

The Sentinel

WE
STAND
WATCH

DISTRIBUTED BY EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH



July/August, 2026
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Many Thoughts

By Pastor Troy Bassham

Instead of a thematically written monthly article, I decided to write down a mishmash of some of the different thoughts and musings of the last several weeks.

Does your house have a junk drawer—an accumulation of random (but strangely useful) items without a specific category or assigned place? I suppose this article is kind of like that. Hopefully some of the things written here will be useful, or at least interesting. Whatever the case, these are some of the things that have been on my mind.

Thailand.

Lori and Matt are off with other members of our congregation on a mission trip to Mae Sot, Thailand where they are partnering with local ministries. This is the second

time Lori has gone. Two summers ago, she was part of the team that included my older son **Garrett**.

This time it is Matt's turn to go. I am happy that both of my boys wanted to be a part of these trips. I have always felt that mission trips always were just as valuable for those

going as for those being served. It is my prayer that this trip will be a chance for our team to grow in their faith and in their personal knowledge of God.

Of course, I am also excited to hear of the work that God is doing—both



→ Please see "Thoughts" on page 2.

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Deadline for next issue:

Monday, August 31, 2026 @ 5:00 pm!

know. grow. go.

Thoughts

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(Continued from page 1.)

the work that they get to witness and the things that they are able to be a part of.

Israel

Speaking of trips, I'm trying to put together another trip to the Holy Land. A trip to Israel is different than a standard vacation.

While the travel may be enjoyable, it is a chance to interact with one's own faith. It is educational and biblically informative. Saint Jerome called the land *"the 5th Gospel."* Seeing the places of Scripture firsthand adds a greater depth of understanding to the biblical accounts. It affects both the head *and* the heart: providing confirmation of belief as well as being emotionally moving. Experiencing the places with our own senses can enrich future biblical study—giving a mental picture that lasts far beyond the trip.

I had intended on organizing a trip sooner. However, events in the Middle East can complicate any planning. ***Please pray for wisdom as I work on this project.***

Staff

As most of you are aware, over the last year, there have been a lot of changes in staffing at EBC.

Pastor Mike Fast was called to a senior pastor position at a church just outside Roseburg, **Alison Johnson** took a job outside our church that was a good fit for her career and family, and **Andrew Wheeler** will be moving to

Medford in just a few short weeks in order to be nearer to family.

It is hard to lose good people. However, we know that God is in charge and that our ministry is dependent on Him. As Paul said in **1 Corinthians 3:7**

(NASB), neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

This does not mean that the labor and service of these people was unimportant or unappreciated. By no means! But it is a reminder that what is important is the work of God through faithful vessels.

So, while the changes can sadden us, we know that God is faithful. We pray that He would lead us to the right people and adjustments to continue doing His work at EBC.

Poison Oak

On the 4th of July, while watching fireworks, I accidentally wandered into some blackberry bushes and poison oak. *I suppose that is a possibility when walking around in the dark.*

I noticed the blackberry bushes immediately as they scratched my

legs. I didn't realize the poison oak exposure until the rash appeared two days later. There is a much longer story here, but suffice it to say, this has been the worst poison oak exposure I've ever had. I'm now on medication and on the road

(hopefully) to quick healing. But what I have been thinking of was the nature of sin.

Often times we wander into places we should not go, and do not realize the price we pay for wandering off the path. You probably remember the old adage: *"Sin will take*

you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you're willing to pay."

If I had not just recently written an article on sin (May *Sentinel*), this probably would have been the main theme of this article. But I am again reminded that poison oak is a good visual image for sin. It can look small and innocent. I assure you it is not, and the exposure brings very big consequences.

Finally.

By the time the rest of my family returns from Thailand (*Matt/Lori*) and military training (*Garrett*), **Will** and I will have been holding down the fort as a duo for nearly two weeks. While I miss the other members of my family, I am thankful for the time I have gotten to spend directly with him. He is growing so fast. I pray that he would grow in faith and obedience as a follower of Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU, all, for your prayers and support. Pray for God's leading in my life and for my family. ✝

But it is a reminder that what is important is the work of God through faithful vessels.



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A Blood Donation: Benefits to the Donor and Recipient

By Sherri Fobert

According to an article published in The Epoch Times last year (*April 9-15*), people usually donate blood to help others.

Yet if they donate on a regular basis, according to new research, genetic mutations develop which appear to reduce the risk of leukemia (*a blood cancer*) and support the production of healthy blood cells which increases the individual's resilience to stress.

The Evidence Suggests

The specific ins and outs of the study are detailed. While the study's sample size was moderate, there was

enough evidence of change in the donor's health to state that larger studies were needed. The article also stated, "*Regular blood donation is linked to a lower risk for heart attacks.*"

Regular?

One might be asking: *what is considered a regular blood donation?* Whole blood donations can be given every 56 days and a red blood cell donation (*power red*) every 112 days.

A spokesperson for the Red Cross emphasized that a single donation can help people who are scheduled for complex surgeries, cancer patients, and victims of an accident. Before donating, a donor's blood pressure, heart rate, and hemoglobin level are checked. Donation time takes about an hour (*actual donation of blood averages 5 minutes*).

Next Blood Drive!

EBC will host a blood drive on **August 31, from noon to 4:30 PM**. Check in is in the Youth Center and then the donor is directed to the Activity Center.

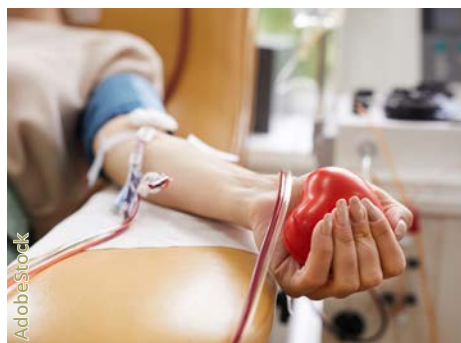
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
August 31, 2026!

Appointment Not Needed, BUT...

Please consider scheduling an appointment. Do one of the following:

- ✦ Call **1.800.733.2767**
- ✦ Visit **RedBloodCross.org**
- ✦ Use the **Red Cross Donor** app

See you on the 31st!



Need a Break?

By Bob Disher

Whether it's because of reminiscing about our recent trip to Alaska or just a fascination, but I have had a livecam playing to provide background entertainment. In

particular, a livecam from **Katmai National Park** in Alaska caught my attention. It's maintained by the National Park Service and shows bears feeding for salmon at Brooks Falls. **Very fun!** Well, *not for the fish...*

You can watch using the link below or go to YouTube® and search for Katmai National Park bears: explore.org/ ✦



In the trade, this article is called a *filler*. But who doesn't love a good story about bears eating fish. Except maybe the fish...



Awana's New Commander

Meet Kristiina Broten

Our Foundational Verse

The mainstay verse of Awana has always been **2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)**, which says, ***Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, and who correctly handles the Word of Truth.***

The King James version uses the word ***"study"*** in this verse and that's what the Awana program is all about ... to ***study*** God's Word, memorize it, and live it out in our community.

Our Mission

Our Awana team mission at EBC is to ***"help every child know Christ personally, grow as His disciple and go share His love with others."***



YOUR Prayers Needed

Please be praying for wisdom, unity and excitement in our staff team and please pray that the hearts of the kids would be open to the Gospel. Our goal is to instill a hunger for God's Word ... *and* a desire to have the children and staff alike to grow in their faith.

Brief Bio

If you don't already know me, here are a few "about me" things! My wonderful husband, **Ethan** and

I have two kiddos **Nate** (5) and **Lydia** (almost 4).

We all love being outside—playing in

our creek, or hiking or camping or puttering in our garden. Two kittens joined our pet collection of chickens this summer—**Joe** and **Hug Hello**. (Can you tell the kids got to pick the names?)

We are members of EBC and have regularly attended here. In the past, I served with my parents and sisters in Romania for many years, specifically to kids in a Gypsy village and at summer camps.

I love children, teaching kids, and look forward to getting to know those He brings to Awana this year!

In Him,

Kristiina Broten ✝

Hello, I'm **Kristiina Broten** and I have been asked to be the Awana Commander for this upcoming Awana year. For the past 13 years, I have been the Director of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade girls Awana program and I am excited for this new opportunity to help serve the kids in our community.

A BIG Part of My Life!

The Awana program has been a big part of my childhood; I started out as a Cubby clubber many years ago. I am so grateful for the leaders and staff that spoke into my life and helped me to grow in my relationship with the Lord when I was a clubber. Now it is my turn to give back; how wonderful to be a part of training up the next generation to know and grow in their walk with Jesus.

Our goal is to instill a hunger for God's Word ... and a desire to have the children and staff alike to grow in their faith.

Get Ready for Fall Shopping!

By Kim Disher
Awana Store Shopkeeper

The first Awana store night of the school year will be coming up soon. So get ready to have some fall shopping!

Ready to Donate?

✠ Did the children in your life receive new toys lately?

✠ Have they outgrown some of their current toys?

✠ Are you doing “summer cleaning” in preparation for the new school year?

✠ Do you enjoy hunting for bargains at garage sales?

If you answered **YES** to any of the above questions, please consider donating discarded toys to the Awana store. We ask that they be complete and in good working/playing condition. A rule of thumb to follow is if you would give it to your children or grandchildren ... then we'll take it!

We're always looking to build our inventory in order to give the children a wide variety of items from which to choose. In fact, **Sharon Flaming** and I have



already made a shopping trip to the Goodwill Outlet (*Goodwill By the Pound*) store in Salem and came back with a lot of treasures sure to please the discerning eye of our young shoppers!

Ideas to Consider

As you search for things, be on the lookout for Legos®, games, sports items (*balls, bats, gloves...*), trucks, cars and tracks, dolls (*all sizes*), doll-house items, doll clothes, stuffed animals, small framed pictures, knick-knacks, crosses, arts and craft items (*markers, paints, coloring books, stickers, pompoms...*), jewelry, flashlights, head-lamps, speakers, tape measures, tools (*hammers, screwdrivers...*), small lotions, lip balm, bubble bath, hair items, items for gifts for moms, dads and siblings (*kitchen items...*).

Thank YOU!

Whatever you find to donate, we are greatly appreciative of your support of our Awana program. Also, if you would like to be a store worker, please call or text me at **503.580.6730**. ✠

Prayers for Awana's New Year!

The leadership team is busy getting things ready for an exciting start to a new year for Awana. As part of your regular prayers, please pray for ...

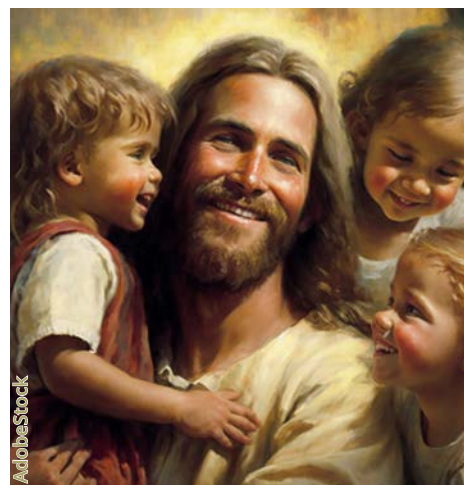
✠ Provision of volunteers

✠ Wisdom for the leadership team

✠ The hearts of the children to be open

✠ AND for a great year of serving and teaching the children of our community about Jesus! ✠

Awana®





Time to Serve

By Sylvia Thomas

I'll state the obvious—*we are part of the universal family of God, in fact, we are the EBC branch of His family!* Just like our individual families, different personalities, gifts, strengths, and weaknesses are part of our church family.

Many Jobs to Share

Verses in **1 Corinthians 12** compare the church allegorically to a body with many parts needed to function well. In my family as I grew up and then also as my husband and I were raising our children, there were certain expectations of each person in the family to function to the benefit of all.

No one in the family was expected to do every single job in the household, but *everyone* had a part to chip in for things to run smoothly.

It is the same with our church family. Serving helps us each develop discipline, maturity, gives a sense of purpose, gives the feeling of being needed, and of belonging.

In my reading of **1 Corinthians 15:58**, I was struck by the importance of this verse in our Christian maturity. In the **New King James**, the verse is: *Therefore, my beloved,*

brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

I checked out the **NIV** translation which reads: *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

Then to really zero in to the teaching of this passage, I looked at the **Amplified Bible** and read this: *Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord (always doing your best and doing more than is needed), being continually aware that your labor (even to the point of exhaustion) in the Lord is not futile nor wasted (it is never without purpose).*

Three Directives

This verse has three directives to Believers:

- ☒ Be steadfast
- ☒ Be immovable
- ☒ Be always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Looking at the Greek

Not knowing Greek, I went to some of my reference books to look at the original meaning of these words. What stood out is that they *all* have the grammatical tense of continuous, repeated action. *They aren't "once and done" directives.* The meaning of **steadfast** here *refers to our mind and purpose*, in other words, *know* what you believe.

Likewise, the meaning of **immovable** is *to be firm, secure in what we believe*. The last directive, to **abound in the work of the Lord**, is what stood out to me. It means *to be in excess, to excel, to give our all*.

How to Apply?

How can each of us apply these verses? Are we already applying these

→ Please see "Service" on page 7.

Serving helps us each develop discipline, maturity, gives a sense of purpose, gives the feeling of being needed, and of belonging.

Service



⬅ (Continued from page 6.)

principles? It can help if we ask ourselves these questions:

✠ Do I know what I believe?

✠ Do I stand securely in my faith?

✠ Do I apply myself to serve God in a way that is wholehearted, doing my best?

Of course, we do not work or serve for our salvation, but apparently

each of us needs to do more than just benefit from the work that others are doing. We should *not* just serve our own family, but each of us needs to find some way to serve the Lord in our church family and in the world around us.

Practical Ways to Serve

Here are some practical opportunities that EBC needs people to help serve right now:

✠ We will be needing some people to help serve soon in the summer three-morning VBS program.

✠ Various helpers are needed for the Awana program, from

listening to kids say their memorized verse, being an extra person to help in the classes, etc.

✠ Even if you like just working in the background, there are ways for you to serve.

Be watching for more opportunities, and please join me in praying about having a heart open to serve in an “*always abounding in the work of the Lord*” way. ✝



EBC Triangle Lake Family Camp



August 21 - 23, 2026

Come relax and enjoy camping with your church family!

To sign up and for more information,
please contact Ron Brooks (503) 623-9087 or Sue Dunham (503) 510-5950

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

hubersdj@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

Evangelical Bible Church is a busy place! As with any large group of people there are always times of stress, conflict and confusion—surprisingly similar to the early church in **Acts 6:1 (NKJV)** *Now in those days when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists....*

The disciples could see the problem and were able to resolve the complaint with an agreeable solution. In like manner, the elder team here at EBC work together to find resolutions to issues and problems as presented whether big or small. Sometimes this involves delegating issues to the appropriate committee for them to find solutions under their domain. We depend on the fact that God is sovereign and promises to guide, give wisdom, and provide, if we put trust in Him.

Staff Changes

Several important positions have been open this past year. We formed search teams and they have worked to fill these vacancies. Our long-time office manager, **Alison**, changed

jobs and **Jim Walker** is team lead for that search team. They recently announced that a good candidate has been found and interviewed, and if all goes as planned the person should start at the end of the month.

Many thanks to **Kari Sampont** for handling the extra jobs in the office and **THANKS** to those who have been assisting her.

The second search team has been for a youth pastor who will replace **Pastor Andrew Wheeler** when he moves to Medford next month. This has been an important topic on parents' minds—finding a qualified person to fill this position.

Dave Whitback led this search team, and after identifying and recommending a good candidate to pass on to the elders, the elder team will interview him on July 17.

We depend on the fact that God is sovereign and promises to guide, give wisdom, and provide, if we put trust in Him.

Congregational Vote

Although the church manager/secretary position does *not* need

a congregational vote, pastoral positions *do*.

If the elders agree that the candidate is a good fit for EBC, then a congregational meeting will be set and a vote taken from church members to accept or reject the candidate. This same process will be followed at a later date when the search team resumes looking for a qualified candidate for the associate pastor position.

Awana Program

The Awana youth program is one of EBC's most important outreaches to our community. This program has been faithfully serving children and youth for over 40 years! What a legacy and a huge **THANK YOU** to all the parents and adults who have provided leadership and support to carry the program so many years.



Recently **Jim and Judi Peters** shared with me one of their good memories from working in the Awana program. About 20 years ago, there was a difficult middle school child and they assumed that she was not getting anything out of the Awana materials or teaching. *Ten years later this same child saw and came up to Judi and told her that the year she was with the Awana program was a pivotal point in her life.* She now is working on developing a career and thanked the Peters for what they did.

Wow! What an encouraging testimony! You never know how God is going to work behind the scenes.

→ Please see "Elders" on page 10.



Elders

AdobeStock

← ((Continued from page 9.))

The elder team appointed **Derrill Robinson** as the Director of the Christian Education committee which includes the Awana program. **Matt and Lena Calef** had been leading Awana for several years, but decided to resign this year. Derrill has appointed a new Awana director, **Kristiina Broten** who has been director of the Awana 3–5th grade girls for many years. She is looking forward to the coming year of serving the children and youth from EBC and in outreach to others. This is the first year that a woman has been named Director which is now allowed after our elder governing system changed from a Church Board system which required only males to head committees and programs.

Kristiina's experience as a leader should make a seamless transition as the new Awana year begins in September.

Accessibility Issues

The elders have been concerned about the accessibility of the church for our elderly and those with physical limitations. Our intent is to work with the trustees to identify and implement new systems to make accessing the church services and classrooms easier and safer. They reported that the roof repair project

last year was so big that many issues of priority had to be pushed back temporarily. *Please be assured that accessibility is still a priority for both the trustees and elder teams!*

Town Hall Meeting

The **Town Hall meeting** at the end of the month (**July 26 at 4:00 PM**) is an opportunity for the congregation to communicate to the elders their concerns.

Please forward your questions ahead of time to one of the elders, **Pastor Troy**, or the office in a clearly marked envelope so that we can properly address each question.

Our intent is to work with the trustees to identify and implement new systems to make accessing the church services and classrooms easier and safer.

Enhanced Duties

You may have noticed that a different elder has been leading the congregation in a prayer of gratitude to the Lord for His provisions to us on the first Sunday of each month. We need to remember to be grateful to God for His care and that He supplies all our needs.

In addition to the time of prayer, the same elder will remain up front at the end of the service to pray with those who may have a need. *Please do not hesitate to take this opportunity to come forward and pray with the elder.*

I thank God for His great goodness in His providing for our needs at EBC in terms of resources, personnel, and His Word which guides us. We thank you—each one—for your contributions in so many ways, whether in a team, encouraging others with cards or calls, or serving on the established committees.

GOD BLESS EACH ONE. †

Operation Christmas Child Monthly Donations

By Kay Whitney

We will continue our goal of an on-going collection of items for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. With all the "back-to-school" sales, please consider purchasing the following school supplies:

✦ Pencils, colored pencils, small manual pencil sharpeners, erasers, pencil cases, crayons, coloring books, pens, notebooks, markers, index cards, solar powered calculators, blunt scissors, small rulers, protractors, glue sticks (*no liquid glue*), and/or small adhesive tapes

As with other months, please place donated items in the box in the foyer. †



Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

News from FEBC!

By Kevin Stone
President, FEBC



July 1, 2026

What an exciting time this is! The US is celebrating our 250th anniversary this month, which is pretty cool, but my excitement is focused on other things. As I complete my preparations for our annual gathering—Connect, I am always pretty pumped up. I am in the midst of preparing information for the delegate folders, printing off reports and agendas, setting final details, and thinking through every aspect of the event. It is equal parts exhaustion and exhilaration.

Most importantly, this is the time that I look back over our past year and dream of what next year might look like, so I can share these things with your delegates. Frankly, God has worked miracles this past year! We have seen him heal and restore in difficult situations, provide wisdom and courage to church leaders, and provide pastors for several of our churches who were in need. But perhaps the easiest miracle to quantify is how he provided for us financially in ways that far exceeded our expectations. The difference between our expected withdrawal from reserves and our actual gain amounts to a \$128,000 swing. For perspective, this swing is over half of our total FY2026 budget! Praise the Lord! This is an amazing shift from a few years ago!

There is not one obvious source for this increase. Spending was a bit less than budgeted, investments provided more return than expected, many of our churches increased giving or gave unexpected one-time gifts, and we received several one-time gifts from individuals. While pledged support for the Ministries Coordinator position actually dropped a bit, God still amazed us. Individual one-time donations pushed the total received for MC Support over 100% for the first time since the support model was established. This reminds us that God is faithfully providing, but also that we cannot relax or rest on last year's success. We need continued commitment!

The future of the Fellowship looks bright. Earlier this month I had a great meeting with a church that is interested in joining the FEBC. Another church will be meeting with me later this year, and discussions continue with several other viable prospects. Pray that God will direct each one.

I am excited at how God is working. I am excited at new opportunities. I am excited at the growth in connection among our member churches. And I am excited at how God continues to use you, the people of our Fellowship, to provide mutual encouragement and support for our churches. I believe this ministry is important – and we could never do it without the help of people like you.



Thank you so much for your ongoing prayer, support, and encouragement!

Kevin Stone – President ✝

Office: 402.965.3860 📞 Cell: 402.541.6099

www.fellowshipforward.org 📧 president@febministries.org



Homecoming

Kathy Bobeda

December 14, 1950 - May 31, 2026

Ariana, Addison, Hadessah, Gracie, Zoie, and Elijah.

Her family was her greatest joy. She loved deeply, prayed faithfully, and never missed an opportunity to encourage those she loved. She celebrated every milestone, carried every burden, and loved each member of her family with a fierce and unwavering devotion. She was the heart and humor of every family gathering, and her home was always filled with laughter, good food, and an open seat at the table for family, friends, and neighbors.

Joy, Energy, and Enthusiasm

Those who knew Kathy can easily imagine her walking the streets of heaven with the same joy, energy, and enthusiasm she carried throughout her earthly life. Though small in stature, Kathy's impact in the community was enormous. She loved Jesus wholeheartedly and wanted everyone she met to know Him. For more than 50 years, she faithfully served through Sunday School, Good News

Club, Awana, Camp of the Risen Son, The Gate Youth Center, and countless other ministries, sharing the abundant love of Christ with thousands of children and families.

Service to Others

Known for her kindness, hospitality, selflessness, and unwavering faith, Kathy found joy in serving others, whether preparing meals, teaching quilting, sharing her garden's bounty, or serving her church and community families. Kathy

believed deeply in the power of prayer and devoted herself to faithfully lifting up countless people, especially her children and grandchildren.

Legacy Lives On

While her family grieves her loss, they feel it was a great privilege to have been so generously and unconditionally loved by

her and rejoice in knowing she is with her best friend, Jesus, and they will get to see her again. *Her legacy lives on through the family she loved so fiercely, the countless lives she touched, and the faith she so faithfully lived out every day.* ✝



Katherine "Kathy" Adell Bobeda, 75, entered the arms of her Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Kathy was born on December 14, 1950, in Santa Cruz, California, to **Oscar and Betty Frederic**. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, **Kevin**.

Kathy met **James "Jim" Bobeda**, and after just 35 days, they were married on February 17, 1973, beginning a beautiful life together that lasted more than 53 years. Jim was her soulmate, best friend, protector, and faithful partner through every season of life.

Those Left

Kathy is survived by her beloved husband, Jim; her sons and daughters-in-law, **Mat and Cheri, Todd and Cara, Ben and Sarah, and Luke and Desirae**; and her treasured grandchildren, **Talon, Sylar, Chase, Aidan, Tate, Devon,**

While her family grieves her loss, they feel it was a great privilege to have been so generously and unconditionally loved by her ...



Homecoming

Gaye Stewart

July 7, 1942 - June 8, 2026

Editor's Note: A dear friend and a blessing to all went home to be with the Lord on June 8. Gaye was involved with many ministries over the years and was a frequent contributor to *The Sentinel*. Whether writing about the Floral Committee, Meals Ministry, her Blessings Corner, and more, Gaye created over 30 articles for this publication over the years. Her warmth, generosity, and creative genius will be missed!

Monday, June 8, 2026

Dear Friends, Neighbors, Church, and Garden Club Associates,

There is no easy way to share this news. My wife, Gaye Stewart, passed away early this morning after a serious fall Sunday night at a birthday party. She fell backward from a porch step, landed on her back, and struck her head on the cement.

She was treated promptly by emergency responders and taken to the Salem Emergency Room, where trauma specialists determined that, in addition to a severe head injury, she had suffered a brain bleed. She was placed on life support but passed away at 2:10 AM Monday with family by her side. We had been married almost 64 years... since June 16, 1962.

Thank you for your involvement in Gaye's life. She really loved life and all the challenges it held for her. She enjoyed what she did and did what she enjoyed and I know that you will miss her too. May God grant us peace in our mutual loss.

Mike Stewart
mrmikeoregon@aol.com ✝

Special Memories

By Carolyn Stent

“Join the floral committee, and I'll teach you everything I know about making flower arrangements,”

Gaye Stewart said.

Who can resist an invitation like that?

In 2023, I started my lessons with



Gaye. She had already been informally tutoring **Kim Disher**.

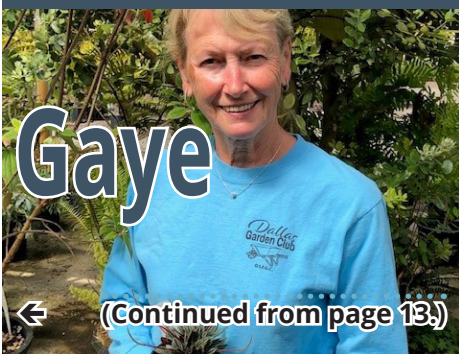
We met weekly at EBC to create arrangements for

Sunday mornings and for special occasions. I was nervous at first, but Gaye was very patient and encouraging as she taught me the basics of handling flowers and

→ Please see "Gaye" on page 14.



Gaye blessed EBC with this, her final earthly bouquet, on June 7.



greenery, a variety of arrangement styles, and how to add some surprising elements to bouquets. Most of all, Gaye demonstrated the art of using God's beautiful flowers and plants to bless others. The three of us were then joined by **Elizabeth and Grace Sakrisson**.

Field Trips

We went on a couple field trips: to Trader Joe's® to learn about selecting cut flowers and to Hobby Lobby® to select silk flowers. I loved watching Gaye make her arrangements and was often amazed by how many flowers she could fit into a single one!

On June 5, Gaye and I made two arrangements and happily chatted. That was my last evening with her. I certainly didn't learn all that she knew about flower arranging, but

I'm very grateful for all that she shared with me about flowers and about life.



Our family invites you to celebrate the extraordinary life of
Kathy Bobeda

Come share in remembering her beautiful life, steadfast faith, and the love she poured into everyone she knew.

**Saturday, August 22, 2026
@ 3:00pm
The Gate Community Youth Center
1501 Monmouth St
Independence, OR**

In perfect Kathy tradition a dessert potluck will follow.
Please bring a sweet treat to share.

It would be a treasured gift if you would share a favorite memory, story, photo or message about Kathy.
Please scan the QR code to share.

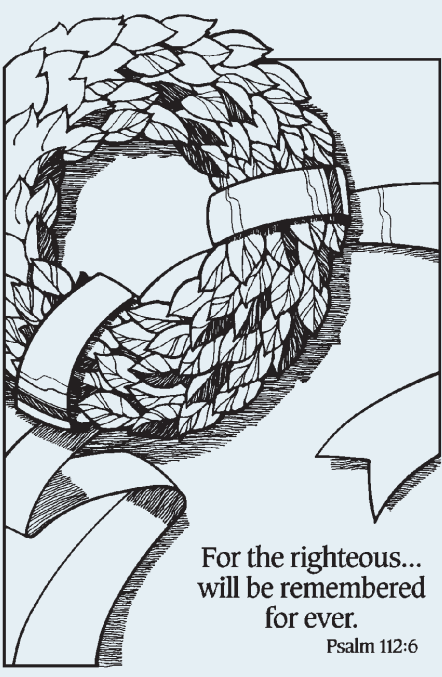


In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Gate Youth Association.

THANK YOU, Cara Bobeda, for providing the above graphic.

I'm very grateful for all that she shared with me about flowers and about life.

Kim Disher and I will continue making floral arrangements for Sunday mornings. *If you'd like to share some flowers from your garden or even join us one week, we'd be delighted! ✝*

For the righteous...
will be remembered
for ever.
Psalm 112:6

What I Learned on 2,786 Steps

By Gwen Griffiths

Tim and I climbed the Manitou Incline in Colorado at the end of April. As hikes go, it was a short one: just less than a mile. But in terms of challenge and energy expenditure, it's up there at the top of the list. ***The reason?*** As we climbed the **2,768 steps** that make up the trail, **we gained 2,000 feet in elevation.**

At times, the incline was so steep that it was easier to lean forward and use our hands to balance on the wooden steps ahead than to use our hiking poles. Because of the extreme incline (*and high altitude*) the trail is one-way; you are only allowed to ascend it. Then, to return, you take a path with a gentler incline that descends over the course of three miles.

Climbing and Pondering

As we climbed, I kept drawing parallels between the hiking community and the Christian family.

First, I noticed that everyone was going in the same direction. *We all had a common goal.* We repeatedly crossed paths with the same people. Some would pass us before stopping for a break, and later we would pass them again. Sometimes we found ourselves climbing at the same pace as someone else and would chat (*between breaths*) about the hike,

where we all came from, and tips that they had found helpful.

While everyone was headed in the same direction, with the same goal, we all progressed at different speeds. Some climbers moved faster but also took more rest breaks, while others plodded on at a slow, consistent pace.

Supporting and Encouraging

As I pondered the connection to the Christian life (*people moving toward the same goal but at differing paces*), I became aware of a family climbing together. A young adult woman was attempting the climb but clearly struggling with it. I'm not sure if it was taking more strength and energy than she had, or if she was fearful of the height, but I could see her legs shaking as she almost crawled from step to step.

Her parents stayed just behind her, one of them always touching her to offer guidance and support. They moved



at her pace and encouraged her verbally.

Tim and I happened to be resting near one of the ***“bail-out points”***—a place where the descending trail comes close enough to the incline path that someone could choose to leave the incline path and return to the trailhead.

As this family approached it, the young woman clearly wanted to take a break and began to stand up to

→ Please see ***“2,786 Steps”*** on page 16.



While everyone was headed in the same direction, with the same goal, we all progressed at different speeds.

2,786 Steps



make her way across to the rest area. Because her parents were behind her, they couldn't help steady her. Then a man who had been resting stepped to her and reached out his arms, allowing her to clasp his upturned arms as he steadied her.

Climbing Together

In that moment, I caught a glimpse of what the Christian life is meant to look like. One person struggling toward the goal. Two others faithfully supporting her. And a stranger stepping in when a little more help was needed.

It would be easy for those on the path with this young woman to say that she shouldn't have attempted this or that she should have trained more. Instead, people offered patience and grace and help all along the way.

What if our Christian community looked like this? What if, when we saw someone struggling, we offered support and encouragement instead of criticism and undermining? We could choose to climb a portion of the path with them instead of rushing on ahead, to share a moment of connection as we stop

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,
Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

and rest. We might find that we are the ones who need the support and encouragement from those progressing more quickly than us, too.

What IF?

What if our Christian community looked more like that trail? What if, when we saw someone struggling, we offered support and encouragement instead of criticism or judgment?

We could choose to slow our pace for a while, walk alongside someone who needs encouragement, or simply be willing to steady them when they stumble.

This week, ask God to show you someone who could use your



encouragement. It might be a phone call, a note, a conversation after church, or simply taking time to listen. As we all continue climbing toward Christ, may we be known as people who help one another reach the summit.

Backstory...

I definitely hesitated when Tim asked if I would climb the Incline with him, and much of what I read while researching the hike only made me more apprehensive.

There were warnings about the altitude, the difficulty, and the fact that you couldn't simply turn around and go back down except at three designated bail-out points.

In the end, the hike was easier than I anticipated. I had worried that the height and steep angle would frighten me, but as long as I kept my eyes on the goal, I couldn't look behind me to see how high I had climbed or how far I might fall if I lost my footing. I also prepared physically, gradually working up to 500 repetitions on 14-inch steps. Reaching the summit required both physical preparation and the determination to keep moving forward, one step at a time.

In much the same way, the Christian life calls us to trust in the help Christ provides and to walk with Him, one step at a time, through the challenges He sets before us. †

What if our Christian community looked like this? What if, when we saw someone struggling, we offered support and encouragement instead of criticism and undermining?

Mom to Mom Is . . .

Back This Fall!

By Gwen Griffiths

A new year of Mom to Mom is just around the corner! Join us for **Registration Day on August 28** (see details below), with our first regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8.

Invite Them!

Know a mom with young children? Invite her to come! Mom to Mom is a welcoming place for moms to find friendship, encouragement, and support. We meet on the second and

fourth Tuesdays of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 AM for a potluck breakfast, discussion, activities, and child care.

How YOU Can Help

We're also looking for child care volunteers! If you enjoy cuddling babies, reading stories, or playing with toddlers, we'd love to have you join the team. To learn more or volunteer, contact **Colleen Shinn** at **503.507.0310**. ✝



Thailand!

We are hoping for an article once the team returns home (*hint, hint*), but for now here are some pictures of our group in Thailand! ✝



Upcoming Classes & Activities

AdobeStock

July

Tuesdays, weekly at 6:30 PM

☒ Forged high school youth group:

Wednesday, weekly at 6:30 PM

☒ Prayer group

Thursdays, weekly at 6:30 PM

☒ Compass middle school youth group

Sundays, 10:30 AM

☒ Young adults group

Sundays, 10:30 AM

☒ Young marrieds class

August

(No Hymn Sing this month!)

Wednesday, weekly at 6:30 PM

☒ Prayer group

Sundays, 10:30 AM

☒ Young adults group

Sundays, 10:30 AM

☒ Young marrieds class

Tuesday, August 4, @ 9:00 AM

☒ Ladies Missionary Fellowship

August 8 @ 8:00 AM

☒ Men's Breakfast

August 10, 11, 12 from 9:00 to Noon

☒ EBC Children's Summer Bible Program

August 21–23

☒ EBC Family Camp at Triangle Lake

August 31 from Noon to 4:30

☒ EBC Blood Drive

September

Tuesday, September 1, @ 9:00 AM

☒ Ladies Missionary Fellowship †



AdobeStock

Summer Bible Classes!

By Rand Dow

Weekday School of the Bible Vice President

After a request from students, Weekday School of the Bible is meeting weekly with students through the summer for Bible classes.

This is a new program for us. The Bible class meets at 2:00 PM on Wednesdays, and is followed by the Drop-In.

Drop-In times are Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM. This is at the HUB, at the Weekday Bible High School chapel. This has been fun and a good opportunity to reach out to the kids and let them ask questions.

Our Growing Dilemma

Weekday School of the Bible continues to reach new students and grow. We are facing a dilemma of how to continue growing the programs and provide adequate staffing.

If anyone is willing to be involved in this outreach, we need your help! You can contact me, or anyone on the executive team.

But Wait, There's More!

The second half of the dilemma in growing is financing our facility maintenance costs. We have accumulated a long list of

maintenance items, some of which are becoming high priority. Details are available on request from me, but our rough estimates for the next two to three years of maintenance costs are between \$115K and \$370K.

To continue to increase the after school Drop-In program and convert the HUB, we are looking at renovations that would provide a full-fledged kitchen. Unfortunately, this has to be a future project after the immediate maintenance needs.

The Work Continues!

Weekday Bible continues to operate chapels next to **Oakdale**, **Lyle**, and **Whitworth** elementary schools, **LaCreole Middle School**, and **Dallas High School**, and would appreciate your prayerful support of this ministry.

Should you feel led make a one-time or ongoing financial gift, please visit weekdaybible.com/donate-now ✝



High School



Lyle



Oakdale



Whitworth



LaCreole

.....
We are facing a dilemma of how to continue growing the programs and provide adequate staffing. If anyone is willing to be involved in this outreach, we need your help!

Focus on Missions: Dan and Judy Burke

Busy Times in Bolivia!

Our missionary focus this month is a couple who have worked in Bolivia for many years. They are Dan and Judy Burke, partnering with Ethnos 360 to reach the Chimane people group. They focus on evangelism, leadership training, construction, translating and curriculum development. Recently Bolivia had quite a political upset. This has calmed down some, but you will notice in their recent newsletter that the situation has resulted in shortage of fuel, food and lack of transport at times.

Enjoy catching up with what the new project is at the Horeb center!!

Linda McFarland
Missions Committee

June 30, 2026

Dear friends,

Well, this morning we boxed up our cargo for a flight tomorrow out to San Borja. We are going back down! Unfortunately, we will not be able to have Discipleship Classes 7A and 7B as we had hoped. There is still no fuel readily available for sale in San Borja.

Long Lines for Gas

The other day, **Abdon**, one of our discipleship teachers and church elders, and his wife both waited in line overnight. He was in line with his motorcycle and she was in a separate line for gas jugs. After much waiting, Abdon was able to buy under two gallons of gas. **Agostina**, his wife, got a little over a gallon of gas.

The Impacts to Us

It won't work to invite people in for discipleship courses when they very likely won't be able to buy gas to get home on. Or they come in for a course, but actually end up sitting in the gas line the whole time. *So, sadly, we had to cancel the last two remaining courses of round two.*

On a positive note, our team from Texas has decided to come down! We should be able to do construction work there at Horeb with very little need of gas. **Dan** checked and construction materials (*sand, cement and rebar*) are available. Food supplies should suffice, although

dairy items are still not coming in. There are no more roadblocks currently, but the lack of gasoline and diesel are not helping out the supply line.

Welcoming Team Texas!

So, Dan and I will be returning to Horeb tomorrow and Dan will begin making preparations for Team Texas. Their projects will be finishing up the three rainwater tanks that Dan already started and beginning the work on a water tower. In the future we would like to build two bathroom stalls and one shower stall under the water tank itself. The current water tank beams are not holding up. They are rotting! We can no longer get good quality beams, so it is time to switch to cement construction.

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your prayers and support of the Chimane ministry!

Dan and Judy Burke

Etnos360 ✝



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.

Cowboy Coffee

On two Saturdays, I set up some chairs on Main Street and served free cowboy coffee. Forty people stopped for a cup and to chat. We talked about the history of mining in French Gulch and about why I believe in the importance of spending time together on the street and in the church. I also had conversations about God and the gospel and prayed with some people. I plan to do this every other week.

Mike & Suzanne Imus
French Gulch, CA ✝

Boosted Confidence

A speaker from Creation Ministries International gave an informative, engaging presentation at our church. He helped us think through the relationship between biblical faith and the claims of modern culture. Several newer believers in our church said it boosted their confidence in Scripture and answered questions they had been wrestling with.

Brenden & Helena Peters
Boyle, AB ✝

Christian Connection

Our church loves visitors, and we recently had some from halfway around the world. An international student who attends our church was preparing to graduate, so his family came from Namibia. Our Namibian friends lifted their hands in worship and shared stories of God's love expressed through his church. They also brought gifts for our congregation. It's amazing to be in such a small church and yet have an immediate connection with people who live so far away.

Josh & Janice Hendrix
Virginia Dale, CO ✝

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

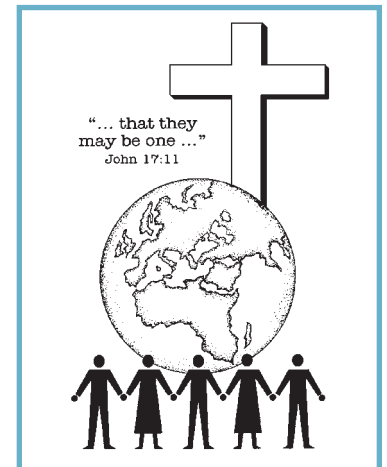


Kevin and Jennifer Domes

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/>

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of the content and layout of this publication are
encouraged. Please use one of the following:

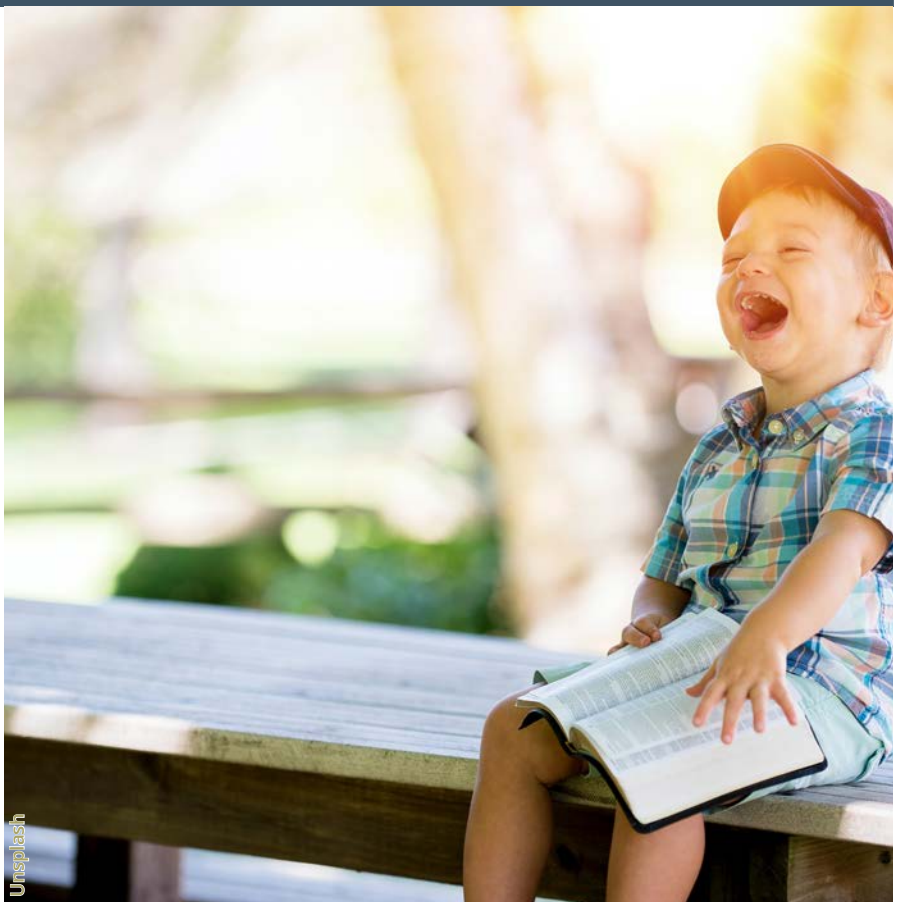
Text: 503.931.8239

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



So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:7–9 (NIV)