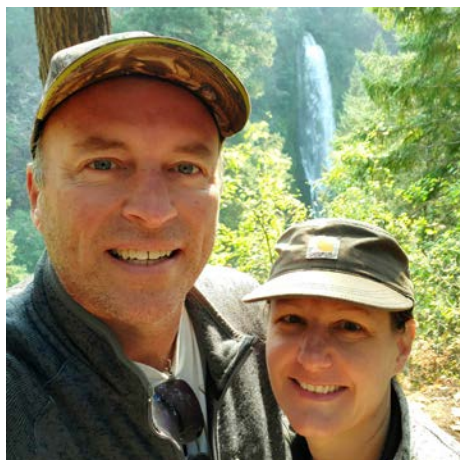
Recently, I had lunch with the pastor of a large church, and of the 1,000 plus members, he lamented how only a small percentage are willing to volunteer. This is a common challenge found throughout churches, as well as in most non-profit groups today.

### Unstuck Church! The Unstuck Church Consulting Group

([theunstuckgroup.com](http://theunstuckgroup.com)) published research a few months ago showing that about 35% of adults and students in the church serve on a volunteer team monthly, which is down 10% from where it was pre-pandemic.

Our percentage at EBC is about 30% when counting individuals able to serve, but around 40% when counting by family units who have at least one person volunteering.

While it is evident that COVID changed the way many people regard interaction with others, it is also clear that we have been moving toward a consumerism mentality that is affecting everything.



Church growth expert, **Carey Nieuwhof**, observed that increasing affluence in America is hurting the growth of the church today. I have been interacting with a growing number of churches that believe the answer for vacant spots that volunteers had once filled is that we now fill them with paid positions.

### A BIG Part of the Problem

But honestly, I believe a big part of the problem has been what we as leaders have been neglecting to teach more of through the years, and that is *the significance and beauty of*

*God's unique gifting in each of our lives and how that glorifies Him and edifies others and therefore accomplishes the mission of the church.*

### YOUR Gifts

**Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians**

**12:11, and 1 Peter 4:10** all remind us that we have each been given different spiritual gifts by God to use. This would be a good spot to remind us of our **EBC Vision Statement:**

**We desire each person know Jesus, grow in Jesus, and go for Jesus into their community with the good news.**

### What Can We Change?

*What can we do differently?*

Allow me to provide an example of the mistakes leaders can make from my own life. My personality prefers order and strategic thinking, meaning, I can envision the need for certain roles and positions and what those would achieve and I like to see



→ Please see "Serving" on page 4.



# Serving

← (Continued from page 3.)

things accomplished with excellence. That sounds great in a for-profit organization, but in a church we should understand that serving with purpose is more important than a position, and relationships are to be valued more than accomplishments. Often the desire to enhance our personal image is sadly stronger than our desire to simply serve God with all our heart.

And while we most certainly have many ministries in the church that could use more help, we want to first make it clear that our desire is that everyone sees the value of engaging together in the mission of the church and find fulfillment and joy in serving God and others. We don't want to be guilty of just filling holes, we want to meet needs, and it is a joy to partner in ministry with you for the glory of God. ✝

We don't want to be guilty of just filling holes, we want to meet needs, and it is a joy to partner in ministry with you for the glory of God.



THANK YOU, Alison Johnson, for providing the above fliers!





By Gwen Griffiths

A few years ago, EBC made the decision to discontinue membership with MOPs and to use Mom to Mom as a way to minister to mothers instead. This has been a good change in many ways, and we have seen growth in the group as a result of the switch. One effect of this shift is that the program is open to mothers of all ages (*instead of just mothers of preschool children*).

### New Challenges

Now, 4–5 years down the line, we have a new challenge to meet that comes from the change. Because mothers with children of any age can come, and because more families are choosing to use alternative education options (*charter schools, homeschooling, etc*), we have more school–age children that need to be cared for during Mom to Mom.

Our care for these school–age children has evolved over the course of time. We quickly found out that a "school room" where the kids would quietly work on homework was not feasible, as the kids enjoyed the opportunity to talk and connect with each other. Now we provide a more structured environment where the kids will spend their time productively while also able to go to a cooperative class or other appointment if necessary.

### Practical Projects

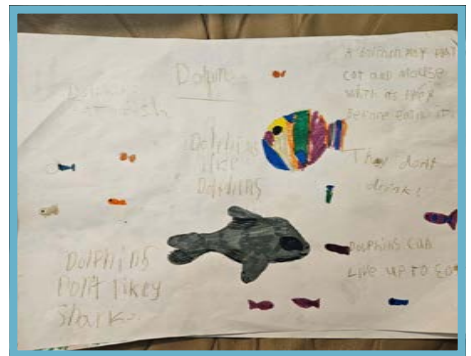
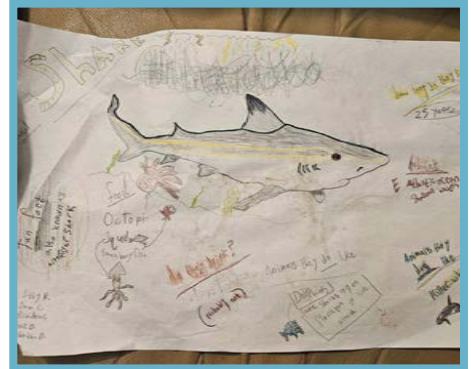
Recently, the kids in the homeschool room learned about creation and created posters about specific animals. While discovering new

science facts, they also learned about the God who created each animal.

### Can YOU Help?

The ministry to the kids of Mom to Mom is just as important as the ministry to moms. Would you be able to give some of your time to work in the homeschool room? Our leader could use a couple of adults to help with activities and learning. †

### Following: Children-made posters about creation



Deb Hansen speaks to the group of moms at Mom2mom about how they can put the principles learned so far this year into practice.



A couple of moms enjoy the week's project—creating "boredom buster" jars.

Unless otherwise marked, photos on this page by Gwen Griffiths



# Awana Grand Prix

By Matt and Lena Calef  
Awana Co-Commanders

**S**O MANY KIDS!!!! Our regular numbers top 120 children on a given Wednesday night. We are struggling with the challenge of loving on so many! We are so thankful for the regular giving of time that our leaders invest in this program. Without leaders, our program can't operate.

## Known By Our Fruit

We are to be known by our fruit. And an indication of what kind of fruit we give is where we place our time, talents, and treasures. **MANY THANKS GO TO YOU FOR GIVING YOUR TIME!!!**

## Start Your Engines!

On a different fun note, our annual Awana Grand Prix took place at the EBC gym on Saturday, January 25.

We had 73 cars in the staging lanes come race time on Saturday. Reviews were that the event was a fun success despite the absence of our usual announcer "Johnny Lightning" and his vast lineup of "dad jokes" to entertain the crowd.

In his place, Awana Ministry Director, **Matt Calef**, dutifully



announced car lineups and delivered a short devotional.

At the end of the event, awards were handed out for the categories of:

- ☒ Fastest Car
- ☒ Safest Driver (*slowest*)
- ☒ Design



Again, the  
volunteers made  
the event happen!

Additional awards were chosen by the attendees in the people's choice categories of:

- ☒ Best Non-Car
- ☒ Coolest Car
- ☒ Funniest Car
- ☒ Most Original Car
- ☒ Overall Fan's Favorite

Again, the volunteers made the event happen! Special shoutout to the helpers that gave their time to set up, check in, bring food, run the pit crew, run the races, and helped clean up!



→ Please see "Grand Prix" on page 7.



← ((Continued from page 6))

### Prayer Request

Our primary prayer request is for continued endurance of our leaders as we approach the end of our program year in April. Also, please pray for little ears to be opened and that the youth (*and their families!*) hear and understand the salvation offered by our Lord and Savior Jesus. †



# The Sentinel Production Schedule

**The 2025 Sentinel Production Schedule is now available.**

As with recent years, the plan is to have a combined July/August issue. This will allow our contributing authors—and the production team—a little break during the summer. Additionally, the due dates for the April and May issues are being modified due to the travel schedule of certain staff.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause, but hope that having the schedule of dates ahead of time will enable you to plan accordingly.

### THANK YOU!

As always, we are most appreciative of all of our EBC staff, ministries, missionaries, and contributing authors for your continued support of the *EBC Sentinel*. Hardly an issue goes by when we wonder if there will be enough material to fill our pages, but God always provides.

### Can YOU Help Us Spread the Word?

If we haven't featured your ministry for a while, please prayerfully consider sending an article to us. **OR** ... if you or your ministry are a "regular" contributor to this publication, *don't stop now!* There are a LOT of amazing things being done by our extended EBC family to further His kingdom ... let's spread the word every way we can!

### 2025 Article Due Dates

Article due dates for the remaining issues of the year are as follows:

Month/Issue	Articles Due	Day of Week
March	2/24	Monday
April	3/17	Monday
May	5/7	Wednesday
June	6/2	Monday
July/August	7/14	Monday
September	9/1	Monday
October	9/29	Monday
November	10/27	Monday
December	11/17	Monday
January, 2026	12/29	Monday †



# Library Update

By Ruth Quiring  
EBC Librarian

## The EBC Library is here to serve you!

The library, located 2 doors down from the church office, offers a variety of resources.

Besides the many Christian or inspirational fiction books for adults, there are biographies and missionary biographies. There is a section on parenting as well as dating, marriage, and personal Christian growth.

To help in your Bible study there are concordances, dictionaries, books on maps and customs of Bible times. You'll also find commentaries from a variety of Biblical scholars. Bible studies from various authors (*some with DVDs*) are also on our shelves. Speaking of DVDs, we have a carousel of fiction and non-fiction DVDs.

## Something for Everyone

The youth have their own section of fiction and non-fiction books. The library has a room for children which includes lots of books and DVDs. A DVD player is available to watch while parents are meeting in the library if desired. We love having children enjoy our library, but due to



"issues" that have popped up, would appreciate them being accompanied by a responsible older person (*parent, sibling, etc.*)

## Puzzled?

Are you a "puzzler?" You will find a variety of jigsaw puzzles to borrow. But please do **not** return them if there is a puzzle piece missing.

## Check Us Out Online

If you would like to see what is available in the library from the comfort of your home, pop onto the EBC website:

- ✦ Find the **resources** tab.
- ✦ Scroll down to **library**.
- ✦ Click on **library login**.
- ✦ This will take you to our

inventory. You can look a resource up by title or author.

## Need a Number?

On the library check-out desk, there are forms to fill out if you would like a library number to check out resources.

## Staffing

The library is staffed during Coffee Time each Sunday, but is open for self-checkout whenever the church is open. We'd love to have you join us and help you find the resources you're looking for!

## New in the Library: February, 2025

### Fiction:

*When Silence Sings* by **Sarah Loudin Thomas**

*Miracle in a Dry Season* by **Sarah Loudin Thomas**

*A Tapestry of Secrets* by **Sarah Loudin Thomas**

*Until the Harvest* by **Sarah Loudin Thomas**

*The Seaside Homecoming* (*On Devonshire Shores book 3*) by **Julie Klassen**

*Embers in the London Sky* by **Sarah Sundin**

*Over the Edge* (*Undaunted Courage book 2*) by **Irene Hannon**

*The Christmas Tree Farm* by **Melody Carlson**

→ Please see "Library" on page 9.





# Library

← (Continued from page 8.)



*West Virginia Born of Rebellion's Storm* series by **Kendy Pearson**

*When the Mountains Wept* (book 1)

*When Heaven Thunders* (book 2)

*Journey in the Heart* series by **Colleen Coble**

- A Heart's Disguise* (book 1)
- A Heart's Obsession* (book 2)
- A Heart's Danger* (book 3)
- A Heart's Betrayal* (book 4)
- A Heart's Promise* (book 5)
- A Heart's Home* (book 6)

*I Think I Was Murdered* by **Colleen Coble**

*The Hidden Prince* by **Tessa Afshar**

*One Last Stand* (Alaska Air One Rescue book 4) by **Susan May Warren**



*The Secrets of the Cross* series by **Elizabeth Musser**  
*Two Crosses* (book 1)  
*Two Testaments* (book 2)  
*Two Destinies* (book 3)

## Non-Fiction:

*Missionary to the New Hebrides* by **John G. Paton**

*Fire on the Hills: The Rochunga Pudaite Story* by **Joe Musser**

*The Cereal Tycoon: Founder of the Quaker Oats Co.* by **Joe Musser**

*Left to Tell: Discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by **Immaculee Ilibagiza**

*Fatherless* by **Harold Troyer**

*Flee the Captor: the story of the Dutch-Paris Underground* by **Herbert Ford**

*Miracle in Shreveport: a memoir of baseball, fatherhood and the stadium that launched a dream* by **David & Jason Benham**

*Nearing Home* by **Billy Graham**

*What Happens Next: a traveler's guide through the end of this age* by **Max Lucado**

## Bible Study CD:

*Experience Outrageous Joy: a study in Philippians* by **Chuck Swindoll** †

Library photos by Kim Disher

# Visiting Missionaries

By **Claudia McGillivray**

**W**hat a great way to start out the year of **2025!** We were blessed with not one, but two visiting missionary families.

## Daniel and Aubrie Stent

We had the pleasure of hearing from **Daniel & Aubrie Stent** during the morning services of January 5, 2025. The Stents are serving in Albania working with refugees. We hope to see more of them this summer when they come home on furlough.

## Tim and Mallory Brooks

That evening we had the opportunity to hear from **Tim & Mallory Brooks**. The Brooks are part of Mission Aviation Fellowship, currently serving in Winema, Indonesia.

## Encouraging!

It is tremendously encouraging to hear firsthand how God provides for these dedicated families while working through them to spread His word.

Please pray for our missionaries and families. †



# 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

## EBC Congregational Meeting

Although business meetings have had the reputation for being boring or of little value, our recent congregational meeting January 26 was the opposite. There were 81 people who attended. It was encouraging to review the minutes of what happened in 2024, recalling how we have been able to expand our ministries inside the church and outside the church.

The reports given at the meeting demonstrated how the Lord is working through the many ministries at EBC.

### Budget Report

**Bruce McGillivray** gave the budget report since **Randy Flaming**, church treasurer, was out of town.

Bruce clearly explained how we need to increase our giving and have a mild tightening of our spending. The budget passed 77 to 4 for 2025 with the various committees and



ministries being encouraged to be conservative on extra spending.

### A New Roof

One of the largest expenses for 2025 will be the replacement of the roof over the gym and Sunday School wing. The roof was installed in the early 1980's, and has served us well over its nearly 50-year life span. The new roof, including replacing/repairing some dry rot in the trusses, will cost close to \$175,000.

If people want to contribute specifically to this project, they can designate their gift to the roof project which will come from the facilities development fund.

### Other Business

Other reports given were from the Missions Committee, the Youth Ministry report, and the Worship Team report. Each of these reports demonstrate good stewardship and anticipated future project ideas.

### Pastoral Reports

The pastoral staff each gave a report. **Pastor Troy** explained



the need for the Elder team policy to be slightly modified regarding the number of Elders required. This necessitates a change in the constitution to be make things consistent with our administrative rules. A vote will be taken on February 16 after the second service to approve (or disapprove) the changes **Pastor Troy, Pastor Mike** and the Elders have discussed and were referenced at the meeting. Copies of the proposed changes are available at the Welcome Center.

### Background

I would like to explain some issues behind the need to make these changes to our constitution, by-laws, and policies.

When I was director of the psychology department at the state hospital, responsible for a staff of 70, it was an ongoing process to recruit and retain staff. This was difficult, even though we had a pool of 50 states to choose from!

Many similar patterns show up here as we need to recruit and retain committee members across many teams, including the Elder team, but there is a limited number of people willing to serve on committees.

Several years ago when **Pastor Bill**, our interim pastor, helped

→ Please see "Elders" on page 12.

***We have a policy that requires term limits for each Elder, but there are not enough willing, qualified recruits to replace them at the end of their term.***

# Elders

← (Continued from page 11.)

EBC to transition to an Elder based governance from a Church Board system, it seemed as though seven members was the best number to require for the composition of the Elder team. But it has become increasingly difficult to retain this number.

We have a policy that requires term limits for each Elder, but there are not enough willing, qualified recruits to replace them at the end of their term. Some possible candidates have been reluctant to accept a nomination due to various reasons, including the time commitment, not having attended EBC for at least two years, or stage of life issues. For this reason, we would like to reduce the minimum requirement of Elders to be at least three, (*a skeleton crew*), but hopefully up to seven.

## Maintaining Standards

The leadership of EBC is committed to maintaining a standard of biblical unity and service to the body of Christ at EBC. We want to encourage each member to consider serving in some capacity at EBC to fulfill the Biblical directive to “*serve one another*”.

It is a double blessing—to those being served and to those who serve. I also want to personally thank all of you who have been on committees and give thanks to those who recently were voted in to serve on a committee. May each of us find ways to build up our local church body for effective service to each other and to our community. ✝





Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

# News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone  
President, FEBC

February 3, 2025

I like to encourage and exhort, but I think this month it is time for some FEBC updates.



## Information:

◆ Crosspoint Bible Church (Omaha, NE) has graciously accepted the invitation to host **Connect25!** Please set aside **July 10-12** to attend this important annual gathering of the FEBC. If you live outside the U.S., please don't forget to check your passport well in advance. More information about this event will be released over the next few months.

◆ This is Pastors and Wives Retreat season. We enjoyed a great time in Nebraska in January and look forward to Saskatchewan in February and Manitoba in March.

## Praise:

- ◆ God continues to provide for our Fellowship in amazing ways. While we still need more support to meet our budget, the financial trend has been very good. Our projections for this fiscal year have been exceeded thanks to God's grace and the generosity of his people.
- ◆ Two of our churches who are without pastors are currently pursuing very viable candidates with prior FEBC experience. This is another example of God's provision.
- ◆ I am aware of four churches that are considering the process of joining the FEBC. They are at different stages and in different locations, but each sees potential value in becoming part of the FEBC family. What a blessing!

## Prayer Requests / Needs:

- ◆ Each item above is connected to a prayer request: Connect25, the retreats, budget needs, our churches seeking pastors, and those considering affiliation. Please pray with us.
- ◆ Pray for the FEBC International Board of Directors, as they meet in late February to set vision and direction for the next fiscal year.
- ◆ We still have not met the need for full support of our Ministries Coordinator. If you are giving, thank you! If not, pray about whether God would have you join this effort to bless our local churches through valuable support.

As always, thank you for your support, prayer, encouragement!

"...the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." James 5:16 (ESV)

Kevin Stone †

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Spiritual Disciplines:

# Celebration!

By Gwen Griffiths

**A**mericans are good at celebrating. We shoot fireworks in July to celebrate our nation's freedom, and we decorate our houses to match any holiday from St. Patrick's Day to Christmas.

In Christian circles, we celebrate, too. Weddings, Advent, communion—each event is an opportunity for the body of Christ to come together in celebration.

### A Discipline?

*But have you considered celebration as a discipline?*

You may think, as I have, that it is easy (*or easier*) to understand how the study of God's Word or the practice of submission can be considered disciplines. After all, as we intentionally approach each of these exercises, we can see growth in our application and in our relationship with God.



### Can We Improve?

*But how do we get better at celebration? And to what end?*

It may help to look at the history of the Israelites. Even before their escape from Egypt, God began to direct them in commemorating His work in their path. In **Exodus 12**, He instructed His people to celebrate His faithfulness through an annual celebration. Later God added further celebrations for the Israelites to observe, each guiding them to remember and ponder some element of His sovereign provision or leadership.



### Why Today?

*So why should we as Christians celebrate today?*

Celebration can cause us to focus our minds on what God wants us to see. You may have heard the phrase, "You find what you look for."

When we get mired down in the heaviness and minutiae of life, we begin to see only more of the same—depressing news, challenges that wear us down.

But celebration encourages us to notice—and **commemorate**—God's work. Once we've made the decision

Celebration can cause us to focus our minds on what God wants us to see.

to look for His hand, we will find more and more examples of His active involvement in our lives. And celebration of God's work grows our trust that He will continue that work.

### How?

And this all brings us back to the "how" of celebration. *How can we intentionally—as individuals and as a corporate church body—grow in the practice of this discipline?*

Let's start small and start with our hearts. At a recent church service, our worship leader led us in celebration of the fact that Christ lives in and through us. When we take time to recognize that small fact and find joy in God's presence in our lives, we celebrate. When we go home from church humming the

→ Please see "Celebration" on page 15.





tune to the hymn “*Christ Liveth in Me*,” we celebrate.

Each encounter with God, each experience throughout the day, is an opportunity to choose to look for God’s work in and around us, and to celebrate what we find.

### Next Steps:

✠ When you see evidence of God at work, **celebrate!** Text a friend to tell them how you see God working in their life or create a “memorial” to mark that work (**Joshua 4**). I have a friend who has been on a long health journey; each time she passes a milestone in her recovery, her husband gifts her a new charm for a bracelet and her family celebrates and praises God together.

✠ Read one of the psalms of celebration written by David—a *man who often celebrated*—and meditate on it. **Psalms 8 and 9** would be a great place to start.

✠ As you pursue the discipline of study, look for the work God has done over the course of history and then write a prayer praising God for what He has done.

✠ When you attend a celebratory event such as a worship service, wedding, or communion service, intentionally meditate on the purpose of that event and praise God for His work. ✠

## Forged Youth Report

# Bible and Mission

AdobeStock

By Isabelle Lovell  
Forged Youth Reporter



**T**his month I want to talk about two things. First, I will go through the usual rundown of the past

month’s topic, but I also want to discuss something a few of us students went to.

### Start of the Journey

During these last few months we have scratched the surface of our goal to go through the entire Bible. Of course, we started in **Genesis** and talked about how the beginning is often hard but important. Next, we dove into **Exodus** and looked at the Passover specifically. Not only is it incredible to see the power and

care of our God in one night, but it’s also amazing to see it continued throughout the Bible. Now, when we take communion, I think about how the lamb’s blood was smeared on the doors. **All those years ago, and we still remember it.**

Currently we are going through first and second **Chronicles** before we circle back to the other books. It was interesting to hear that these books are sometimes called “*leftovers*” because they are a recap that is often forgotten. However, every book is significant because they were all God-breathed.

We talked about how the Bible is not safe, it gets in your face, and makes you choose to either declare Christ as your Lord and Savior *or* to crucify Him.

### Mission Connexion

Now I want to change gears and talk about Mission Connexion, which is a missions conference a few of us high schoolers went to. We drove up to Portland to hear from four speakers, go to workshops, and see different exhibits. It was the first time I have gone but I am glad I did.

## 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!*

➔ Please see “Youth” on page 16.

# Youth

← (Continued from page 15.)

## Keynote Speaker

The first speaker we heard, **Patrice Tsague**, was my favorite. He had a lot of good things to say about knowing your gifts and calling and bringing people together. Although, he never tried to sugarcoat the truth and dove into the problem of conflict between people.

He said that our inability to handle conflict will hamper our spiritual maturity.

*“This is a contact sport,”* Patrice said, *“We are preparing to go to the battlefield. If we can’t deal with what’s here, how are we going to handle what’s out there?”*

I think my favorite part was when he practically yelled, *“I’m tired of wimps*



**Pastor Andrew Wheeler**

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*in the church,”* even though I felt called out the entire time.

## Workshops and Exhibits

Between each of the speakers our group would go off to different workshops. I went to a good one about how to strengthen your faith and cast out doubt.

Meanwhile, a friend went to one on abortion and simply hearing about it made my

cry. Unfortunately, we did not get to spend much time walking through the many exhibits, but it was still incredible to see how many different missions there are.

One booth that we stopped at was called the Bucket Ministry, which is centered around getting people clean water. Through these interactions, they share the Gospel with any who come to receive filters for water. †



## Helping students:

*Meet Jesus,  
Trust Jesus,  
Follow Jesus!*

Coming Soon!

# Store Time

By Kim Disher  
Awana Store Shopkeeper

The second Awana store night will be on **February 19 for Sparks** (K–2nd graders) and **February 26 for T&T** (3–5 graders) and **Trek** (middle schoolers).

## Ready to Donate?

*Did the children in your life receive new toys for Christmas? OR ... have they outgrown some of their current toys?* If you answered **YES** to either question, please consider donating discarded toys to the Awana store. We're always looking to build our inventory in order to give the children a wide variety of items from which to choose.

## Ideas to Consider

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

## Thank YOU!

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





## 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).

## Growing Disciples

A few years ago, I gave a friend a book on Christian doctrine. He read it and often talked with me about what he was learning. Now, I meet weekly with him and some younger men. We're going through that same book. I asked him if he would lead the group when I was gone, and he agreed. I'm so excited to see him discipling the other men!

**Rick & Stephanie Sherman**  
Lookingglass, OR †

## What does God want?

During our church's annual Christmas program, the children and youth presented the Christmas story and the gospel. They posed the question, "What does God want for Christmas?" At the end of the program, each person unwrapped a present with a mirror inside. Then I gave an invitation to accept the salvation Jesus offers. Many remarked on how moved they were by the thought that what God really wanted was them.

**Dennis & Leslie Burke**  
Amsterdam, NY †

## Life and Hope

A neighbor told me her daughter-in-law, hospitalized with late-stage cancer, wanted to see me. I visited that day and discovered that while she and her husband generally believed in God, they did not know Jesus. I shared the gospel with them then and during my next visit while earnestly praying that God would reveal himself to her and her family. By my third visit, she was on hospice care, but she was born again! We praise God for His salvation and the hope of eternal life!

**Thomas & Micah Heutzler**  
Blodgett Mills, NY †

# 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



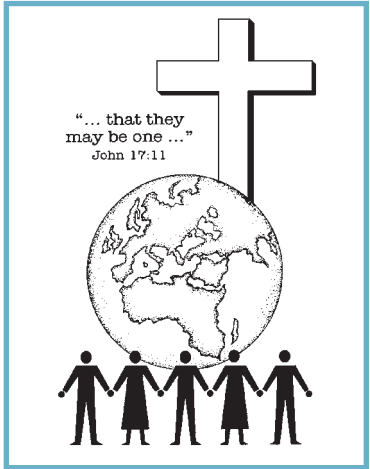
**Dan and Judy Burke**  
 Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)  
[dan\\_burke@ntm.org](mailto:dan_burke@ntm.org)

- ✘ 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  
[pastorpaulanquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaulanquist@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



**Jake and Moriah Michalovich**  
Living in Dallas and serving  
Polk County, Oregon  
[jmichalovichyl@gmail.com](mailto:jmichalovichyl@gmail.com)

- ✘ Jake is the Area Director for Young Life in Polk County.
- ✘ Moriah serves as a Young Life leader.
- ✘ Sharing the Word of God and discipling youth.



**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.



## 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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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)**