

The Sentinel

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WE
STAND
WATCH

December 2025
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The Christmas Tree

"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Luke 2:10-14 (NKJV)



By Pastor Troy Bassham

Every December our house transforms from its normal décor to a more festive Christmas theme.

The usual decorations are replaced by nativity sets and holiday adornments. Little figurines from the Rudolf Christmas Special come out of hiding and take over a section of the entertainment center. Lights are hung on the outside of our house along with a few lawn ornaments

that will be placed strategically around the yard for maximum effect.

Of course, if I'm being completely

forthcoming, this is mostly my wife's doing. I'd probably set up the Rudolph toys and call it good. Lori,

→ Please see "Tree!"
on page 2.

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**Deadline for the January, 2026
ISSUE is:**

**Monday, December 29, 2025
@ 5:00 pm**

know. grow. go.



however, has much grander plans when it comes to remaking our house.

Bringing Out the Tree

One thing, however, that we all equally enjoy is bringing out the Christmas tree. We used to be tree snobs and there was no alternative to getting a live tree.

The last few years we've had an artificial one. I can feel myself being judged by a younger version of myself. We do miss the smell of pine and going out as a family to select a tree (*often with negotiation and inter-family lobbying on which evergreen to bring home*). At least these newer artificial trees look realistic. Not like pipe cleaners wrapped around metal branches.

Whatever the case, it's a strange tradition that we have. I don't know who first thought Christmas should include bringing a tree into the house and covering it in all manner of lights, tinsel, and trinkets. Nevertheless, the tree is one of our favorite traditions. Setting up the Christmas tree is the pinnacle of our decorating.



True Meaning...

Of course, lights and stockings, presents and ornaments have nothing to do with the true meaning of the holiday. Christmas is about a baby born roughly two thousand years ago in a small town. The citizens of Bethlehem had no idea that the young child was, in fact, the Creator of the universe clothed in humanity, willingly submitting Himself into the form of a helpless babe.

Though the people were unaware of the magnitude of the moment, the event wasn't without fanfare. The angelic hosts could not contain themselves and broke forth in powerful praise which frightened some shocked shepherds who heard the marvelous news. The heavens themselves displayed the magnitude of the event in the sky, drawing curious wise men from a far-away land to see this child King.

What It's About

Christmas is about Jesus' birth. But the tree is prominent at this first Christmas as well. I can't think of the manger without thinking of the cross. Jesus was not born to remain a baby. Though he grew up and taught of God's truth and love and performed miracles it was not for this reason that He came. Jesus came to save. The cost of our salvation was His death, nailed to a tree.

You might call it the very *first* Christmas tree. Certainly its shadow hung over our Savior's tiny bed. So different than the evergreen in my living room, this tree was not grown to be a happy decoration, but was rather an instrument of death and brutality. *It was an ugly thing.*

Yet, something strange happened. On that tree Jesus willingly gave his life to pay for our sins. God's wrath was poured out on Christ who took our full punishment. But this was the plan from the beginning: in His death Jesus would pay for our guilt and three days later He rose triumphantly from the grave. Today, in view of Christ's glorious victory over death, the cross has been transformed. It also has become an object of beauty. No longer a twisted and ugly thing, it is rather a symbol of the mercy of God—a reminder of His forgiveness and grace—of Christ's willingness to take my punishment so that I would have the opportunity to know Him and His love.

So sometimes, in the quiet moments of the holiday season, I look at our tree and remember Christ's own tree. In those moments, I am left with my thoughts of the baby Jesus and the cross. Bookends of Christ's human ministry, each powerful reminders of His love.

That's what Christmas is all about. And that is worth celebrating. Whether it is with colorful decorations or in quiet contemplation over God's incredible plan, we rejoice in God's mercy. **Christmas is about Jesus Christ.** ✝

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Galatians 3:4-5 (NKJV)

The Housewife: An Undervalued Profession

By Greg Sykora



There are a lot of jobs in our world that are very respected. Doctors, lawyers, pilots, architects, engineers, directors, and accountants come to mind as positions of great respect.

Never On The List...

Unfortunately, housewives never make it onto the lists of distinguished and prestigious roles. God gives the housewife a much greater amount of respect than the world, and He shows us how

"She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness."

Proverbs 31:27 (NKJV)

important the housewife is through the Bible.

But Highly Regarded!

Proverbs 31:10-31 describes

an excellent wife, and these verses describe a woman who takes care of those in her household. Let me quote a couple of verses from this passage. **Verse 15 (NKJV)** says,

"She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants."

Verse 27 (NKJV) states, ***"She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness."***

Proverbs 12:4 (NKJV) describes, ***"An excellent wife is the crown of her husband."*** The wife that stays at home and manages the house well **is** doing very well!

The World Values Money

I wish that I could change the way the world sees housewives with this one simple article. *Unfortunately, the world values working for lots of money much more than it values the things a good housewife brings to the home.*

Now if you happen to be a wife and mother and have a full-time or part-time job, please know that you

are doing well too! Wives who work and raise children often receive more respect than their stay-at-home counterparts. ***Both are equally deserving of recognition.***



BUT ... You Are the Crown!

To the hard-working housewife that doesn't feel respected by the world, take comfort and find joy in knowing that you are the crown of your husband and are reaping eternal rewards in heaven. ✚

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New In The Library

By Ruth Quiring
EBC Librarian

Fiction

Featured book:



Son Of The Mountain King: The Light Will Rise

by our own ...

Olivia Sykora!

The Bitter End Birding Society by **Amanda Cox**

From The Valley We Rise by **Elizabeth Musser**

Land of Dreams by **Lauraine Snelling**

Gelato at the Villa by **Robin Jones Gunn**

The Women of Oak Ridge by **Michelle Shocklee**

The French Kitchen by **Kristy Cambron**

On Devonshire Shores series by **Julie Klassen**

A Seaview Christmas (4)



Natural Parks Summers series by **Suzanne Woods Fisher**

Capture the Moment (1)

Big Book series by **Lynette Eason**

Final Approach (4)

Tupulo Grove series by **Colleen Coble**

Where Secrets Lie (2)

Hope Harbor series by **Irene Hannon**

Sunrise Reef (11)



Youth Fiction

The Knights of Arrethtrae series by **Chuck Black**

Sir Kendrick and the Castle of Bellione (1)

Sir Bentley and Holbrook Court (2)



Sir Dalton and the Shadow Heart (3)

Lady Carliss and the Waters of Moorue (4)

Sir Quinlan and the Swords of Valor (5)

Sir Rowan and the Camerian Conquest (6)

Non-Fiction

So Many Africas: Six Years In A Zambian Village by **Jill Kandel**

Papua Pilot: Flying The Bible to the Last Lost Peoples by **Paul Westlund**, with **Dane Skelton**

Better Than We Dreamed: The Story of Elaine Townsend by **Simona Gorton**

Sleeping Coconuts by **John & Bonnie Nystrom**

DVDs

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

The Chosen (season 5)

The Least of These: A Christmas Story

Christmas Angel ✝



Weekday School of the Bible

By Rand Dow
Acting Weekday Bible President

Weekday School of the Bible is a release time program for public school students. This ministry gives public school students the opportunity to learn about the Bible, the Gospel, and Jesus during the school day every week.

Qualified Teachers

Our teachers are drawn from the Dallas youth pastors and other qualified teachers. Weekday Bible maintains five chapels, one near each of the main public schools in Dallas. The close ties between the Dallas Ministerial Association and Weekday Bible have enabled a great witness to God's work here in Dallas.

Current Challenges

Our big challenges this year are purchasing the LaCreole Chapel and increasing the High School Chapel (The Hub) Drop-In Center program. The Drop-In Center is now open **Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM.**

Fundraising

We held a Dessert Fundraiser at EBC on November 1. We had about 100 in attendance, and raised, so far,

over \$49,000. I was surprised by the community response!

God is providing abundantly for the work. Many helpers pitched in to provide cakes, cookies, pies, and other desserts, and to help with organization, setup, and cleanup. A special **THANK YOU** to all involved, and to EBC for making the facility available to Weekday Bible.

Follow-Up Project

There will be a follow-up project to improve SE Academy Street sometime in the next couple of years. We are currently only concentrating on the chapel and lot purchase, in order to assure that the LaCreole Release Time program can continue in the next school year.

Please stay tuned for updates! We are almost halfway to our first goal.

Donations Please, If You Are Able

Anyone looking to help us out can find donation information on the Weekday Bible web page at weekdaybible.com for the post office address for sending checks, or an online donation under the **"DONATE"** button. ✝

History of Weekdday School

In the early years Bible lessons took place near the only elementary school in town, Morrison School. The Bible class was held at the First Christian Church, just a couple blocks away. In the early 1950s Lyle School came on line and a chapel was built on Rainbow Street. As Whitworth School became part of the School District an effort was made to provide busing of the students to the Lyle Chapel. However much of the class period was consumed by busing.

In the late 1970s **Ted Westfall** worked with a donor at the First Presbyterian Church to provide a vacant lot adjacent to the new Oakdale School. A chapel was erected, becoming the second building and offsetting busing from the new school. Ted's vision

→ Please see "History" on page 8.



WEEKDAY
BIBLE

Teaching Jesus • the Way, Truth & Life

YOUR Board of Elders



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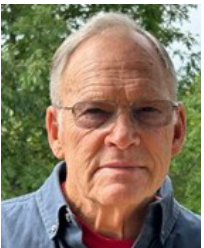
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Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28 (NIV) †



Elders' Epistle

By Galen Harms

A Noble Task

In this month's Sentinel I will attempt to share some activities of the Governing Board of Elders. We, elders, recognize the **"noble task"** (1 Timothy 3:1, NIV) God has given us and the affirmation we also have from you, the congregation.

Accordingly, I will share with you some of the tasks and activities which the Elders have undertaken in this last month.

Our DRV Family

Did you know that there are approximately 40 people that call EBC their church home and reside at Dallas Retirement Village?

Some of these folks are quite independent, while others may be in the Health Center and not able to be out and about. Another group at DRV are able to attend church services with the assistance provided

by the church van. Knowing we have a sizeable group of DRV residents that attend EBC, the elders and **Pastor Troy** have been meeting at DRV quarterly for the last several years.

We met on November 6, and brought **Daniel Stent** along to share over coffee and cookies.

We are grateful for the van drivers and the ministry performed in bringing some of these folks to church services. The drivers include **John Love, Ian McFarland, Mike Loewen, and Doug Mollerstuen.**

Nominating Committee

Elder chairman, **Joe Cacka**, is a part of the nominating committee.

This group is currently in the process of finding individuals to fill positions on several church boards, committees, and teams. As they prayerfully determine which folks they should contact, it is hoped that those contacted will be willing to serve. If you are sensing God's direction to serve in one of these capacities, you are encouraged to present yourself to the nominating committee. The elections for members of the various boards,

committees, and teams will take place at the congregational meeting in January 2026.

Money Talk

Though the Finance Committee of the church has the overall responsibility of presenting a church budget, various boards, committees, or teams will define their own portions of the church budget.



Accordingly, the Elders have spent time this month seeking God's guidance in determining their portion of the budget. Personally, I sense an enormous responsibility in this regard since this portion includes the paid staff of the church. As with the elections cited above, the budget will be voted on at the congregational meeting in the first month of next year.

Finding a Replacement

In the Elders' Epistle in last month's *Sentinel*, Chairman Joe delineated the steps in the process of our search for a new Associate Pastor. After **Pastor Mike's** departure in August, a search team was quickly formed. The process will be quite lengthy and we are trusting God that He will provide the right man for the job. With holiday interruptions, it may be a while before further information is known and shared.

→ Please see **"Elders"** on page 8.



History

← (Continued from page 5.)

was to have a chapel by each elementary school, so the next one would be at Whitworth. **Don and Edythe Perry** lived directly east of the school and generously provided space on the large lot for this new chapel. This occurred in the early 1980's.

As the program expanded to include middle school young people another chapel was built just north of Lacreole School, with the generous provision by the First Methodist Church and building skills of **Steve Cameron**.

Finally, in 2000, another lot became available across from Dallas High School. A major fund-raising effort brought to fruition this great facility. All buildings were funded with no loans! This history overlooks the true wonder of relationships and staff people who have carried the message of God to Dallas young people over several generations.

We praise God! ✝



Meanwhile, please continue to pray for the search team as they continue to seek God's wisdom and guidance in the process, and that they don't become discouraged as they continue their work.

Special Visitors

During the weekend of November 7 – 9, **Kevin Stone** and **Gary Krehbiel**, representing the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches (FEBC), were in town. Kevin, *the President of the FEBC*, shared in both services on Sunday, November 9. He used the text from **1 Corinthians 12:12-31** as the basis of his message and to quite thoroughly explain how the FEBC functions. If you missed that or are interested in our association of churches you are encouraged to view and listen to it on the church's website (www.ebcdallas.org) or on YouTube®.



Understanding Our Talents and Gifts

On the Saturday of that weekend, the Elders met as Gary spent workshop time describing **Working Genius**. According to Working Genius, *"Everyone has natural, God-given talents when it comes to work. As it turns out, there are six different types of talents, or geniuses, and each of them is required for accomplishing any kind of endeavor."*

For those of us participating, Gary helped us understand our own personal geniuses or gifts. Then, based on individual assessments we had taken earlier in the week, he described how our individual geniuses *"form an interdependent model, a comprehensive process for accomplishing any type of work."*

This work, in our case, is of course working together as an Elder Board. This was an excellent workshop for us and I pray that we'll see in the future evidences of having gone through it.

Important Meeting

A Congregational Meeting was held in the afternoon of November 16. Though the meeting was lengthy, there was much information to be gathered. Some of that information might be designated as trivia—*How many kids are registered for Awana?* (130), or *How much over budget was the gym roof?* (approximately \$10,000)—BUT all of it was worthy to note as relevant to our efforts in furthering God's kingdom.

The biggest take-away for me was that there are several committees or teams in which there is a need for additional help. The kitchen folks need leadership, in Christian Education there is a need for teachers and leaders, the Health Committee needs members, and Connect Groups need leaders. As written above, you are encouraged and invited to use your God-given talents to minister in these areas.

Your Prayers ARE Appreciated!

Thank you for praying for the Elders. We wish you God's blessings in this Advent season. ✝

Above photo by AdobeStock.

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC



December 1, 2025

November was quite a month! I spent much of the month on the road, speaking at our churches, conducting **Worship Workshops**, meeting with pastors and other church leaders, mediating difficult issues, and more.

I traveled to meet with folks from our churches in Abbotsford, BC; Dallas, OR; Prince Albert, SK; Rapid View, SK; Waldheim, SK; Langham, SK; Dalmeny, SK; Rhineland, SK; Swift Current, SK; and Indian Head, SK. I also met with the leaders of two churches who are considering whether to join our Fellowship. That's just in-person support. I also spent time on the phone or emailing with several other churches.

These months of heavy travel are always exhausting, but also wonderful and invigorating. It is such a joy to visit firsthand and see how God is working among our churches. I cannot think of anything I would rather do than offer support and encouragement to local churches and their leaders.

Everything we do is designed to strengthen and encourage local churches. And local churches are the tool God uses to disciple and nurture believers. The Church is a gift. Important in ways we cannot fully express. Please pray about whether God would have you support our work.

But the reason for all of this is the Gospel message—that God sent his son to us as a baby, that this baby grew up to be a sinless man. That this man, Jesus Christ, died on a cross to take on the wrath that we deserved for our sin. That the same man rose from the grave, conquering sin and death.

All we must do to receive the gift of life is believe. *But why would others believe if we are not sharing what we know with them? Why would they believe if we are not modeling the love of Christ toward them? Why would they believe if our churches are watering down our message or failing to serve those who come through our doors?*

This Christmas season, let us be grateful for the gifts of God—including salvation, the church, and so much more! And let us not hesitate to share the gift of the Gospel with those around us.



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5 (ESV)

Kevin Stone

FEBC President ✝

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The Gift of Conflict

Our Role: Make Every Effort!

By Gwen Griffiths

Today I prayed for two friends who have experienced the pain of having a child cut off contact with them. One experienced this recently, while the other told me it has been over four years since she last heard from her daughter (*and granddaughters*). The children in both instances have professed faith in Christ.

And yet, they have chosen disunity with the people closest to them—their families. I have watched my friends examine their own hearts for offences that need to be admitted and apologized for, pray for these children, continue to reach out even when their phone number is blocked and letters return unopened.



Direction from the Scriptures

Repeatedly, the last phrase from the passage we've been focusing on comes to mind:

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

(Ephesians 4:2-3, NLT)

Do All That You Can

When we follow Christ, we are commanded to make every effort to work out conflicts we encounter. **Romans 12:18 (NLT)** adds, ***"Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone."*** That's a tall order!

It calls us to give up "rights" in order to show Christ's love:

- 1.** The right to be known as in the right or the "better" person, to be the "winner" in a conflict.
- 2.** The right to receive an apology.
- 3.** The right to be the injured party, receiving sympathy

from others as we gossip about the conflict.

4. The right to hold a grudge.

5. The right to distance ourselves from further hurt, protecting our hearts instead of being vulnerable.



Who Should We Prioritize?

In truth, these "rights" aren't so much rights as behaviors and desires that put us in bondage to the hurt—and to sin. And yet, we hold on to them, prioritizing ourselves and our feelings over the other person. We must instead practice Paul's words from **Philippians 2:3b (NLT)**: ***"Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves."***

Putting It All Together

Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit calls us to take responsibility for our own part in each conflict (*humility*), to assume

→ Please see "Effort" on page 11.



← (Continued from page 10.)

the best of others (*gentleness, patience*), to forgive, to show compassion for the situation of the person who hurt us (*bearing with one another in love*).

We must remember that, as Christians, we are called to a higher standard. If God was willing to forgive all our sins and to reconcile with us regardless of our desire or effort towards that goal, then we have a duty to forgive those who offend us.

Yes, But...

I want to insert a disclaimer here. There are times when a hurt or offense is so egregious or has been repeated so many times that boundaries are necessary. But in most conflicts, our goal should be reconciliation. It should be to show Christ's love to others, regardless if that love is shown to us in return.

Putting It Into Practice

The holiday season brings a multitude of opportunities to begin to practice what we've learned so far about conflict. We'll feel rushed



and easily offended at times; we'll encounter people who have hurt us in the past; difficult topics and strong opinions will be encountered.

Let's keep the words of **Ephesians 4:2-3** in mind as we interact with those around us. Let's seek to show Christ's love instead of insisting on our own "*rights*". Let's do all that we can to live in peace with those around us.

Keep Thinking:

✠ *Is there a relationship in which conflict has caused contact to be broken or damaged? Have you made every effort to reconcile? What further efforts could you make now?*

✠ *What "rights" would you have to give up in order to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit? ✠*



EBC Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2025
6:00 PM

E M M A N U E L

God with us

MATTHEW 1:23



November was an odd month for the Mom to Mom group. Because we follow the school calendar, and because there was no school on either of our scheduled meeting dates, we had no regular meetings in November.

Still Connecting

However, we still wanted to meet with and invest in the moms in our group, so we hosted a **Moms Night Out on November 14.**

About 20 ladies attended; they learned basic elements of calligraphy and then used that skill to create Christmas ornaments. They also enjoyed a hearty dinner of soup, bread and dessert, along with good conversation.



Mentor moms also reached out to interact with their tables in the absence of a regular November meeting, getting together with their tables to chat with and encourage the moms under their care.



Getting Ready for Christmas

In December, we have one regularly scheduled meeting. **Judi Peters** will lead a Christmas centerpiece-making activity that has been greatly enjoyed in past years. The meeting, held on December 9, will also include a cookie exchange and a devotional given by **Dani Schafer.**

Pray for Encouragement

Would you pray that Mom to Mom continues to be an encouragement to those who attend? Many of the moms are believers, but some are not. It is our prayer that Mom to Mom will be a welcoming environment where they can experience Christ's love and truth in a way that changes their lives and the lives of their children.



Photos by Gwen Griffiths.

It is our prayer that Mom to Mom will be a welcoming environment where they can experience Christ's love and truth in a way that changes their lives and the lives of their children.

Office Update

By Alison Johnson
EBC Office Manager



December Events

There are several events going on in the church in December. Be sure to check the church app, bulletin, or

website for more details. We are working very hard to keep all the avenues of information up to date.

If you have an event that you want published, Please be sure to get the information to the office as soon as possible with details that you want shared.

End of Year Giving

It's that time. If you are planning to send an end of year gift, be sure to send it so that it is postmarked on December 31, or before.

→ Please see "Office" on page 13.



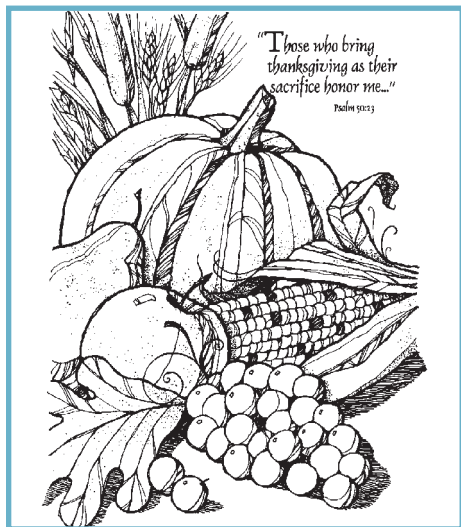


The office will be open and will be doing a last of the year deposit at the end of the day for those last minute donations. Donation receipts will be ready mid- to late-January and available for pickup Sunday mornings. Any not picked up before January 31 will be sent out that day.

Thank you!

The end of December will wrap up my seventh year working here at EBC. I love my job and love serving with so many of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting me continue to be a part of your worlds.

EBC is truly such a special church family and I hope that you all know that. ✝



Notes from Awana Clubs!

The Awana Clubs at EBC are Thankful and Giving!!!

By Matt and Lena Calef

Our November was highlighted by the end of the canned food drive. As of this writing, we do not have a total of the donations. But we can safely say the clubbers and their families are generous in their giving!



Thankfulness was on the agenda for club topics. Many times in the Bible giving thanks is instructed or modeled. Be it for provision of food, family members, or brothers and sisters in Christ.

So we give thanks for many things. **Thanks** for Wednesday evenings. **Thanks** for the wonderful roof over our heads. **Thanks** for the leaders that bring game time, small group time, song time, or story time. We would ask for prayers of **thanks** from our readers here, too, for all of these things. Most of all, **thanks** for a Savior that took on our sins and paid the price in our place.

Upcoming in December: We will have a couple weeks off around Christmas. But before that, we will be handing out the car kits for our annual **Awana Grand Prix**.

We are hoping the extra time will encourage even more creativity in the cars. Lots of prizes are up for grabs including the new people's choice categories that were introduced last year. **The Grand Prix will be held on January 24**, starting at 9:00 AM in the EBC Event Center. Come join in the race day excitement if you've have some free time!

Thank you, EBC family! You make our Awana program possible! ✝



Background

By Linda McFarland
EBC Missions Committee

Affiliation: Ethnos360

Ministry: Church Planting

Serving In: Papua New Guinea

Few countries can match the cultural diversity of Papua New Guinea, whose 7 million people speak more than 800 languages, and live mostly in rural, indigenous communities.

Eric and Judith Hedeem are church planting missionaries with the Malaumanda tribe in the country of Papua New Guinea. They have been involved with teaching, literacy, translation, and leadership development in that community for more than 20 years. They currently live outside the Malaumanda community and have expanded their focus toward helping church planting efforts. They have three boys: **Stephen, Daniel,** and **Timothy.**



Timothy and Owen Hutteman getting caught up on life.



We had our Lapilo co-workers come back to PNG to do some member care. We miss having our fellowship with Derrick and LaShawn.

Helping A New Church And Fellowship W/ Friends

Since coming back from my summer trip I have been language and culture consulting every month. All of the locations so far have been in tribes that have not presented the Gospel yet.

This month I went in to a where there is a young church and a new couple who have joined the church planting team there. Several years ago I spent time in there with the original team members so it was fun to spend time there with tribal folk who are now believers. That is



Fellow consultant Aaron Weatherl and I doing a language evaluation of his daughter Rachel who is married and living in Maliyali.

our goal in everything we do here in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and we are encouraged to see God at work.

Once I finished up with that consultant trip I headed to Wewak to join **Judith and Timothy** for our annual Sepik conference. During our time there we were able to spend time with our Malaumanda teammates for the first time in awhile. **John and Christina** are just back from their home assignment and **Bob and Noby Kennell** were just finishing up a trip into the Bisorio tribe where they worked before joining us in Malaumanda. We had three men who shared about Grace during the conference. There is never a day here where we don't need to live by these principles.



Judith and I with Bob and Noby Kennell.

Green Card Issues

Now the rest of the update is going to be more focused on our issues with getting Judith's green card. September 12, 2024, I applied for

➔ Please see "Papua" on page 15.



an I-130 which is there to prove that Judith is my lawful wife so that I can sponsor her Green Card application.

Initially it looked like it might take 5 months to get this approval **but two months after we lodged this we saw that the estimate was then 14 months.** We contacted an immigration attorney and he told us that 14 months was just the expected time frame for those applications at the moment so we just settled in to wait. Well, it has been about one year since this delay...*and it looks like we are staring at a possible further delay.*

More Delays...

Earlier today, I logged in to see what the estimate for this first application is and instead of saying three months, it said 15 months. To say that I was distressed by this change would be accurate. I have seen on one website that the government approved next to no I-130 applications in September and none in October so this may in part be a reflection of the current US government shutdown. *It is hard to say.*



The Hutteman and Hedeem families at the end of Sepik conference.

Prayer and Praise



✠ Praise for the opportunity that **Eric** had to visit the Maliyali people group for a culture and language consult. Three families are already done with language study though one of them had to leave due to health problems. The family that I was working with came in to take their place.

✠ Pray for **Eric** as he is in the midst of adjusting his ministry responsibilities here at Lapilo. He will be stepping out of centre management while continuing on with consulting and Malaumanda ministry. Praise that he will be able to work on some Bible lessons for the Malaumanda church.

✠ Pray for another trip into Malaumanda in November where **Judith** might possibly be able to join him. Pray also for us to find someone to watch **Timothy** while we are away.

✠ Pray for **Judith** as she balances helping out in the school, helping **Timothy** with his schooling and her engagement/encouragement with various ladies on the centre.

✠ Pray for the continued outreach to Minini. They should be starting to teach through Romans in late November.

✠ Pray for **Daniel** as he is at Bible school and very busy with a lot of reading and papers to write. Praise that he is doing very well with his classes. Pray for him to find a job sometime soon.

✠ Praise/Pray for **Stephen** as he now has the funds for the rest of this semester. Praise that he was able to get his private pilot's license. Praise also that he was able to find a reliable car.

✠ Pray for the work of church planting here in PNG. There are a lot of challenges on the support side of things these days.

✠ Continue to Pray for **Judith's** US immigration process. We are not sure how long this process is going to take. Pray for us as we consider trying to re-engage with an immigration attorney.

Still Believing ... AND Praying

We have initiated contact with the same immigration attorney that we talked with last year just to make sure that there are no other factors that we need to be aware of. We don't know where this is going and that does make it hard. We do still believe in a Sovereign and Gracious God. Please keep praying.

In Him,

Eric and Judith, Stephen, Daniel, and Timothy

Can You Help?

To donate to the Hedeem ministry, please visit:
<https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/eric-and-judith-hedeem> ✠



All of the missionaries from the Sepik region.

Spending Time at DRV

Meaningful Visits!

By Joyce Harms

Pastor Troy and some elders have been coming to visit Dallas Retirement Village (DRV) every three months. The people from EBC that live here have certainly enjoyed having them.

This last week **Daniel Stent** shared about their life in Albania. We enjoy cookies and coffee/tea and then Pastor Troy keeps us updated on new happenings at the church. People that don't get to come to the church services can keep in touch and keep in the loop. ✝



Kay Whitney, EBC Gift Box Chairperson, reports that gift boxes for missionaries will be available soon.

Check the weekly bulletin regularly for necessary information on this opportunity to give freely and generously to our missionaries. ✝

Start the New Year with Saving a Life!



EBC Blood Drive
January 5, 2026
Noon to 4:30 PM

By Sherri Fobert
EBC Healthcare Committee

Schedule an appointment using the **Red Cross Donor App**, visit [RedBloodCross.org](https://www.redcross.org), or call **1.800.733.2767**. *It's not too early to schedule an appointment.* ✝

May the peace
and joy of Christ
fill you and yours with
wonder and awe
this Christmas Season.

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.

Quick Response

Submitted by Board Chairman **Ray Drenon**:

I arrive at church early to set up for the service. One Sunday, heavy rain took out the church electricity. We didn't want to cancel church, so the praise team quickly selected a few very familiar songs and prepared. As I opened the service I prayed for our pastor and for our hearts and minds to be open to receive God's Word. I also prayed for the safety of the power company workers and for the power to be restored quickly. As we said amen, the lights came on! This was one of the most prompt answers to prayer I have experienced. We were all encouraged! Most of the church family had come despite the rain. It was a wonderful worship service!

Justin & Rebekkah BeDell
Raymond, CA ✝

4-H Sunday

It was a blessing to host our local 4-H group for "4-H Sunday." About 100 people came—children, parents, and 4-H leaders. Their enthusiasm was exciting for our church family. I preached on Psalm 1 and explained that we can listen to God and delight in his Word, thereby flourishing like a tree planted by a stream.

Kevin & Darleen Weston
Munden, KS ✝

50 Years of Partnership

We held a special service to commemorate and praise the Lord for 50 years of partnership between Kettle Falls Community Church and Village Missions. We sang songs of gratitude to the Lord, watched a VM video, and enjoyed a slide show of the past 50 years of God's faithfulness as we jointly serve this little community.

Tony & Kathy Pinkham
Kettle Falls, WA ✝

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.



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

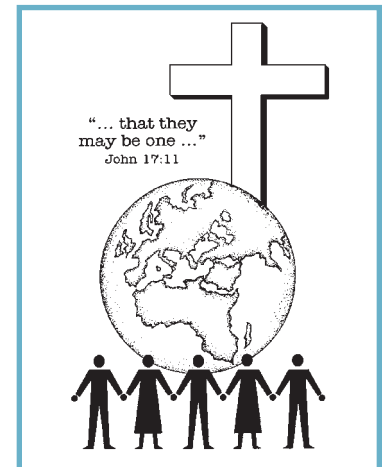


Kevin and Jennifer Domes

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



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

→ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 19.

EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 18.)



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 Hedeon

Ethnos 360

eric_hedeon@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

pastorpaullanquist@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

- ✠ 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 | ◆ Mission Connexion |
| ◆ CEF | ◆ River of Life | ◆ SAT-7 (Dennis & Cindy Wiens) | ◆ Weekday School of the Bible | ◆ The Gate |

Sunday Worship Services:

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

Awana: (September through April)

Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm

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

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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!** ✝



December Events

12/2 Ladies Missionary Fellowship

12/5 Candlelight Desert

12/5 & 12/6 Christmas Boutique

12/8 Hymn Sing

12/9 Mom to Mom

12/14 Christmas Program

12/24 Christmas Eve Service

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

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

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)