

The Sentinel

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WE
STAND
WATCH

September, 2026
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Introduction

By Pastor Troy Bassham

Most months I have the privilege to share an article in The Sentinel. This issue, I am ceding my usual space to my wife, **Lori**, to share about this summer's EBC missions' trip. Lori and our son, **Matt**, traveled with our EBC team to Maesot, Thailand this past July. She had been a part of the previous team (2024) along with our son **Garrett**. This article is a chance to hear about this ministry as well as to hear about a mission field that has become very dear to our family.

Thailand: Beauty & Sorrow

By Lori Bassham

From the open windows in the Centara Life Hotel in Mae Sot, Thailand, the sounds of bombs and gun fire could be heard in the distance. We were safe on the Thai side of the border, but just a few miles away, civil war raged in Myanmar. It has been five years since a coup ousted Myanmar's democratically elected government.

Ethnic armies and rebel forces continue to fight against Myanmar's military government, leaving over three *million* displaced civilians and resulting in over 70,000 civilian deaths. Many of the displaced reside, both legally and illegally, in Mae Sot. Roughly 90% of the Burmese people identify as Buddhist. **Pastor Shine Lin** and Mae Sot Evangelical

Church (MEC) are working tirelessly to bring humanitarian aid and the Gospel to the displaced Burmese people living in Mae Sot.

This is the scene that we step into when we partner with **Children to Love International** to take short term mission teams to Thailand. While serving in the nation of Thailand, we work directly with Burmese refugees, attempting to reach into their hurt and their poverty with the love of Jesus Christ.

Long Travel Time

After 36 hours of travel, our team of eight arrived at the Centara Life in

→ Please see "Thailand" on page 2.

Looking Inside ...

Annual Church Picnic.....	4
Operation Christmas Child....	4
Women's Ministry Retreat....	4
Thoughts on 2 Timothy 3:16...	5
Mom to Mom: Encouragement, Connection, AND Breakfast...	6
Happy 10th.....	6
Family Camp at Triangle Lake..	7
YOUR Board of Elders.....	8
Elders' Epistle.....	9
Recap of Latest Blood Drive...	10
News from FEBC!.....	11
Exploring the Vastness.....	12
Awana Update.....	13
EBC Missions Guesthouse....	14
Serving in Nebraska!.....	15
Throw-Away People.....	16
Mark Your Calendars!.....	18
Celebrating 50 Years of God's Faithfulness.....	19
Reflecting on Important Things.....	20
Stories from the Fields.....	21
Missionaries EBC Supports...	22
Production Info.....	Back Pg

Deadline for next issue:

Monday, September 28, 2026 @ 5:00 pm!

Thailand

← (Continued from page 1.)

the late evening. The next morning, our mission officially began. Our nine days in Mae Sot included sharing the gospel with rural, impoverished communities, building relationships, working on English skills with the 55 students living at Grace Boarding House (GBH), attending church services, leading Sunday school at MEC, helping the GBH house parents with special projects while engaging them in English conversations, and attending church home cell groups.

We also had the incredible opportunity to connect with EBC supported missionaries **Tim and Sondra Armstrong** and four of their children. We were blessed to hear about the mission field that they work on in Chiang Mai, Thailand and to have them join us for a game of football (*soccer*) played in partnership with MEC and GBH.

Opportunities to Share the Gospel

While serving, each of our team members had multiple opportunities to share the word of God. We gave testimony of what God has been doing in our lives, preached the

Gospel, shared encouraging words with various church groups, and presented Bible lessons.

We are so proud of our team, many of whom were well out of their comfort zone when it came to these tasks. The Lord blessed and used each team member in mighty ways.

Words cannot adequately describe the things we saw while on mission and a picture cannot measure the depths of the relationships we built. Every week, MEC faithfully sends out multiple outreach teams to reach small, impoverished Burmese communities. They share food, pray over people, and spread Christ's love. We partnered with the teams and were welcomed into these small homes. Often, they are a single room shared by an entire family. They sleep on mats that are folded up during the day. They own few belongings—some extra clothing and various kitchen items—but their shrine to Buddha is featured prominently. *(We know when we are welcomed into the home of a believer because they have thrown away their idols.)*



It was inside these homes that we listened to the MEC team worship in Burmese, shared testimony about what God is doing in our lives, and presented a Bible lesson with a Gospel message. One day, along with Pastor Shine Lin and his wife, **Hine Pai**, we visited the border of Myanmar and prayed for both the



ongoing civil war and the hundreds of thousands of individuals trafficked into Scam Cities just across from Mae Sot.

Perfect Conditions ... For Fraud

The civil war created nearly perfect conditions for organized crime and the scam centers have become hubs for fraud operations. These scam centers lure individuals seeking jobs with fake offers of legitimate, high-paying work. Once the workers arrive in Bangkok, they are picked up and trafficked through Mae Sot and into vast scam cities just across the border. They are stripped of their passports and documents and are often horribly abused as they are forced to work for elaborate fraud companies. It was a privilege to learn more about this crisis and to pray for those enslaved in Myanmar.

Grace Boarding House

While on mission, we spent a good deal of our time at Grace Boarding House (GBH). It is home to 55 school aged children. Some are orphans and others were placed in the boarding home by their parents who are seeking a better life for their children.

→ Please see "Thailand" on page 3.





← (continued from page 2)

Here, devotions and worship happen daily. They are cared for by devoted house parents. Many of them have tragic stories of life in war torn Myanmar or growing up in the Garbage Dump community. Around 300–400 people live and raise their children in makeshift huts on the landfill and this was once home to many of the students. GBH is a Christian refuge where young people learn about the God who loves them, attend school, and receive well-balanced meals, love, and support. Though the children have endured much trauma, they radiate the joy and love of Jesus. They are bright, devoted, and eager to learn. It is desperately easy to fall in love with these students and heartbreakingly difficult to leave them.

We had several opportunities to share Bible lessons and personal testimony with the students and were blessed to also hear how the Lord is working in their lives. Through our fundraising efforts, the Lord provided over and above the amount needed to go on this trip. As a result, we were able to purchase a new washing machine and dryer, cabinets, and large fans for GBH. We were blessed with the



opportunity to go with the GBH director, **Hnit No Lah**, and a couple of the house parents to make these purchases.

On our last day with GBH, we were able to meet with the students graduating next spring. The students are protected while they're in school. Unfortunately, once they graduate, these young refugees are at risk of arrest, deportation to Myanmar, and conscription into a rebel army. In order to avoid this possibility, the students need to obtain a work permit and an ID card which will allow them to get a job or receive further education. However, the documents are cost-prohibitive as the paperwork is very expensive and the students have no way of making money prior to obtaining a work permit. The total amount fluctuates based on several factors but currently it would cost about \$800 USD for a student to get both documents. In 2024, I was made aware of this problem and, in 2025, I started **Project Hope** in partnership with Children to Love International.

Project Hope

Project Hope seeks to raise money for these precious students. Our team was so blessed to be able to lay our hands on these graduating students and pray that God will open doors for them and bring in money to help them avoid deportation. They are so thankful for this fundraising effort and are filled with hope for their futures.

While in Mae Sot, we had a couple afternoons of respite. One afternoon, we traveled about an hour to an elephant encounter. We had the opportunity to pet, feed, and even ride these majestic animals. Another afternoon we had the chance to visit Mae Ka Sa waterfall. We enjoyed a short hike, dipped our feet in the cool water, and photographed the beautiful falls.

Time to Leave

We finished our trip by spending two days in Bangkok before returning home to Oregon. We did some shopping and went on a dinner cruise on the Chao Phraya River. We were thankful for these times of rest and relaxation together as a team. We hope to continue our partnership with GBH, MEC, and Project Hope by sending more teams in the future to this incredible place so full of beauty and sorrow and so in need of the gospel.

We hope that, in the years to come, you might consider joining us.



The Sweetest Cup

Adoniram Judson, who gave the Burmese people the version of the Bible they most often use, once said, *“Take the bitter cup with both hands, and sit down to your repast. You will soon learn a secret, that there is sweetness at the bottom. You will find it is in the sweetest cup that you ever tasted in all your life.”*

That is, perhaps, the best way to describe this difficult and yet fully rewarding mission field. The things we see—the neglect, the poverty, the pain—are astonishingly difficult.

And yet, at the bottom of it all is a beautiful sweetness and we are all better for having experienced it. ✝



AdobeStock

By Cathy Aime

Please plan to join us for the Annual Church Picnic at **Dallas City Park Seibert Fredrickson Memorial Shelter** on **Sunday, September 13 at 12:00 noon.**

What to Bring:

- ☒ A large side dish or dessert to share.
- ☒ Lawn chairs to sit on.



EBC will provide chicken, bottled water, plates, napkins, and table service.

This is always a fun event. We hope that you and your family are able to attend! ✚

Operation Christmas Child

By Kay Whitney

As you shop for children or grandchildren—or just enjoy hunting for bargains—please consider buying items to include in this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

In particular, school supplies that include any or all of the following:

Spiral notebooks, small notepads, regular pencils, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, black and colored pens, scissors, crayons, coloring books, and glue sticks. ✚

EBC Women's Ministry

Love retreats?...then

Join us for a fun weekend getaway hearing about God and spending time together at a beautiful location!

**Women's Retreat
October 2nd - 4th**

**Fern Hill Lodge
Monmouth, OR**

Early Bird Registration: Sunday at Coffee Time - August 9, 16
Regular Registration: Sunday at Coffee Time - September 6, 13, 20

.....

Weekend Overnight - \$125 Early Bird/\$140 Regular
Includes 5 meals, two night stay, Friday/Sunday sessions, and the Saturday Conference Day

.....

Weekend NO Overnight - \$75 Registration
Includes 5 meals, Friday/Sunday sessions, and the Saturday Conference Day

Hate retreats?...then

Join us for a day conference hearing about God and spending time together at a beautiful location!

**Conference Day
Saturday, October 3rd
10:00 am - 7:00 pm**

**Fern Hill Lodge
Monmouth, OR**

Guest Speaker: **JULIE BERNARD**
Salem Heights Women's Ministry Director

Theme: **WONDER-STRUCK**
To be so profoundly amazed, surprised and overcome with admiration and awe of God and who He is, that it leads us to trust, courage, hope, obedience, rest, contentment and satisfaction.

.....

Conference Day - \$40 Registration
Includes lunch and dinner/dessert

Same event, different options!
Something for everyone!

Financial scholarships are available.
Please email Erin Lovell: womenministry@ebcdallas.org

Thoughts on 2 Timothy 3:16

By Greg Sykora

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

This is a very popular verse and is often used to remind us that we can't just use the parts of the Bible that we like. We are to know and study the entire Bible. All Scripture is part of the doctrine of the church, so we need to read and apply it all.



2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that Scripture is useful for reproof and correction, which are some of the harder responsibilities of believers. ***If someone is acting against Scripture, we must know and use all of the Bible to be able to accurately correct that person.*** If we go by what feels right and wrong, it just won't work with our sinful nature. People have and will continue to twist the Bible to get it to say what they want it to say. We

need to know the doctrine of the entire Bible so we can recognize and prevent people from twisting the Word of God.

Many Ways to Twist

There are a lot of ways that mankind can twist God's Word! A long description of the evil actions and sinful thoughts of men comes immediately before this verse. There will be plenty of wrong things to rebuke, so we need to know all Scripture to be ready to correct as needed.

YOU Have Homework!

Here's your homework: read the entire chapter of **2 Timothy 3**. It will really put verse 16 in context and show you why we need to know the Bible well. As the world's timeline continues, the actions of men will keep getting worse, the truth-twisting of false teachers will keep turning more sinful.

Instruction in Righteousness

Finally, **2 Timothy 3:16** tells us that all Scripture is useful for instruction in righteousness. We need to know the Scripture *if* we are to give and receive instruction in it. It makes a lot of sense that those who teach doctrine need to know the Bible well. We also

need to use Scripture when we are receiving instruction so that we are not deceived. People can both intentionally and unintentionally teach things contrary to the Word of God. When we hear new teachings, we should study and reference all Scripture to verify the teaching is in accordance with sound doctrine.

All Scripture Is Inspired By God

All Scripture is given to us for a reason. We need to know the Bible so we know our doctrine well enough to correct those who are twisting the word of God and to instruct others about the Word of God. There are so many Bible teachers that tell us to read the Word of God *daily*. This verse is another reason for the daily intake of the Bible! ✚



.....
People have and will continue to twist the Bible to get it to say what they want it to say. We need to know the doctrine of the entire Bible so we can recognize and prevent people from twisting the Word of God.

Happy 10th!

By Bob Disher

The Sentinel, this humble little publication, will be soon turning 10 years old. *Who would've thought!* Next month, to commemorate that milestone, we will have a quiz to see how well you, our readers, have been paying attention during these past years.

Not A One

For now, let me leave it at this:

There has yet to be an issue where it appeared we had enough material at the *start* of the production process. As in, *"this month looks more like a flier than a newsletter!"*

Enough... PLEASE!

My prayer each month is that we have *"enough"* to fill an issue. Sometimes that goal seems out of reach. But God has been faithful beyond words and has made our job much easier. Sometimes so easy, in fact, that we end up with too much material for a given month!

THANK YOU

A most sincere **THANK YOU** to all of our authors past, present, and future. I know it takes considerable thought and time to create an article and that life can get busy. So, more than words can adequately express, your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Mom to Mom: Encouragement, Connection, AND Breakfast!

By Gwen Griffiths

Mom to Mom is kicking off a new year with a registration and play day on September 22! Moms with children from birth through high school are invited to join us for camaraderie, support, encouragement, and a chance to connect with other moms.

Registration & Play Day

☒ September 22

☒ 9–11 AM

☒ EBC Gym

Come meet other moms, let the kids play, and enjoy some light snacks and coffee. *There's no better way to start the year!*

Regular Schedule

Regular Mom to Mom meetings will continue twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays, from 9–11 a.m. Each meeting includes a potluck breakfast, encouraging programming for moms, and activities for the kids.

You Know This Mom!

If you know a mom with children, chances are she could use a little encouragement, some good conversation, and maybe even a chance to eat breakfast without having to share her plate with anyone else.

Would you pass this information along to a mom who could use it?

Moms need ...



Mom to Mom! ✕

EBC's 2026 ...

Family Camp at Triangle Lake

By Ron Brooks

EBC held the Annual Family Camp at Triangle Lake August 21–23 at **Memorial Community Church at Triangle Lake**. Everyone seemed to have a great time!

We had 34 overnight campers and seven Saturday-only visitors. This year we had a few old timers (*yes, I'm one of those*) and a bunch of young families with children.



Skiing and Tubing

The Quirings brought their ski boat and gave rides and pulled people skiing and tubing. I don't know how many adults got to go tubing



because it seemed to me the kids dominated time on the tubes. The kids spent a lot of time at the dock, in the water, and in the sand.



Keeping Traditions Going!

Lots of normal camping traditions were observed, even the burning of marshmallows. However, one tradition went by the wayside this year. Usually, the temperature is warmer and there was a tradition of some adults jumping in the water and floating around on pool noodles.

Cool to ALMOST!

This year the wind and clouds kept the temperature bouncing between too cool and almost warm enough to want to jump in the lake. *Next year we will try to revive that tradition, so bring your pool noodles!*

Sunday Morning Service

Sunday morning service was held in the sanctuary due to the light rain showers we had overnight, and a local father and son gospel group sang and did some preaching.



Many Camping Styles!

We had travel trailers, tents, and a conversion van—but there was plenty of room for many more campers.

So, get ready to mark up your new 2027 calendars for the weekend of August 20—22 and reserve that weekend to come out and have some fun with your church family.

See you next year! ✝

Photos by Ron Brooks and Ruth Quiring



YOUR Board of Elders



Pastor Troy Bassham

(W) 503.623.2331

troybassham@ebcdallas.org



Galen Harms

(C) 503.339.6289

jgharms2@gmail.com



Mike Huber

(C) 503.562.9572

hubermsdj@gmail.com



Jim Peters

(C) 503.851.6487

petersj7@hotmail.com



Nat Thomas

(C) 503.385.3252

nathanielbthomas@gmail.com



Jim Walker

(C) 971.239.9109



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

The human body is a marvel of God's creation. Scientists still puzzle over how some parts of the body function, coordinating electrical signals and chemistry to communicate with other areas of the body for everything to synchronize perfectly. The systems are an incredible design.

But ...

But when something goes wrong and the body systems break down, the whole body suffers. I have experienced this reality of the body systems working against each in my own life.

For several years I have been frustrated by a sense of fatigue and finally sought medical help. As symptoms became worse, the Lord intervened through a series of doctors. It was revealed that I was dealing with an auto-immune disorder in which my immune system wrongly viewed my muscles as an enemy and began to systematically weaken and destroy my muscle tissues. *I estimate that I lost 30% of my strength over the last three years from this condition.*



Answered Prayer

The Lord answered prayer and I was able to get the correct treatment and this disorder is on its way into remission. Now the responsibility is mine to build back my muscles through exercise and eating protein, *(like a medium well-done steak and bacon)!*

Communication Is Key!

My experience has similarities of the importance of communication between the different parts of the Body of Christ here at EBC. *My immune system was not getting the correct information about what to work on!*



When communication breaks down in the church, it can also create unintended problems. We are working on improving the communication at EBC.

Much Work Being Done

The last Sunday of August, the chairperson of each committee met with the elders to inform and coordinate the various projects and activities. It was a blessing to hear about all of the things that our hardworking committees are doing:

✠ The Trustees are working on getting the HVAC system working in the education wing of our building.

✠ The CE team is starting up one of our most important outreach programs, Awana, in addition to the other programs the committee coordinates.

✠ The kitchen team is gearing up for the harvest meal on November 8.

✠ Security is working to maintain a safe environment for all our ministries.

✠ The Connect Group team is looking for ways to promote the small group ministry.

✠ Missions has a short-term mission to Bolivia scheduled for next spring.

✠ Other church activities happening soon include the all church picnic and a ministry fair.

✠ The Music Ministry is working on purchasing some equipment to improve the quality of sound.

✠ The Men's Ministry has the annual trap shoot in September and a breakfast in November.

✠ The Women's Ministry is having a Bunco night, a retreat in October, and Christmas dessert in December.

All these good things must be coordinated so we are not working against one another in scheduling, materials...or attitudes.



Youth Pastor Update

Other elder news includes the status of filling the youth pastor position. For those that were not here, a

➔ Please see "Elders" on page 10.

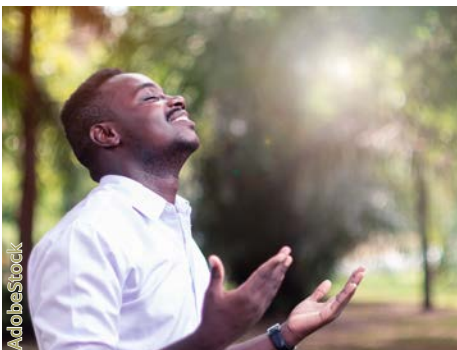


potential candidate applied and came for a “meet and greet” session and interview in July. The weekend went well and the elders agreed to take the next steps to move forward, including contacting the references he provided. The references were all positive and we recommended scheduling a weekend for him to candidate to our congregation.

Unbeknownst to us, a *second* church was also interested in him and they scheduled a time for him to candidate before us.

As we pray for God’s will for him, if he turns down an offer from the other church, we would then schedule a weekend for him to officially candidate here. Our bylaws state that the congregation needs to be informed of a candidacy two weeks before the service so that people are aware that there will be a vote after the service.

In the event that this candidate decides to go to another church, **Dave Whitbeck** will then re-convene his committee to begin another search. **Please continue to pray that the youth pastor position is filled soon.**



August 31, 2026 at EBC: Recap of Latest Blood Drive

By Sherri Fobert

A national blood shortage is looming and so every donation is very important. On Monday, August 31, there were 28 donors donating 22 pints, which will result in 84 people receiving care for a variety of life concerning health issues.

My sincere appreciation to the donors and those who tried to donate. I’ve always found it interesting to observe the interactions through the day: A chance to visit with someone you don’t see very often, hearing a shortened version of one’s life story, worker from the same office talking “shop”, connecting with previous donors, etc. and, sadly, frustration



with tablets that don’t respond or the time it takes from our busy schedule.

Get the App!

To improve one’s experience, installing the Blood Donor app onto one’s phone makes registration so much easier and faster. Please plan on doing that before coming to your next donation appointment.

Get Ready for 2027!

Speaking of that, the next EBC Blood Drive will be **January 4, 2027**. Sooooo, start the new year off right. Make a new year’s resolution to make a difference! It can’t get any better than positively affecting the quality of life for another human being. ✝

Many Gifts, Ministries, & Abilities

Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NKJV)** that ***it is the same God working in each of us with our various gifts, ministries and abilities: (v 4) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (v 5) There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.***

(v 6) And there are divisions of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

Praise God for His goodness in coordinating His work in His people for His church! Thank you each one for your contribution to the work going on here at EBC to the glory of God.

Blessings to each one, Nat ✝

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC



September 1, 2026

I recently had lunch with a group of FEBC pastors, and as we shared and prayed together, we discovered that most of the men in the room were dealing with some truly difficult situation. Some of these issues involved family members, some involved church and ministry issues, but regardless of the source of the difficulty, each of these men is dealing with a weighty issue that is not easily resolved. It was a blessing to seek God's face on behalf of one another.

But pastors do not get to deal with their own issues like most people do. Most of us have a job that is likely to stress us out, but when we clock out and go home, we can focus on the other aspects of life—family, finances, maintaining a home, and many other things, including managing whatever stressful situation is weighing us down.

While your pastor is “off work” and managing all those personal things, he is likely also heavily involved in multiple stressful situations in the lives of other people. Perhaps when he is just ready to sit down and process a problem with his wife, he receives a text asking him to mediate a dispute between church members. Or at a moment when much needed rest is finally available, he is called to rush to the hospital after a church member's accident. Shepherding a church is not just a job.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am not suggesting that we all need to stop bothering the pastor. A healthy pastor is not bothered by tending to his flock. It is not just his duty, but his privilege and honor to be used as Jesus' under shepherd in these situations. Please reach out to your pastor or another church elder in your times of need!

But I am saying that pastors are human, and they need care too. As a Fellowship, we offer resources to bolster the health of your pastor. We offer retreats for our pastoral couples, along with Connect, as means to connect and to be refreshed. We offer advice to churches on proper pastoral care, along with advice to pastors on how to remain healthy in ministry. But perhaps most importantly, we offer prayer, encouragement, and a listening ear whenever your pastor is in need. Gary and I are privileged to serve our pastors in this way.



I encourage each one reading this letter to encourage your pastor, pray for him, and be patient when he is going through a difficult time. If you want more specific advice on how to support your pastor well, ask me for a copy of our resource: “*Caring for Pastors.*”

Thank you for supporting your pastor, and for supporting our Fellowship!

Kevin Stone – President ✝

Office: 402.965.3860 ☎ Cell: 402.541.6099

www.fellowshipforward.org ☎ president@febministries.org

Exploring the Vastness of God's Word

By Gwen Griffiths

I flick through the photos in my phone's camera roll.

From last week: the view from the top of Mary's Peak as I look toward the Pacific Ocean.

A couple of weeks ago: my husband, my children, my sister, and my mom walk ahead of me as we enjoy the sunset ahead of us.

I scroll back even farther and remember peering at the frozen peaks of Greenland from an airplane window, then driving across landscapes dotted with castles that have stood longer than my country has existed.

Well Traveled

My husband and I have traveled a good portion of the United States and ventured into a handful of other countries. Yet if I could use a highlighter to mark the portions of God's creation I've seen, hardly anything would be marked. For



every bit of creation's beauty we've experienced, so much more remains to be discovered. There's another vista beyond the next peak and entire landscapes just a little farther out.

The same is true of the Christian life. We could spend our entire lives—even eternity—getting to know God, *and we would barely scratch the surface.*

Lately, I've been thinking about my interaction with God's Word in terms of travel. There are so many ways to traverse it!

Sometimes I've traveled the interstate of a year-long read-through-the-Bible plan. It gives me the basic lay of the land and moves quickly toward an end goal.

My faith journey has also included Bible studies that felt like joining a tour bus. The guide chose our destination and determined the route, pointing out historical background and helpful insights along the way. But when it was time to move on, we moved on, whether I was ready or not.

Jen Wilkin's Women of the Word first taught me that I could set off on an exploration of my own, choosing a location in which to camp and make discoveries. I learned to chart my own course through books of the

Bible, doing background research and then pitching my tent until I had thoroughly examined each passage.

The Familiar Becomes ... UNfamiliar

Slowly, I learned that even a familiar trail can yield new discoveries when seen in a different season. The path looks different when spring's ferns unfurl along it or when autumn leaves carpet the ground.

This is true of Scripture. A familiar parable looks different when my children have left the nest. A psalm I once read quickly resounds anew when I share it with a friend in deep distress. Verses I've memorized offer fresh meaning when I encounter them again in a group Bible study.

I find great joy in accumulating road maps of the places I've explored in God's Word, marking routes and destinations with notes from what I've learned along the way.

My heart opens to this truth: I have this lifetime to get to know my Creator, and in that time I will barely scratch the surface. Perhaps this is why He has given us eternity: so we might spend it plumbing the depths of His love and realizing the breadth of His sacrifice.

→ Please see "Explore" on page 13.

I have this lifetime to get to know my Creator, and in that time I will barely scratch the surface.



I recall a favorite story from Narnia and Aslan's call to those entering his land. The refrain echoes through my mind: further up and further in!

God's Call to Us

God calls us to delve deeper into His Word, but He also urges us to encourage others in this pursuit. It's not just about covering new territory in our journey to know Him better.

We must also invite others to begin their own exploration and encourage them along the way.

So I sit at my desk and remember spiky urchins under Hawaiian waves. Before long, I'll add national parks in Florida, skyscrapers in Chicago and the waters of the Puget Sound to my camera roll.

But more importantly, I'll complete my study of Matthew and note each thing I learn through the words of Jesus. I'll pitch a tent in another book, peer across the vast expanse of God's Word, and seek out new vistas.

Each one will grow my faith and deepen my love for my Lord.

Further up and further in, friends! Further up and further in. ✝



Awana Update

By Kristiina Broten

September is an exciting month for Awana! *This is when the fun begins!*

We had a volunteer training session scheduled for Wednesday September 2. This was a time to get all our volunteers together to ensure they are informed of the processes and expectations of being a volunteer. We want to equip our team with tools and resources and come together for a time of prayer before we begin the year.

Then the first night of club will begin on **Wednesday, September 16!!**

Our Mission

Our Awana team mission at EBC is that we want to *"help every child Know Christ personally, Grow as His disciple and Go share His love with others."* We do this by incorporating fun activities such as games, crafts, etc. along with teaching truths from the Bible as we help the kids to memorize verses from the God's Word. Memorizing verses helps to sink these essential truths into the lives of the kids as they learn to live out their faith.

Prayer Requests:

- ✝ Good teamwork & communication amongst the staff
- ✝ Kids' hearts to be open to the truth of God's Word
- ✝ Safety of staff and kids ✝



The EBC Missions Guesthouse

By Carolyn Stent,
EBC Missions Committee

Last month, **Eric and Judith Hedeem** came to North America for a long-anticipated home assignment. We were very happy to welcome them to the EBC Missions Guesthouse!

Yes, our church has a Missions Guesthouse. It's the house on the other side of the youth center parking lot (**646 SE Ash Street**). This house was gifted to EBC. It has two bedrooms and one bathroom; the finished attic is set up for a third bedroom. **Pastor Andrew and Mariah Wheeler** rented it from EBC for a few years. Then, in 2025, it was set up as a guesthouse for missionaries. **THANK YOU to everyone who donated furniture and supplies!**

The Goosens were the first missionary guests. Then the **Stent family** stayed there for six months. They enjoyed being close to the church and within walking distance of the Dallas library.

Here are the main policies and rules for use:

✘ The Missions Guesthouse is available for use by missionaries and official church guests. Priority is given to EBC-supported missionaries. Guests must be approved by the pastoral staff or the missions committee.

✘ All reservations and inquiries regarding availability must be coordinated through the church office staff and the Missions Committee.

✘ Members of the Missions Committee will make sure the house is clean and restocked for incoming guests.

Answering a Need

Finding affordable furnished accommodation can be difficult for missionaries. We thank God that our church can bless them in this way! If you would like to contribute to the costs of running the Missions Guesthouse, you can make a donation designated to it. ✝



THANKS!

Editor's Note: We received this anonymous thank you note that we believe conveys the gratitude not only of our EBC church family, but the great many community members who find themselves in our building.

A great big **THANK YOU** to the Missions Committee for the wonderful world map. Your efforts to help us know where the missionaries that EBC supports are living and working is a *work of art*.

If you have not already seen it be sure to check it out on the bulletin board near the downstairs Welcome Center.

Thank you to:

- ✘ **Ron Brooks**
- ✘ **Carolyn Stent**
- ✘ **Greg Sykora**
- ✘ **Dorothy Friesen**
- ✘ **Claudia McGillivray**
- ✘ **Linda McFarland**
- ✘ **Doug Mollerstuen**

for your contributions to a beautiful display! ✝



Missionary Focus: Kevin Domes Family

Serving in Nebraska!

Our featured EBC missionaries for this month are the **Kevin Domes** family serving in Nebraska. If you would like an updated family photo of them, head over to the world map at the entry way and help yourself to one of new missionary prayer cards! The missionaries' contact information is on the flip side of the photos.

THANK YOU, Sue Dunham, for your expert help in creating this visible reminder to pray for our supported missionaries from EBC.

Linda McFarland
Missions Committee

August 29, 2026

Domes Update!

The summer went well for us! Camp turned out great, we had more high schoolers attend this year than we have had in several years! *There were about 20!*

We also had many new faces at our Junior Camps (*elementary age*). In

fact, our Junior 2 camp, 75% of the kids had *not* been to camp before!

Encouraging!

We find that super encouraging and exciting that these young kids get to hear about Christ. We are starting Awana Clubs on Wednesday, September 2.

Please pray for a good year. We both continue to be a part of ministries at church, the boys are playing junior high football this fall, and **Katie** is in the process of making decisions for her future after high school.

THANK YOU for all you do for us *and* for all your prayers!

Kevin and Jennifer Domes serve as Executive Directors at Bethel Bible Camp in Nebraska. The camp provides a low cost camping opportunity for local youth to hear about Christ and grow in their faith. In addition to their camp ministry, the Domes are part of an Awana ministry and youth group at the church they attend.



Kevin & Jennifer Domes

Field Staff, InFaith

PO Box 115
Wellfleet, NE 69170

425.308.4203
infaith.org ✝



.....
Bethel Bible Conference exists to study and teach the Word of God, to link people to a saving knowledge and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to encourage and promote Spiritual growth.

Throw-Away People

By Chris Hafner

The old man was sitting in front; his eyes were glazed and empty. There was no light in his face, all I could picture was hopelessness.

Four of our Thailand team had come with men and women from Mae Sot Evangelical Church (MEC) to share God's word with this Burmese refugee community. We left our shoes outside in the mud as we climbed up the makeshift steps into the home built on stilts. We all sat in the one-room hut on the gapped and creaking floor. Beside the old man were several children whose faces seemed such a contrast to his. They were smiling, eyes twinkling, anticipating what these new visitors would say. I wondered to myself how long it took for these little children's eyes to turn empty like the old man's.

Many Extremes

This short mission for our team would turn out to be an experience of extremes for me. There were so many displaced people living in a garbage dump, where children are left to fend for themselves, where drugs and having babies are the only



solace. Families living a mere few feet from the cows they tended seven days a week, to try and survive. Others just escaping the garbage, but still living without electricity, plumbing, or clean water.

But then there are the Christians. Those Burmese people from Myanmar who have left Buddhism and found Jesus. They showed zeal and passion and joy no matter their circumstances. They sang praises to God in the midst of the mud, and shared Jesus with others without fear. Even though we hit against the language barrier every day, I still could read the courage and joy on **Shine Lin's** and **Hine Pai's** faces—MEC's pastor and his wife. We could laugh and fellowship with the Grace Boarding House (GBH) house parents and the kids at GBH. The children would sing praise songs and share their sometimes traumatic stories with us, with smiles on their faces—because Jesus had given them a new family there.

Powerful Experience

Our time in Mae Sot affected each of us differently, I'm sure. As God taught us each what He knew we needed. For me, I was impacted most by the precious individuals I met.

First there was Hine Pai. As the pastor's wife, only 38 years old, she was younger than my daughter. She led us through the mud and muck of the garbage dump, stopping to have us all pray for young moms and older women. At other outreach or

church studies she translated for us as we shared a testimony or Bible lesson—and whatever she said in Burmese, seemed to me more on fire for Jesus than our words were in English. She had boundless energy, raising her own children, pouring herself into the refugee children at GBH, and serving at MEC. She cried for her country of Myanmar.



Strength and Compassion

Hnit No Lah was her brother-in-law, a young man who directed GBH with strength and compassion. He would often drive the truck that transported our team during the day. Everyone would climb into the back of the truck, but I'd sit up front in the cab and try to talk to whoever had come with us for the day.

At first I was disappointed to not be part of our team in the back, but being in front turned into a blessing that I will never forget. Hnit No Lah shared that he'd been to seminary in India, that he was engaged but his fiancé was in Australia.

➔ Please see "Throw-Away" on page 17.



He talked about his parents who we picked up and drove to the Myanmar border once. They were in Thailand only a week and would have to renew their temporary ID each week in order to stay, and even then their travel was restricted. His mother spoke only the Chin Burmese language, so she understood very little of what went on around her in Mae Sot. She seemed sad, lonely, isolated. She asked Hnit No Lah how old I was. I told her and she realized I was only two years older than she. She said, “*She can go anywhere...*” I didn’t know how to answer her. I eventually asked about grandchildren and that seemed to lighten her burden a little.

Great Impact

The house parents at GBH made a great impact on me as well: **Ya Min Soe, Marry, Noo Dee, Wah Wah, Ei Lae, David, and Peter.**

These are young people that work hard at leading the children. They really do fill in as parents—feeding, clothing, protecting, transporting, disciplining, teaching, and loving. At lunch one day, I asked the young women if they would give me their individual prayer requests, and

they eagerly said *yes*. I was thinking maybe another day, at a different event; maybe they had to think about it for a bit. But, no, they wanted to do it right then and there, so I pulled out my journal and they all took turns and wrote varying lengths of prayer lists, all in English, for me. It was a wonderful moment, as we talked about boyfriends, and family, and the future.

Grandma!

Then there was **Hanni Lin (Angela)**. She was 16 and a new resident at GBH—she’d been there only about 6 weeks. There were about 55 children altogether at the boarding house, all wanting to talk to us, sit with us, and love us. However, for a reason I don’t know, Hanni Lin wanted to share her story with me. We had just met at a special dinner for the older kids. Some girls had pulled **Lori** and I to their table to sit with them.

Towards the end of the evening, Hanni Lin moved places and sat with me and started to talk. Some of the pieces of her story others told me later. When she was 12 years old, living in Myanmar, she witnessed soldiers shoot her parents. Life as she had known it changed in that moment—in the one act of senseless violence. Her father died, but her mother recovered. When her mother remarried, her stepfather could not support her, so he and her mother made Hanni Lin leave. Through a paternal aunt, she was brought to Mae Sot, but was moved from place to place, *not finding where she belonged anymore and wanting desperately to stay in school.*



By the grace of God, she was connected with MEC and Grace Boarding House. She told me this was her new family, and she called me *grandma*.

Hine Pai and Hnit No Lah had both spoken with me in the truck about their burden for this generation of young Burmese refugee children, that if nothing improved, nothing changed for them, they would be a lost generation.

Bits of Garbage

I saw firsthand what losing them would mean when we visited the garbage dump. For the men and women and children who live there, it’s as though they and the other struggling Burmese refugees are of no more value than the garbage and mud they live in.

It’s as though they have been thrown away, just as the city’s food scraps and bits of paper, broken pots and cardboard have been thrown out. And for Hanni Lin, it’s as if she was thrown away, too, until she was placed at GBH.

→ Please see “*Throw-Away*” on page 18.

The Mae Sot Evangelical Church is continuing Jesus’ work on earth. They not only share the message of salvation, they feed and care for the Burmese families and children.

Throw-Away

← (Continued from page 17)

Should Be A Garden!

Humankind was meant to live in a garden, but we have succumbed to the garbage dump.

He's STILL Saving People!

When Jesus was here on earth, He went to the throw away people; to the unclean, to the sinners, to those of no value in man's eyes. He healed their infirmities, He fed them, He taught them, He loved them. Most importantly He saved those who believed in Him. *He's still saving people.*

Work Continues

The Mae Sot Evangelical Church is continuing Jesus' work on earth. They not only share the message of salvation, they feed and care for the Burmese families and children. We saw how they cannot do it all, but they do what they can. Their small church building is bursting at the seams; the upstairs gathering space at GBH is packed full with all the children during nightly worship and devotions. Hine Pai said their ministry doesn't have enough resources to visit all the



tiny communities or take in all the children from the dump.

One day we visited people living in three or four homes, surrounded by water and mud, not far removed from the dump. It was an unexpected stop in our itinerary.

Andrew wanted to share the gospel with them, so we climbed into one home, sat on the floor, and they heard the salvation story and believed it. As we left, I asked Hine Pai if anyone would come back to teach them the Word or disciple them, but she said no, they do not have the means to take it on. I still pray for those people.

Bittersweet Departure

I left Thailand both sad and joyful. We were able to leave Mae Sot and come back to comfortable homes and comfortable lives. *Most of the people we met there cannot.*

And I still picture the old man's empty eyes. However, I remember a conversation I had with Hine Pai in the truck cab. We talked about her burden again, and she said its all about God's **grace, grace, grace.**

I believe she meant that His grace sustains them, His grace is **sufficient** for the day ... **sufficient** for their shortcomings ... **sufficient** to meet every need of every human life ... **SUFFICIENT!**

Amen! ✝

Mark Your Calendars!

The Thailand team will be making a presentation during both services on **Sunday, September 27**. They will be sharing about this remarkable trip with both pictures and stories of their time in Mae Sot. ***You won't want to miss this!***

During coffee time, the team will be available to answer any questions you might have and to share more experiences and insights of this incredible experience.

Those members of the team include:

- ✝ **Lori Bassham**
- ✝ **Matt Bassham**
- ✝ **Eva Casey**
- ✝ **Chris Hafner**
- ✝ **Bethany Metzler**
- ✝ **Tim Rowley**
- ✝ **Julie West**
- ✝ **Andrew Wheeler ✝**



Celebrating 50 Years of God's Faithfulness

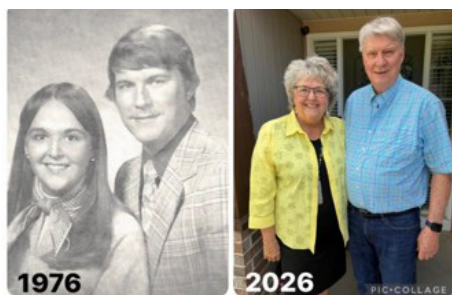
By Dennis and Cindy Wiens

This August, we celebrate an incredible milestone, 50 years of serving the Lord together in international ministry. As we look back, we are overwhelmed by God's faithfulness and humbled by the privilege He has given us to serve.

Shortly after our marriage, God led us overseas, beginning a journey that would take us to France and then to 27 unforgettable years in Mali, West Africa. Those years shaped our lives as we taught in Bible schools, helped plant churches, raised our daughters overseas, developed church leaders, cared for missionary families, and pioneered Christian radio ministry.

God's Hand in it All

Looking back, we can clearly see God's hand guiding each step, often opening doors we never expected. Then, in 2003, He surprised us again by leading us to SAT-7, where for the past 23 years we have had the privilege of helping bring the Gospel into homes across the Middle East and North Africa through satellite television, streaming, and digital media. While the methods have changed dramatically over five decades, our calling has remained the same: helping people hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.



As we reflect on these fifty years, one truth stands above all the rest, we have never served alone. God has surrounded us with an incredible community of faithful partners who have prayed, encouraged, and given sacrificially so that we could remain focused on ministry.

In reality, none of what God has accomplished through our lives would have been possible without your faithful support.

Many of you have walked with us since our earliest days in West Africa. You celebrated with us during times of joy, carried us through seasons of hardship, welcomed us into your churches, opened your homes, and faithfully remembered us in prayer.

Others joined the journey more recently through SAT-7, yet your partnership has become just as precious. In reality, none of what God has accomplished through our lives would have been possible without your faithful support. *We thank God for each of you and consider it one of life's greatest blessings to serve together as partners in the Gospel.*

Slowing Down?

People occasionally ask if we're slowing down after fifty years. Our answer is simple: while our ministry looks different today than it did decades ago, ***our passion for God's Kingdom is stronger than ever.***

We continue to speak in churches, share the remarkable stories of what God is doing through SAT-7, host the Unconventional Ministry podcast, write newsletters that encourage Biblical stewardship and global missions, lead estate planning workshops that help believers leave a legacy of faith, and host the monthly Beyond Borders Prayer Zoom®, connecting believers to pray for the Middle East and North Africa.

Now Living in U.S.

We may no longer live overseas, but every day God gives us opportunities to invest in His global mission from right here at home. We don't know what the next chapter will hold, but we do know this: ***God is faithful and still opening doors.*** As long as He gives us strength, we want to keep saying "yes" to wherever He leads.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Your friendship, prayers, and partnership have become part

→ Please see "Dennis & Cindy" on page 20.

Reflecting on Important Things

By Sylvia Thomas

Our young grandchildren can find just about anything to make a comment that starts with, “Grammy, I’m bigger than...” or “Grammy, I can do this better than...” or “I’m faster than...”

I laugh and congratulate them on how much they have grown, how well they are doing, or how speedy they are. **But I try to downplay comparisons.** There is something internally satisfying about measuring how we are doing compared to someone else. It can lead to discouragement, jealousy, and unrealistic expectations.

Personal Reflection

Yet taking time to consider what we really value, what we spend time on, and what is important to us, measured against what the Bible teaches, can be very eye-opening.

I’m not talking about a morbid self-focus of constantly examining yourself or comparisons. But periodically taking time for a realistic assessment of our growth as a Christian is important. A ship captain studies charts and maps to determine direction. He must frequently assess progress by referring back to his chart or the ship might veer off course as the currents can push the ship the wrong way. The currents of our world can push

us in the wrong direction as well. **Hebrews 2:1 (NIV)** advises us to pay attention: **“We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.”**

Two verses later, it says to not neglect or ignore so great a salvation that we have been given. *What could this mean in my life ... and in your life?*

More Than Once-a-Week!

One thing is for sure. We cannot only rely on a once-a-week “chart check” on Sunday morning or we might veer off course.

We need more “course setting” by making a habit to read the Bible ourselves every day. Sadly, I have heard people look at Bible reading with as much enthusiasm as one might have going to the dentist! But, even 5 minutes of reading and then thinking about what you read during the day steers us in the right direction as Believers. The Holy Spirit brings understanding to our minds to then apply in our life.

If you think that someday you will have time to read, to pray, to get more involved in ministry, there is a verse that should motive our thinking from “someday” to “now.” **James 4:14 (NIV)** states: **“What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”**

Tempus Fugit

Time moves on quickly; life moves on. My little grandchildren will someday stop asking me to see how fast they can run. They will grow. Are you growing in your faith? Are you growing in your commitment to Christ? It is good to take time to consider this so that you can “chart out” new directions and habits that steer in the direction of spiritual growth. ✝

Dennis & Cindy

← (Continued from page 19.)

of our story, and together we give all the glory to God for His unfailing faithfulness over these past fifty years.

PRAISE:

✝ Praise God for 52 years of marriage as of July 20, 2026.

✝ Praise for 50 years of ministry.

PRAY:

✝ Pray for energy and stamina to continue this journey.

✝ Pray that SAT-7 staff may be inspired by the Holy Spirit as they create programs and engage with the various audiences and pray that viewers may be led closer to Christ as a result.

Changing lives TOGETHER! ✝



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.

Vacation Discovery

A family from Virginia was staying in a cabin near our town's beach pavilion. They had discussed trying to find a church for Sunday but thought it would be hard to find one in this small mountain town. On Sunday morning, the wife heard praise music and decided to find out where it came from. She found our church's band setting up and practicing for our first outdoor service of the year. The entire family joined us. This was a wonderful reminder that God's children can unite in worship even if we've never met before.

Chad & Jenny Haneman
Olmstedville, NY ✝

Salvation and Outreach

We worked hard to prepare for a VBS for children and teens. The theme focused on loving God and serving people. The teens practiced what they were learning by helping with the games and songs for the children. Two children placed their faith in Jesus Christ! Neither of them regularly attends our church, but we will follow up with them. The children donated nearly \$1,000 for the local pregnancy care center. The teens also made no-sew fleece baby blankets for the center to distribute.

Jay & Mary Bucci
Moxie, PA ✝

Outdoor Outreach

This summer, we started something new: Fire, Food and Fellowship. This monthly event is open to anyone. Nearly 30 people joined us for the first one. We enjoyed grilled burgers and sausages and s'mores roasted over a bonfire. It was a time of true fellowship.

Josh & Crystal Smith
Sebeka, 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.



Dan and Judy Burke

Ethnos 360 (formerly New Tribes Missions)

dan_burke@ntm.org

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

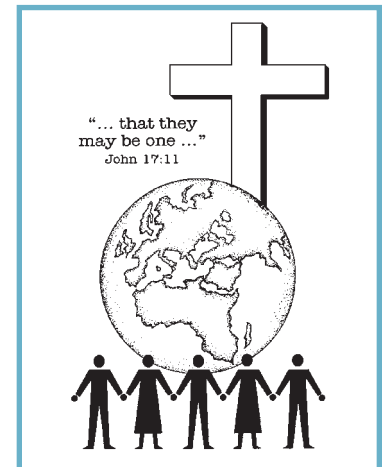


Kevin and Jennifer Domes

IN FAITH

kjdomes.ministry@yahoo.com

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



Tim and Mallory Brooks

Missionary Aviation Fellowship

tbrooks@maf.org

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



Joshue and Diana Bulande

SIM

dianaafrica@gmail.com

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

→ Please see "EBC Supports" on page 23.

EBC Supports

← (Continued from page 22.)



Ivan and Mary Goossen

Avant Ministries

ivary@avmi.org

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



Eric and Judith Hedeon

Ethnos 360

eric_hedeon@ntm.org

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



Paul and Leslie Lanquist

**Village Missions at Tanwax
Country Chapel, Washington**

360.832.3584

pastorpaullanquist@gmail.com

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



Jake and Moriah Michalovich

**Living in Dallas and serving
Polk County, Oregon**

jmichalovichyl@gmail.com

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



Steve and Mikki Schmidt

SIM Missionaries

steve.schmidt@sim.org

mikki.schmidt@sim.org

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



Other Outreach Ministries We Support:

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

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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1175 SE Howe Street
Dallas, Oregon 97338
503.623.2331

**office@ebcdallas.org
<https://ebcdallas.org/>**

Comments, suggestions and/or constructive criticism
of the content and layout of this publication are
encouraged. Please use one of the following:

Text: 503.931.8239

Email: bob.disher@charter.net

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

**Thank
you!** ✝

Unsplash



And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

1 Thessalonians 5:14–15 (NIV)