

# East Balsam Beacon

April, May, June  
2021

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Thanks to  
Cheryl Volgren &  
Sarah Bowers  
for the pictures

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

On April 9-10 I attended the Saint Croix Valley Men's Retreat at Oak Forest Center in Frederic along with eleven other men and youth from EBBC. I had a great time, and there are several reasons why I am glad that I went and why I am looking forward to going again next year, Lord willing.

First, and most importantly, the retreat gave me an opportunity to step away from "normal life" and focus on God. It truly was a spiritual *retreat*, and I left feeling refreshed and invigorated. The retreat included meaningful times of worship, prayer, and fellowship. It also gave me a chance to sit under the preaching of the word, which is something that pastors do not get to do very often. I love preaching at EBBC every week, but sometimes it's good for preachers to sit down and hear someone else preach.

Speaking of preaching, I did have the privilege of speaking during the Saturday morning session at the retreat, and that is the second reason why I am glad that I went. I had a lot of fun speaking to a room of about one hundred men. It was a treat, and a unique opportunity that doesn't come along very often! My message was from Hebrews 10:19-25. The theme of the retreat was "Jesus, Anchor of My Soul," so in my message I sought to answer the question, "How can we stay anchored to Jesus?" I shared three ways to do that from the text: we must draw near to God in faith, we must hold fast to our hope in Jesus, and we must stir up one another in love.

The third reason why I am glad that I went to the retreat is that it allowed me to continue building relationships with some of the men from EBBC. I haven't even been at EBBC for one year, so I'm still getting to know the church family. The Covid-19 pandemic has also made it a little more challenging to get together outside of Sunday morning worship. So, I'm grateful for the time that I was able to spend with men from our church, and I hope that even more men from EBBC will join us at the retreat in 2022. I also enjoyed the time that I spent with men from other churches, and especially the other pastors who were at the retreat. As far as I can tell, Polk County is blessed to have many healthy, biblical churches and faithful, godly men leading those churches.

Finally, I am glad that I went to the retreat because it was an excellent experience all around. Oak Forest Center is in a beautiful location, and even though it was wet and cool outside, it was refreshing to be out in nature. The staff was wonderful, the food was incredible, and the facility itself is beautiful. Remarkably, the entire retreat (food, accommodations, sessions, etc.) cost less

than most hotel stays. My only regret is that the retreat was over so quickly, but the length of the retreat works out well for most men because they can go without having to miss work.

I plan to attend the Saint Croix Valley Men's Retreat again next year (I would enjoy speaking again, too!) and I hope that a good group of men from EBBC will join me. It's important for all of us to take time away from the daily grind to focus on our relationship with God, and it is good for us to make time for fellowship with other Christians for mutual encouragement. We cannot live godly and joy-filled lives apart from community. That is one of the points that I made in my message at the retreat. As it says in Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Thanks to the men from EBBC who joined me at the retreat, thanks to Oak Forest Center for their excellent service, and thanks to the deacons and EBBC family for allowing me a little time away from my normal responsibilities.



## COMING UP

There will be a **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING** on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> after the morning service to approve spending for the Haiti Mission Trip flights.

**VBS** is being planned for this summer in June. The theme this year is “Mystery Island. Tracking Down the One True God”. Volunteer help is needed for all areas – teaching, helping, crafts, recess, games, kitchen, nursery, and decorating. Please contact Kathy Thull at 715/554-0511 if you can help in any way. She would appreciate hearing from you soon so that planning can move forward.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need volunteers who would be available to work in the nursery Sunday mornings.

Kathy is also looking for someone to take over as the EBBC kitchen coordinator. Duties would involve setting up committees, planning serving for funerals and other events, assigning committees to work at the events, and keeping track of and ordering kitchen supplies.

A sign-up sheet has been hung up outside the kitchen for bringing snacks for Sunday mornings.

Contact Kathy Thull at 715-554-0511 to talk about or volunteer for any of the above positions.

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

### Birthdays



Pastor's birthday was March 4<sup>th</sup>; cake was served after the worship hour on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Anika Enger's birthday was April 14<sup>th</sup>. Cake was served following the worship service on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Congratulations, Pastor Jonathon and Anika!**



## Baptisms

On Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, six people were baptized during the worship service. They were Anna Tripp, Brina and Jonah Richter (sister and brother), Samuel and Markus Majeske (brothers), and Sam Willis (shown below in the order listed).



## EBBC Quilters



Donna Mabry, one of the quilting ladies, presented a baby quilt to Sam Willis. She and her husband, Lucas, are expecting their first baby in May.

Congratulations, Lucas and Sam!

## God's Appointment

I was so blessed on Easter weekend that I feel the need to share it with you. Larry, Barb, Dale and Dawn were coming to our house for Easter dinner. They were bringing most of the food but I volunteered to make a Lemon Fluff dessert. I assumed I had lemon Jell-O on hand, but apparently, I had never written it on my grocery list. On Good Friday I found out I did NOT have lemon Jell-O. All day the thought kept coming that I should go to the Dollar Store for Jell-O but I didn't go. Saturday morning, I felt very strongly that I should go to the store, and I did. The God appointment came at 9:30.

On the top shelf in the store, I saw red Jell-O. I asked another customer if she would look for lemon. She stood on the bottom shelf so she could reach and found there was no lemon. I thanked her for getting on the shelf and looking, and that I couldn't do that. She commented, "I bet you used to. Do you wish you could do it again?" I told her, "No. I know I'm going to heaven and I wouldn't want to go back and live those many years again." I gave her a Gideon New Testament, and showed her where to find verses to help her when she has problems and the plan of salvation in the back of the Testament. She was so happy to receive the Testament and commented that it is just what she needs. Then she told me that next Monday (April 5<sup>th</sup>) she had to go to jail (I think for a year) and after that she will go to Teen Challenge in the cities. She said she was very scared.

I won't use her name, but it starts with a "J". I told her I'd be praying for her. She had also asked if she could give me a hug. I said yes. When God sets up an appointment like this, you don't worry about Covid!

Instead of Lemon Fluff for dessert we had Raspberry Fluff and rejoiced in God's 9:30 appointment.

Joan Michaelson

# Haiti Mission Trip 2021

This summer, Lord-willing, 25+ individuals from our church and surrounding community will travel to Mirebalais, Haiti to learn alongside our brothers and sisters. We are preparing for this trip through prayer, monthly meetings, and reading through [Helping Without Hurting](#). We will be serving alongside [Global Vision Citadelle Ministries](#). They have been bringing the Light and Hope of Christ into the darkest places of Haiti since 2000. Our focus is fellowship, encouragement, and building long-term relationships between East Balsam Baptist Church and one of their 70 rural churches.

There are many ways in which you can join our efforts to follow the great commission and the great commandment as we travel this summer. Make sure to check back often (at [www.eastbalsam.com](http://www.eastbalsam.com)) for updates and ways to participate in this learning and fellowship trip.

**If at any time you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for our team, contact Sarah Bowers at [sbowers@eastbalsam.org](mailto:sbowers@eastbalsam.org) or call/text 651-324-3108.**

## Haiti Info Dinner

The dinner will be on April 28th at 6 pm. We will have a Haitian meal followed by a program: one for the adults while the kids attend their own program. We will focus on what we will be doing, along with some about the country of Haiti and the ministry we are serving with. We will also have 3 youth who are traveling with us get up and answer questions about the trip.

## Financial Support

### Fundraising Progress

Amount Needed:	\$45,000
Current Amount on Hand:	\$2,677
Percentage Raised:	6%

### I. Services for Hire

The Haiti trip team members have created a list of ways in which we are willing to serve our community with the talents and gifts God has given them. If you are interested in any of the services for hire listed below, or to request other services,, contact Sarah Bowers. (See above)

All funds will go toward our trip to Haiti in July.

**Thank you, and God bless.**

#### Services available:

- Babysitting
- Dog Walking
- Painting
- Yard Work
- Home Repair
- Photography
- Computer Support
- Cake Baking/Decorating
- Pet Sitting

- Vehicle Oil Changes
- Personalized Financial Coaching
- Help minimalizing and/or deep cleaning your home
- Help with creating a photobook on Shutterfly
- Moving Help
- Private Basketball Coaching

- Homemade baked goods (delivered)
- Kitchen support
- Lake weed pulling.
- Mowing lawns
- Rescreening windows
- Putting in docks
- Other

## II. T-Shirt Fundraiser

I Peter 4:10 is our focus verse for the trip. All we want to do is share the gifts and abilities God has granted us in order to serve others: both here and in Haiti.



### III. Papa Murphy's Days

Twelve youth group members are planning a few days where we will advertise for the Papa Murphy's in St. Croix Falls and be allowed to receive \$2 for every pizza purchased that day. We will communicate the dates of these Pizza Takeover Days so you can help our team while also enjoying some delicious pizza!

### IV. Donate Online

There is a place on the church website ([www.eastbalsam.com](http://www.eastbalsam.com)) to donate online.

### V. Prayer Support

Prayer is the foundation of all good works done in and through the Christian life. We know that nothing can be done apart from His sovereign will.

#### **Our current prayer requests are:**

- Traveling mercies to and from Haiti
- That Covid restrictions would not keep us from traveling to Haiti or returning home.
- For spiritual protection of us and our families as we prepare for, travel to, and return from Haiti.
- As we prepare, we are learning the language, Haitian Creole. Pray that God would give us knowledge and confidence to communicate well
- That we would humbly submit to whatever the Lord has planned for this trip

### VI. Resource Support

As our plans for our time in Haiti, or for our fundraising, become more concrete, there will be needs for resources – if you can supply any of these needs for our team, you can contact Sarah Bowers (see above).

## **MISSIONS**

### **Bruce & Candice Beatham**—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico

Greetings from warm, sunny Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah)! Our rainy season starts in late May/early June, so for now we are fairly warm and dry – having to ration our water to make it to the next time our part of the town gets city water sent to it. 😊

Our update isn't very much further along since the last time we wrote to you. We are still waiting for the Covid situation to mellow out before we can publicly present the **book of Mark** in Coicoyán (coy-coy-YAHN). We just need the consultant approval for the introduction and a few glossary entries to publish **John**. The guys think they are a week away from sending the **book of Luke** to a consultant for her to check. We are praying about getting the **Luke video** produced this year, but we need 11 good readers to do that! Eight of those should be men, but we have many more women who are good readers than men.



Will you pray with us that God will supply men that we can teach to read their language to be able to produce this video? Maybe by the time we are allowed to plan an event in the village, we'll have Mark, Luke, John and the Luke video to share with everyone!

I made a trip to the village to encourage some of my sisters in Christ who are having some hard times. I took my walking partner (Gudelia) with me. She's Valentín's sister-in-law and my good friend. She doesn't speak Mixtec. We were able to share the Gospel with a young woman and also leave our newly published literacy books with friends to sell in their store. So exciting!

Thank you for your wonderful support of what God is doing in Mixtec-land.

Blessings on you!

Love,

The Beathams – Candice, Bruce, Abby and boys!

### **John & Lori De Cleene—Mobilization Associates, Converge**

This past month has been exciting in Converge International Missions Mobilization: two families left for the field in March. One family was actually in the airport - on a connecting flight to go to their field last month when their country closed! They flew to Orlando. Weeks later they received a call at 9:00 pm and were on a plane the next day at 3:00 pm! A third family reached full support in March and is waiting for their country to open.

Additionally, two appointee families, one on the east coast, one here in the Midwest, each had 10 minutes in front of their home/sending churches. Both were well received with those in attendance asking to be on their prayer letter list and even asking for appointments. Please pray for the 64 appointees as they meet with churches and individuals to build their teams.

Next month, Lord willing, we will have another "Launch" where we train new appointees how to build their support team. One of these families will open a new country for Converge. Pandemic concerns are still significant, so please pray for wisdom as we plan for this training. When people pray, we see how God moves!

Serving together with you...John

### **Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher—Wycliffe Bible Translators-Florida**

**Translation consultant work:** Steve has been working remotely with the Mandara team in Papua New Guinea to provide quality assurance for their translation of Genesis. He is beginning to work with the Etulo translation team in Nigeria and will be mentoring translation consultant trainees during the consulting process.

**Translation resource development:** Steve has begun working with a team to produce translation guidebooks in easy English, called Translator's Notes, for teams throughout the world. He is assigned to the book of Exodus, to provide examples of valid ways to express the meaning for each part of every verse. He is also taking an online Hebrew refresher course with Jerusalem Seminary, which will help with this work.

**Use of the translated Scriptures:** It's been exciting to hear of the December 2020 publication and distribution of the Gizrra New Testament in Papua New Guinea. Steve worked as a consultant for them in 2018. The Binandere team, which Steve worked with in 2019, recently submitted portions of their New Testament for printing.

**Mobilization and recruitment:** Carol Jean is an administrative assistant for the mobilization team of Wycliffe. Her team is sharing about ways to become involved in Bible translation to more people than ever through online means: webinars, virtual job fairs, and job postings. They are hoping to resume in-person events this fall.

**Prayer points:**

- Pray for Steve and the Mandara and Etulo translation teams as they work to assure the quality of translated Scriptures.
- Pray that the Translator's Notes resources will be a great help to teams all over the world.
- Pray that the Bariai people, with whom the Gallaghers worked for 24 years, and other language groups would read God's Word more and more and that the Holy Spirit would transform their lives.
- Pray for more people to join the Bible translation movement.

The Gallagher express their thanks to the church for the prayers and financial partnership.

**Note:**

Carol Jean has been in Wisconsin since April 6th to help care for David, her Dad. She plans to return to Florida the last week in April.

**Gil & Norene Zinke—Training Leaders International (TLI)**

No update has been received from Gil. Continue to pray for him and Norene.

East Balsam Baptist Church  
1816 – 108th Street  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Sunday Worship – 9:00 A.M.  
9:30 A.M. – Children's Church  
Tuesday – 9:00 A.M. - Women's Bible Study  
Wednesday – 5:45 P.M. Youth Group  
Saturday, 7:00 A.M. – Men's Bible Study  
Other meetings and activities announced in the bulletin & on web site

[www.eastbalsam.org](http://www.eastbalsam.org)

To get to livestreaming,  
our YouTube address is [youtube.com/eastbalsambaptist](https://www.youtube.com/eastbalsambaptist)  
OR  
on the church website,  
scroll down to SERVICES, move your cursor right and click on YouTube.

Send Prayer Chain requests to [east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com](mailto:east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com),  
or contact Val Rowe at 715-268-7424 or  
Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055