

The Sentinel

WE
STAND
WATCH

DISTRIBUTED BY EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH



January 2026
VOL 10 • NO 01

Looking Ahead

By Pastor Troy Bassham

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)



As each year ends and a new calendar year begins, it is, for many, a time of reflections and new resolutions. As I consider what to write in this first article of 2026, my thoughts are inclined to what the new year holds for EBC.

Looking at the world around us, it is clear that there are difficulties

and uncertainties. Certainly, people are divided and there is no shortage of evil around the globe. *How should we, as a church, respond while preparing for this next year?*

A Fortress Mentality?

There is a natural response for people to develop a fortress mentality, taking shelter away from the world

in protective communities of faith.

Yes, we need to be committed to Christ and His church. We are to be growing in

personal righteousness and need the support and encouragement from one another. ***However, we are also to be about the mission He has given us.***

→ Please see "Ahead" on page 2.

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Deadline for the February, 2026 ISSUE is:

Monday, January 26, 2026 @ 5:00 pm!

know. grow. go.

Ahead

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← (Continued from page 1.)

Our Job

We have been tasked to take the redemptive message of Jesus Christ out into our communities. We have been called to live as lights in the darkness shining in service as ambassadors of Jesus Christ (**Matthew 5:16, 2 Corinthians 5:20**).

Too many believers judge the success of their church on objectives other than proclaiming the Gospel: *do we still exist, did we meet our budget, what do our attendance numbers look like?*

Others can be content to fundraise for the evangelistic work of others while ignoring their next-door neighbors. These can all be good things (*other than ignoring your neighbors*), **but we are called to more than survival.**

We aren't to be like the unfaithful servant who buried his talent (**Matthew 25:14-30**). Instead, we are to be serious about the job that God has given us. We are to be bold and take action (**Daniel 11:32, Romans 1:16, 1 Thessalonians 2:2**).

Pray ... Perceive ... Prepare

Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel (**Ephesians 6:19, 1**



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Peter 3:15). **Look** for chances to show the love of Jesus (**Matthew 5:14-15, 1 John 3:18**). **Prepare** yourself to be a more effective witness (**2 Timothy 2:15**). Take the time to **evaluate** both our lives and ministries: *Do we really have an expectation of reaching the lost?*

And finally, **ready** yourself for a bumpy road. Reaching the lost is engaging in a spiritual battle, there will be opposition (**Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 1:13**). The people you reach out to may have lots of baggage and rough edges (**Titus 3:3**). But this is what we were called to do: bring the message to the lost in the power of the Spirit, with the love of Christ.

Be Thankful!

I don't know about you, but I am thankful that someone cared enough to bring the message of salvation to me.



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So let's make sure that we do not forget the Great Commission. There is work to be done, both in our community and beyond. I pray that we would be found pleasing to God and effective in His service in this coming year.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth." **Acts 1:8 (NASB)**

Maranatha. ✝

First Quarter Adult Sunday School

10:30 Service

Bible in Life - Room 121

1 Peter - Room 131

Young Adults - Room 222

Sermon Recap - Room 224

Faith Lesson Series - Room 228

Book of Genesis - Room 122

Foundations of Faith - Room 226

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

Olivia Sykora's First Book!

She's Published!



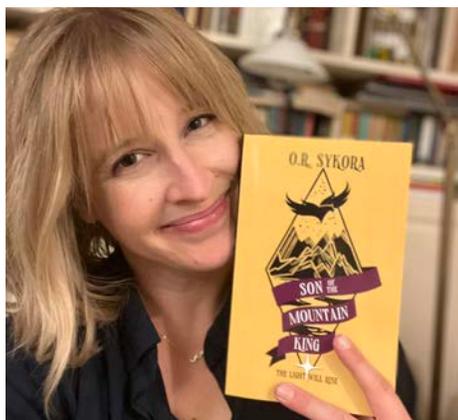
Editor's Note:

In the December issue of *The Sentinel*, it was reported that our very own **Olivia Sykora** recently became a published author.

Her book, *Son of the Mountain King*, is available on Amazon®, Barnes & Noble®, and wherever books are sold. (AND ... it's available in our EBC Library!)

It seemed appropriate that we interview Olivia in an attempt to get some of the backstory about her book and process of getting it written and published.

The Sentinel is most appreciative of Olivia for taking the time to respond to our written interview questions during the busy Christmas season.



Can you tell us a little about your book?

Olivia:

Son of the Mountain King is an allegorical fantasy about what I believe is the greatest love and adventure story: the love of God for people. Judah is the young governor of the land of the Mountain King. She longs to prove her worth, but when an enemy threatens to invade her country, Judah is faced with secrets, betrayals, and a conspiracy that may prove the undoing of herself and her people.

Readers have said *Son of the Mountain King* reminds them of *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Till We Have Faces* (**C.S. Lewis**), *Hinds' Feet on High Places* (**Hannah Hurnard**), *Israel, My Beloved* (**Kay Arthur**), and the fairytales of **George MacDonald**.

What inspired you to write a book?

Olivia:

Like many authors, I have always loved writing. However, as an English teacher I was content to work with my students on

their writing and maintain a sporadic blog on the side. My dabbling in prose took a sharp turn in 2018, when I joined a

→ Please see "Olivia" on page 4.



Book Signing!

Olivia will be signing copies of her book on:

Sunday, January 25
10:00 - 10:45
(Coffee Time)
in the EBC Library

Have your copy personalized by the author!

(20% of the proceeds of books sold that day will be donated to the EBC Mission Trip to Thailand.)

Olivia

← (Continued from page 3.)

worldwide challenge to write a novel draft in 30 days. It was a heady experience. I was hooked. The rough draft of *Son of the Mountain King* came into being the following year during my second writing challenge.

How did you decide on the topic/storyline for your book?

Olivia:

While I was reading my devotions one morning, the comparison of Christ’s love for His people being like that of a husband for his wife struck me in a new way. *I thought, what if the entire story of the Bible were told as a simple love story, a fairytale that speaks the truth of the greatest love story ever?* The seed of SOMK grew from there.



How were you able to balance being a wife, mother, and author?

Olivia:

I retired from teaching to be a full-time mom, and I joke that I now have a full-time and part-time job. I love all aspects of the writing process, and I love working with the wonderful people at Pelican Book Group. Envisioning something, then creating it and reworking/ changing/ polishing it—every stage has its thrills. The biggest challenge is finding time to work. My husband is my lifeline for this, whirling our two little girls off to the park or library so I can pull out my laptop for a few hours. Otherwise, I snag time early in the morning, while the girls nap, or late into the night!

Who are your favorite authors and why?

Olivia:

If I had to pick one—which is almost impossible!—I would choose **C.S. Lewis** and his *Chronicles of Narnia*. Even though the books were written for young readers, the story/ allegory is for all ages. Every time I reread this series, I discern new spiritual truths, which is why I love allegory as a writing form.

A few other fiction authors I love are **J.R.R. Tolkien** (fantasy), **George MacDonald**



(allegory), **P.G. Wodehouse** (humor), among many others.

How long did it take you to write the book?

Olivia:

I wrote the rough draft in 30 days for a writing challenge, and then the story sat for years. At one point I realized that if I truly wanted something to happen with this story, I would have to take the next step! There was nothing really to lose by working further on the story and eventually pitching it to publishers. I knew that God would either open doors or keep them closed.

Describe the process of locating a publisher.

How did you decide on a publisher?

Olivia:

It takes time, commitment, and a splash of grit to navigate the publishing world. I read articles, learned how to create things like book pitches and book proposals, and dug as much as I could into the world of traditional publishing.

.....
Write what you’re passionate about! Get ready to work hard. Pray through the process.

→ Please see “Olivia” on page 5.

Olivia

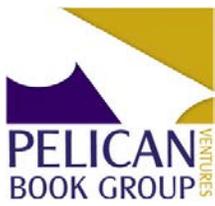
← (Continued from page 4.)

In the end, I did a lot of research and pitched the book to many publishers, both Christian and secular. Like most authors, I received a decent pile of rejection letters. When a Christian publishing house, Pelican Book Group, expressed interest in acquiring the story, I'm pretty sure I cried.

Do you have plans for other books? Is the story part of a series?

Olivia:

Yes! *Book 2, Wrath of the Mountain King*, will release next fall, and the third book in the trilogy is currently in the works. My desire is to continue writing Christian allegories, but as



with all things, we'll see which doors God opens in the future.

How did family, friends, and your faith keep you inspired to continue writing and finish the project?

Olivia:

My hope has been (*and continues to be*) that God will use this story to touch hearts and draw them to Him. I knew that if this book made it anywhere past the stage of book proposals, then it was all God's doing. My husband, family, and the few friends I spoke with about this project were so encouraging to me. Their confidence helped me through the difficult times.



What suggestions or advice do you have for aspiring authors?

Olivia:

Write what you're passionate about! Get ready to work hard. Pray through the process.

My best advice is that which helped me, a quote from **C.S. Lewis**:

"...in literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original: whereas if you simply try to tell the truth (without caring twopence how often it has been told before) you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever having noticed it." †

Operation Christmas Child

Shoe Box Ministry



This Christmas season, the EBC family once again put their money and effort where their heart is. A total of 236

By Kay Whitney
EBC's OCC Chairwoman

packed Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoe boxes were donated. Additionally, \$480 was donated to cover shipping charges. **THANK YOU, EBC!**

On-Going Collection

Starting in February there will be a container in the foyer to collect different items each month for the OCC shoeboxes. †



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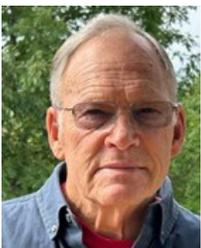
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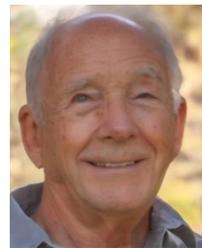
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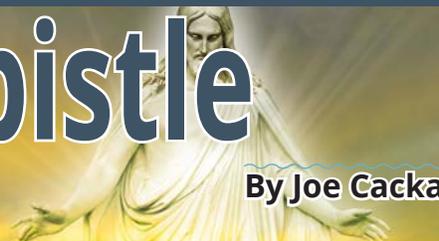


Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28 (NIV) †

Elders' Epistle

By Joe Cacka



The New Year — 2026 and New Friends

Thanksgiving and Christmas are now past, and we have much for which to be thankful.

God has blessed many of us with family and friends to share Christ's love and grace. Many fellow believers brought their family and friends to the Christmas Eve candlelight service. It was a joyous occasion of singing and celebration, remembering our Lord's birth many years ago. It was wonderful to see the church filled with hundreds of lit candles as we closed the service singing Silent Night.

Welcome, 2026!

The new year, 2026, has now begun and we look forward to new opportunities to grow in God's Word and share the love of Christ with one another, reaching out to those we work with and our neighbors.

It is my challenge to each of us this new year to purposefully reach out to someone new whom you do not know or have not established a speaking friendship within your neighborhood. In prayer, before you

go, ask God for wisdom and to place on your heart which neighbor(s) He would want you to befriend. Get to know them by name and learn about their family and job; gain an understanding of their relationship with God.

Kindness and Compassion

Be mindful of what Paul said in **Ephesians 4:32 (NASB2020)**:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven you."



You should get to know them with the purpose of loving them as Christ loves you. ***Be an***

example of a believer in your words and actions.

Who Saves?

Remember that you and I do not save anyone. It is God, through the Holy Spirit, who gives the grace for repentance and our humble submission to Him that opens our

heart to receiving the Holy Spirit into our lives.

Our Calling!

As you may already know, in **2 Corinthians 5:20** we are all called to be ambassadors for Christ.

Through our conversations with our new friends, we ought to be sharing how Christ has intervened in our lives, how he has changed us from our old fallen nature to one who exhibits the love and forgiveness of Christ. As we share, do it with gentleness and compassion while encouraging them to be reconciled to God.

Preparing the 2026 Budget

The Elder Board has been working with the Budget Committee and various church committees to prepare a proposed budget to be presented at the **January 25 Annual Business Meeting**.

Copies of the proposed budget will be made available by January 11; they will be in the church office for individual review. If you have any questions regarding the budget, please come to a **budget Q&A meeting** on **January 20, at 6:00 PM.** †



.....
Remember that you and I do not save anyone. It is God, through the Holy Spirit, who gives the grace for repentance and our humble submission to Him that opens our heart to receiving the Holy Spirit into our lives.

Don't Bite and Devour One Another

By Greg Sykora

Adobe Stock

We all know what happens when another kid sees someone take the last cookie from the cookie jar. Even if there are no visible fits of rage, there is often a lack of warm, fuzzy feelings. The young child without a cookie may actually chomp on the other child, literally sinking their teeth into them. *Haven't most parents had to tell their child not to bite someone?*

What Folks Are Known For

Both Christians and non-Christians alike are known for biting and devouring one another.

Galatians 5:15 (NKJV) tells us, ***"if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!"***

We like to think that we are always kind and loving, but we still have our sinful nature...so we aren't



always as nice as we desire to be. When a conflict arises, restoration is the goal, *not* consumption. This verse from Galatians



was written for an early church, and yet it still very much applies to us today.

Avoid the Ways of the World!

The ways of the world would congratulate us for seeking revenge and consuming those who have been unkind. There are countless books and movies out there where the main character glorifies revenge, seeking to defeat one's enemy with an all-consuming rage, and the movie ends when vengeance is achieved. *If we aren't careful, this type of perspective will influence us.*

The Galatians weren't the only ones with issues of being mean to one another. The Roman church needed to be reminded of this, too.

Romans 12:17 (NKJV) says, ***"Repay no one evil for evil."***

Repaying evil for evil sounds like a way to devour someone pretty well. If multiple early churches needed to be told *not* to devour and consume one another, there's no reason to think that we are immune to this sort of thing.



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One of my favorite verses in the Bible is **Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV)**, ***"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."***

In order for me to impart grace to others, I must keep rage and/or passive aggressiveness in check.

A Way to Avoid

Now that I made everyone who read this feel guilty about the last time you tried to get even with someone, let me give some humorous advice.

When you want to bite and devour someone, just go get a snack instead! My kids are constantly trying to consume one another through sibling rivalry, and yet they both are perfectly content while eating chicken nuggets at McDonald's together!

Just don't ask about what happens when we get down to the last French fry.... †



Adobe Stock

We like to think that we are always kind and loving, but we still have our sinful nature...so we aren't always as nice as we desire to be.

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC

January 5, 2026



For many of us, today is the first day back to work in the new year, and the beginning of the year often brings thoughts about newness. Whether or not we make resolutions, we often use this season to reflect on how we might be better versions of ourselves in the new year.

I want to encourage you that God is in the business of transforming people into the image of Christ. So, if you truly want to improve this year, start by spending time with the only One who can truly transform. More time at the gym can be a great thing, but the transformation God has in mind is infinitely more valuable.

As an organization, the FEBC is seeking to become what God desires for us as well. We seek his face and consider how we can best honor him with our time, resources, and abilities. Here are just a few examples of things he is doing among us, or **“What’s New this New Year:”**

- ◆ Our Ministries Coordinator, **Gary Krehbiel**, has a new certification in the “Working Genius,” which he has already used to bless several of our church leadership teams. Feedback from those who have taken advantage of this resource has been overwhelmingly positive.
- ◆ We enter the new year with new volunteer leaders in several positions.
- ◆ Our new Fellowship Focus Editor (**Sarah Stutler**) is working to improve the quality and continuity of our online publication.
- ◆ God is providing new pastors for our churches. We welcome **Rex Green** at Wolf Point, MT, **Samuel Tschetter** at Jansen, NE, and **Blaine Donaldson** at Beloit, WI.
- ◆ I continue to have discussions with new churches who are interested in joining our Fellowship. Please continue to pray as these discussions take time and discernment.
- ◆ God continues to provide new interest in supporting our ministry financially. While monthly pledged support for our Ministries Coordinator remains around 76%, we have received over \$ 20,000 (USD) from individual gifts this year. That means that if pledged amounts are given as scheduled, Gary will reach full support for the year!



Perhaps God is calling you to something new this year. Perhaps you could join our leadership team, or spread the word about our Fellowship, or make a monthly pledge that will help us achieve full support for another year? Perhaps you would determine to pray faithfully for our ministry? Every dollar of support, word of encouragement, or prayer in faith is greatly appreciated! May God richly bless you and your local church in 2026!

Kevin Stone - President ✝

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The Gift of Conflict

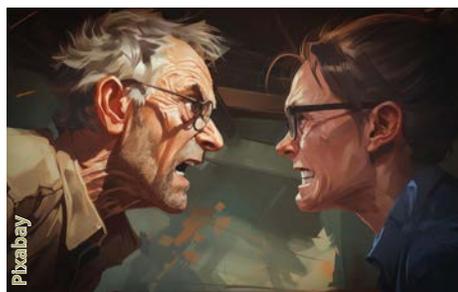
Go Quickly and Directly

By Gwen Griffiths

Go Quickly & Directly

We spent a good portion of 2025 talking about our heart and mindset when we find ourselves in conflict, all based on **Ephesians 4:2-3 (NLT): 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.**

We are called to display humility, gentleness, patience, grace, and unity as we work through conflict—and as we journey through our Christian life in general.



Resolving Conflict

Once our hearts are in the right place, we must consider what steps to take to resolve a conflict.

Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV) can be a helpful passage to read over before beginning: **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.**

As you approach someone, remember this call to put the needs and desires of the other person above your own. **Seek to have the same attitude that Christ had.**

How & When

When we realize we need to approach someone about conflict, we should go quickly and directly to them.



Too often we do the opposite:
 ❖ **We let time pass, and as it does, the problem festers.** We allow resentment to build, and our frustration with the situation colors each encounter with the other person.

❖ **We go to everyone but the person involved.** We tell our spouse or friends about the problem and how we feel, allowing our bias about the situation to influence how the listener feels about the person with whom we are experiencing conflict.

Neither one of these practices values the person with whom you have conflict above yourself.

➔ Please see "Conflict" on page 11.

... remember this call to put the needs and desires of the other person above your own. Seek to have the same attitude that Christ had.

Conflict

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← (Continued from page 10.)

To Go...Or Not to Go?

Should you go to the person for resolution, or is this a place to display grace and forgiveness? I recently listened to a sermon from **The Porch** (a young adult ministry in Dallas, TX) that challenged me to let go of what I could.

As we consider whether to approach someone, we should take time to think through our motives for approaching the other person. Do we desire to help the other person become more like Christ by lovingly bringing light to a character issue or pattern that will hurt their witness—or (insert sarcastic humor here) is our motive to make sure they know that they aren't quite as good at living this life as we are?

If the behavior becomes consistent or grows worse, it may be time to bring it to the other person.

When we are the **offender**—the one who has caused hurt—we should be quick to go and acknowledge our actions and the results. Even if the person we have hurt has already moved past it, taking the time to acknowledge our sinful action or attitude will show them that we value them above ourselves. This can be especially effective in showing Christ's counter-culture love to those who do not know Christ as their Savior.



Pixabay

Keep Thinking:

✦ Listen to "*A Prescription for Conflict*" (theporch.live/messages/9281-prescription-for-conflict). Is there something you can apply the next time you need to resolve a conflict?

✦ How can you value others above yourself the next time you face conflict? †

Ladies Missionary Fellowship

Busy Times at LMF

By **Christine Schneider**
LMF Chairwoman

Ladies Missionary Fellowship is happy to help people in our church and through other local groups. The year 2025 was VERY busy. Throughout the months, **we made ...**

- ✦ Adult clothing protectors for the Dallas Retirement Village
- ✦ Precious pockets for Oregon Right to Life
- ✦ Luo pads for women in Bolivia
- ✦ Baby quilts for Hope Pregnancy Clinic and Bambinos
- ✦ Quilts for Somonka House
- ✦ Christmas placemats for Dallas Meals on Wheels
- ✦ Quilts to celebrate weddings and new babies here at EBC.

In addition to the above, in 2026 we will add a new project: We will be making diapers for Chimane babies in Bolivia.



There's Room for YOU!

Come join us! We would love to have more ladies help with our projects in 2026. We meet the first Tuesday of the month in the Youth Center classroom at 9:00 AM with a potluck lunch to follow. If you have any questions please contact **Christine Schneider** at **503.949.4228** or via email at cncschneider@msn.com †

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The Word Speaks Women's Conference

By Erin Lovell
Women's Ministry
Chairwoman

This spring, **Salem Heights Church** is having their women's conference, **The Word Speaks**, the weekend of March 6 – 7.

Encouraged to Attend

The Women's Ministry Team here at EBC encourages ladies in our church to go to this wonderful event. The goal of this conference is to bring women together throughout the Willamette Valley to look at God's Word and connect with each other.

This year **Colleen Searcy**—author, Bible teacher, and Women's Ministry Director—will share about our intentional God and look at the life of Jacob.

Key Verse

The key verse for the weekend will be **Isaiah 46:3-4**. Through the life of Jacob, Colleen will lead the group of ladies on a discovery of God's sovereignty and purpose despite Jacob's wayward heart and faulty ambition. No misstep on our part will ever deter God's love and His promises.

Ladies can sign up via the conference website, thewordspeaksconference.com. Cost is \$75 for the weekend conference in Salem. See details on the information poster.

We would love ladies to carpool as a group and all sit together. Please contact **Erin Lovell** at sei_lov@yahoo.com if you plan to attend. ✝

KEY VERSE: Isaiah 46: 3-4

"Listen to me, house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been sustained from the womb, carried along since birth. I will be the same until your old age, and I will bear you up when you turn gray. I have made you, and I will carry you; I will bear and rescue you."

PURPOSE: To champion a *passion* for God and His Word as we learn to trust the *power* of God through His Word.

GOALS:

- To offer sound biblical teaching
- To provide an opportunity to connect with other believing women
- To cheer on a desire for God's Word

SCHEDULE:

Friday Evening	Saturday Morning	Saturday Afternoon
5:30-7:00pm - Check in	8:30am - Doors open	2:00pm - Doors open
7:00-9:00pm - Session 1	8:30-9:30am - Light brunch	2:30-4:00pm - Session 3
9:00pm - Dessert	9:30am-11:30am - Session 2	4:00pm - Conference wrap up
	11:30am-12:30pm - Optional workshop	
	11:30am-2:00pm - Lunch on your own	

Coming Soon!

Store Time

By Kim Disher
Awana Store Shopkeeper

The second Awana store night will be on **February 18 for Sparks** (K–2nd graders) and **February 25 for T&T** (3–5 graders) and **Trek** (middle schoolers).

Ready to Donate?

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

Ideas to Consider

Legos®, games, sports items (balls, bats, gloves...), trucks, cars and tracks, dolls (all sizes), dollhouse items, doll clothes, stuffed animals,



small framed pictures, knick–knacks, crosses, arts and craft items (markers, paints, coloring books, stickers, pompoms...), jewelry, flashlights, headlamps, speakers, tape measures, tools (hammers, screwdrivers...), small lotions, lip balm, bubble bath,

hair items, items for gifts for moms, dads and siblings (kitchen items ...).

Thank YOU!

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

Awana Update

By Matt and Lena Calef

A New Year Dawns on the Awana Clubs at EBC!

As the Christmas season winds down, we prepare for the second half of the Awana year. Clubbers have been joining us for Wednesday nights starting in September. Our schedule concludes around the end of April. *What awaits clubbers this month? Keep reading...*



January kicks off with a return on the 7th and **"crazy sock night."** I can't wait to see what kind of crazy socks walk in the door! Game time could be a wild flurry of random and interesting socks running around in the gym!



The second special event coming in January (and one that almost everyone looks forward to) is the annual **Awana Grand Prix**. Car kits were distributed to clubbers in December. The event kicks off January 23 with check in, pit inspections, and test running from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the **"EBC Grand Prix Stadium"** (AKA the Activity Center).

We will check the contestants in, make sure they meet the specifications for racing, and give racers a few chances to run the race track to fine tune their cars. Race day is January 24. Doors open at 8:30 AM, with the main event kicking off at 9:00 AM. *We are excited to see what kind of speedy and creative entries we have this year!*



Let's not forget... these are in addition to the regular meetings on Wednesday nights. Where our clubbers are involved in learning God's Word and applying the principles that word speaks about.



Respectfully Submitted,

Matt and Lena Calef †

Office Update

By Alison Johnson
EBC Office Manager

January is a super busy month for the office. We will be hard at work creating the tax donation receipts, getting the packets ready for the annual business



meeting, updating the directory, and so much more.

Kari will be in the office 4 days a week now to help keep things flowing smoothly. *Yay!*

Annual Meeting Coming Soon!

I will have meeting packets ready for the **Annual Business Meeting** on Sunday, January 11. That is the two weeks before the meeting. Please save the date for **January 25 at 4:00 PM** and plan to attend the business meeting.

Members will have the opportunity to vote on certain vacant committee positions and the budget for 2026. The packet will have the names and information you will need before the meeting. If you are not a member, you are still welcome to attend and see what is coming for the year and how the church is doing.



Budget Q&A

If you have questions about the coming budget, there will be a budget Q&A meeting on **January 20 at 6:00 PM** to help get things clear for anyone asking.

Donation Receipts Available Soon



Tax donation receipts will be available **January 18 & 25 in the foyer**. This year I am attempting to do two things at once. When you come to get your contribution receipt, I will ask you to look at your directory information and update anything that has changed. Without fail, there are things not updated every time I get a new one out, so I am hoping to connect with more people this way.

Can YOU Help?



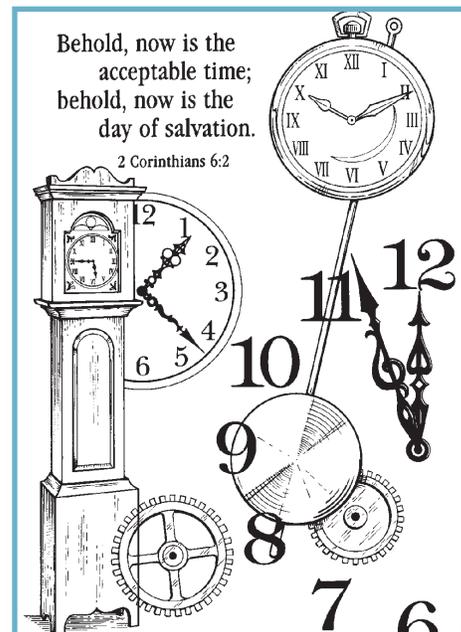
Secondary to that, if you are interested in being an editor for the directory information, please let me know. I have one person, but multiple eyes helps a lot. I am aiming to have new directories out in February.

Web and App Updates

Last, I am working hard to keep the website and app updated, but there are a lack of details coming into the office. *Please ... please ... please ...* if you have an event coming up for me to add to the communication

outlets, will you be sure to get details to us so I can share it out and about? I can always guess but that is far less accurate.

Thanks bunches! This is the best job ever and it's because of all of you. †



The Sentinel Production Schedule

By Bob Disher

The new **2026 Sentinel Production Schedule** has been created and will be a link on the webpage.

Generally, newsletter articles are due at 5:00 PM on the Monday immediately prior to the first Sunday of each month.

We on the production team are most appreciative and grateful for all of our contributing authors. *You are truly a blessing! Keep up the great work! †*

EBC MEN'S MINISTRY

2026 EVENTS



January 31
31 Day Journey Wrap Up Breakfast

March 7
Men's Breakfast

May 9
Men's Breakfast

August 8
Men's Breakfast

September (Date TBD)
Annual Trap Shoot

November 14
Men's Breakfast

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

Help Wanted

Are YOU—or do you know—a youth who attends one of EBC's youth groups? If so, we can really use your help.

The Sentinel—and our readers—would like to continue the tradition of regular youth updates.

Blessed!

In the past, we have been blessed to have dedicated youth reporters provide us with first-hand reports from their unique perspective.

Initially we had **Natasha Griffiths** for a number of years until she graduated. Then **Isabelle Lovell** joined the team for a couple years until she, too, graduated. These "staff reporters" informed readers of The Sentinel with insight into the junior high schoolers and high schoolers. Both young ladies created columns that received many positive comments from readers of all ages. They wrote about the meetings, activities, and retreats.

Can YOU Help?

Now we have a need. If you are interested in writing about youth activities for The Sentinel, please let us know.

You can inform us of your interest:

Pastor Andrew

503.747.9300

youthpastor@ebcdallas.org

Bob Disher

503.931.8239

bob.disher@charter.net †

Missionary Christmas Gifts

By Kay Whitney

In addition to EBC's regular financial gifts to our supported missionaries, we also give our church family the opportunity to make a special contribution during the Christmas season. This money is then divided as an additional gift among our missionaries.

→ Please see "Gifts" on page 16.

Blood Drive Helps Many! Making a Difference

By Sherri Fobert

The new year started off with a blood drive at EBC. The American Red Cross came and transformed our EBC Activity Center into a Donation Center. While the overall turnout at the January 5, blood drive was fair, EBC donors accounted for 50% of the blood donations.

A heartfelt thanks to:

- ✘ Janet Minden
- ✘ Jim Walker
- ✘ Ron Brooks
- ✘ Carolyn Stent
- ✘ Bob Disher
- ✘ Andrew Wheeler
- ✘ Linda Rogers
- ✘ Sherri Fobert
- ✘ Alison Johnson
- ✘ Julie Gilreath
- ✘ Kathy Reynolds



Special Shout Out

Carolyn Stent and Julie Gilreath receive a special shout out this month for being first-time donors. Another shout out goes to Larry Fast, who drives from West Salem to donate at his home church!

Great Impact

A total of 84 lives were impacted today. One might consider that a drop in the proverbial bucket compared to the massive shortage of blood supply that currently exists. However, to the 84 people who will receive this life-giving blood, it makes a BIG difference. **THANK YOU, ALL!**

Next Opportunity

Whether you donated this time or not, you have another opportunity to make a difference. The next blood drive at EBC will be on **Monday, April 27 from noon to 4:30 PM.**

If you are in town that day, please consider joining us for a life-saving donation.

You'll be glad you did! †



Gifts

← (Continued from page 15.)

THANK YOU, EBC family, for your generous gift of **\$2,506** for the Missionaries' Christmas gifts.

Below is a listing of our gifts to our missionaries. Couples without children at home received **\$147.42**; those whose children are still at home received **\$294.84**.

- Ivan & Mary Goossen\$147.42
- Dan & Judy Burke\$147.42
- Steve & Mikki Schmidt\$147.42
- Paul and Leslie Lanquist\$147.42
- Jake & Moriah Michalovich\$147.42
- Daniel & Aubrie Stent\$294.84
- Eric & Judith Hedeem\$294.84
- Tim & Sondra Armstrong\$294.84
- Tim & Mallory Brooks\$294.84
- Kevin & Jenn Domes\$294.84
- Joshua & Diana Bulande\$294.84 †

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.

Women Sharing Faith

The women of our church actively invite friends, relatives, and coworkers to the monthly women's ministry event. Recently, 50 women came, and two guests placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

Raúl & Teresa Corona
Avenal, CA †

Reaching Children

Last fall, we launched a children's outreach activity, held one Saturday a month. Eight children came to the second one. They were eager to play, sing, and listen to the Bible lesson. With the older children, I did an interactive Bible study on one of Jesus' miracles. I also had fruitful conversations with the parents who stayed the entire time.

Rod & Denise Nikkel
Golden Prairie, SK †

Serving Veterans

More than twenty veterans and their families attended our church's 4th annual Veterans Day breakfast. Many volunteers prepared the meal and greeted guests as they came in. We had good conversations to deepen friendships and create opportunities to serve. One guest came to church the following Sunday.

Paul & Ronelle DeVall
Wrenshall, MN †

Missionaries & Ministries EBC Supports!

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

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



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

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



Joshue and Diana Bulande
 SIM
dianaafrica@gmail.com

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



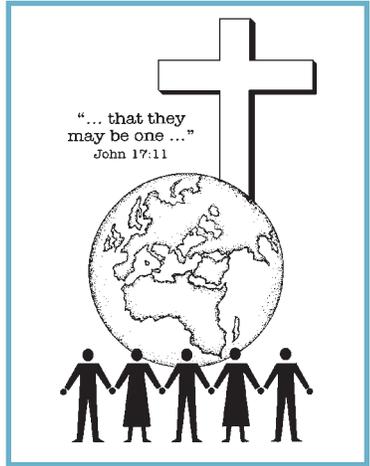
Dan and Judy Burke
 Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)
dan_burke@ntm.org

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



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

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



➔ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 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 Hedeem
Ethnos 360
eric_hedeem@ntm.org

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



Paul and Leslie Lanquist
Village Missions at Tanwax
Country Chapel, Washington
360.832.3584
pastorpaulanquist@gmail.com

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



Jake and Moriah Michalovich
Living in Dallas and serving
Polk County, Oregon
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.**

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

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

**Thank
you!** ✝

January Events

1/6 Ladies Missionary
Fellowship

1/12 Hymn Sing

1/20 Budget Q&A
Meeting

1/24 Awana Grand Prix

1/25 Annual Business
Meeting

1/31 Men's Breakfast

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



***Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your
God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."***

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)