

The Sentinel

WE
STAND
WATCH

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Time to GO!

By Pastor Troy Bassham

In last month's *Sentinel*, I wrote about the cultural drift in our society, away from its Christian roots. This can be a difficult reality to navigate.

In addition to wrestling with many different emotions, we discover that our ministries are impacted. Our calling to be disciple-making witnesses has not changed, but we find that what was effective with the previous generation may not have the same impact today.

Proper Response?

What is the proper response that we might continue to be faithful and effective in our efforts?



First, we need to remember that any spiritual growth or impact is a work of God. In **1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NKJV)**, the Apostle Paul writes about his ministry, ***"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."***

Who Carries the Burden?

We are called to be faithful in our ministry, but the return on our efforts is in God's hands. In

→ Please see *"It's GO Time!"* on page 2.

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Deadline for April, 2025 ISSUE is:

Monday, March 17, 2025
@ 5:00 pm

know. grow. go.

It's GO Time!

← (Continued from page 1.)

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No matter the results, we are supposed to be faithful.

Scripture, we see examples, like Jeremiah, of preaching and labor that did not bring about the desired change.

On the other end of the spectrum, we have Jonah, the reluctant missionary, who saw his message bring about a large revival. *No matter the results, we are supposed to be faithful.*

2 Timothy 4:2 (NKJV) encourages us to proclaim our message **"in season and out of season."** Let's strive to be faithful in times of planting and harvest, to continue serving whether the returns on our labor are great or small.

Our Role

Because the results are dependent on God, we need to be committed in prayer. Scripture encourages us to **"pray continually"** for our own work and the work of others.

.....
Instead of just inviting somebody TO church, we need to find a way to take the message OUT to them.

We are reminded in **John 15:5** that, without God, **"we can do nothing"** and if God is *not* in our work that **"we labor in vain"** (**Psalm 127:1**).

So, as we consider the challenge before us, let us bring the matter to God in prayer. Pray for opportunities, effectiveness, *and* boldness and that we might see God's mighty work displayed.

Embrace the GO!

Next, we need to embrace the **"GO"** in the Great Commission. In years past, churches didn't have to expend a lot of effort to get people to attend a church service. Many came in response to an advertisement in the paper. Now, many families don't receive a newspaper and, even worse, find no value in attending a religious service. In view of the changes around us, we need to respond differently. Instead of just inviting somebody **TO** church, we need to find a way to take the message **OUT** to them.

What We ARE

Of course, the shift in reality can make people frustrated or angry. But we need to remember this truth: we are **ALL** missionaries. This world is not our home. Rather, we have been placed in this time and location to be Christ's representatives! Instead of passively waiting for people to come to us, we need to take the Gospel to our friends and neighbors.

We need to be ready to share Jesus to a generation that has no idea who He is. Just as a missionary to Morocco would learn the language



and culture, we need to be willing to relearn our own community so that we can be more effective in sharing Jesus Christ.

Discouraging Times Brings ... OPPORTUNITIES!

Finally, pray that God would give us a greater love for His SON, and for the people in our neighborhoods, that we might gladly be about His business. It might be discouraging to see the decline of faith around us, but this also means that we have a great opportunity.

While polls and studies show Christianity in decline, they also indicate that people are more open to the Gospel than they have been in many years. *But it will take more than a quick sales pitch or slogan.* This is a generation that struggles with disillusionment and wants something authentic. They want to see that faith is more than tradition and obligation. We need to take the time to share and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Harvest Time!

Jesus spoke to His disciples in **John 4:35 (NKJV)** saying, **"Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"**

Let us be workers in this generation's harvest. ✝

Points to Ponder

"Ringtones"

By Pastor Mike Fast

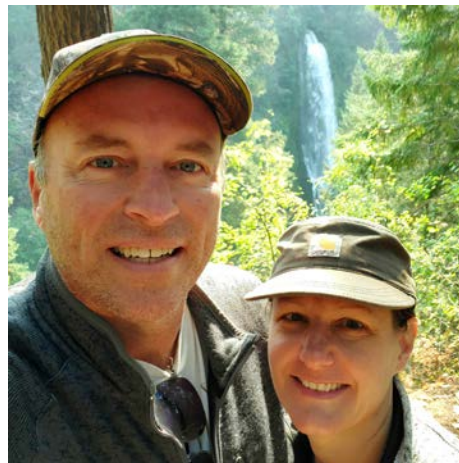
Lora and I recently had some visits and appointments in a large nearby town, and one of the appointments found us in a large auto service waiting area. In the seat behind us was a young lady with a healthy voice. When her phone rang, her ringtone began to sing “Jesus take the wheel...”

She quickly began to inform the person on the other end of the call about a car that pulled out in front of her... Actually, it was more how a #@*!&% person in a #@*!&% car nearly wrecked her car, so she flipped them off and yelled #@*!&% at them repeatedly.

Such An Irony!

The irony of the ringtone and conversation was two-fold. For one thing, her ringtone sang of a vehicle situation as did her own incident.

Secondly, the entire dialogue began loudly with the word “**Jesus**,” but there was nothing even remotely “*Jesus-like*” about the woman’s banter.



While still in the same city, Lora and I had dinner at a nice restaurant and a woman and her son sat two booths behind us. The weather was beautiful and they had walked from a nearby motel to eat and drink. She drank until she was inebriated, and then it began to rain and storm outside. She was not at all quiet about her disdain for the condition she was about to be in, having to walk back to the motel in the rain and wind.

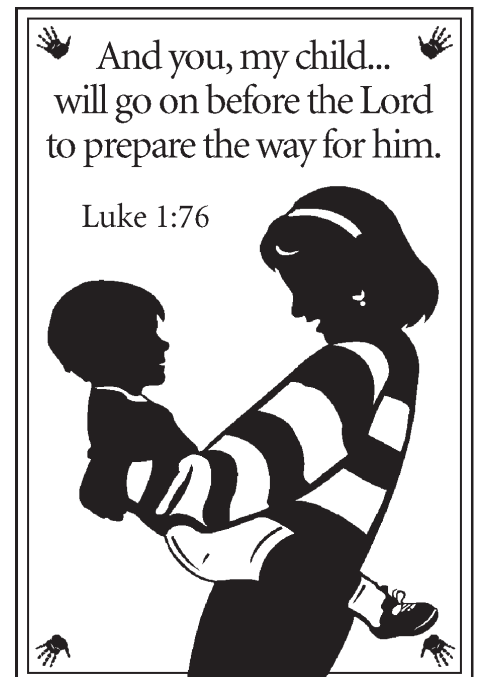
Does It Define Us?

As Christians, we can just hope our “*ringtone*” defines us, meaning we can just hope that a little bit of Jesus is enough, or

we can also live it out verbally and visually.

As I sat in the restaurant listening to the loud, loaded lady, I had a choice regarding what I would live out. Lora and I offered to drive her and her young son back to their motel, and she readily accepted.

I will be honest with you, I find it much easier and more comfortable to just hope the “ringtone” gets me by. It takes a conscious effort to live out my confession of faith on a daily and hourly basis. I’m not even sure it gets much easier with time, but I know it’s right. †



It takes a conscious effort to live out my confession of faith on a daily and hourly basis.

Upcoming Events

Healthcare In Focus

Pixabay

There are two upcoming events in April that are worthy of advance notice so you can mark your calendars.

Saturday, April 26!

The first one is Saturday, April 26, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. **Brent Darrington**, a local physical therapist, is returning to EBC to present information related to maintaining and regaining balance and stability.

He received high marks from his presentation (*previous to COVID*) regarding useful information and engaging presentation style. Flexibility and ways in which to fall, *if you're going to fall*, are topics that can possibly slip in for part of the discussion.

Monday, April 28!

The second event is the **next blood drive**, here at EBC, on



Pixabay

By Sherri Fobert
EBC Healthcare Committee

Monday, April 28. The hours will be from noon to 5 pm, with the last scheduled appointment at 4:30 pm.

Donors can register through the Blood Donor App, calling the Red Cross, or scheduling with **Alison** in the office (*who so graciously helps us*).

.....
Mark your calendar!

More Info Coming!
Mark your calendars now.
More information

on the two above events may be found in the next edition of **The Sentinel**. †

Planning for Harvest Meal REMINDER!

By Sherri Fobert

WHAT? Harvest Meal? *Isn't it eight or nine months in the future? Yes, but ...*

Everyone needs a reminder now and then so I thought it was time to remind leaders of EBC events to remember to take pictures of your events.

The hope is that these pictures will then be shared with the technology staff to create a presentation that can be shown during the Harvest Meal. The time to start thinking of a slideshow of EBC events is **NOT** October or November!

While people wait to be seated for the meal, they can be thankful for the various events that EBC holds that are within the church and reach out into the community. †

Bolivia Book Team 4!

By Claudia McGillivray
EBC Missions Committee

Time is drawing near as **Elizabeth Schneider, Joey Loewen, DeeAnne & Darrel Hiebenthal** are preparing for their upcoming missionary trip to Bolivia. They are flying to Bolivia on March 4 and returning on March 18.



Pixabay

They will be spending two weeks with **Dan & Judy Burke** where they will be assisting them with book production connecting with the Chimane people.

Please pray for their good health and safe travel. †

Guarding Our Children's Hearts . . .

From The Media

By Greg Sykora

The characters in the shows that little kids watch become heroes in their eyes. When parents choose a show for their kids, they may also be choosing a childhood hero.



Producers know exactly how to use music, lighting, and camera angles to make the heroes seem like the most incredible heroes in the world. Our kids are also good at imitating and repeating the things that these characters say, whether we like it or not!

Repeat What They Hear

If our kids hear suitable content, they will repeat acceptable things. If they hear garbage, they will speak words of garbage. **Matthew 15:18 (NKJV)** tells us ***“things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.”***



Greg, Olivia, and children (L to R) Dana and Lois.

Who Makes Them...

Most TV shows are made by the world, and the world is full of sin. Some cartoons designed for toddlers have sexual jokes incorporated into them for adults who might be watching them. Children watching these types of shows may be establishing heroes in their lives that will be giving them the tools needed to speak the sinful things that will defile them before their seventh birthday. **Let us be diligent and watchful.**

There are a lot of people that will recommend a show because it entertains their kids so nicely. It's okay to say *no* to some shows, even if it seems like everyone else is watching them. **Romans 12:2 (NKJV)** tells us ***“do not be conformed to this world.”***

Watch WITH Your Kids

There are many shows that seem okay until you sit down and watch an episode with your kids. I was appalled when I saw the married father figure in one of the shows my kids were watching shamelessly trying to attract another woman with a suggestive dance.

The show that I *thought* was safe for my four-year-old child, was portraying adultery as a friendly bit of entertainment. ***Needless to say, our kids don't watch that show anymore.***



Whenever our kids watch a new show, my goal is to watch it with them until they are able to discern for themselves what they should be watching. I believe this is a great application of **Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)**, ***“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”*** †



Sign-in to **Rightnow Media** for a good selection of suitable videos for children and families!

Mom to Mom

Mentoring For Success

By Gwen Griffiths

When you feel like you're in a situation you don't know how to handle, *what do you do?*

Mentoring From Experience

If you're like many people, you turn to someone who has personal experience in similar circumstances. At Mom to Mom, mentor moms fulfill the role of empathizing and offering advice to the moms at their tables. Each mom on the mentor team has an active faith and has

raised children. They are able to offer wisdom based on their life experiences and to show the love of Jesus to each mom under their care.

The mentor moms also keep track of prayer requests and offer encouragement throughout the year. Some mentor moms provide opportunities for connection in between Mom to Mom meetings and many have remained in contact for years afterward.



Different Look ... Same Goal

Each mentor mom looks different and ministers to the young moms at her table in a different way--and God uses each one to reach the unique group she cares for that year.

Here's what a couple of the mentor moms had to say:

Sandie Radke: *For the years I have been a mentor mom I have counted it as an honor. To get to listen to the young moms as they share their hearts and pray with them and encourage them...I'm so thankful to be part of it!*

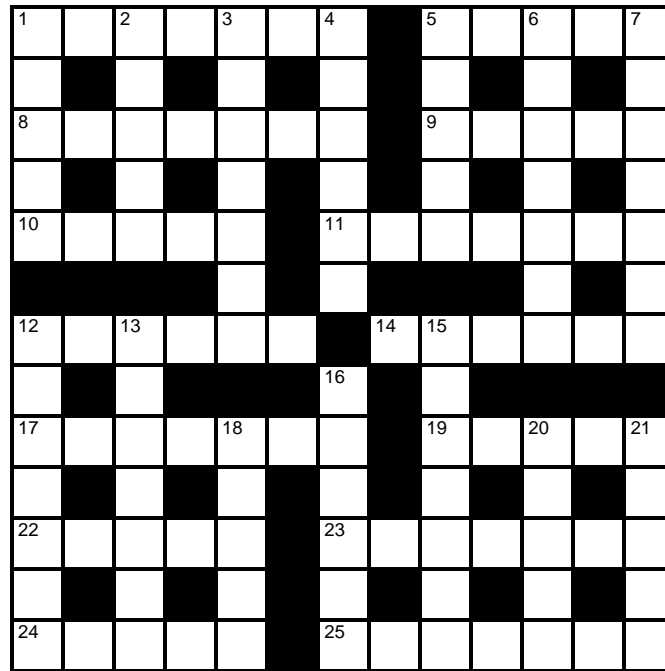
Judi Peters: *Being a mother is a hard job, but rewarding. Only with God's help, love, and grace can you persevere through the hard time and enjoy the blessings of life's journey. All moms need encouragement. I don't have a lot of wisdom, but I can be a cheerleader. †*

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Save the Date!
VBS 2025
July 28 - August 1

Isaiah

Please see page 20 for Puzzle Answer Key!



Across

- 1 The mountain of the Lord's house shall be this. Is 2:2 (7)
- 5 "Also I ____ the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Is 6:8 (5)
- 8 This shall be rolled together as a scroll. Is 34:4 (7)
- 9 The waters of this place shall be full of blood. Is 15:9 (5)
- 10 "Thou shalt say unto it, Get thee ____." Is 30:22 (5)
- 11 "I will make thee an _____ excellency, a joy of many generations." Is 60:15 (7)
- 12 "Let us eat and drink; for to _____ we shall die." Is 22:13 (6)
- 14 Wild beasts of the desert shall meet with wild beasts of this place. Is 34:14 (6)
- 17 Sennacherib king of Assyria dwelt in this place. Is 37:37 (7)
- 19 "____ and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." Is 26:19 (5)
- 22 "And righteousness shall be the girdle of his _____, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins." Is 11:5 (5)
- 23 The vile person will speak this. Is 32:6 (7)
- 24 "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own _____!" Is 5:21 (5)

- 25 "None shall be weary nor stumble among them ... nor the _____ of their shoes be broken." Is 5:27 (7)

Down

- 1 An ancient measurement equal to about a bushel. Is 5:10 (5)
- 2 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel ... shall no more _____ stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord." Is 10:20 (5)
- 3 "He maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down _____." Is 44:15 (7)
- 4 Isaiah prophesies this about Babylon: "Their children also shall be _____ to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished." Is 13:16 (6)
- 5 This shall be taken away and eaten up. Is 5:5 (5)

- 6 Adrammelech and Sharezer escaped to this land. Is 37:38 (7)
- 7 "Then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be _____ upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Is 66:12-13 (7)
- 12 One of the things that God will take away from the daughters of Zion. Is 3:22 (7)

- 13 "And your spoil shall be gathered like the gathering of the caterpillar: as the _____ to and fro of locusts shall he run upon them." Is 33:4 (7)
- 15 "Though your sins be as _____, they shall be as white as snow." Is 1:18 (7)
- 16 "The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the _____ and with the fan." Is 30:24 (6)
- 18 "Lord, in trouble have they _____ed thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them." Is 26:16 (5)
- 20 "He is come to _____, he is passed to Migron." Is 10:28 (5)
- 21 "In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of _____, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord." Is 19:19 (5)

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 Joe Cacka
Chairman, Board of Elders

Believers, Evangelism, and Obedience

As a church, we at EBC are reviewing the *Fundamentals of the Christian Faith*.

This is a great reminder of the hope we have in Christ Jesus, as well as the challenge to walk daily by faith. Hopefully you have not only followed the Sunday sermons, but also attended one of the Sunday school classes and are involved in a Connect Group which often dives deeper into these fundamentals.



Following Along

I would encourage you to follow along with the workbook *“Fundamentals of the Faith”* by Grace Community Church and published by Moody Publishers.

You will grow in your relationship with Christ by diligently studying the Bible, participating in these classes, connect groups, and filling out the workbook.



In The Beginning...

In **Genesis** chapters 1 and 2, God created the heavens and the earth and all that is, including man. God created man (**Adam**) and the woman (**Eve**) to have a loving personal relationship with Him and to walk side-by-side with Him.

God placed the man into a garden (Eden) and gave instructions to cultivate and keep it.

The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat from it, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” Genesis 2:16–17 (NASB).

Eve and the Serpent

We know that Eve was deceived by the serpent and ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree and Adam also ate of it and death entered the world. They believed in the deceptive lie which the

serpent (Satan) posed that the fruit was good to make them wise and that they would not die. In so doing they doubted (disbelief) in what God had said, and we now suffer the consequence of sin, death and destruction in today’s world.

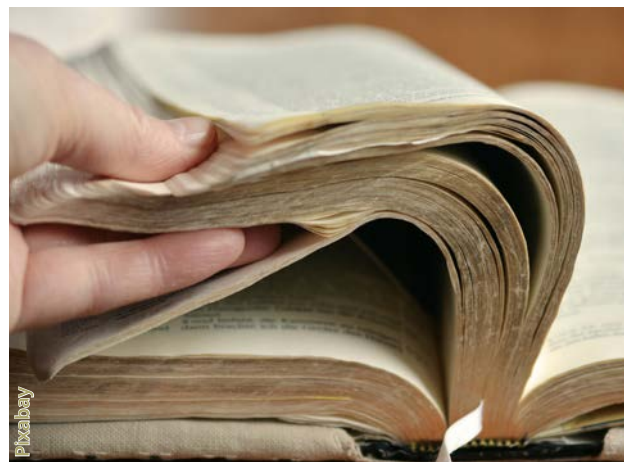
All About Jesus

But God... so loves us that He has not left us without hope. God has given us a way to be forgiven, a way for us to conquer death, a way to have eternal life, a way back to the loving relationship with God. **IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS.**

Keeping It In Your Heart

I love what **Paul** says in **Romans 10: 8–11 (NASB 1995): *But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteous, and***

→ Please see “Elders” on page 10.



Elders

← (Continued from page 9.)

with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB 1995) adds *But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.*

When Was It?

✠ *When was the last time someone asked you about the hope you have within you?*

✠ *How did that make you feel? Were you prepared to answer that person?*

We each must take the initiative to become prepared to share the love of Christ and do not be afraid, for in **2 Timothy 1:7 (NASB 1995)** we are told, *For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*

Know, Grow, Go

Church, I encourage you to go out boldly in love and gentleness and share the love of Christ with your friends and neighbors. Brothers and sisters in the Lord, be prepared. Pray for your neighbors, daily read the Scriptures, meditate on them and so you are prepared. ✠

Women's Ministry—Mark Your Calendars!

Mini Retreat In April

By Erin Lovell
Chairwoman, Women's Ministry

In January the Women's Ministry team met and planned this year's events. We set up dates for the usual fun things: *May Fest, Bunco nights, Candlelight Dessert and Boutique.*

There was a hole, though, in early spring and we decided to leave it open to consider something different.

Filling A Hole

In taking on the chairwoman role, I felt I needed to seek wisdom and advice from women who have been in this role. I reached out to the head of women's ministry at Salem Heights Church, **Julie Bernard**, who has been in the role for 22 years. We met over coffee and had a great conversation. She was gracious and helpful.

Bringing All Women Together

I left inspired to put together an event that would bring together the various generations of women at EBC for an opportunity of discipleship, spiritual growth and fun. With the help of the EBC Women's Ministry team, the inspiration turned into an event: **Hope in the Lord: Mini Retreat.**

The event takes parts of a traditional retreat into a one-day, in-house event. We have guest speaker, **Elle Rossi**, from Salem Heights Church.

Elle will speak on the topic of *Hope*, our Women's Ministry theme for the year. Our verse this year is **Romans 15:13 (ESV):** *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

Elle will speak for two sessions and each one will begin with a time of worship and be followed with discussion at each table on what God is sharing with us.

Our Hope

The hope is for inter-generational sharing and new relationships to form. We have such a wealth of spiritual maturity amongst our older generations. Mentoring relationships are so important as **Titus 2:3-5** shares.

Retreat also means there is fun planned for the day. We are excited to have several workshops available. Each lady will have opportunity to choose two workshops to participate in throughout the day. *Think crafts, flowers, and survival!* More details to come. The day will also include lots of fellowship with a lunch and some free time.

The Women's Ministry team hopes all ladies will join us for this great event! Tickets will be on sale the first four Sundays in March during coffee time. **Come see us and sign up!** ✠



Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC

March 3, 2025



This time of year is very busy, somewhat tiring, and extremely encouraging for me. While the work can be tiring, the results are very energizing, and they remind me why this work is so important.

I have now enjoyed two of the three scheduled retreats for our pastors and their wives. I pray that the speaker and events we plan are encouraging, but I know that the most important aspect involves connections. Relationships with the other couples and with Gary and I are deepened, and couples in relationships with others know that ongoing prayer, encouragement, and advice are only a phone call or a personal visit away. This can be life-giving.

There is rest, relaxation, and restoration for your pastor and his wife. There are learning opportunities and times of group discussion and prayer. But the key to these events is building connections that will positively impact the ministries of our pastors for years to come.

I also recently attended the annual winter meeting of the FEBC International Board of Directors. Two full days in board meetings probably sounds horrible to many, but this is a time I look forward to with great anticipation. There is a lot of work, but there is also deep theological conversation, personal stories, joking, laughter, meals together, and games after the meetings have ended.

These men come from different backgrounds and settings, but they are truly dedicated to shared goals. What God can do in this setting is powerful and deeply gratifying. Watching men with differing opinions come to unity on various issues is a display of the way the Body is intended to work, and these men operate under God's guidance with a spirit of grace and mutual respect.

I also want you to know that these men have the proper focus. As an administrative/governance board, it would be easy for the focus to be on balancing the budget, or gaining efficiency, or growing, or a hundred other things. But the directors of your Fellowship are laser focused on serving God and serving you as well as they can. They are constantly asking the question: "How can we best fulfill our vision to strengthen churches?" And they are acting not only with wisdom, but also with faith that God will accomplish what we cannot. I am grateful for each of them.



It is a pleasure to serve alongside your directors and staff, and a pleasure for all of us to serve you! Thanks for your prayer and encouragement.

Kevin Stone †

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Spiritual Disciplines:

Foundations for Growth

By Gwen Griffiths

At my first piano lessons, I felt overwhelmed. There was so much to remember: finger numbers, beats, note names, *weird Italian terms*...trying to decode these elements to create even a simple song seemed impossible!

Almost 40 years later, I sit down at the keyboard and open a music book. After perusing the music for a few moments, I begin to play. My eyes see the notes, and somehow my hands know which keys to strike without the decoding required in the beginning. Years of practicing scales, chords, and songs of all sorts have brought me to a place where I can create music without much effort.

But imagine that, after those first piano lessons, I had walked away from the bench, letting discouragement and laziness outweigh my desire to learn. I would never have found the discipline that is the foundation of every piece I play now.

Implementing the Disciplines

You see the connection between this story and the spiritual disciplines we've been studying, don't you?

I hope that, as you've followed this series, you've been motivated to implement one or two into your daily faith-life. But perhaps you haven't yet...or you have and then somewhere along the way you stopped.

As we discuss the actual implementation of the spiritual disciplines at a long-term level, I'd like to share some thoughts from two authors who have impacted me over the past year: **James Clear** and **Justin Whitmel Earley**.

Cause and Effect

James Clear's popular book, *Atomic Habits*, considers an interesting phenomenon regarding habits. It turns out that, for positive habits that we try to set, the negative impacts are felt almost immediately

while the positive effects aren't seen until the habit is well-established. Conversely, when we fall into a negative pattern, we see the enjoyable effects immediately, while the negative results take a while to appear.

For example, when we decide to follow a healthier diet and exercise regimen, we feel the inconvenience of finding time and resisting the temptation to eat all of the chocolate in the house in one sitting. It takes time before we begin to see the benefits of the new habits. Conversely, if we fall into poor eating habits and neglect exercise, we immediately enjoy tasting the unhealthy food and the freedom to spend hours on the couch. Much later, we notice weight gain and a downturn in mental health.

Consider how this plays out when attempting to implement a spiritual discipline. At the outset, we likely see the less enjoyable effects (*time spent, inconvenience, etc*) immediately; it isn't until much



→ Please see "Piano" on page 13.

Remember that the spiritual disciplines need self-discipline—and patience. Settle in for the long term and commit to seeing this thing through.



later that we can observe growth in our character or a deepening in our relationship with God.

Remember that the spiritual disciplines need self-discipline—and patience. Settle in for the long term and commit to seeing this thing through.

Motives

Another thing to consider is your *motivation*. If your desire is to look like a better Christian, then you’ve set out down the wrong path, friend.

As Justin Whitmel Earley states in a podcast (**The Daily Grace Co, June 26, 2024**) about his book *The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction*, the spiritual disciplines are routines that help us become more like Christ. Our attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions flow from our heart, and “*heart always follows habits... Implementation of these habits won’t change God’s heart for us—but His heart should change our habits.*”

We must pursue the spiritual disciplines as a means to shape our heart to be more like Christ’s. His approval must be our aim.



Creating Liturgies

Remember that the way we spend our time and money shows what we value most. Earley states that the ordinary small rhythms of each day are liturgies of worship to something. When we set out to build the spiritual disciplines into our lives, we are creating liturgies—patterns—that direct our mind towards the Father and make the very heart of us more like Him.

Next Steps:

✦ Do a time audit. For one week, chart how you spend each waking moment. Then evaluate

where most of your time is spent. If it reveals a high value on something that doesn’t honor God, consider which discipline might best replace it.

✦ Choose one discipline to begin to practice. Make a plan and tell someone about that plan. Accountability creates community and encourages both parties to grow.

✦ Read *The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction* (Justin Whitmel Earley) or *Celebration of Discipline* (Richard J. Foster) ✝



You have all seen LEDs (*light-emitting diodes*). They come in many colors, shine bright and take very little energy. They are present everywhere in daily life.

I would like to encourage Christians to become LECs, *Light-Emitting Christians*. The following are steps that may help the light of Christ shine through you.

Step 1. Don't let situations or circumstances control your attitude.

God gave us free will—the will to choose how we respond to life. We cannot predict or control what the next opportunity will be like, but we can control how we respond to it.

Step 2. Remember the Holy Spirit is with you.

I remind myself every time I leave the house that I am representing



God. He is with us 24/7. No one is a stranger to the Lord. Let the light shine to everyone you meet and in every conversation.

Step 3. Acknowledge God in every interaction or conversation that you have.

We don't have T-shirts that advertise our faith. We need to use language to let people know the source of our peace and joy. A simple reference to what God created, how he is controlling the day or just *"the Lord woke me up this morning"* gives God the credit for our happiness.

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV)

Step 4. Shine the light on the path.

You are showing the way, not blinding them with a bright light. Let them see that a happier, more peaceful path is lit by the light of our Lord. A light they can follow into a brighter future or better life. We don't want them to shade their eyes. We want them to see the way.

Remember, you're not the light source, the light is shining through you. Do not make yourself the topic of discussion.

Step 5. Stay in the shadows.

Remember, you're not the light source, the light is shining through you. Do not make yourself the topic of discussion. Shine the light on their life and bring love and peace to their situation.

What YOU Can Do!

You can each be a light for Christ. Collectively, you can make EBC be a lighthouse for Christ, a beacon to show them the way. ✝





Hi Folks!

We know that many people have schedules and commitments that do not allow for extra time to come to another program. So, we have made this presentation that talks about Romania Outreach Ministries and The Cross Foundation from the beginning to the present exciting ministries. Both ministries have worked side-by-side for about 25 years.

Spending Time Wisely

So, our challenge is, instead of watching a movie tonight, how about clicking on this link for 45 minutes instead! The only thing to remember is that the first 5 minutes gives you time to get some tea and a snack before the presentation begins. This is because the video was "live" before we started the program.

We hope that you find it interesting, that you find specific things to pray about. In order to continue the ministry, we need to raise



more funds. A contribution to either organization funds the same programs. *Please note that we volunteer our time and do not take a salary.* So, your funds go to support the ministries that you see here! The only clarification is that if you want to give toward the Christian elementary school project, please send the contribution to *The Cross Foundation* with a note. That particular project is one that we are just helping raise awareness and is not an actual ministry of ours. We support the project, but it is not our ministry.

We hope that you find [the videos] interesting, that you find specific things to pray about.

Showtime!

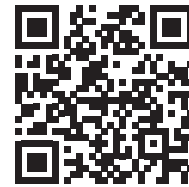
So, grab some popcorn and some tea or drink, and *click*—or use the QR code—on one of these please!

Here is the link for Facebook®:
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=evangelical%20bible%20church%20of%20dallas%20oregon>



Here is the link for YouTube®:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/pOeeZr4PrTM>



How to Give:

For giving to ROM, the address is:

Romania Outreach Ministries
P.O. Box 28426
San Jose, CA. 95159

romaniaoutreach.org

For giving to The Cross Foundation, the address is:

The Cross Foundation
P.O. Box 400
Dallas, OR. 97338

or you can give online at:
thecrossfoundation.com

Questions?

Do you have questions about this ministry? If so, please contact us at the following. We look forward to sharing how God is changing hearts and lives in Romania!

Nathaniel & Sylvia Thomas
natandsylvia@gmail.com
503.931.4565 ☩



On the Road for Him

By Michael Barnes

AdobeStock

“So the twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.” Acts 6:2 (NIV)

As yet another chapter of my life begins, once again, I feel God calling me to the road. Now, my new partner, **Sherri**, and I are heading out in the RV to serve Him. Leaving early April, we’ll be on the road for about fifteen weeks. Traveling through 22 states for over 8,000 miles, we’ll see a lot of new country, visit friends and family, and very importantly, serve our Lord. And, possibly, waiting on tables.

SOWERS =
Servants On Wheels Ever Ready

RV With A Purpose
“Hear ye the Master’s call...” begins the SOWERS theme song “Our Best”. We travel for a ministry known as **SOWERS**, (sowerministry.org/) which stands for **Servants On Wheels Ever Ready**. I described this ministry in the March 2023 edition of *The Sentinel*.

Arizona Here We Come
This year, we will be serving at three locations. April will see us at **Sunshine Acres Children’s**

Home in Mesa, Arizona (<https://sunshineacres.org/>). “Sunshine Acres provides a loving, wholesome, Christian home for children who are separated from their parents and helps them establish long-term relationships with stable parental figures, preparing them for success in adult life.”

R&R Time and Then...
After three weeks there, we take a little R&R, camping in the **Tonto National Forest**.

Then we head cross country to Hampton, Tennessee where we will spend May at **Doe River Gorge** (doerivergorge.com/). “The Mission of Doe River Gorge Ministries is “To glorify God by proclaiming His Word so as to cultivate in people a passion to intimately know God, resulting in a heart of worship, a desire for purity, and a Christ-centered vision for their lives.”

North to Pennsylvania
After a brief break to visit retired missionaries in Georgia that I served with in Texas, we head north to Spring Creek, Pennsylvania and **Miracle Mountain Ranch**, (mrm.org/). “Miracle Mountain Ranch is a non-denominational, non-profit, Christ-centered ministry that uses intentional programs, teaching, and outreach

to evangelize and disciple in an environment of grace for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Then ... Long Road Home
Finally, we begin the long trek home, returning in mid-July.

Busy Work Times
In all of these locations I will be doing a variety of maintenance and repair work. Sometimes plumbing, sometimes electrical, some carpentry, sometimes just taking out the trash and cleaning up; it always varies



→ Please see “On The Road” on page 17.

Editor’s Note: Michael—along with **Anne Casey, Gwen Griffiths, and Ruth Quiring**—is one of *The Sentinel’s* long-time, regular proof readers. It is hoped that he will be able to continue in that capacity while being “on the road.”



Serving at Aldersgate Camp in Turner, OR in 2024



The Awana store helpers would like to thank everyone who donated items to the store. The children were able to find a lot of items to buy with their Awana shares that they worked so hard to earn.

One More Opportunity!

The last Awana store of this school year will be held in April. Some of the things that we are looking for are outdoor toys such as large balls (*basketballs, footballs, playground*

balls, soccer balls...), frisbees, ring toss, corn hole games, baseball gloves, bats. Also, other popular items are tools, flashlights, building sets (*birdhouses, toolboxes...*), cars, trucks, track; arts and craft kits and supplies; games, dinosaurs, marbles, Legos®water bottles, mugs, holiday decorations.... Basically anything you think a child might enjoy.

New OR Used

Items may be new or used. Please make sure that used items are cleanable and not broken or missing critical components. (*We do have some dice, marbles and other game pieces that we can add to games.*)

You Are Appreciated!

Thank you again for all the items that you have donated to the Awana store. ✝

On The Road

← (Continued from page 16.)

based on the needs on the ministry at the time I am there.

And there will be driving. Lots and lots and lots of driving. Besides our ministry stops, we will be visiting friends and family along the way, some we have not seen in over 20 years. A little sightseeing and ham radio activities will add to the trip.

Not Going Alone

"The LORD God said, "It is not

good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)**

God has blessed me with a new partner to share these adventures with. Having a co-pilot in the cab will make the miles go much easier and give us a lot of time to renew our relationship.

As always, thanks to our EBC family for your prayers for our journey. We will have email most of the time on the road, feel free to keep in touch at michael@wa7skg.com. For those who have a technical slant, you can follow us from my ham radio tracker. Go to <https://aprs.fi> and enter **WA7SKG-3** in the *"Track callsign"* box. Most of the time, that should show where we are. ✝

Mission Highlight:

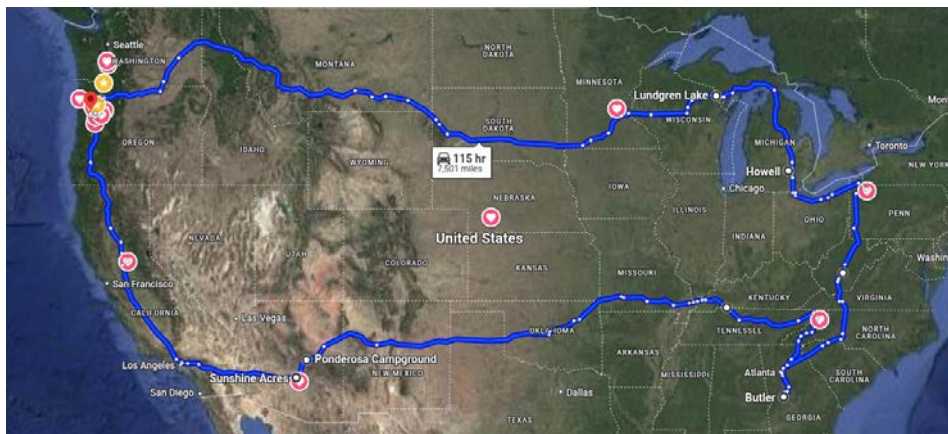
The Gate

By **Claudia McGillivray**
EBC Missions Committee

The Gate is one of our local organizations that we support here at EBC. **Ben Bobeda**, son of **Jim and Kathy Bobeda**, is the Executive Director.

Ben and his team do an amazing job serving the middle school and high school students in Monmouth–Independence.

Please turn the page and continue reading about this wonderful organization! ✝



The Gate Youth Association

By Ben Bobeda

There is no doubt that The Gate would not be what it is today without the support of a great community.

Many Jobs

Volunteers and employees work in many facets— lunch ladies, tutors, mentors, cooks, recreational assistants, crafts, and cooking teachers, etc.— to give the youth of Monmouth and Independence a safe place to go, where they are known, encouraged to learn and grow and encounter Christ’s love.

Demonstrating Christ's Love

The Gate Youth Association is a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation whose mission is to demonstrate Christ’s love to the youth of our community through academic, social and spiritual activities. Daily recreation activities and student clubs are available at *no charge* to the family thanks to generous donations from faithful community members

that care for the the kids in our community.

After School “Rec Time”

“Rec Time” at The Gate is a safe place for all middle and high school

- ✘ Laser Tag
- ✘ Art & Crafts
- ✘ Ping Pong
- ✘ Card Games
- ✘ Bounce House

Hours:

Monday—
Friday 3:15 to 6 pm

Extended hours:

Monday &
Wednesday 6 to 8 pm

Daily recreation activities and student clubs are available at *no charge* to the family thanks to generous donations from faithful community members

students to hang out with friends, meet other students, try new activities, get some food, hear about exciting field trips, participate in fun events, play games, and connect with positive caring adults.

Weekly Activities May Include:

- ✘ Basketball
- ✘ Volleyball
- ✘ Music
- ✘ Tournaments
- ✘ Video Games
- ✘ Pool

Quiet Space

The Gate’s Quiet Space offers a place for students to do homework, receive tutoring, play board games, and other quiet activities away from the busyness of the Rec Center. The Quiet Space is located in the church behind The Gate.

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday &
Friday.....3:15 to 5:30 pm

→ Please see “The Gate” on page 19.



The Gate

← (Continued from page 18.)

Tuesday Lunch

Over 200 Central High School (CHS) students come to The Gate to hear an inspirational message and eat a delicious and affordable meal made by the "Lunch Moms". Students registered with The Gate receive a discount. Scholarships available.

Clubs

The Gate offers a variety of clubs Monday through Thursday from 3:45 pm-5:30 pm.

Typical Weekly Clubs:

- ✦ Cooking & Baking
- ✦ Board Games
- ✦ Acres of Hope Rock Climbing
- ✦ 3-D Printing
- ✦ Automotive Mechanics:
 - ◆ Automotive 101
Wednesday 9 to 11 am and 4 to 5:30 pm
 - ◆ Automotive 202
Tuesday 4 to 5:30 pm



◆ Automotive Hangout
Thursday 4 to 5:30 pm

Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group
Tuesday 6 to 7:30 pm

High School Youth Group
Thursday 6 to 8 pm

Youth Group is a great place for teens who are exploring faith to connect and learn.

High School Bible Study Lunch

On Thursdays, high school students have the opportunity to explore God's Word as they enjoy a free lunch during a Bible study taught by community members.

VOLUNTEERS

Community volunteers are key to the success of the mission and vision of The Gate. Volunteerism comes in many forms from serving food, playing Uno®, engaging in an activity with students, driving students



"We've seen major changes in the lives of students. Some are smiling like they never did before. Others are learning to forgive, and have begun to reconcile strained relationships."

—Dale Collver

Gate Discipleship Director

to clubs, teaching, mentorship, encouragement, and helping *with events*. Do you like teens? **Please consider volunteering!**

Community Youth Forum

Three times a year The Gate hosts a youth forum attended by leaders from local agencies, businesses & nonprofits such as (CSD, Polk Fire, Polk County, churches, local law enforcement) where we talk about current issues amongst teens and what we can do together to bring solutions.

→ Please see "The Gate" on page 20.



Puzzle Answer Key!

← (Continued from page 7.)

How did you do???

E	X	A	L	T	E	D		H	E	A	R	D		
P		G		H		A		E		R		A		
H	E	A	V	E	N	S		D	I	M	O	N		
A		I		R		H		G		E		D		
H	E	N	C	E		E	T	E	R	N	A	L		
			T		D				I			E		
M	O	R	R	O	W			I	S	L	A	N	D	
A		U				S		C						
N	I	N	E	V	E	H		A	W	A	K	E		
T		N		I		O		R		I		G		
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E		N		I		E		E		T		P		
S	I	G	H	T				L	A	T	C	H	E	T

The Gate

← (Continued from page 19.)

Contact Information

Located at:

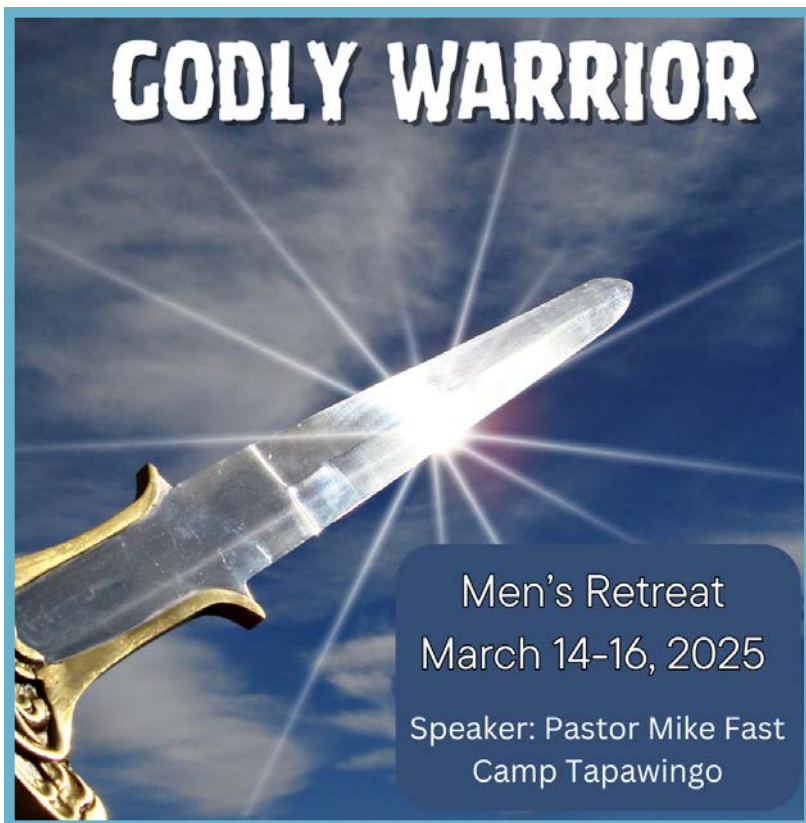
1501 Monmouth Street
Independence, OR 97351

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 453
Independence, OR 97351

info@thegateyouth.org

thegateyouth.org †



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.

Growth through Prayer

Our new men's prayer group is having a tremendous positive impact on our church. Faithful attendees are growing in spiritual maturity, men who participate are praying more throughout the week, and we've had more visitors.

Sam & Mercy Farag
Gorham, NY †

Encouraging Peace

Katie organized a one-day women's retreat. The theme was the importance of extending the "olive branch" of peace and reconciliation in our friendships. They discussed some Bible verses with principles for relationships. One activity involved passing an olive branch and a verbal compliment to another woman. Katie was encouraged by the participants' response and plans to hold another retreat this spring.

James & Katie Attebury
Amargosa Valley, NV †

Exploring Faith

We started a "Christianity Explored" course on Thursday evenings at our home. This introductory study draws a healthy mix of new Christians and those who are spiritually curious. We eat a meal together, watch a brief video and then discuss in smaller groups. We're excited by how well this is going! Others have expressed interest in it, so we hope to offer the course again.

Trevor & Renee Elias
Binscarth, MB †

Missionaries & Ministries EBC Supports!

The focus of the Mission Committee is to follow the mandate Jesus gave to go into the world for the advancement of evangelism, discipleship and Christian education in a manner effective for the culture being reached. The committee exists to be a supportive and evaluative conduit between EBC and the work on the mission field that the congregation supports, maintaining an attitude of advocacy for missionaries and corresponding projects.

Note: EBC is committed to supporting missionaries. Some information and/or supported missionaries are purposefully omitted from this page to protect their safety in hostile political or social climates.



Tim and Mallory Brooks
 Missionary Aviation Fellowship
tbrooks@maf.org

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



Joshue and Diana Bulande
 SIM
dianaafrica@gmail.com

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



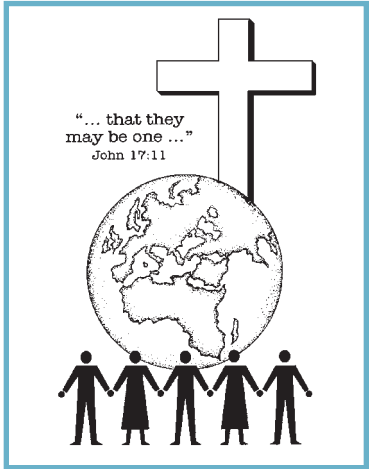
Dan and Judy Burke
 Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)
dan_burke@ntm.org

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



Kevin and Jennifer Domes
 IN FAITH
kjdomes.ministry@yahoo.com

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



→ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 23.

EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 22.)



Ivan and Mary Goossen
Avant Ministries
ivary@avmi.org

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



Eric and Judith Hedeem
Ethnos 360
eric_hedeem@ntm.org

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



Paul and Leslie Lanquist
Village Missions at Tanwax
Country Chapel, Washington
360.832.3584
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
jmichalovich1@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
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
- ◆ CEF
- ◆ River of Life
- ◆ SAT-7 (Dennis & Cindy Wiens)
- ◆ Weekday School of the Bible
- ◆ Mission Connexion
- ◆ The Gate

Sunday Worship Services:

9:00 & 10:30 am Sunday Morning
Worship Services
10:00 am Coffee Time!

Awana: (September through April)

Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm

**Please check the Sunday Bulletin and
the EBC website for updated calendar
items as they are announced.**

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<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!** ✝



March 1-2 Missions Weekend
March 4 Ladies Missionary
Fellowship
March 7-9 Forged Retreat
March 9 Small Group Leadership
Class
March 10 Hymn Sing
March 11 Mom to Mom
March 14-16 Men's Retreat

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



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

Joshua 24:15 (NIV)