

East Balsam Beacon

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Pastor's Corner

The Church is facing a leadership crisis. I'm not talking about East Balsam Baptist Church, I'm talking about the big "C" Church, the universal church. An increasing number of churches in our country are suffering due to a lack of leadership, and if our church (now I am talking about EBBC) does not begin taking steps *now* to identify and equip the next generation of leaders, then it will not be long before we face a leadership crisis.

So, what can EBBC do to avoid experiencing a leadership crisis? We need to begin identifying and equipping leaders now so that they will be prepared to answer the call to leadership in the future, and it starts with men.

Why men? Because God has called men to be the head of the family (Eph. 5:23), and he has called men to be leaders in the church (1 Tim. 3:2; 2 Tim. 2:2). The two go hand-in-hand. A man who does not lead his family well is not qualified to lead the church. That means we need a two-pronged approach to training leaders. We must help the men of our church (and I include myself in this) to become the godly fathers and husbands that God wants us to be, and we must help those whom God has set aside for leadership in the church to become the godly leaders our church needs.

Listen to what Voddie Baucham writes in *Family Shepherds*:

Over the past several years, I've thought, written, taught, and labored long and hard over the issue of male leadership in the home. I've watched families crumble under the weight of paternal neglect. I've seen young men wander aimlessly, looking for answers their fathers should have given them in both word and deed. And I've grieved with Christian women who've grown weary of begging God to make their husbands the spiritual leaders of their homes.

I've also seen men wake up to the responsibility and privilege of being their family's shepherd. I've watched households transform quickly as fathers take the helm and begin to lead and disciple their wives and children. I've seen marriages healed as husbands begin to take seriously their duty to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25) and to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

This is the kind of transformation to which I desire to contribute. I want to help men overcome a legacy of passivity, incompetence, and

indifference. I want to help shape the thinking of a generation of fathers who embrace their role with a certain amount of fear and trembling while carrying out their tasks with faith and confidence (Family Shepherds: Calling and Equipping Men to Lead Their Homes, by Voddie Baucham, Crossway, 2011, pp. 11–12).

Men of EBBC, do you want your bride to spend her days grieving that you are not the spiritual leader she needs and desires? Do you want to grieve at the end of your days because you were not the spiritual leader your children needed? I know I don't. So, let's work to overcome passivity, incompetence, and indifference, and let's strive to become the leaders that our wives and children need us to be.

And as we become better leaders in the home, some of us will be called to lead in the church. In *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, R. Kent Hughes says, "Is there really less leadership than there used to be? It appears so, but objective analysis is difficult. Statistics do indicate this, however: male leadership in the Church is on the decline as women outnumber men, for men comprise only 41 percent of adult church attenders, and some smaller churches cannot find even one man to fill the office of elder. More and more men are content to let others shoulder the heavy responsibilities while they go along for the ride" (*Disciplines of a Godly Man*, by R. Kent Hughes, Crossway, 2001, p. 179).

We must not be content to let others do all the work of leadership in the church while we just go along for the ride. The same is true at home. We must not be content to let the pastors and youth group leaders and children's church teachers do all the work of teaching God's word to our children. Men, we must step up to lead in our homes and in the church.

What about the women of EBBC? The men in your family and the men of this church need your prayers and support. If God has called men to lead—which I believe he has—then Satan will do everything in his power to discourage men from leading in their homes and in the church. If Satan can stop men from becoming the leaders God wants us to be, then families will fall apart, and churches will suffer. Take a good look at American families and American churches and tell me that's not already happening. It has been for decades.

In my Pastor's Report that was shared at the annual meeting, I laid out three goals for our church family, one of which had to do with training leaders. I'm not an expert on leadership, but I know enough to recognize how important godly leaders are. I need to be a better leader, our church needs more (and healthier) leaders, and our wives and children need better leaders. So, men, are you willing to join me in striving to become the leaders God wants us to be? If so, then stay tuned for a group that I will be starting for men who want to become better leaders in the home and in the church. If we work together, then we can become the leaders God is calling us to be. "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

COMING UP

Saints Alive

The Saints Alive (Over 50 age group) hasn't met for months. On Saturday, August 14th, at 5:30, we will have a pot luck meal at church. Val Rowe will share some of her life story following the meal.

All Church Picnic

The annual church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 29th. There will be a potluck meal following the worship service with fun activities in the afternoon.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Graduates Recognized on June 6th. They each received a quilt made by the EBBC Quilters, and a Bible.



Corrine Miller

Nicolas Hahn

Sophia Trick

Donna Mabry (quilter)

Cedric Cloutier

Betty Bertram (quilter)

Not in the picture is Alayna Jorgenson

COVID Patients

Steve Volgren was also given a quilt because he was going to have knee replacement surgery. However, a blood test revealed he had COVID-19. He spent 40 days in Regions Hospital. He was moved to Regency Hospital, 1300 Hidden Lake Parkway, Room 203, Golden Valley, MN 55422 where he is getting rehab therapy.

Theresa Nelson was in Regions Hospital from April 15th to the end of June when she was transferred to an acute care hospital. From there she went to a rehab hospital on July 9th. The latest on Caring Bridge is a possible release in early August.

Other people who attend EBBC have had the virus but not as seriously ill as Theresa and Steve.



Vacation Bible School—June 7-11



Prior to VBS,
Pastor Jonathon prays for
the staff who will be
working with the children.

What a great week! Forty children came to EBBC to attend “Mystery Island – Tracking Down the One True God”. Every day they learned something about God. God is...Great, Almighty, Ruler, Emmanuel, and Trustworthy.

Pastor Jonathon took the responsibility of being the Assembly Leader and did a wonderful job! Sarah Bowers did the missions and informed the children about Haiti. For offering, Sarah also came up with “1-2-3-4 We Declare A Penny War”. Pennies and dollar bills were good but any silver coins were bad and was subtracted from the good. The children, Teachers and Helpers all got involved in this battle. Nobody wanted to become an ice cream sundae. If they collected \$500.00 that team got to have ice cream sundaes on Friday. If they collected \$1000.00 dollars Pastor Jonathon became an ice cream sundae as well as the helpers on the losing team. Long story short, on Friday, the girls collected \$1,482.02, blowing the boys out of the water. There was a lot of ice cream sundaes being spread on people besides getting eaten. Overall, the offering ended up at \$2750.95 which was donated to the Youth Group’s Haiti Trip.

I was blessed with three wonderful teachers who did a wonderful job! Anika Enger taught the 3–5-year-old class, Jenni Cox taught the 6–7-year-old class, and Emily Chadwick taught the 8–10-year-old class. Each class had at least one or more helpers, too. Jen Jorgenson did Crafts which was in the sanctuary due to the high temps outside. Lynda Hall did the snacks all week with the younger children getting two snacks each day. The snacks were related to the theme for the day and Lynda had something to share about the snacks and God. Travis and Sarah Bowers were in charge of games and keeping the kids cool with water while out in the heat. Sara Mattson was in charge of registration and counting a lot of pennies. I was blessed with a great group of people to help with VBS.

On Friday, there was a program for the parents and families to come and hear what the children had learned throughout the week, with each class doing something special. A lunch was served for everyone to enjoy before the ice cream sundaes were dished out and applied.

I am very proud of the success and fun we all had this week considering I wasn’t sure what I was doing. Thank you everyone who participated and made the week a success with no hiccups.

Submitted by Kathy Thull



**Recess—
Time to wear off some energy!**



Snack Time



**Jen Jorgenson and Vicky Heichel
in charge of Crafts**



**Pastor Jonathon
became a human ice cream sundae!**

Haiti Mission Trip

Nine adults and 14 youth planned to leave on July 23rd and travel to Haiti. The trip was cancelled because of the unrest and assination of their president.

God opened the doors for another mission trip. Most of the people who were going to Haiti are leaving Saturday, July 24th, for Cookson Hills in Oklahoma. This is a ministry that serves at-risk children. They will return on July 31st. Three vehicles will be driven by adults to transport the youth. Please pray for safe travel, and for the group as they minister at Cookson Hills.

The tickets had been purchased to Haiti. It will cost \$50 per ticket to book a flight at a different time, or \$100 each to get a refund. This option is available for one year so the trip to Haiti is put on hold at this time.

Operation Christmas Child

Do you remember the story of the man from Africa who got a wool scarf in his shoe box? It turned out to be just what he needed when he moved to New York in the winter!

The summer 2021 edition of Samaritan's Purse publication titled Prayer Point, tells of a *just what she wanted* story. "When Angel opened her shoebox, she was overjoyed to find colored pencils and other school supplies. The 10-year-old girl loves to draw and the gift was exactly what her heart desired." She was involved in the Bible study *The Greatest Journey*. "As Angel studied God's Word and learned about Jesus, she made the decision to trust Him as her Lord and Savior."

The last sentence is the reason for the Operation Christmas Child program. "...since 1993, over 188 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received a shoebox. In addition, nearly 27 million children have participated in The Greatest Journey."

In four months EBBC will be packing shoe boxes again! You can start looking for bargains to pack in the boxes.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Twice a year at East Balsam Baptist Church we accept new members into our fellowship. One of the newest members to join EBBC is Victoria Heichel. Victoria (Vicki for short) is a local girl who has returned to her roots with her nearly 4-year-old daughter, Isabella (Bella for short). She currently assists with inventory, cleaning, and organization at Milltown Hardware while also working to establish a small cleaning business of her own.

Vicki grew up in the house on the top of the hill smack dab between the old East Balsam Baptist Church and the building we now occupy. Church attendance Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday night kid's clubs, summer Bible camp, VBS, and homeschool Bible classes laid the educational foundation for her to recognize that she could do nothing to ensure her salvation. Victoria prayed to receive Christ as her Savior when she was attending summer Bible camp at Camp Chetek in Chetek, Wisconsin, when she was eight years old. For a time, she struggled with doubting her salvation. Summer camp rolled around again a couple years later and Vicki's counsellor was able to show her from God's Word that salvation couldn't be lost.

As a teenager, Vicki was involved in her church in Milltown in the music ministry in playing piano (having studied under Lois Hemmingway), and being self-taught on the saxophone and flute. She was active in local youth activities and continued her love of summer Bible camp as a counsellor. After her high school graduation, Vicki

enrolled in Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, MN, and then transferred to what is now Maranatha Baptist University in Watertown, Wisconsin, the second semester of her freshman year. Vicki graduated Maranatha with a BA in Humanities Letters and a History Minor in 2012.

Vicki played saxophone in the band at Maranatha and worked on the campus cleaning crew. She took two short-term missions trips to China--one in 2010 and the other in 2012. Each trip lasted a month during which time the team from Maranatha taught English in summer camp attended by Chinese children.

When asked what she felt her spiritual gift was, Vicki replied, "The gift of gab." I'm not too sure that one is in the Bible. However, she does love to visit.

Victoria is finding her niche here at EBBC by assisting with VBS and the church nursery.

At this point I would like to put in a plug for church membership as EBBC will be accepting new members again in the fall. The process is neither difficult nor frightening. It consists of taking a short membership class in which the doctrines to which we hold and the Constitution by which we are organized are introduced. Each prospective member gives his or her personal testimony of saving faith in Jesus Christ to the Pastor and Deacons in a private meeting. Church membership is not required for a person to serve in the ministry of East Balsam Baptist Church and sometimes people think they don't need to become official members. However, the church ministry goes beyond the visible service of Children's Church teachers, music ministry, ushers, social committees, etc. Mature believers are needed to serve in elected positions which involve the determination of the direction of the church, the preparation of the budget, the oversight of spending for church programs--without which, the more visible service would not exist. As we approach the next invitation to church membership, would you give prayerful, careful consideration to becoming a church member?

Submitted by Lynda Hall

MISSIONS

Bruce & Candice Beatham—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico

Bruce, Candice, and Abigail arrived in Dallas, TX from Mexico on June 2nd. Since then, they have visited with family in Texas, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arizona, and Nebraska. From August 2-12 they will attend a Mexico Branch Conference online. They will have better connections by staying in the U.S. for this conference.

They request prayer for the translation work that continues as Valentin works at their office in Teco and Bruce supports him from the U.S.

John & Lori De Cleene—Mobilization Associates, Converge

John is at the Missionary Discovery and Assessment this week—July 19-23. There are more than ten candidates who will attend. John and Lori are currently working with more than 70 missionaries who are preparing for full time ministry around the world.

John's mother, Leona, passed away on July 5th. She was 99 1/2 years old and yet it seemed sudden since she had been given such good health all her years. John and Lori are thankful all of their children were able to be with them at the of her passing. Our sympathy to John, Lori, and family.

Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher—Wycliffe Bible Translators-Florida

The Gallaghers are busy working for Wycliffe Bible Translators from their home in Florida.

- Steve has completed translation consultations with the Enga and Mandara languages of Papua New Guinea. His next consultations will be with the Saliba language of PNG and the Etulo language of Nigeria.
- Steve is working on a translation guidebook for the book of Exodus. The first portion of his work is to be published electronically in July.
- He has been studying Hebrew online since March with Jerusalem Seminary.
- Carol Jean provides practical support for the Wycliffe recruitment team as they mobilize the next generation of missionaries who will serve in the work of Bible translation. They have been working mostly online with webinars, virtual job fairs, online courses, and job postings. They hope to resume in-person activities this fall.

Wycliffe's mobilization team has been creating **PATHWAYS**, a short online course to help interested people explore the process of Bible translation, the roles needed to complete the work, and how they can get involved. Carol Jean is serving the course as its registrar.

You can participate in this course! For more information or to register, go to <https://www.wycliffe.org/events/pathways>.

Gil & Norene Zinke—Training Leaders International (TLI)

Life—and stress—of a Missionary!

Gil and his co-workers have not been to Ethiopia for several months. Plans were made for four members of the team to fly out of Chicago on July 5th headed for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Two others would fly out later. Their visas did NOT come! Now, their passports and vaccination records are lost.

Gil reports in an email dated 7/23/21 that they are working short-handed. During the week of July 12-16, the four members of Gil's team, assisted by eight Ethiopians (three Mentors and five interpreters) trained the cohort of Shashemene pastors in expository preaching skills, using the book of Ephesians. That week went well. We heard some exciting testimonies of what God has done through our trainees during COVID shutdowns!

Gil reports that next week the Mentors will teach alongside the team, and do the bulk of the teaching, as they train the 55-60 pastors in the Hawassa cohort. Then Gil will preach twice in Addis Ababa on 8/1 and fly home. Gil says he is battling exhaustion and asks for prayer for stamina, focus and fruitfulness as they train these leaders.

“I am REALLY grateful for your prayers!”

In God's care,

Gil

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

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,
or contact Val Rowe at 715-268-7424 or
Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055