

# The Sentinel

WE  
STAND  
WATCH

DISTRIBUTED BY EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH



April, 2026  
VOL 10 • NO 04

## Living Hope

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

**1 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV)**

In my years of being a pastor, I have had the opportunity to officiate numerous funerals and memorial services. On top of that, I have attended many more. The



By Pastor Troy Bassham

range of emotional response, from person to person and service to service, has been quite evident.

### Belief in the Resurrection?

The individual details of the person's passing can greatly affect the specific memorial. However, what makes the greatest distinction is whether a person has a belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As Christians, the foundation of our beliefs is the truth that Jesus Christ died for our

sins, was laid in the tomb, and then rose from the grave on the third day.

### Not a Final Resting Place...

At a graveside, you may hear someone say that a person is being placed in their final resting place.

→ Please see "Hope" on page 2.

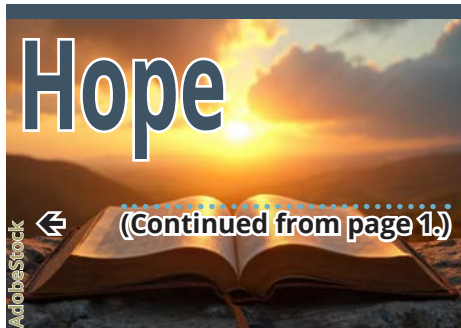
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**Deadline for the May, 2026 issue is:**

**Monday, May 4, 2026 @ 5:00 pm!**

know. grow. go.



But this is not the truth of the matter.

Just as Jesus was laid in the grave and raised up to life, we will also be raised. Our Savior has not only conquered death, but He also gives His people new life—*everlasting life*.

### Fear Not!

In the opening pages of Revelation, Jesus states, ***“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death”*** (Revelation 1:17b-18 NKJV).

Again, in **John 11:25-26a** (NKJV), Jesus proclaims, ***“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”***

### Transformed and Freed

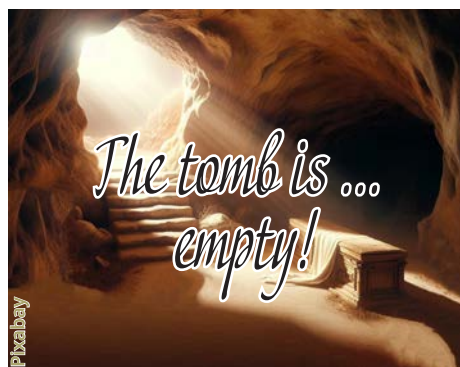
Consider this: Our resurrection from the grave is not merely the resuscitation out of death. We will *not* be raised broken, worn, and



failing. Rather, our earthly bodies will be transformed and we will be freed from the impact of death and sin.

***“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. . .”*** (1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NKJV).

*We can only wonder about the joys that we will experience on that day.*



### He Died ... AND Rose Again!

Such is the hope that believers possess. Because of Christ's resurrection, we, too, will be raised to life.

The empty tomb that we celebrate on Easter is the exclamation point of Christ's victory over sin and death.

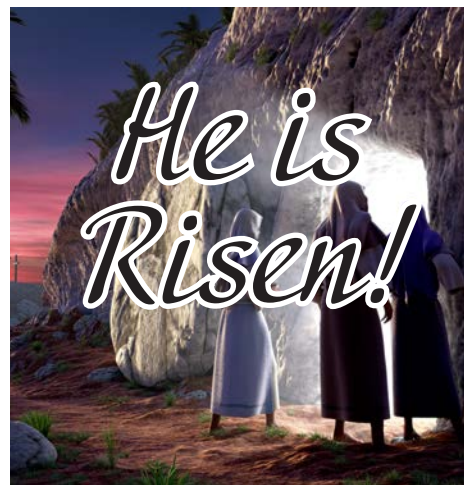


The empty tomb that we celebrate on Easter is the exclamation point of Christ's victory over sin and death. But it also a glimpse of our own futures. The day is coming when we will no longer be afflicted with sin and sorrow or sickness and pain. Jesus Christ was the firstborn of the new creation—God's remaking and restoration of creation. ***Those of us who accept His salvation will follow Him into this new life which is truly life.***

### My Prayer

My prayer is that you place your trust in Jesus unto salvation and receive the promise of eternal life. Because, for the believer, death is just a milestone, it is *not* the end of the road.

Just as the disciples found Jesus's tomb empty on the third day, one day our graves will be emptied too. **And we will live with our Savior forever.** ✝





By Ron Brooks

**Editor's Note:** My apology to Ron for not including this in last month's issue.

While many of our readers have already submitted their tax return for 2025, it is never too late to fine-tune your financial/life plan for the future. Hence its inclusion in this issue.

At our business meeting in January there was a short discussion on the tax benefits of using retirement funds for donations to Evangelical Bible Church. In the couple of weeks since then I have had some people ask me about the meaning of terms **RMD** and **QCD** and the tax implications.

**Disclaimer:**

First off, let me say this: *I am not a financial planner and am no longer an Oregon licensed tax preparer.* I am not giving you advice on taxes, retirement planning or if you can utilize this strategy.

**Talk It Over With Your Advisor**

You have to discuss this with your financial planner and tax advisor to determine if this can be useful in your specific circumstances.

In this article I am just going to give a high-level overview of the terms, how they are linked in the tax code, and the potential benefit of using this strategy to donate to EBC.

Let me start by defining what these letters RMD and QCD mean.

**What IS an RMD?**

The acronym **RMD** stands for **Required Minimum Distribution**. It is a legal requirement for individuals when they reach a certain age (73 years old as of 2026) to take withdrawals from a traditional IRA. It also applies to an employer sponsored retirement plan or profit sharing plans like a 401(k), a 403(b) or a 457(b) plans.

The contributions to these plans were not counted as income for tax purposes, meaning you did not pay any taxes on the money you put into your retirement plan. Once you reach the age when you must start to withdraw the funds, the government defines the minimum amount of income you

must withdraw. The actual amount is based on how long they expect you to live and how much money is in the plan. The federal and state governments want to tax the funds now.

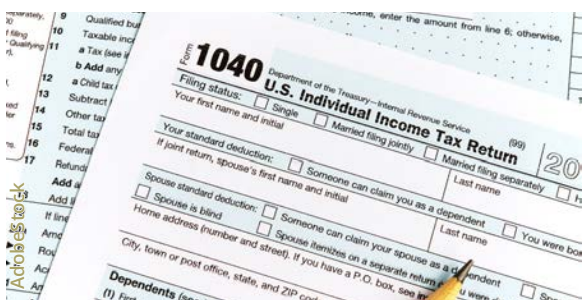
**And a QCD?**

The acronym **QCD** stands for **Qualified Charitable Distribution**. When an individual reaches the age of 70 1/2 years old they can request a distribution from an IRA (not a 401(k) or 403(b) or 457(b)) to be sent directly from your financial institution to any qualified charity.

EBC is recognized as a qualified public charity. **A QCD distribution is not considered income and will not be taxable.** It allows you to take advantage of supporting EBC through your donation, lower your taxable income and use the standard deduction when filing your taxes.

*Remember when I said above that the government wants to tax your RMD when you take a distribution because they let you contribute to your IRA tax free? Keep in mind that an RMD is required to be distributed as income, but a QCD is a tax-free donation and can be used to meet the required*

➔ Please see "Opportunities" on page 4.



**Keep in mind that an RMD is required to be distributed as income, but a QCD is a tax-free donation and can be used to meet the required distribution requirements.**

# Opportunities

← (Continued from page 3.)

distribution requirements. This tax loophole allows you to use a QCD withdrawal to meet the legal requirements of the RMD at the same time as supporting the church.

## Benefits:

- ✘ Lowers your taxable income
- ✘ Meets RMD requirements
- ✘ Lowering income can result in lower Medicare premiums and lower taxes on Social Security payments
- ✘ You could benefit from not needing to itemize when filing taxes

## It Might Be for You

You don't necessarily want to give away money just to get a tax break. But if charitable giving is already part of your financial plan, a QCD can be a great way to optimize the tax benefits of giving. Your financial advisor and tax professional can help make sure your giving strategy aligns with your retirement goals as well as any changes to tax rules. †



# A Recap of EBC's Blood Drives

By Sherri Fobert

Starting in August of 2022, EBC started hosting blood drives for the American Red Cross. Through January 2026, EBC has hosted a total of 10 blood drives. During those years, a total of 260 people donated blood, which calculates to 783 lives that were impacted. Just counting individuals who attend EBC (97, *many were repeat donors*), their donations made a difference in the lives of 291 individuals. ***A special heartfelt thank you to each donor for taking the time and the giving of their blood to impact the life of another individual.***

Last year, the Red Cross (*according to their own statistics*) was able to:

- ✘ Distribute over 6.5 million blood products to hospitals.
- ✘ Increase the donor base by 2% (*after 15 consecutive years of decline*), with first-time donors growing by 5%.
- ✘ Achieve the best donor retention rate in over 30 years.
- ✘ Achieve a new all-time high for Power Red donations, up almost 20% from 2024.

Blood products from our January 5, 2026 drive went to the following hospitals, among others:

- ✘ OHSU
- ✘ Lourdes Medical Center
- ✘ Salem Health
- ✘ Kadlee Reginal Medical Center
- ✘ Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital



When the amount collected exceeds what can be used in local communities, the products are distributed to other areas. **No donation is wasted.**

## We Met Our Goals!

The Red Cross actually sets a goal for each blood drive. Due to your donor support and the community donors, EBC was able to reach their goals for two previous blood drives. Therefore, EBC was provided funds to purchase new pillows and covers for the sanctuary and signage for first aid kits, and one first aid kit.

## Can We Count on YOU?

Our next blood drive is **April 27, from noon to 4:45 PM.** Please consider continuing the amazing effort here at EBC.

## To Schedule An Appointment...

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) or phone **1.800.733.2767.** †

# Doing ALL Things For The Lord

By Greg Sykora

**C**olossians 3:17 (NKJV) tells us, *“whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord.”*



When I first heard this verse, it was given to me out of context. I was told that I can let my job be

something I do for the Lord, and the verse was presented as a way for me to feel better about the job I was doing.

## More Than Your Job!

If we are to do everything in the name of the Lord, as **Colossians 3:17** tells us, this will most certainly include any jobs we work, especially if we are working them 40 hours a week. However, there’s more to this letter than having your job be done in the name of Christ. If we read a larger section of this letter, **Colossians 3:1–17**, there are some very specific instructions on how to do things in the name of Jesus.

## Where You Should Focus

**Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)** tells us to *“set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”* So if I pray over my breakfast, clock in at work, then forget all about what God wants me to do or think until 5 PM, I may not be doing my job *in the name of the Lord*. **Verse 8** tells us to put off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language. So in order to do all things in the name of the Lord, I need to be kind, slow to anger, avoiding malice and blasphemy, and I can’t take part in the inappropriate jokes my secular coworkers may be telling. *This is much more than just doing my job description for the Lord.*

**Verse 15 (NKJV)** tells us to *“let the peace of God rule in your hearts.”* So if I am doing all in the name of the Lord, I may need to be sure that I don’t get caught up in workplace drama and that I remain patient with my coworkers that are causing the drama. While at work, I need to keep the peace of God in my heart. **Verse 16 (NKJV)** tells

us how to do this: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”* Then **verse 17 (NKJV)** tells us, *“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

To me, this means when I am at work I am to do both my job description *and* to carry myself according to these specific instructions from the Lord. My character, *both in and out of work*, is important in order to do all in the name of the Lord.



In all we do, we should do in the name of the Lord. Let us continually evaluate ourselves to make sure that our actions reflect the commands given to us in the verses that precede **Colossians 3:17**. *How we act and think is a major part of doing all things for the Lord.* †

*To me, this means when I am at work I am to do both my job description and to carry myself according to these specific instructions from the Lord.*



# YOUR Board of Elders



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*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*  
Acts 20:28 (NIV) †

# Elders' Epistle

By Nat Thomas

Last month **Galen Harms** and **Mike Huber** shared their testimonies and some of their life journeys. This month we will hear from **Jim Walker** and **Nat Thomas**.

These brief glimpses into our elders' lives are in response to an attempt to increase the transparency at EBC by having some idea of who the elder team is. When we know someone, it is easier to talk to them, ask for prayer, feel comfortable making requests, and—in general—feel at ease interacting with them.

## Get Involved and Learn About Others

There are enough folks here at EBC that it would be difficult to know everyone, but it is important to know the testimonies of our leaders. The church leadership encourages everyone to be involved in a Connect Group so that people have a chance to know others at a deeper level. These groups are small and designed to be a support system for folks, a time of fellowship and a time to dig into the Word of God together. *Some Connect Groups even offer a snack, another benefit!*

## Meet Jim Walker

I was raised in a home with six siblings in Coos Bay, Oregon. My family were not Christians at that time.



**Vicky** and I married at a young age and before my thoughts of a career were established, I was drafted into the military service.

When I was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida attending an Aviation Ordinance School, Vicky was able to come with me. We started attending a small Southern Baptist church and it was there on March 23, 1967, that we both accepted Jesus as our Savior and were baptized.

## Military Service

My next duty assignment was in a squadron at the Oceana Naval Air Station near Virginia Beach, Virginia. While in my squadron, I completed three tours to VietNam. On one of my deployments, I was given my first Bible from a fellow believer who encouraged me to grow in God's Word.

Upon completing my years in the Navy, I returned to Coos Bay. There we joined the First Christian Church and became active. We led the youth group and Vicky taught Sunday school. We were involved in a Bible study with several couples that we are still good friends with today.

Upon returning home after deployment, I found out—to my delight—that all six of my siblings and my parents also came to know the Lord.



## Back to School!

I felt the Lord directing me to return to school. At age 31 we moved to Corvallis with our two daughters. In Corvallis we attended the First Baptist Church where our oldest daughter was baptized. I received both my Bachelors and Masters degrees from OSU. Upon graduation in 1978, I was offered a teaching position at Dallas High School in the Business Department.



## 61 Years of Marriage & Memories

Vicky and I have been married for 61 years and because of the Navy and my returning to college, we have lived in four states and moved our household ten times.

With our moves we have had the opportunity to be involved in several churches, teaching Sunday school, leading a youth group and several Bible studies.

At EBC, I have been involved in serving as a deacon, trustee, and elder—as well as being a part of a Connect Group, Coffee Group, and Welcoming Desk.

## The Special Gift of Family

We have two beautiful daughters and their husbands. Also, part of our family are two grandsons, two granddaughters, one great grandson and one great granddaughter who we love to spend time with.

→ Please see "Elders" on page 8.



## Meet Nat Thomas

I was born in Maine in the early 50's on a coastal town near



Kennebunkport. (*This technically makes me a Mainiac.*)

My parents then moved to upstate New York to a dairy farm. In 1963, our family moved to Washington state to the Puget Sound area where I and my two sisters grew up. I graduated from Bainbridge Island High School in 1972 and worked in construction for a year before attending Northwest Bible College.

### Post Graduate Work

After graduating with a Biblical Literature degree, I went on to get a Masters degree in counseling at Seattle Pacific College. I met **Sylvia** at SPC and we dated for a couple of years before getting married in 1978. We lived in Alaska in the early 80's where two of our daughters were born. The Lord led us back to Portland where I began graduate school and completed my doctoral degree in psychology at George Fox University in 1990.

### Following the Bible's Teachings

I worked in the mental hospital in Salem for ten years and learned how to love unlovely people as the Bible directs. I also had a counseling clinic in Corvallis.



In 2000, we moved our family of six—*two more daughters having been born while I was in graduate school*—to Romania to help with administration and teaching in a Bible school in Caransebes. After seven years on the mission field, we moved back to Polk County, Oregon for our girls to attend college. I worked ten more years at the mental hospital before retiring in 2018.

### Still Active in Romania Ministry

Sylvia and I continue to go back to Romania every year to teach classes and encourage our team there (*we are still directors of the organization*). We are involved in ministry at EBC as well and enjoy the wonderful fellowship of so many friends and acquaintances at EBC and all over the world.

### Early Interest of God

My Christian journey began with an interest in the things of God as I read the new red Bible my parents gave me in 1965 when I was in fifth grade.

I read the Old Testament and was amazed at all the stories. Some were intriguing and at times appalling, such as *"How could anyone possibly swear to sacrifice the next person that came out of the front door of their house?"*

### Early Church Experience

Our family went to church, first to the United Methodist denomination then switched to an Assembly of God church. It was there we heard the gospel clearly and my sisters and I attended the youth group and got involved in the youth choir. Early in our attending this church, I went to a Christian rock concert (**Second Chapter of Acts**) and made my commitment to Jesus as my Savior. I have endeavored to serve Him since that commitment in 1969.

### A Body with Many Parts

As I think about Paul's description of the Body of Christ in **1 Corinthians 12**, I am thankful that at EBC we have such a diversity of people serving the Lord in the numerous ministries.

I have at times thought of myself as a *"liver"* in that I help people process their problems. *What part of the body do you see yourself?*

People that encourage others might be considered *"blood vessels"* taking nourishment to others. An administrator might be thought of as a part of the brain that works on strategic planning.

Even though these thoughts might be stretching Paul's analogy somewhat, I think it is interesting to think about where each of us fits into the Body of Christ. ✝

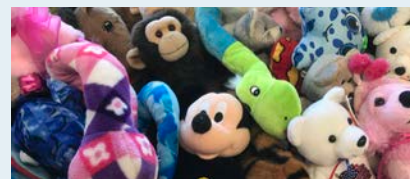
## Awana Store Needs



By Kim Disher

The last Awana store of the year is just around the corner. The items we are most in need of are: board, card, and dice games (*eg Monopoly, Clue, Checkers, Uno, Farkle...*); sports equipment (*eg soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, gloves, bats...*); cars and trucks; Legos (*Star Wars are the favorite*); flashlights and tools.

Basically, anything you think children aged 6–16 would be a good idea. Gently used (clean) items are always welcome. ✝



Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

# News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone  
President, FEBC



April 1, 2026

Easter season is upon us! Every church within our Fellowship is seeking to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior in a Biblical way that draws believers into a deeper connection with God and draws unbelievers to belief. Let us pray for our own churches and for our fellow churches during this busy season. God is working among us, and I praise him for the faithfulness of our pastors, nursery workers, sound and video technicians, elders, staff members, greeters, teachers, ushers, custodians, musicians, and so many more who are working to bring the Gospel to the people in your hometown! May God be greatly praised in and through our ministries.

This week, we plan to release the newest edition of the *Fellowship Focus*. Please check out my article there about how our Fellowship was rooted at the very start in a belief that the Gospel message is of utmost importance. Evangelical is our middle name because our founders stated in 1889 that a huge part of our purpose is to “spread the Gospel.” We have not wavered in our commitment to this pillar of our Fellowship.

We’ll also be reminded of this commitment at **Connect26**. Our Keynote Speaker will be **Steve Janz**, Executive Director of **Millar College of the Bible – Sunnybrae campus**.

Steve’s topic will be “*Gospel for Life*.”

The gospel is more than a message we proclaim—it must be the very center of our lives. We’ll be invited to consider gospel realities and truths as the daily source for our rest, trust, obedience, and hope, not just the starting point of faith but the sustaining power for the Christian life and the long road of ministry.

I hope you will consider registering for **Connect26**. This annual gathering of the FEBC will be held July 9–11 at Salem Church in Waldheim, SK. Connect is *not* just a gathering of pastors or even elders. We invite everyone who attends an FEBC church to consider coming to Connect. You will be challenged to grow in your faith and to learn more about local church ministry while connecting with like-minded believers from around Canada and the US. Registration will be open this month. Check our website for more information.



**“...he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...” (1 Peter 1:3 - ESV)**

Thank you for your ongoing prayer, support, and encouragement. **He is risen!**

Kevin Stone

President, FEBC ✝

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## The Gift of Conflict

# Forgiveness!

By Gwen Griffiths

I've been thinking about forgiveness the past few weeks, and the topic seems like an appropriate one for closing up this series on conflict. After all, forgiveness is required for resolving conflict—at least, if we want to reach true reconciliation and healing.

### An Ongoing Need

I recently read (in The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work by **John Gottman**) that 90% of arguments in marriage will be in regards to the same issue. That's a lot of conflict—and forgiveness—over the same issue!

Because we are fallible humans, we hurt the people around us—sometimes over and over. But the beauty of relationship carried out in the Christian body is that we have



the opportunity to offer the grace of forgiveness again *and again*.

### What We Need for Forgiveness

You may remember that we spent quite a bit of time in **Ephesians 4:2-3** when we first began talking about conflict. Now I want to move to the end of that chapter and ponder the last verse of the chapter as we think about forgiveness.

***Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32, NLT)***

*Do you see the connection between having a kind, tender heart and being able to forgive?* Kindness requires us to think first of the other person, to be willing to release them from the weight of their responsibility. It requires us to practice empathy and compassion instead of focusing on our own rights and hurts.

And having a soft, tender heart facilitates our ability to forgive. When we begin to self-protect and guard against vulnerability or hurt,

our heart becomes hard. When our heart is hard, we struggle to forgive. And each time we try and fail to forgive, our heart hardens even more. It's a cycle that will take us further away from an attitude that reflects Christ.



### Looking Forward

Lack of forgiveness will manifest itself as resentment, and resentment will soon harden into bitterness if we don't act against it.

*Do you want to be a bitter old person?* I know that I sure don't! Each time we find ourselves in a place where we must choose whether or not to offer forgiveness, it would do us well to consider whether we want to move towards being a soft-hearted person who offers the same grace he or she

→ Please see "Forgive" on page 11.

***But the beauty of relationship carried out in the Christian body is that we have the opportunity to offer the grace of forgiveness again and again.***



would want to receive, or towards being a hard-hearted, bitter person who finds themselves cut off from everyone around them.

### Last Thoughts

A couple of last thoughts on forgiveness:

✠ **Forgiveness does not have to be requested in order to be granted.** We can all do the hard heart-work of forgiveness even if the offender fails to recognize the need to repair the relationship.

✠ **Forgiveness is a process, not a moment.** There will be times when hurt from a past incident rises up within us. Those are the times that we must rely most on God—the One with the most to forgive—for help. He has modeled perfect forgiveness, and He will help us offer that grace to those who hurt us.

### Keep Thinking:

✠ *Is there someone you have struggled to forgive?* Commit to praying daily for this relationship and for God's power to heal your heart.

✠ *Does your attitude toward forgiveness move you towards being the sort of person God wants you to be?*

Forgive! †

# It Happened Again

By Bob Disher

**A**lthough it doesn't happen very often, every once in a while we get a report that someone submitted an article for publication and then they inquire afterwards as to why it *didn't get included* in The Sentinel. Not because it wasn't a good article (*they're all good, right?*), it just didn't get into the publication.

### Work Flow

Occasionally, this issue occurs because the article didn't get processed in my usually-reliable normal workflow. *Ooops—totally my fault and I usually apologize profusely!*

Sometimes, however, articles don't make it because they never showed up in my email. I'm not totally sure why, but my **charter.net** email doesn't always play well with others. Things just don't make it through the internet from your computer to mine! *A puzzle....*

### What Should Happen...

As a general rule, I always try to reply to every article submission, so that people know their article was received. (*Probably not 100%, but I'll try harder in the future to reach that goal.*) Usually, because of being focused on the actual production, my replies are very short and to the point. Things like: *Thank you ... Thanks ... Got it ...* are typical responses from me. But, at least people know it's here!

### Here's What You Can Do...

**IF** you send an article in and you don't get any kind of reply, please do one of the following:

✠ Call or text me at **503.931.8239** and inquire if I received your article.

✠ While I generally prefer to receive material at **bob.disher@charter.net**, you can also try sending it to my backup email address and see if you get a reply that way: **BobDisher19@gmail.com**

### Can't Do It Without YOU

It should go without saying that this publication is nothing without **YOU** and your well-thought work. We want to continue to hear from you. Your articles are a blessing not only to The Sentinel team, but to our readers.

There has not been a single issue when I didn't wonder if we would have enough material to make it happen. God—*through your articles*—has always provided.

**Thank you!** †

Women's Ministry

# Ladies Tea Time

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

2:00pm

EBC Activity Center



## Joy in the Journey



Hear from a panel of women sharing their personal journey of finding God's joy through a difficult time.

*Tickets on Sale Sundays at Coffee Time*



*March 29<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>*



*\$5 a person or \$40 host a table*

**We need your help!**

**Sign up to decorate a table with your dishes**

**Details at Women's Ministry table**

**or contact Erin Lovell**



THANK YOU, Erin Lovell, for providing the above graphic.



**T**he March Mom to Mom meeting is almost always the meeting with the highest attendance, and this year proved no different. *Why would an insignificant Tuesday in March be so popular?* you might wonder. It is during this meeting that local moms can come and "shop" at the EBC activity center, finding needed items that have been donated by other moms.

And while it might seem that a huge, free garage sale would have little to no bearing on the lives of moms, the Mom Swap actually provides many opportunities to begin and build relationships.

### Bringing Friends!

Many of the moms, who regularly attend Mom to Mom, invite their friends for this event. It's a low-pressure interaction with a big draw (*free stuff!*) for moms who don't

wish to attend a meeting because they may feel it's more commitment than they are ready for right now. And because of the less formal structure of this meeting, moms get lots of time to chat and connect with the friends they brought.

One young mom I know that attended for the first time brought a friend. They had two babies between them, and older ladies stepped up to hold those babies so that the young moms could concentrate on finding items that would help them in their mothering. They each left with armloads of supplies—and a *positive mindset about our church.*



Getting ready for brunch.

and secure. If they choose to come again, they will see familiar faces instead of a room full of strangers.

### Pray for the Moms

*Would you pray that those who attended the Mom Swap would be led to return to Mom to Mom, and that their experience would point them to Christ. ✝*

THANK YOU, Gwen Griffiths, for the pictures used in this article.



Shopping AND making connections!



Shopping AND making connections!

### Mentor Moms: Playing BIG Role

Our Titus 2 Mentor Moms use the time to interact with new attendees, which can help those who return for a future meeting feel more welcome



Having brunch and STILL making connections!

***Mom Swap actually provides many opportunities to begin and build relationships.***

**Thailand Mission Trip**  
**Rummage Sale**  
**Fundraiser**

**When:** Saturday, April 18 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
**Where:** EBC Gym  
1175 SE Howe Street, Dallas

**Why:** To support the Thailand Team. Proceeds will be used to fund special projects for Grace Boarding House, purchase supplies to be used during daily outreach, and cover incidental travel costs for the team.

**Come find great bargains & support a great cause!**

THANK YOU, Lori Bassham, for providing the above graphic.

## Set Up Help Needed!

**A**re YOU available on **Friday, April 17, beginning at 10 AM?** If you are, please come and help us set up for the Rummage Sale. Even 30 minutes of your time (*whenever you're available*) would be greatly appreciated. If you love setting up garage-type sales—or *organizing stuff in general*—this is a perfect opportunity for you to serve. ✝

## Donations Needed

**T**he Thailand Team will hold a **MASSIVE** rummage sale on April 18 (*see flier on this page*). In order to do that and, in the process, raise a lot of money for the Grace Boarding House in Thailand, they need your donations.

### Time to Clean Out? *Do you wanna get rid of stuff?*

Donations will be enthusiastically accepted at EBC between now and April 17.

### Who You Gonna Call?

If you need to schedule a pick up of your donated items, please contact

**Pastor Andrew Wheeler** at:  
**503.747.9300**

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

If you want to schedule a drop off at EBC, please contact:

EBC Office at **503.623.2331**

or

**Lori Bassham** at  
**760.271.1936**

### Clean and Sellable...

Any clean, "sellable" donation is accepted. **THANK YOU** in advance for your donations and support of this worthwhile ministry. ✝



# Get Ready to Rummage!

By Lori Bassham

**M**ark your calendars for April 18 and come visit the **Thailand Mission Team's Rummage Sale** between 9:00 and 3:00 in the EBC gym!

## Funded and Ready to Roll!

The team will depart on July 5 (*returning on July 18*) to serve alongside **Maesot Evangelical Church** to reach Burmese refugees with the Gospel of Christ. They will also spend significant time building relationships and sharing the love of Christ with Grace Boarding House (**GBH**), a home for Burmese refugee youth.

## Money Needed for Special Projects

The team is fully funded and ready to serve! However, they are still hoping to raise money for special projects at GBH. The boarding house is in need of new playground equipment, CCTV for the entrance gate and compound security, and several day to day essentials.



Burmese refugee dump community. (Photo by Lori Bassham.)

Proceeds from the sale will be used to support these projects, purchase supplies to be used in daily outreach in Mae Sot, and cover any incidental travel costs for the team.

## Our Team!

The team is made up of nine individuals from multiple churches who have been meeting together regularly in preparation of the work that will be done in Mae Sot. Those team members from EBC are:

✠ **Andrew Wheeler**  
(Co-Leader)

✠ **Lori Bassham**  
(Co-Leader)

✠ **Garrett Bassham**

✠ **Matthew Bassham**

✠ **Eva Casey**

✠ **Chris Hafner**

✠ **Julie West**

**Salt Creek Baptist Church** is represented by:

✠ **Tim Rowley**

**Mountain Gospel Fellowship** is represented by:

✠ **Bethany Metzler**

The team is excited to share testimony, lead devotions, teach the word, and grow in their own relationships with the Lord as they push into remote communities along the Thai/Myanmar border and within the walls of the boarding house.

## Come and Rummage

Please come and check out the rummage sale as any money raised will be an incredible blessing to the team and the wonderful individuals they will serve.



Children of Grace Boarding House playing tug-of-war. (Photo by Lori Bassham.)

## Maesot Evangelical Church



## Belief Statement:

We believe in living out our Christian faith as effectively as possible, having an impact on those who have not yet heard or experienced the great news about Jesus Christ.

We believe we should share the good news about Jesus, equip people in their faith journey and see them live out their faith in the world. ✠

*The team is fully funded and ready to serve! However, they are still hoping to raise money for special projects at GBH.*

# Weekday School of the Bible



**WEEKDAY BIBLE**

Teaching Jesus - the Way, Truth & Life

By Rand Dow—Weekday School of the Bible Vice-President

**W**eekday School of the Bible is a released 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. The close ties between the Dallas Ministerial Association and Weekday Bible have enabled a great witness to God's work here in Dallas.

## More Information?

Anyone wishing to learn more about the general nature of these programs can visit:

[releasedtime.org/](http://releasedtime.org/)

## Budget Matters

The purchase of the LaCreole chapel, is proceeding normally. The planned purchase closing date is May 1. The next step is the lot partitioning through the city, which is also proceeding.

Again, thanks to God and all who have been involved in this process, through fundraising events, donations and prayer. The latest event was a fundraising luncheon here at EBC, the effort was coordinated and led by **Tim Griffiths**, a heartfelt **THANKS** to him and the many helpers who made

that a success. **The event raised almost \$2,700 for Weekday!**

## More on the Budget

Weekday is growing its ministries. We have a large laundry list of maintenance items, some of which are important to prevent building deterioration due to weathering, for which we still need more financial help. I'll be presenting more detailed information in the coming months. We are watching our budget closely as the year progresses and our donation funding is lower than what we need to spend. We are planning a number of fundraising activities over the coming year and are currently updating the Weekday brochure.

## Can You Be A Substitute?

After the winter season with its typical illness related teacher and assistant absences, we are adding to our substitute list. If you would like to volunteer to help out, especially by being an assistant substitute, we would be very grateful! Please contact **Rand Dow**.



High school group session.

## Easter Season

As Easter approaches, the impact of Weekday Bible on the children becomes more obvious. There are kids coming to Christ and a couple who want to be baptized. We now have over 300 children registered in the elementary schools and over 60 at the middle school. The high school chapel attendance ranges in the single to double digits.

The **After School program**, Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6:30 PM, has 57 registered. The actual attendance averages around 12 going up to a high of 21 kids. The once-per-month Worship nights is regularly seeing over 30 children and youth to young adults attending. Weekday also supports YoungLife and WyldLife in the High School and Middle School chapels.



→ Please see "Weekday" on page 17.

*Again, thanks to God and all who have been involved in this process, through fundraising events, donations and prayer.*

# Weekday

← (Continued from page 16.)

# Office Update

By Alison Johnson  
EBC Office Manager



The month of March flew right by in the office. So many projects and things going on in the building. Here are a few highlights and things to look out for:

✦ We worked hard with **Sheila Buswell** to get the newest edition of the **90s Club** book out. You can pick up a copy at the

Welcome Center. This is a fun book to put together each year, I always learn so much.

✦ The new **church directory** was sent off to the proofreaders. One has sent back their edits and the other two are hard at work proofing. I hope to have the new books in your hands very soon. **They will be \$5.00.**

✦ We will be reserving the park facility for our **annual church picnic**. It will be on September 13 this year. *Save the date for this fun annual event.* More details will be coming soon.

✦ **Triangle Lake Family Camp** is coming this August. Put it on your calendar for August 21–23. This is such a great time with others from our church family and the local church there.

✦ The next **blood drive** is on **April 27** from 12:00 to 5:00 here at EBC. You can schedule your life saving donation online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Our church has a strong record of a great turn out for donors. *What a blessing for those in need at a critical time in their lives.*

## A Little Time Off

This month I will be taking a couple of short trips. I am going to be gone with my daughter for my birthday mid-month and then at the very end of the month I will be headed to see her for her birthday and celebrate my step mother's retirement.



**Kari** is fantastic at running things so you should not notice any disruptions from the office end of things. †

## Ways to Help

Any and all of your help is greatly appreciated. You can show your help in a number of different ways:

✦ If you wish to help us out **financially**, you can find donation information on the Weekday Bible web page at [weekdaybible.com](http://weekdaybible.com), for the post office address for sending checks, or an online donation under the **DONATE** button.

✦ Please pray that Weekday School of the Bible continues to receive financial support for all of its ministries.

✦ Pray that the ongoing ministry of Weekday School of the Bible continues to impact the school children in Dallas.

✦ Pray for the program administrators, the teachers, the assistants, and, especially, for the children themselves! †

# Welcome! †



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

## Focus on Missions: Matthew Schneider

# Welcome to Cambodia!

By Matthew Schneider  
EBC Missionary

### "Welcome to hot and humid Cambodia."

I am currently serving with DestiNations International in the capital city of Cambodia, Phnom



Pehn. Cambodia is situated in southeast Asia. It borders Thailand on the west, Laos on the north, and Vietnam on the east. It has a short southern

coast on the Pacific Ocean.

### Their Language

Cambodians speak the Khmer language, which has the world's largest alphabet, composed of 74 letters. It is a challenging language for English speakers to learn. It has fairly simple grammar and is not tonal, but has a number of vowel and consonant sounds that are foreign to English. On a scale of 1–3 in learning difficulty, it is often rated around 2.5.



### Month Three

I am entering my third month of language study and am slowly making progress, but it seems the more that I learn, the more I realize what I don't know. I know the alphabet fairly well and can sort of stumble through a basic sentence.

Khmer does not put spaces between words so figuring out where one word ends and another starts can be challenging.

### Teaching English

I also teach an English class Monday through Friday evenings and on most Tuesday mornings I help with a children's outreach in a poor neighborhood on the edge of the city.

I am currently committed to serving here for three years but my long-term goals are to serve longer than



that. Once I have a good grasp of the language, I am planning on helping with the church planting side of the work.



### Our Team

The team I am part of has been here for 12 years. Currently it is composed of the team leader, his



wife and four boys, another single guy, and myself. We currently have an intern who is helping teach English and is thinking about

serving long term.

We also work alongside a number of Cambodians that are part of the NGO (*non-governmental organization*) we have set up. Our mission is to plant locally led, self-reproducing churches.

→ Please see "Cambodia" on page 19.

*I am currently committed to serving here for three years but my long-term goals are to serve longer than that.*

# Cambodia

← (Continued from page 18.)

Our main work is focused in a couple of connected neighborhoods that lacked a local church when the team moved here. Since then, a small church named Redeeming Rain Church has been started. The church is continuing to slowly grow and mature.



We are working on establishing leadership and working through a statement of faith and practice. Outside of our local neighborhoods we have outreaches in other parts of the city. We use SALT saving groups, a Community Health Education program, English classes, and a University Dorm ministry to meet people, develop relationships, and share the gospel.

## More about Cambodia....

Cambodia is a majority Buddhist nation of just under 18 million



people. Cambodian Buddhism is often mixed with more ancient animistic religious practices native to Cambodia.



Many Cambodians are nominal Buddhist and western materialism exerts significant influence on the current culture, especially in more urban areas. In spite of this, many of the people of Cambodia view being Cambodian as synonymous with being Buddhist. When Cambodians become Christians, they are often viewed as traitors and no longer “Cambodian”. There is a small but growing evangelical Christian minority that the **Joshua Project** estimates at 1.2%.

## More Receptive

Khmer people seem more receptive to the Gospel than many other majority Buddhist groups. It is likely that the brutal and genocidal regime of the Khmer Rouge in the second half of the 1970’s contributes to Cambodia’s openness to the Gospel.

## Reign of Terror

It is estimated that a quarter, or about 2 million, of the Cambodians were killed by their own people during the four and a half year reign of terror. It was Cambodians killing Cambodians. The killing shook many Cambodians’ view of Buddhism being a “peaceful religion.”

Last year a border war erupted between Cambodia and Thailand. Numerous people were killed

on both sides and hundreds of thousands of people were displaced. A tentative ceasefire has been signed, but tensions are still very high.

## Not Impacted, But ...

As a team we are not impacted by the fighting but we have seen a surge of nationalism and hatred in the Cambodian populace. †

## Operation Christmas Child

# Monthly Donations

By Kay Whitney

**W**e will continue our goal of an on-going collection of items for the shoe boxes of Operation Christmas Child. Since the weather is starting to get nicer, we are looking for some good get-outside-and-play items. Those things to focus on this month are:



- ✦ jump ropes
- ✦ kaleidoscopes
- ✦ marbles

*Please place donated items in the designated box in the foyer.*

†





## Winter / Spring 2026 Children's Classes

9:00 Service

Nursery: Birth - 3 Years Rooms 61 & 59  
Children's Church: 3yrs. - Kinder. Room 52  
Children's Church: 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades Room 71

10:30 Service

Nursery: Birth - 3 Years Room 59  
3 Years - Kindergarten Room 183  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Room 283  
3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> Grades Room 277  
Middle School & High School Room 135

## Winter/Spring 2026 Adult Sunday School Classes

10:30 Service

Bible in Life Room 121  
Book of Genesis Room 122  
1 Peter Room 131  
Foundations of the Faith Room 226  
Sermon Recap Room 224  
Faith Lesson Series Room 228  
Young Adults Room 222

THANK YOU, Alison Johnson, for providing the Sunday School graphics.



# God's Plans, Not Ours

By Chris Hafner

**P**eter and I had been planning our dream trip to Italy for months with our friends **Nick & Cathy**. It was their 40th wedding anniversary and ours as well.

## Details, Details...

We left most of the details up to Peter who loves putting these things together, doing the research and creating spreadsheets. So, the rest of us relied on him a lot. It would last 19 days and include three different destinations—Novello, Bologna, and Florence.

## Arriving in Italy

The day finally arrived and after way too much time spent on a plane in tiny little seats, we landed in Milan where we picked up the rental car. After driving round and round inside the parking garage not sure how to exit it, lots of exhausted laughing involved, we hit the road.



Peter & Chris Hafner and Cathy & Nick Aime.

Our first stop was a lovely countryside B&B, Rosso di Sera. Our hosts, **Roberta and Marco**, were very welcoming, although Roberta spoke limited English and Marco even less. We had dinner that night in the dining room, which included 4 courses and didn't start until 7:30 PM. *We quickly learned that was everyone's typical dinner hour.* We also quickly learned to ask ahead of time if the appetizer was raw meat!

During our stay there, we saw beautiful country, hilltop villages, rows and rows of vineyards and hazelnut trees. We even enjoyed a boat ride on the Mediterranean visiting Genoa and Portofino. *(Although we did get 'lost' in another parking garage for a bit).*

## Big Change of Plans...

***On the fifth day, however, it all changed.***

Weeks before, we had booked a Vespa tour. We would ride the moped vehicles on country roads. I wasn't too excited about that prospect, but I knew Peter really wanted to do it. We picked up the two Vespas in Alba. The men decided to get used to them on their own, finding the best route to take, so they left Cathy and me at a shopping mall as they ventured on.

Less than an hour passed and my phone rang. It was Nick speaking very calmly. He explained that they'd

been in a roundabout and Peter had fallen off his Vespa in traffic. Two men had stopped to help and Peter was in the back of their car, waiting for the ambulance.

My first question was, *"Okay Nick, is this a joke?"* Surely, they were just waiting outside the mall and had a beautiful route all picked out for the four of us. However, he quickly said, *"No, Chris, I'm serious."*

## And It All Began...

***And so began the really really hard part of the trip, but as time went on, I also discovered the really, really good parts, too.***

Peter would spend 10 days in an Italian hospital, undergoing emergency surgery to remove his spleen. The accident had also given him a cracked rib, a contused lung, fluid buildup and a fractured ankle bone—some of these things weren't communicated to us until later. We didn't know about the ankle break until we were home. *What complicated the situation even more was I didn't speak Italian, and most of the hospital staff didn't speak English.*

After Peter was settled in his hospital room, the three of us returned to the B&B, exhausted and somewhat in shock. We would regroup in the morning. I know that night all the same worries were going through

→ Please see "Italy" on page 22.



(Continued from page 21.)

our minds—how long will he be confined and can he fly home, we only have two more nights at this B&B, we have to return the car this week, do Nick & Cathy stay or go on to Bologna, *what do I need to cancel and change and rearrange?* **Feeling overwhelmed, I prayed.**

The following morning at breakfast Nick shared with us a verse—of—the-day from his reading schedule, **Isaiah 43:2—**

***“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”***

### Fear of the Unknown

I knew Nick thought it might be too hard to hear, but it was incredibly appropriate for the moment. Personally, I’m afraid of a lot of

things, but mostly of the unknown possibilities.

However, God always breaks through the chaos in our minds and brings a calmness, a fortitude, by His powerful words. We prayed. We drove back and forth from Rosso di Sera to the hospital for four days. Nick & Cathy decided to stay two extra nights with me, but we couldn’t stay more at our B&B. We’d communicated with Roberta about



Peter and his doctor.

Peter’s situation and we saw compassion and concern from her that was unexpected. Before we asked her for any help, she found an apartment close by we could move to for three nights, then she could move us back to her B&B.

### Extending Stays...

Peter and I both encouraged Nick and Cathy to go on with the trip we’d planned. We didn’t want them to miss out and we assumed we’d meet up with them in a couple of days. However, the doctors kept extending Peter’s hospitalization— three days maybe, five days maybe, and so on.

It was hard for us to say goodbye, hard to be apart, since this was supposed to be for all four us. In the end, after some hugs and tears and prayers, they took the car and made their way to Bologna. I spent the final night in the apartment on



my own. All three of us thought the location of the apartment was a little sketchy—not far from the B&B, but isolated and mostly abandoned.

**However,** I trusted Roberta, so I trusted we were safe, and mostly trusted God. I prayed and worried and prayed some more. Being alone was hard, but God gave me a special peace that night.

### Transportation Needs

The next big hurdle for me was getting transportation to and from the hospital. It was less than 20 minutes from our place by car, but I didn’t have one. We were in the country and buses and taxis were rare. I researched online, tried to ask hospital staff through my translation app, and the person at the hospital information desk, but still couldn’t figure it out.

The only person I knew was Roberta. So, I emailed her for advice—email was more translatable for both of us. She replied right away with

→ Please see "Italy" on page 23.



The hospital in Milan where Peter (and Chris) spent much of their "vacation."

**However, God always breaks through the chaos in our minds and brings a calmness, a fortitude, by His powerful words. We prayed.**



contact information for a driver she knew, **Marcello**. After figuring out how best to communicate with him, he started picking me up in the morning and then driving me back in the afternoon. I and all the luggage moved back to Rosso di Sera from the apartment, with Roberta picking me up and getting me settled back in. She made sure I had meals, bottled water, use of her laundry room, and always asked how Peter was doing. She said I could stay at the B&B for several more nights if I needed.

Marcello was another stranger who also became a friend. On our short rides every day we would practice English and Italian words, we'd try to talk about our kids, politics, and what Oregon was like. He also would always ask about Peter.

### Drawing Help from God

It was during these days on my own that I came to terms with what God

Over the years, God has worked the most powerfully in my life when I've come to the end of myself. Helpless, alone. He seems to wait for me to listen.

was trying to communicate to me. When we humans don't speak the language, we miss so much. It's that way when God is speaking to us—we need to draw on what we know from His Word, listen to it, ask the Holy Spirit to give us understanding. God speaks our language whichever part of the globe we live in, but we so often don't understand it. Over the years, God has worked the most powerfully in my life when I've come to the end of myself. Helpless, alone. He seems to wait for me to listen.

Each additional day Peter had to stay in the hospital got harder and harder. He and I would walk the halls, pausing at the windows where he could look at the countryside, play backgammon, 'shop' in the hospital supply store. Needless to say, his spirits were low. With the language barrier, I was never sure what the nursing staff was giving him or what they wanted me to get at a pharmacy for him, or even how to find or get to a pharmacy. But God answered those prayers, too. Even on the days that my meltdown was rising to the surface, God still spoke and I tried to listen.

One of Peter's 'roommates' was an elderly gentleman who'd run a local pizza restaurant. He had an endless stream of relatives visit him. One of them was his granddaughter, **Laura**, who, when she heard us speaking English, came over and gave me her email and phone



Marco, Roberta, and the exhausted Chris.

number, speaking perfect English herself. We were absolute strangers, but she said I could contact her if there was anything we needed. *I started to cry.*

### Discharged!

After 10 days, when we felt we could not last another 10 minutes in that place, they released Peter.

Marcello picked us up, stopped at a pharmacy on the way back, and delivered us to Rosso di Sera. That night, Roberta and Marco came to our room armed with hamburgers and French fries and smiles.

I could see Peter finally relax a little and feel slightly more normal, though he was weak and still in pain. The next morning, as we were in the dining room and feverishly trying to figure out our route to catch up with Nick & Cathy in Florence, Roberta brought her laptop to our table and sat down. She had already mapped it out and said her sons would drive us to the train station, get us to the right platform and help load our bags. *Just another kindness she handed to us, undeserved.*

→ Please see "Italy" on page 24.





Our reunion with Nick and Cathy was beyond words! We met up with them in Florence for the last two nights of our vacation, trying to get in a little sightseeing and food and shopping. I still had several specific worries about the travel home, since Peter's green card is usually questioned at airports, causing delays, and he was walking extremely slowly; navigating the journey home would not be easy. So, we prayed—the morning we were to catch our cab to the airport, 3:30 AM, Cathy and I hugged and prayed, tearfully asking for God to get us through the next several hours. **And He did.**

We nearly missed our connection in Amsterdam, but God provided a wheelchair for Peter and we ran through that busy, overcrowded place and made the flight home.

### Placing Strangers Along Our Path

These strangers that came into our lives in Italy, that God placed in our path, were *not* Christians, as far as I know. But their compassion and kindness for someone who can't speak their language, and is just another tourist flooding their country, put me to shame. From



Roberta's dog who "adopted" Chris.

the men who stopped to help Peter when he fell, to Laura in the hospital, to Roberta who took care of us and her sons who drove us to the train station. Cathy has similar stories of people helping them along their way.

### Plans?

Whatever plans we make, whatever preconceived ideas we have of people not like us, whatever expectations we place on ourselves or others, God frequently changes all of it. He pushes us outside our comfortable boxes. He puts us on paths that we hadn't planned for or wanted. *In those times, do we blame God in anger, wallow in self-pity, speak and act cruelly?* Those aren't the actions of a believer who walks by faith and love and hope.

### God IS ALWAYS Good!

God is good **ALL** the time, in **ALL** circumstances. God is orchestrating those circumstances to tell us something. **Are we listening?** I know I am still trying to learn that.

Peter is doing well. He's through most of the physician visits and

Whatever plans we make, whatever preconceived ideas we have of people not like us, whatever expectations we place on ourselves or others, God frequently changes all of it.

vaccines and back to normal life. He told me before we left Italy, if he has a crazy idea for us to try, all I need to say is the code word: **Vespa!**



### Meet Chris Hafner:

I grew up in Dallas, graduated high school here and went to Multnomah School of the Bible in Portland. There I met a young man from Wimbledon, England, named Peter.



We married after college and lived in Dallas, West Salem, and eventually back to Dallas. We have three children and five grandchildren—with another one in Heaven. With both of us retired now, we find ourselves traveling more and eager to invest time in our grand kiddos and in our church. After a season of loss and healing, we chose EBC as our church community about 5 years ago. The people here have been so kind and friendly and joyful, we feel at home.



## 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).

## Desiring More

**K**imberly writes: In January, I moved our Ladies Bible Study from bi-weekly to weekly because many of the women are so eager to read God's Word and hungry for fellowship. Only half are from our church. We're studying Luke, and God is teaching us about discipleship, commitment to Christian living, and spiritual growth. I feel privileged to be in Formoso and studying the Bible with these women!

**Daniel & Kimberly Waide**  
Formoso, KS †

## Addition to Worship

**W**e have added a small puppet play to our Sunday morning services. My eldest son writes the scripts based on Biblical stories. Everyone in the church is involved. Some people help with the set and decorations, some sew puppet costumes, and others are puppeteers. The kids and adults love it!

**Chris & Naomi White**  
Rich Valley, AB †

## Heaven Bound

**I**served with CEF at the Punxsutawney Groundhog Day celebration. I noticed a woman reading the side of the CEF Storyhouse. I greeted her and explained that we were there to tell children about Jesus. She lingered, so I asked if she would like to hear the story. She said, "Yes!" and eagerly entered the story house. When she walked out, she was a new creation in Christ! She didn't own a Bible, so we gave her one. She had traveled from Philadelphia to see a famous groundhog; she went home knowing the Savior and bound for heaven.

**Wayne & Marcia Taylor**  
Dora, PA †

# 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



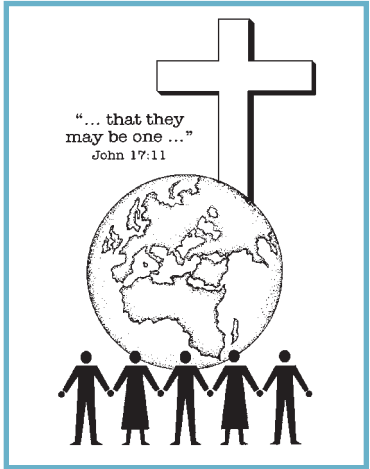
**Dan and Judy Burke**  
 Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)  
[dan\\_burke@ntm.org](mailto:dan_burke@ntm.org)

- ✘ 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 27.

# EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 26.)



**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  
[jmichalovich1@gmail.com](mailto:jmichalovich1@gmail.com)

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



**Steve and Mikki Schmidt**  
SIM Missionaries  
[steve.schmidt@sim.org](mailto:steve.schmidt@sim.org)  
[mikki.schmidt@sim.org](mailto:mikki.schmidt@sim.org)

- ✘ Steve is the SIM regional Director for West Africa
- ✘ Supervises country directors in 11 countries
- ✘ Both Steve and Mikki work in SIM's Global Leader Development Program
- ✘ Mikki does educational consulting work, and also works in the Paths to School Improvement program which trains Christian school leaders throughout Africa.



## Other Outreach Ministries We Support:

- ◆ Awana
- ◆ Crisis Pregnancy
- ◆ Prison Ministry
- ◆ Village Missions
- ◆ Mission Connexion
- ◆ CEF
- ◆ River of Life
- ◆ SAT-7 (Dennis & Cindy Wiens)
- ◆ Weekday School of the Bible
- ◆ The Gate

**Sunday Worship Services:**

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

**Awana: (September through April)**

Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm

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

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

**Thank  
you!** ✝

# APRIL 2026

- 4/3 Good Friday Service
- 4/4 Ladies Quilting Day
- 4/5 Easter Sunday
- 4/7 Ladies Missionary Fellowship
- 4/13 Hymn Sing
- 4/14 Mom to Mom
- 4/18 Thailand Mission Trip Rummage Sale
- 4/27 Blood Drive
- 4/28 Mom to Mom
- 4/29 Awana Awards Night

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



***See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.***

**Song of Songs 2:11-12 (NIV)**