

# The Sentinel

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**WE  
STAND  
WATCH**

April, 2025  
VOL 9 • NO 04

# Called to Service

By Pastor Troy Bassham

One of the most memorable battles in the Bible happens in **1 Samuel 17**. While the men of Israel's army are frozen by fear, David volunteers to face Goliath, the mighty Philistine warrior in the Valley of Elah.

## Only A Sling!

David is armed with only a sling against the giant clothed in armor bearing shield and sword and javelin. David bravely faces the giant while the two armies watch from the sidelines. It is a great story of faith, courage, and God's intervention.

God gives David the victory over his opponent. And seeing this unexpected triumph, the men of Israel rush into battle, putting the shocked enemy to flight.

## An Example of Trust

As I was contemplating this passage and began thinking that this is a great example of individual trust in the LORD as well as a witness to



God's provision. However, it is a bad example of what Christian service is supposed to look like.

### *Think about it.*

Two men facing one another in

battle while thousands of bystanders stand by watching the champions take all the risk. Too often, this is how Christian service is viewed, or, *at least*, how it plays out.

→ Please see "Service" on page 2.

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Deadline for May, 2025 ISSUE is:

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025**  
**@ 5:00 pm**

know. grow. go.



## How Often?

*How many times does a small portion of the body shoulder all the labor and risk while the majority is content to be the audience cheering on their efforts?*

In this regard, the church has been compared to a professional football game: 22 people on the field desperately in need of rest being watched by fifty thousand spectators desperately in need of exercise.

## Not a Spectator "Sport"

The truth is that we are *all* called to be engaged in service. In **1 Corinthians 12**, Paul reminds us that every believer is an important part of the body of Christ.

While we may not all have the same function, we all have an important role to play. If our physical bodies suddenly missed the function of a kidney, knee, or eye, we would feel the effect on our functionality. *In the same way, the health and impact of the church body is diminished when individuals remain on the sideline.*

Make *no* mistake, God can complete His work *without* us. As in the case of David, He can accomplish mighty things through His faithful followers. But even in these instances, it is a

.....  
*... it is a sad thing to see people forfeit the opportunities for service and reward that God graciously gives them.*

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## Opportunities to Honor Him!

Too often, we think of our service as a *chore* or *burden* instead of a chance to honor our Savior and to join Him in His work.

This wrong thinking is reminiscent of the fable *The Little Red Hen*. At the end of the tale, the hen who has done all of the work receives all of the reward while the others miss out on the blessing. Make no mistake—what we do in this life will echo into eternity. Earthly accolades and trophies will fade away, but the treasures which we store in Heaven will last forever.

In the book of **Nehemiah**, Nehemiah was used by God to rebuild the walls. Dividing the city into sections, chapter 3 highlights the contributions of the people who participated in this great project. Yet, in verse five, we see a notable comment. The nobles of Tekoa **"...would not put their shoulders to the work..."** (NIV).

## How Sad!

*What a sad statement!* In this immortalized list of people who participated in the work, the nobles of Tekoa are remembered only as those who refused to be of service.

I hope we are the people who serve for our Savior's purposes and pleasure, that we labor for a crown that will not fade, and that we would be a part of the great and marvelous work that God is accomplishing.

## 1 Corinthians 12 (NIV)

**4** *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.*

**5** *There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.*

**6** *There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

**7** *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

**8** *To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,*

**9** *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,*

**10** *to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.*

**11** *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. †*

Points to Ponder

# The Gospel: What Difference Does It Make?

By Pastor Mike Fast

The word gospel literally means “good news” and it occurs almost 100 times in the Bible. Nearly all of those verses are about preaching and speaking the gospel. And if we are unclear about what the gospel is, I can summarize it in just 10 words: **Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead** (see **1 Corinthians 15:3–6**).

## How We Learn About Christ

**Romans 10:14** reminds us that people hear about Christ by other people telling them about Christ, so we understand the importance of sharing and speaking the message of all that Jesus Christ has done for us. But what about a verse like **2 Thessalonians 1:8** that tells us *to obey the gospel*, or **2 Timothy 1:8** *to suffer for the gospel*? There are then some other aspects of the gospel.

## Time to Readjust?

If the gospel has become that thing in our mind that is only good for salvation and not much beyond



that, then we need to readjust our thinking.

The gospel is certainly good for salvation (**Romans 1:16**), but it also needs to be something that influences our thoughts and actions well beyond the moment of our salvation.

The gospel should affect our life every day, even if we have been a follower of Christ for 50 years. Every morning we get up we should think of the gospel, we should ponder the work and sacrifice of Christ

and His salvation granted to us, and as we reflect on this it should make us humble, it should make us authentic, it should make us bold, it should make us hopeful, and it should make us grateful. The effect of the gospel on our life is not a one-time event but something that should influence us on a daily, and even hourly basis.

## Romans 10:14 (NIV)

***How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? †***

***The gospel is certainly good for salvation (Romans 1:16), but it also needs to be something that influences our thoughts and actions well beyond the moment of our salvation.***



# Another Opportunity ... to Make a Difference

By Sherri Fobert  
EBC Healthcare Committee

It's not every day one can make the difference between life and death. Yet on **April 28 from noon until 5:00 pm**, here at EBC, you can impact the lives of three individuals. Read what two of our own church family members share:

**Jim Walker:** *I started donating blood when I was in the military. To me, it was an act of kindness. This was something I could do that would be life saving for an individual. I have given just over 13 gallons. Personally, I don't like needles, but I feel good knowing I am able to donate. If you are able, I would recommend this life saving opportunity.*

**Dorothy Friesen:** *Hi! I'd love to encourage any of you who are healthy and able to donate blood to do so! I started donating while in college and have continued doing so all these many years. I'm pleased to say I've donated 98 pints to date. It's a rewarding feeling to know someone out there is being helped because I gave the blood they desperately needed. It is not a difficult thing to do, is not painful, and it only takes about an hour of your time! And they give you snacks afterwards too!*

## EBC Blood Drive

**Monday, April 28**  
**12 noon to 5 pm**



Not only are you doing a life saving service to help others, but you get to squeeze a cool little squeeze toy similar to the one shown here.

### Healthy Bodies ... Healthy Blood

You must be healthy to donate so your blood pressure, pulse, and blood iron content are important indicators. In the past two blood drives, the level of iron content in the blood has been a challenge for some donors. (*Your red blood cells use iron to attract oxygen molecules and carry it to all parts of your body. A lack of oxygen can impact your body in so many ways: tiredness, fatigue to mention just two.*)

A whole blood donation consists of one pint of blood, containing mostly red blood cells, so therefore one's iron content is important. If you plan to donate, eat more—or start eating—iron rich food (*red meat, pork, poultry, tuna, white beans, red kidney beans, spinach, raisins, and iron-fortified cereal*) at least three weeks before donating. This should help one's iron level to be within an acceptable range.

### How to Schedule

To schedule a donation, you can ...

- ☒ Phone **1.800.733.2767**.
- ☒ Use the **Red Cross Blood Donor** app.
- ☒ Schedule a time with **Alison** in the office.

Please consider making a donation. *Thank you.*

*Please join us!* ✝

## Healthcare Workshop Planned!

# Don't Let Gravity Put You ...

By Sherri Fobert  
EBC Healthcare Committee

**April 26, 9:30 – 11 am**  
**Builder's Room**

**F**alls do not discriminate between gender and/or age. *Anyone*

can fall and balance is the key to prevention. Come and listen to **Brent Darrington**, a local physical therapist, present **Balance for Life: Your Guide for Stability & Confidence**, April 26, 9:30 – 11:00 am, in the Builder's Room.

In the presentation, Brent will discuss:

- ☒ Understanding balance and fall prevention
- ☒ Foundations of stability
- ☒ Building strength and coordination
- ☒ *And more*



Attendees will learn how to self-assess balance, improve posture and core strength, seated exercises, and training basics.

His presentation style is both engaging and informative. So mark your calendar: **April 26, 9:30 – 11 am, Builder's Room.**

*We hope to see you there!* ✝

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!!!**

## Just One More Awana Store This School Year!

# Closing for the Season!

By Kim Disher  
Awana Shopkeeper

**I**t has been an extremely busy year at your friendly, local Awana Store! This year, we have seen a gazillion products being sold. Well, probably not that many, but a **LOT** of merchandise has gone out the door in the hands of eager, young shoppers. Shoppers, by the way, who used their hard-earned Awana Bucks to score some games, toys, and many other cherished items.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thanks to our EBC church family, a lot of items have been donated, priced, and displayed in our store. Your generosity as you clean your children's bedrooms and closets—or purchased items just to donate to our store!—is heartwarming. The staff **AND** our shoppers greatly appreciate your efforts.

→ Please see "Store" on page 7.



know. grow. go.

Office Update

# Busy Times Ahead!

By Alison Johnson  
EBC Office Manager



The office status is business as usual these last couple of months. There are several events and activities coming up in the next several weeks.

Be sure to get your **Facility Use Request forms** turned in early. For events that are not ministry events, please get them turned in at least 2 weeks prior to your date

and be aware that ministry events do take priority in the scheduling of events so flexibility on time and dates is much appreciated.

There are some fun dates on the horizon to add to your calendars now so you don't miss anything.

May 3—**Men's Breakfast**

May 9—**May Festival**

May 26—**Office Closed for Memorial Day**

June 20—**Women's Campfire Night**

June 28—**Men's Chili Cook-Off**

July 25-26—**Dallas Days**

July 28 – August 1—**VBS**

August 5—**National Night Out Community Outreach Event**

August 9—**Men's Breakfast**

August 15-17—**Family Campout @ Triangle Lake**

August 23—**Women's Craft Day**

August 25—**Blood Drive**

September 7—**Church Picnic** ✝

# Awana!

By Matt and Lena Calef  
Awana Commanders

The end is in sight! The Awana year is getting closer to its end point. Officially, April 23 is the last regular club night for reciting verses and a lesson. It seems like yesterday we were arranging volunteer training and gearing up to get started... and now it's almost done.

## Finishing Strong

**So, we choose to finish strong!** We are in the middle of our coin drive fundraiser. This is an annual event that spans over a month, in which the clubbers have an opportunity to donate to a ministry or missionary.

This year our chosen missionaries are the **Brooks family** that is serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Indonesia. **Tim and Mallory** visited our clubbers around Christmas time and gave us all a presentation of their important work.

## Coin Drive in Process

**Lena** and I, as ministry directors, feel that it is important to have a real person that the clubbers have met be the recipient of their donations. It makes the action more real rather than a generic ministry. The coin drive will run through April 2, this year.

Our Awana program year ends April 30, with an **Awards Night**. Kids will be recognized for their

→ Please see "Awana" on page 7.

# Awana

← (Continued from page 6.)

accomplishments in completing their books, extra credit, and attendance.

Again, **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers that make the Awana program thrive and take that time to invest in our children to spread the Word of God among them.

Clubbers, parents, grandparents, and other important people will get to celebrate with leaders. An important opportunity to engage relatives and parents that might need a seed planted.

## THANK YOU, Volunteers

Again, **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers that make the Awana program thrive and take time to invest in our children to spread the Word of God among them. Jesus instructs us in **Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)** to **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."**

I'm relatively certain that *"all nations"* includes our own... so we start in our own houses, neighborhoods, and communities. And we will continue to bring the Word to the next generation. **LORD willing.** †



## Final Store of the (School) Year

The last Awana Store of the year will be on:

- ✦ **April 9** for *TNT and Trek*
- ✦ **April 16** for *Sparks*

We need of the following things:

- ✦ Sport balls (*soccer, basketball and football*)
- ✦ Outdoor games (*such as ring toss, lawn darts...*)
- ✦ 18-inch dolls
- ✦ Clothes for 18 inch dolls
- ✦ Flashlights

✦ Arts and craft items

✦ Anything else that you might think of (*decorations, small lamps, figurines...*)

## A Year-Round Opportunity!

Thank you again for helping to make this a successful ministry. While the store will be *closed for the season* after April, you can bring in your donations throughout the year. That way, when you do summer cleaning ... **please keep us in mind!** †





# Easter Services

APRIL 18- 20, 2025

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 6PM

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

9:00 & 10:30



EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

# 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

## Saved or Not Saved?

**H**ave you ever wondered whether you have really been saved or whether you are counting on the faith of your parents or grandparents?

### No Grandchildren!

You probably heard the saying "God does not have any grandchildren."

This statement commonly refers to that fact that we cannot rest on the faith of others and be saved. Some people would erroneously have you believe that following strict religious traditions will offer you a way to salvation.

### Still Empty

If you have been caught up in a religious tradition you probably have learned that it is impossible to do all that the traditions require. You might have been asked to do

some sort of penance for breaking traditions and say a few rote prayers to be forgiven. No matter how hard you try you still have an emptiness in your heart.



God's sovereignty in salvation is shown in **Romans 8:29-30 (NASB 1995)** which reads, "**For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He (Jesus) would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.**"

### We've Been Called

God has called each of us to be reconciled to Himself. **Ephesians 2:2-3** says that we were *formerly* of the sons of disobedience, living lives following the lusts of our flesh and our minds and were by nature children of wrath. We were dead in our sins but have been made alive together with Christ. God has shown His great

kindness by extending grace to us. **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB 1995)** says, "**For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**"

### All Have Sinned

In **Romans 3:21-26** we learn that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We do not match God's holy standard.

We receive forgiveness by faith through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. God publicly displayed Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, on the cross, the shedding of His blood as the full payment for our sins, when we place our faith in Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have peace with God, being justified by faith through our Lord Jesus Christ (**Romans 5:1**).

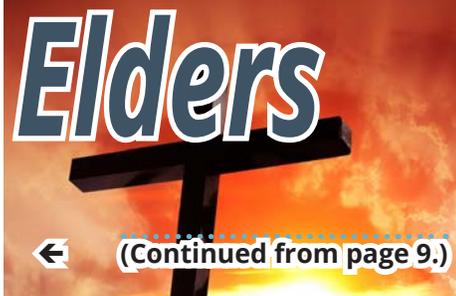
**We were dead in our sins but have been made alive together with Christ.**

### Have You Ever ...?

If you have never repented of your sin, I encourage you to cry out to God and ask for forgiveness. Receive His free gift of grace for the forgiveness of your sins.

→ Please see "Elders" on page 10.





Turn your life over to Jesus and ask Him to be the Lord of your life and ask that He fill you with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**). **Romans 10:9-10 (NASB 1995)** says, ***“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in you heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”***

**Let Someone Know!**

If you prayed this for the first time, let someone know. We would love to encourage you in your new walk with the Lord and may your heart be filled with the peace and joy of the Lord. †

**Acts 2:38 (NIV):**

***Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

*Ladies, you are invited to*

# Hope in the Lord

## Mini-retreat

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SATURDAY	5	APRIL
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Enjoy a retreat day focused on Hope!

EBC Activity Center

.....  
*Registration and Coffee/Muffins - 8:30am*  
*First Session Starts - 9:00am*  
*Last Session Ends - 4:00pm*  
 .....

Guest Speaker Elle Rossi  
 Worship / Fellowship / Lunch / Workshops

*Choose two workshops*

- *Emergency Preparedness - Sherri Fobert*
- *Floral Design with Style - Gaye Stewart*
- *Message Block Craft - Ashley Brown/Rebecca Sybrant*
- *Crochet an Adorable Chicken - Clara Johnson*

**Tickets are \$10**  
**Signups on Sunday Mornings during Coffee Time**

*Invite a friend!*

## Sentinel Production Update

**A**s reported previously, the deadline for Sentinel articles for the MAY issue will be a bit later than normal. This is due to a production team member being on a cruise ship somewhere in the Pacific during the *normal* due dates. It's tough, I know, but someone has to do it. ☺

**May Issue Due Date:**

The due date will be:

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025**  
**at 5:00 pm**

As always, please consider submitting your articles early if time and circumstances permit. †



Short-Term Team Back in USA!

# Bolivia Update

By Darrel Hiebenthal and Bob Disher

**O**ur short-term mission team has safely landed in the United States after nearly two weeks in Bolivia. At this writing they are awaiting a flight in Houston to take them back to Portland. God willing, by the time you read this, they will be safely home after a successful trip.

## What They Were Doing

The team of **Elizabeth Schneider, Joey Loewen, DeeAnne and Darrel Hiebenthal** were in Bolivia assisting Ethnos360 missionaries, **Dan and Judy Burke**, make books for the Chimane people. Due to high humidity and other conditions, these books are printed and hand-bound. In other words, it's a labor-intensive project!

## An Important Mission Field

Shortages in missionaries have caused Dan and Judy to step up their efforts to minister to the Chimane. As one might expect, the language barrier is immense with Dan and Judy being the only missionaries fluent in the Chimane language. Dan has made decisions on how to best provide classes and to fine-tune teaching materials for the Chimane. And, for her part, Judy is the only non-native woman who has learned the language to minister to the Chimane women.

**PLEASE** continue to pray for Dan and Judy in this outreach ministry. Pray that they receive divine guidance as to how to best proceed and that their health gives them the energy to carry out their tasks.

## Come to Their Presentation!

The Bolivia Team will be making a presentation at EBC on April 6. Come and hear all about their trip including:

- ✦ The high-security clearance that the team had to go through.
- ✦ Ideas on how supportive we, as a church, will be for Dan and Judy. (*How can we best continue to support them in this important ministry?*)
- ✦ *How many lug nuts are REALLY needed to keep a taxi wheel on?*
- ✦ *How do the rules of the road compare (or differ!) from Dallas, Oregon?*

**Mark your calendar to come and learn about this fun AND productive trip to Bolivia! †**



# Farewell, Oregon Book Team!

By Dan and Judy Burke

March 19, 2025

## Dear Friends,

Yesterday, we returned to Cochabamba after saying goodbye to our book team from Oregon. *We had a wonderful, productive time together with them.* The pictures we took give you an idea of just how busy we were: Folding pages, collating pages, and stapling/taping covers and spines.



→ Please see "Book Team" on page 20.

Spiritual Disciplines:

# Listen For God!

By Gwen Griffiths

## Can I Have a Word?

You're probably familiar with the concept of a "word of the year". Many people ask God to show them a word that they can focus on and seek to grow in during a given year. I've seen people choose words like *faith, intention, peace...* and more.



While I don't choose a word every year, I really felt God calling me

to learn to listen in 2024. My goal was two-fold:

- ✦ To learn to listen to others (*to intentionally hear the heart behind what they were telling me*) **and**

- ✦ To listen to God.

## Learning to Listen

I believe that I did grow in *how* I listened to others that year. But the longer I spent striving to listen to

God, the more I realized that it was going to require more time!

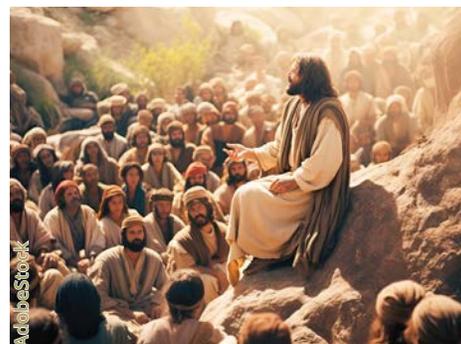
It's 2025, and my "listen" card still sits at the top of my prayer deck, reminding me each day (*or at least, most days*) to seek His voice.

For me, the biggest challenge in this area is learning to listen *for* God.

This involves clearing space in what seems like the Grand Central Station of my mind. When things—like a to-do list, a work problem, logistics of the next trip, the plot twist in the book I'm reading, concerns about relationships, scraps of thoughts for an article, and lyrics to a song that played on Sesame Street® in 1984—are all careening through my brain, there's little chance that I will hear the quiet voice of the Father. Even if I'm *trying* to hear His voice, ***it's drowned out by the cacophony in my head.***

## The Right Mindset

I tend to think that if I pause for a few minutes between Bible reading and prayer requests, that if I can sit



quietly for a moment or two, then I can expect Him to speak because I'm ready. And yet, God isn't really an on-demand sort of service. Yes, He's always available to listen—but we can't just stop for a few seconds and expect Him to immediately speak into our hearts.

Instead, we must find a frame of mind that allows us to listen consistently and expectantly for His voice, even in the swirling dust storm that sometimes makes up our mental life (*perhaps something like Elijah learning to hear the still, small voice of God in I Kings 19*).

And this is where some of those spiritual disciplines we've been discussing come in.

When we focus our minds on His Word through meditation and memorization, we pour His truth into our very souls. We still our

→ Please see "Listen" on page 13.

.....  
***Instead, we must find a frame of mind that allows us to listen consistently and expectantly for His voice, even in the swirling dust storm that sometimes makes up our mental life,***



hearts long enough to consider what those Scriptures say, to ponder and to seek.

When we seek solitude for a weekend or spend a week fasting, *we begin to create space into which He can speak.*

When we curate and use a playlist of songs that remind us of God's qualities, we create moments where our hearts are attuned to His voice.

*We begin to learn that our hearts can be still even when our hands are busy.*

### Growing in Listening

We begin to learn that our hearts can be still *even when our hands are busy*. And then, as we work alongside someone and hear pain in their voice, we follow the gentle prompting of our Father's voice and connect with that person, even as we continue to seek guidance from Him.

And then we begin to realize a greater awareness of God's presence in our lives. That subtle nudging, the applicable Bible verse that flows back into our mind exactly when needed, the lines from a song that seem to answer the question we've been

asking—they're there because there's room for them.

This isn't to say that we'll never hear actual words from God's voice—audibly *or* in our minds. I specifically remember a time of desperation: standing alone in my house and thinking, *I don't know how I can do this*. And then, these words from God: Child, trust me. Simple words spoken directly into my heart, heard because the trial of that moment had stripped away all the distractions.

### Consider Yourself Encouraged

So I encourage you to listen for God today. Sure, sit in your chair with your Bible open before you and wait expectantly for His voice. But take that attitude of expectancy with you throughout your day. Quiet your mind and create rhythms that turn your focus towards Him instead of away. Tune the frequency of your mind to His voice, so that the things of the world fade away and His words become clear. †



Mom to Mom Update

# The Grandpas!

By Gwen Griffiths

Sometimes my mind wanders back to the years when my three children were small enough to be carried in what we called “the bucket”—the baby carrier with a handle, the carrier that can be snapped into a base into a vehicle.



I remember arriving at a destination and juggling a baby in that carrier plus a 3- and 4-year-old. I’d sling my purse over one shoulder and the diaper bag over the other, then slide my arm through the handle of the bucket, hold out my other hand for one of the other kids to grab, and expect that child to hold the hand of the remaining sibling.

And then we would sort of meander towards our destination, with me slightly off balance and hoping no one left anything important in the van and someone tugging us all towards something they found interesting. How I sometimes wished for someone to help us all get inside!

## The Grandpas!

Here at EBC, a group of retired men provides this very service for our Mom to Mom group. On each meeting day, they arrive early and make themselves available to help

moms and young children get into the building.

They carry casserole dishes to the youth center so that moms can check in their children without worrying about spilling. They help with diaper bags and offer a welcoming smile to those they help.

Because of these “grandpas” as we call them, each mom can experience an easier, less stressful entrance to Mom to Mom. And the moms so appreciate the help. It seems that at almost every meeting, I hear someone mention how grateful they are.

## Are YOU Man Enough?

Our grandpas could use a backup person—*someone to cover if a grandpa is sick or unable to help out on a given week*. If you think you could fill that need, please reach out to **Bill Voth** at **503.623.4843**.

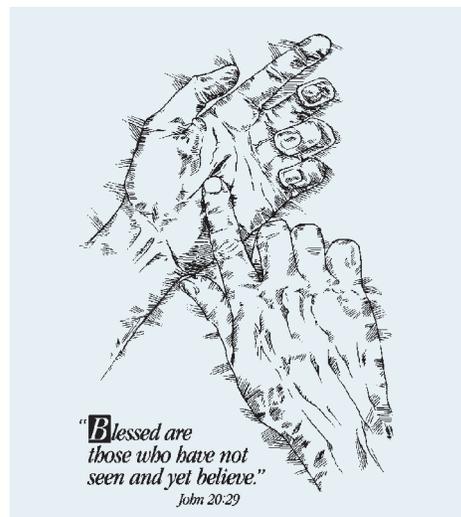
We’ve spent the past few months sharing about all the personnel it takes to run Mom to Mom, as well as some of the staffing needs. Each one plays a vital part in encouraging moms, loving kids, and sharing God’s love. *Would you now spend a few moments praying for this program and the people it serves?* ✝



Linda McFarland gave a devotion helping Moms to consider that they are seeking—at the Mom Swap and, more importantly, in life.



Moms “shop” for free items at the Mom Swap, a yearly Mom to Mom event.



Ivan and Mary Goossen

# Spreading the Word!

By Linda McFarland

HARVEST time...

**W**hat?! You're thinking that winter is just ending and no - it is not time to harvest. If you participated in any of the Mission Conference activities March 1-4, then you may have a clue where I am going with this. But more later....



The events began on Saturday, March 1, with a breakfast in the activity center. Following this delicious meal, EBC missionaries, **Ivan and Mary Goossen** (pronounced *go-sun*) presented a glimpse into their ministry. That evening the Mission Committee, our pastors, and their spouses, were invited to a dinner at church. The Goossens then shared more details of their work and financial needs were discussed.

## Update and Q&A

**Sunday, March 2:** Ivan and Mary shared a brief update in both services and a longer presentation that evening with a Q&A time afterwards.

We kept them busy on Monday and Tuesday



Pixabay

with a Connect group and also Ladies Missionary Fellowship. It was a privilege for some of the EBC families to host the Goossens for meals during their visit and quiz them even further!

## What Did We Learn?

*What did we learn from Ivan and Mary during their brief stay with us?* The following is a brief synopsis. They serve with Avant Ministries ([avantministries.org](http://avantministries.org)) in Brazil (which is actually where Ivan was born).

They initially were involved in church planting in Fortaleza where the Ebenezer church was started and continues to meet.

Another important part of their ministry has been in Christian radio at a place called Nova Russas where Harvest Radio was begun 20 years ago. The past five years they have been in a small town (the size of Dallas) about four hours drive west of Fortaleza.

## Ministry in Mucambo

At the conference we learned mostly about their ministry in this town, called Mucambo. The Goossens' goal there has been to get acquainted with the people, to share Christ with them and to have a church base where new believers can flourish and grow.



They developed a coffee shop called **Café e Graça** (coffee and grace) which is where they meet folk, serve coffee and have table games for the younger customers. A church in its early stages has developed from

→ Please see "Brazil" on page 19.

Forged Youth Report



# Winter Retreat

AdobeStock

By Isabelle Lovell  
Forged Youth Reporter

This past month the high school went on a retreat up at **Sanctuary Inn, near Mt. Hood.**



Last year we went to the same place, but it was a trip we all wanted to take again.

## Highlights of the Trip

We went sledding and it was a blast! While it may have been a little anticlimactic considering it was sunny and warm—the guys were in t-shirts—it was still totally worth the lack of sleep. Thankfully there were no injuries either. There was good conversation, yummy food, and lots of laughter. On Saturday night, we girls dressed up as the type of guy

we would want to date/marry... so that was entertaining and definitely contributed to the laughter.

## The Message

Of course, while our time together was fun, the important part of the retreat was the worship and message.

A friend of **Pastor Andrew's, Matthew Adams,**

came to speak to us about covenants. The main question of the weekend was *"Is God trustworthy?"*. Mathew used God's promises as way to answer this.

Typically, when life is going well, this is a question we answer easily.

However, when things are rough and something terrible happens, we begin to question it more.

## The Answer

We discussed three promises in order to better approach this question. The promise of the snake crusher, the priest, and the king. The first begins in the Garden, when the snake comes and tempts Eve, leading her and Adam into sinning. At the moment, God makes

an oath, saying that someone will come and crush the head of the snake. The second can be found in Abraham's story, when God promises that He will make Abraham's family a nation of priests. The third is made when God promises to send a king who will come and rule forever.

## The Fulfillment

*So how does God fulfill these three promises?* Time for the Sunday school answer: **Jesus.**

It is Jesus who comes and destroys the enemy forever—the

→ Please see "Youth" on page 17.

**Helping students:**  
*Meet Jesus,  
Trust Jesus,  
Follow Jesus!*

## Youth Group Meetings

**Compass (Middle School) Youth Group:**  
Thursdays

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

**FORGED (High School) Youth Group:**  
Sundays

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

*Spread the word!*



**Pastor Andrew Wheeler**

O: 503.623.2331

C: 503.747.9300

[youthpastor@ebcdallas.org](mailto:youthpastor@ebcdallas.org)

# Youth

## Retreat in Pictures

(Provided by Isabelle Lovell)

← (Continued from page 15.)

moment He crushes the head of the snake, sin, and death are no more (**Revelations 12:9-10**).

Jesus also became the perfect priest. His sacrifice did not need to be done over and over like the imperfect animal sacrifices. He died once and for all—past and future. Jesus was also the king of kings. When He came, He came as a servant, but when Jesus rose again, He was exalted to the highest place.

### Back to the Questions...

So now we come back to the questions of:

☒ *Is God trustworthy?*

☒ *Is He good?*

There are days when we *know* what God says is true, even when everything in our life says it's not. In those moments we must chose to believe God is trustworthy.

Jesus said He would never leave us, and He's coming back to fix this broken world. *Now, is God trustworthy enough in our lives that we make Him our King?* †



***Jesus also became the perfect priest. His sacrifice did not need to be done over and over like the imperfect animal sacrifices.***

# Easter: A Reflection

By Dick Fobert

**L**ike Christmas, many will celebrate Easter but often gloss over *the real reason* for the holiday. They will hunt for eggs, give the kids Easter baskets, dress up to attend church, and have a joyous day. Also, like Christmas, we often forget that it is about Christ and what he did for us. As Easter approaches, I am trying to reflect on what Christ did for mankind.

## Why This Gift?

I see three major reasons God (Jesus) gave us the Easter season:

- ✠ First, He died to take away our sins.
- ✠ Second, opened an avenue to reconnect with him (God)
- ✠ Third, to confirm the existence of our eternal spirit.

*Let's look at each more closely and maybe discover how wonderful the*

*good news would have been to the first Christians.*

## First: Christ Took Away Sin

We all know about Adam bringing sin into the world. Sacrifices were offered to deal with sin. Man offered blood sacrifices of animals.

Some offerings were commanded, but the deaths of these animals could never truly take away sins. No amount of animal blood could wash the guilt of sin away.

That brings us to the cross. *Jesus become the final sacrifice for sin.* He rid the world of sin.

**Read that again.** He rid the world of sin. Our sins are forgiven. *"It's like it never even happened."*

It is important to realize that He died for all sin. There was no if—then attached to it. He bore the sins of the entire world. This included

the criminals to His right and left. Nothing else was needed, no good works, or sacrifice. **Jesus paid everything.**

## Second: Relationship with God

During Christ's ministry He taught us, through the beatitudes and parables, to have a relationship with the Father.

After the crucifixion, sin no longer stood in the way, God became approachable. *Anyone* could have a relationship with Him. All

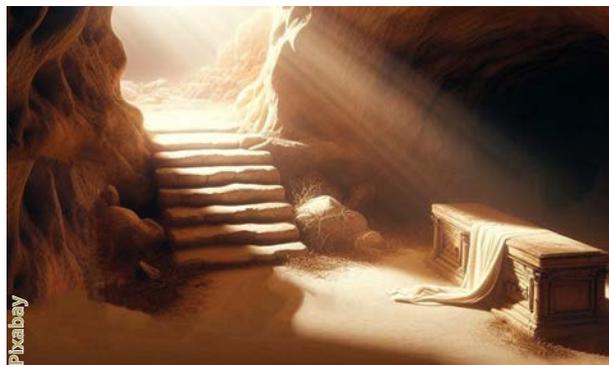
one had to do is exercise their free will, receive what Jesus offered, follow what Jesus had taught, and a relationship was available. A relationship that man's restless souls longed for. Here is the difference between the two criminals. One asked for a relationship and wanted to follow Christ; the other criminal *never saw the light.*

## Third: Your Eternal Spirit

One must realize, that at this time in history, life after death was just a theory. No one had come back from

→ Please see "Easter" on page 19.

Circular picture by AdobeStock



***Nothing else was needed, no good works, or sacrifice. Jesus paid everything.***



# Easter

← (Continued from page 18.)

death to give proof. Kind of like we think of Bigfoot today.

Some think, *no way*. Many think it could be, *but need to see one*. A few, think there is enough evidence to prove they exist. This is similar to how people thought about eternal life.

Word of Jesus's three-year ministry had spread. Many understood the concept, *but couldn't explain the miracles*. They needed more proof. They got the proof they needed with the resurrection.

Many witnessed Christ after He had risen. **It was good news!** News that rapidly spread and the number of followers grew exponentially. I can't imagine how people rejoiced when they found out that an eternal spirit resides within them.

As we celebrate Easter, I'd like you to consider two things: *Where are you and your eternal spirit going to spend eternity?*

God is approachable and anyone can spend eternal life with Him. Many people today have forgotten or never heard the "Good News."

Let's have joyous celebration and make sure people know **why** we are celebrating. †

*Christ has risen.*

# Brazil

← (Continued from page 15.)

this coffee shop/activity center. Last summer the coffee shop moved and the original location is where the church continues. Its name in English is Church of the Lamb. The coffee shop at the new location is a more quiet atmosphere that attracts more adults.

Those who attended the Mission Conference were encouraged to hear how God is working in hearts and changing lives there in that corner of Brazil.

Here are the prayer requests given to our congregation by the Goossens:

## Prayer Requests

### 1. Guilherme (William).



He accepted Christ through coming to Café e Graça and has a heart for missions. He did a year internship with the ministry in

Mucambo and recently has seen God provide the funds for him to study at a Bible college quite far from his home. **Pray for him.**



2. Pray for a breakthrough in the lives of Brazilians who have heard the Good News and need to follow through with accepting Christ's work on the cross.

3. **Avant Ministries** is in the process of purchasing the license and tower to set up a repeater radio station. Ivan tells us that this radio station will more than double the Harvest Radio listening audience and will reach Mucambo with good reception. The vision is then to start outreach in the new areas where the Gospel will be heard.

## Stand By...

STAY TUNED in the coming weeks! EBC plans to join the Goossens's Harvest Radio Expansion Project for Ibiapina! A third of the funds have been provided already and we want to join their team in getting the Good News of salvation into more homes. Keep your eyes and ears open as to the needs and how you can help.

## And Don't Forget ... To Pray!

**Keep praying for our missionaries.** Easter time is an opportunity in many countries to share the Gospel of Jesus' death and resurrection. Pray for those in limited access countries as they need wisdom how to share boldly, but keeping in mind the safety situation in which they minister. †

# Book Team

← (Continued from page 11.)

All told, this team made 1,300 books! **Great job, team!** We are now well supplied to begin the discipleship courses in April. **Thank you, Team!**



Despite the flooding, our elders have been faithfully traveling and holding Bible teaching times in various communities. *Many are hungry for the Word!*

## Civil Unrest

The situation here in Bolivia is very bad. Fuel lines throughout the country are longer than ever. People are angry. This year, Bolivia holds presidential elections, so that creates more drama. The economy is tanked and dollars are not available for international business. These are hard times for the Bolivian people. We ask you to pray for stability in the country and the continued freedom to carry out the ministry.

**Thank you all for your prayers and support!**



Dan and Judy ✝

## Returning to the Lowlands

In the upcoming days, Dan and I will be making some final preparations to make the move back down to the lowlands. Rainy season is still going strong and there has been flooding. The picture to the right is the house of one of our elders.



## 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).

## "But God" Moments

Several men from the Adult Teen Challenge choir led the service one Sunday morning. They shared music and testimonies of God's work in their lives. I observed that all of them talked about a "but God" moment. At the close of the service, I took the opportunity to encourage everyone to look back over their lives for a time when they clearly experienced God's divine intervention.

**Josh & Crystal Smith**  
Sebeka, MN †

## New Faith

Ron, an outspoken unbeliever, started watching our Sunday services during the pandemic. His health prevented him from coming to church, but he regularly tuned in to the Sunday livestream for several years. He invited Phil to visit him, and they formed a friendship. After Ron suffered a serious medical emergency, Phil went to see him in the hospital. By the end of their conversation, Ron put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ!

**Philip & Valorie Rownd**  
Stanley, IA †

## Active Learning

Our children's Sunday School class emphasizes Missions one Sunday each month. Recently, the teachers decorated a classroom to resemble an airplane, set up a ticket counter, and dressed up as a pilot and flight attendants! The children were given passports, too. On these Sundays, our church has a potluck. When the mission's emphasis was on Mexico, we enjoyed a variety of Mexican dishes. This helps children retain what they learn about God's work around the world!

**Ed & Ruth Peters**  
Garrington, AB †

# 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



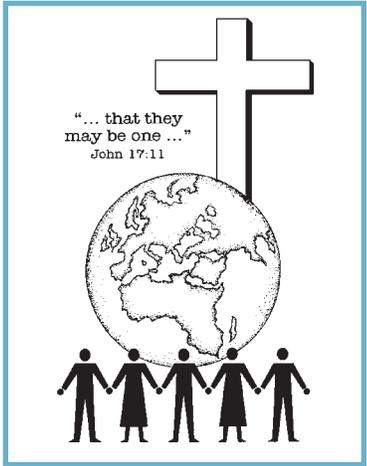
**Dan and Judy Burke**  
 Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)  
[dan\\_burke@ntm.org](mailto:dan_burke@ntm.org)

- ✘ 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 23.

# EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 22.)



**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
- ◆ 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.**

*The Sentinel* is produced by Evangelical Bible  
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encouraged. Please use one of the following:

**Text:** 503.931.8239

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

The opinions expressed herein are  
those of the author of the articles and  
are not necessarily endorsed by the  
leadership of EBC.

**Thank  
you!** ✝



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



***There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.***

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NIV)**