

East Balsam Beacon

July, Aug, Sept. 2022

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Anything

**East Balsam Baptist
Church**

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Pastor's Corner

Wood Lake Camp began almost 90 years ago in Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Many members of EBBC grew up camping at Wood Lake. We had church events there. And then, sadly, a few years ago, after such a long history of gospel ministry, Wood Lake closed. It seemed like the sounds of kids splashing at the beach, laughing in the KDA (dining hall), and singing worship songs in the chapel would be gone forever. The sound of the camp bell tolling across Big Wood Lake would never be heard again.

But it seems that God is not done with Wood Lake Camp. Last year, another thriving camp in Wisconsin called Forest Springs was given the opportunity to take over stewardship of Wood Lake. It was a step of faith for Forest Springs. The year before taking over Wood Lake, Forest Springs already assumed ownership at a camp in Michigan that was previously run by InterVarsity, and Forest Springs has been running Oak Forest Center in Frederic for many years. The leadership of Forest Springs was hesitant to expand again so soon. But they had seen God do amazing things for many decades through camping ministry, and they believe that God will continue to do amazing things through Wood Lake Camp in Northwest Wisconsin for many years to come.

I have no history with Wood Lake Camp. The first I heard about it was at our last church in Sturgeon Bay. That church had supported a camp in Michigan called Lake Ellen for many years. At one time, Lake Ellen and Wood Lake were both officially part of Converge Great Lakes. But both camps had fallen on hard times in recent years. Camping numbers were in decline, debt was piling up, and facilities were falling apart at both sites. When news spread that Wood Lake was closing, people at our last church were concerned that Lake Ellen wasn't far behind. They were right. Lake Ellen permanently closed in 2021.

I don't have a history with Wood Lake, but I do have a history with Forest Springs. And because of my history with Forest Springs, I am confident that Wood Lake has a bright future. My history with Forest Springs goes back 15 years to the summer of 2007. That is the summer I married Anika, and shortly after our wedding, Anika took me to something called "family camp" at Forest Springs with her parents. It was clear that going to Forest Springs was non-negotiable. Family camp was a decades old annual family tradition. I like to say that I married into the Forest Springs family, and I'm glad I did.

Other than the summer that Anika and I were living in South Korea (2009), and the summer that I spent six weeks in class from 8am to 4pm studying Biblical Greek in seminary (2010), I have gone to family camp with Anika and her parents (and our own children starting in 2013) every summer. I've also been to Forest Springs for marriage retreats, pastor's retreats, and Man Camp (men's retreat). As I've come to know the leadership of Forest Springs, and as my family has accumulated many wonderful experiences over the years, I have concluded that Forest Springs truly is a special place that God uses to impact people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

That's why I am confident that Wood Lake has a bright future. To be clear, my confidence isn't in Forest Springs itself. My confidence is in God. But it's undeniable that as Forest Springs has maintained its commitment to put "God First," as their motto says, God has continued to use Forest Springs to help build His church. With Forest Springs now at the helm, I am excited to see how God will use Wood Lake to change lives and build His church in Northwest Wisconsin for many years to come.

But in order for God to use Wood Lake, and for Wood Lake to be able to serve the church, the church needs to get behind Wood Lake! Forest Springs plans to begin running youth camps at Wood Lake next summer, but there is a lot that needs to happen before then. I know that EBBC has a long history with Wood Lake, and many of us are thrilled to see it open again. But Wood Lake needs our support. We need to convert our excitement and hopes and dreams into action. One of the ways God builds his church is by using places like Forest Springs and Wood Lake to spread the gospel and draw people into a deeper relationship with him. But just as the ministries of local churches cannot happen without God's people getting involved, so ministries like Wood Lake cannot exist without our involvement. And there are many ways that EBBC can support Wood Lake. Here are a few options to consider:

- **Pray:** Pray for the leaders of Forest Springs. Pray for the new Director of Wood Lake, Dan Hartke. Pray that God would provide a team of people to lead Wood Lake. Pray that funding would come in to get camp ready for next summer. Pray that the KDA (kitchen and dining hall) would be renovated and ready to serve campers before next summer. Pray that churches would get behind Wood Lake. Pray that campers would have life-changing experiences there for many years to come.
- **Give:** Wood Lake has come a long way since it closed several years ago. The cabins and chapel have been beautifully renovated. But the KDA is in shambles, so there is currently no way to prepare meals for campers. Work has already begun to build a brand-new kitchen attached to the existing KDA, but there is a long way to go. This is the biggest hurdle that Wood Lake needs to overcome before it can open for youth camps. If you are able to help meet this pressing need to help Wood Lake, get up and running, visit <https://woodlake.us/donate> or talk to Pastor Jonathon for other ways to give.
- **Volunteer:** Wood Lake will be hosting two work days in October from 9am to 4pm. The dates are Saturday, October 8, and Saturday, October 15. It would be wonderful to get a group of people from EBBC to head up for the day to volunteer. If those dates don't work for you, but you would like to volunteer at another time, talk to Pastor Jonathon.
- **Spread the word:** Tell your friends, relatives, coworkers, and acquaintances about Wood Lake. Many Christians in the area have probably heard about Wood Lake, but they might not know that it's opening again. Many of us at EBBC are excited. Let's share that excitement with others!

Submitted by Pastor Jonathon

COMING UP

Church Picnic The annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 28th, after morning worship. There will be a potluck meal followed by activities for the children.

Youth

A YOUTH GROUP CANOE TRIP is planned for August 8th-10th. This is a 3-day/2-night canoe trip down the Namekagon. The cost for the youth is \$150 per person. Scholarships are available. They also need adult leaders who will pay Half Price.

Church Directory Update

The church directory and pictures on the wall in the north hallway need updating. Cheryl Volgren will be working on these projects. She needs up-to-date pictures of you or your family. If you do not have one, she will take your picture.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Cheryl Volgren reminded us that school supplies are in the stores; it is a good time to shop for them. She said they have enough colors. There are tubs under the table in the Fellowship area to store donations. Contact Cheryl Volgren or Jen Jorgenson if you have questions. As of July 24th there were 111 days left until OCC packing day!

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Congratulations...

...to Anika and Pastor Jonathon on the arrival of a baby girl on July 2nd at 5:35 a.m. Her name is Selah (Say-la) Joy. She was 9 lbs. 4 oz. and 21 inches long.

Vacation Bible School

Zoomerang – Returning to the Value of Life was the theme this year at VBS. As we zoomed around Australia, we discovered amazing animals and visited breathtaking locations. More importantly, we returned the children to what the Bible says about the value of life. They discovered how precious they are to God and that they were made in his image. Out of God's great love, He offers us salvation through His son, Jesus. They learned that life is valuable.

On Friday, there was a program where the classes shared something from the week for their families to see. After the program, there was a nice lunch for everyone to enjoy.

The offering this year was designated for John Larson to help with his missionary work in Guatemala. It was quite a battle between the girls and boys, but the girls won again. Altogether, the children brought in over \$1,800 for John. The winners were allowed to make Pastor Jonathon and John Larson into ice cream sundaes.

I think if you asked the children what their favorite part of the week was, they would probably say making Pastor and John into ice cream sundaes.

Overall it was a wonderful week. There was an average of 48 children each day. It was a thrill watching the children running into the church each morning, ready to sing and learn about Jesus. Looking forward to see what God has in store for us next year.

Submitted by Kathy Thull



A special thank you to Kathy Thull and the VBS crew for the support of the ministry in Guatemala.

Thank you to all who support me in prayer and for donations to the Hope for Home ministry.

Submitted by John Larson

Picture is John as an ice cream sundae

Options for Women

Options for Women is a pro-life organization located in Osceola, WI. Once a year they hand out baby bottles to collect donations for their expenses. It is their big fund raiser for the year. Lisa Lundquist is in charge of the baby bottles for East Balsam. Our church raised over \$2,200.

Getting to Know You

"Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

In this quarter's GETTING TO KNOW YOU section, I would like to encourage the idea of getting to know those who work with the young children of East Balsam Baptist Church in the Children's Church ministry. As inspiration for this idea, I was challenged by a song entitled, "The Refrigerator Door" recorded by Mark Bishop. For the full effect of the story, you can check out the song via You Tube or Google. The story goes something like this:

A little girl's grandparents are faithful to bring her to Sunday School every week. The gospel message she hears in Sunday School is sent home with her in the form of cotton ball sheep, wooden crosses made from popsicle sticks, and Crayola red for the blood Jesus Christ shed on the cross for forgiveness of sin. The little girl's mother proudly posts the Sunday School creations on the refrigerator door, but she herself, doesn't have much time for the things of God.

The parents of the little girl divorce and her mother becomes a single parent. In the depths of despair one night, the mother comes to salvation because the truth of God's grace and the gospel hit home through those precious creations posted on her refrigerator door.

The little girl grows up, gets married, has a family of her own and finds life overwhelming.

The day comes when the daughter returns home for a heart-to-heart talk with her mother over a cup of coffee. The cotton ball sheep, wooden crosses made from popsicle sticks, and Crayola red come down from the attic and are returned to their rightful place on the refrigerator door as the mother shares the grace of God with her "little girl."

The song ends with the phrase: "Praise God for grace, glitter, and paste on the refrigerator door!"

Though the song glorifies the refrigerator door, I found the song to be a real tribute to the faithful children's workers in our church whose ministry is often behind the scenes. We may never know until we get to heaven how many lives were impacted by the humble tools of cotton balls and popsicle sticks.

Take time to introduce yourself to one of our faithful, dedicated, Children's Church workers this week and ask her how you may pray for her: Barb Michaelson, Jackie Larson, Donna Mabry, Lynn Lindh, Victoria Heichel and Kathy Thull.

Submitted by Lynda Hall

John Larson's Third Trip to Guatemala



I am just starting to put things together for the next trip to Guatemala the first week in November. This trip will be a little different as I will be taking a young man, Zech Fultz, with me. When talking with Daryl Fulp, the Director and the person I have been working the closest with on my past two trips at Hope for Home Ministries, it sounds like our trip is going to be about the same as we have done before. It will include some rural ministries and for sure the feeding program.

It is amazing how God transforms and uses us to do His work. My plans are to go to area churches and ask for donations of over-the-counter medications. My plans are to fill four checked bags to bring to Hope for Home. Going out to the area Churches has been a blessing for me as well. Getting to meet fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and sharing my testimony and a few details about how the LORD has and is using me.

A future trip for January is still in the works. Jackie has not been able to go with so far but hopefully she can in January.

Philippians 2:3 *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."*

Submitted by John Larson



MISSIONS

Bruce & Candice Beatham—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico

Thank you, everyone, for your continual prayers for us. This past month has been a challenging one for us as we process the emotions that are involved when there is a major change in plans. In some ways, we are needing to allow the dream we held for recording Mark, Luke, John and the Luke video this fall, to fade. We were so excited to share with you all that when we go back in August, we were going to finally get to this milestone and then plan a big presentation event in the village sometime later this year.

In early July, our translation team let us know that they didn't want to go forward with the publication and recording plans that we had for these books. It has been frustrating for them to create a translation that is not exactly in the variety of Mixtec they speak. We understand. After lots of meetings with them and our supervisors, we've decided to change the translation to focus on their village and some of the surrounding villages, instead of a translation that tries to reach the entire area.

As the fog clears, we can see that God has a plan to involve a friend of ours, Rebeca, from the main town (we lived with her family our first year in the village and she's not a believer) to record the three books so that we at least have that to put in the Bible app we will produce. We can also see this as the other members of the translation team, the native speakers, taking initiative to make this their own! We are encouraging them to find people who can replace the people we had in place to be the village-checkers, back-translators, etc. from their home and surrounding villages. This can be a very good thing! So our hope rises and we are feeling more peace.

Again, we thank you for your prayers and support for us and ask that you continue and also look, with us, to the bright future God has for HIS work.

Blessings,

Bruce, Candice and Abby

John & Lori De Cleene—Mobilization Associates, Converge

“You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations”

Second Chronicles 20:6

Praise the Lord for:

- Two families left for the field in the last five weeks, another leaves in two weeks
- An appointee discouraged for months gets back on track
- Two appointees receive gifts in the tens of thousands
- The Reach Biennial created dozens if not hundreds of connections

“Seek the LORD & His strength; seek His presence continually!”

First Chronicles 16:11

Please pray for:

- For our appointees to press on with Ministry Partnership Development (MPD) during summer
- For continued wisdom for Lori and me as we minister with and to appointees
- Our eldest, Lee, is having their third child any day...in Kazakhstan—adding a little girl to their two boys!

Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher—Wycliffe Bible Translators-Florida

Steve is planning a five-week trip to Papua New Guinea in September to check Scripture for two more languages – the Malei book of Psalms and the Yamap gospel of Luke. He has been working remotely for the past several months to ensure the quality of the translation of these books. He's eager for the opportunity to work with these teams in-person. Consulting for the Yamap team will be a milestone in Steve's career. It is the 50th translation team that he has served as a consultant! He leaves Orlando on August 31st and returns on October 8th.

Wycliffe's mobilization team is engaging with potential missionaries in online and in-person events. Carol Jean is registrar for **Pathways**, a two-week online course that shares about the work of Bible translation and invites participants to join the movement. The most recent Pathways course was held July 11-21 and had 52 participants registered. She will also be on staff at a one-week in-person event with a similar purpose, **Explore Bible Translation**, in Orlando August 1-6.

Praises:

- Praise for the many eager participants attending Pathways.
- Praise for the opportunity to spend time with Adam, Lizzy, and baby Jonathan in June and July.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for more people to sign up Pray for the August Explore Bible Translation event.
- Pray for participants in both mobilization events to discern God's calling Pray for their lives.
- Pray for Steve's consulting trip in September to go well, with safe travel, good health, and valuable help to the Malei and Yamap teams.
- Pray for Steve's mild, but chronic knee pain to clear up.

Thank you for your faithful partnership with us through your prayers and donations for our Wycliffe ministry.

Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher

Gil & Norene Zinke—Training Leaders International (TLI)

Gil reported on a three-week trip to Ethiopia in May & June. He had over 110 books to give away in Ethiopia. He and another of the training team divided the books so with a larger luggage allowance, were able to avoid penalties.

He used three days to train nine Ethiopian Mentors to teach TLI's course on the book of Revelation. During the three days, Gil learned that almost no Ethiopian preachers preach from Revelation Chapters 4-20 because they have been taught that the Church will be raptured off the earth after Chapter 3 and the rest of the book is irrelevant to us until the eternal state comes in Chapter 21.

Mark Highman taught Revelation and his wife, Janet Highman, taught the book of Esther to about 40 women.

One of the team mates and two interpreters tested positive for COVID. Two new interpreters stepped up to continue the sessions. The team mate, Dave, was on his way home but had to self-isolate in a hotel for five days.

They arrived safely home and were blessed on June 16th with the birth of their first granddaughter, Florence Jane Zinke, who was born to their son Dann & Katherine. Gil and Norene got to see and hold her on June 23rd which was their 38th wedding anniversary.

Please pray for God to provide **volunteer teaching staff for six training sessions in October**. Also, **please pray** for them to have budgeting wisdom and resources as inflation is hitting hard in Ethiopia as well as the U.S.

The above was taken from an update Gil sent on July 15th.

Church Plant—Gabe & Melonie Brennan

Thank you so much for your prayers and support as we continue to lay the foundation for this new church!

We have started meeting up in the Northeast Metro and are now forming a launch team. It's been a joy to lead several prayer walks and vision meetings over the past few weeks. Our next 2 meetings will be August 7th and 21st at the Breuntrup Heritage Farm in Maplewood.

Please continue to pray for Christ to build His church, for daily joy and energy and for a harvest of new disciples!

With love,

Gabe and Melonie

God can do anything
if it is His will. Oh what a Wonderful God we Serve.
Praise His name.

If you are a believer, this too will lift you up today *** Isaiah 65:24 ***. **"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear"**.

This is a story written by a doctor who worked in Africa. One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward; but in spite of all we could do, she died, leaving us with a tiny, premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive; as we had no incubator (we had no electricity to run an incubator).

We also had no special feeding facilities. Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous drafts. One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool that the baby would be wrapped in.

Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst (rubber perishes easily in tropical climates).

'And it is our last hot water bottle!' she exclaimed. As in the West, it is no good crying over spilled milk, so in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over burst water bottles. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways.

'All right,' I said, 'put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts Your job is to keep the baby warm.'

The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with any of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle, and that

the baby could so easily die if it got chills. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died.

During prayer time, one ten -year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. 'Please, God ' she prayed, 'Send us a hot water bottle today. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon. '

While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, 'And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?' 'As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say 'Amen?' ' I just did not believe that God could do this.

Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything; the Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever, received a parcel from home.

Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle?

I lived on the equator! Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses ' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there on the verandah was a large 22-pound parcel. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children.. Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting. Some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box. From the top, I lifted out brightly-colored, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out.

Then there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, and the children looked a little bored. Then came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas - that would make a batch of buns for the weekend.

Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the.....could it really be? I grasped it and pulled it out. Yes, a brand new, rubber hot water bottle. I cried. I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could.

Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, 'If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too! '

Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully-dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted!

Looking up at me, she asked, 'Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?' 'Of course, ' I replied!

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months, packed up by my former Sunday school class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God 's prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator.

And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child - five months before, in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it 'that afternoon. '

Before they call, I will answer.

Isaiah 65:24

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

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**

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