

East Balsam Beacon

April, May, June
2023

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Thanks to Cheryl Volgren,
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for pictures

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Editor's note: There will be no Pastor's Corner in this issue of the East Balsam Beacon. Pastor Jonathon's schedule is full and I need to get the newsletter out early as I'm having knee surgery on the 19th.

COMING UP

Women's Spring Rally

East Balsam Baptist ladies were scheduled to host the area Spring Rally in April of 2020. It was canceled because of Covid and the rallies have not been held since then. This is a time for the women of several area Baptist churches to meet for food, fellowship, and a program that usually has a missionary speaker.

We are hosting the rally on April 18th at 6:00 p.m. If you have questions, contact Cheryl Volgren.

St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat

The annual St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat at Oak Forest Center in Frederic is taking place April 14-15. The theme is "Spiritual Disciplines of a Godly Man". Lodging and meals are included in the registration fee. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Pastor Jonathon.

New Flooring in Church

The church has approved getting new carpet and vinyl in the sanctuary, fellowship area, kitchen, and north and south hallways. Volunteers quickly got all of the chairs moved to the Fellowship Area after church on April 2nd because the installation was to begin in the sanctuary on April 3rd. Thank you to everyone who helped.

We are being asked to take precautions to avoid spills, and take responsibility to quickly clean up a spill if it does happen.

This picture was taken Wednesday, April 5th. By Friday, the platform was completed, chairs were in place, and we had a Good Friday service. The fellowship area, hallways, and kitchen will be done the week after Easter.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Special Speaker:

On February 12th, John Nargan from Frederic shared about his ministry with Converge regarding reaching international migrants living in the U.S. and Canada.

There are multitudes of foreign people living in the Twin City area. The mission field has been brought to our neighborhoods.



Vacation Bible School—June 5-9, 9:00a.m.—12:00

KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM is the theme this year. Setting is the Medieval age—castles, knights, Warhorses, Dragons, Falcon—and lots of fun. It is going to be the Week of June 5th through the 9th from 9:00 to 12:00.

We are doing something different this year with having a Royal Fun Faire on May 7th at EBBC from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This will be a preregistration, games to play, and lunch. We want to give the kids an idea about what will be happening at VBS.

What do warhorses eat on their pancakes? Why did the dragon win the music competition? What is a falcon's favorite event to compete in? Answers the week of VBS!

Submitted by Kathy Thull

New Members

On Sunday, March 12th, five new members were welcomed to the church. They are Brina Richter, Andy & Amy Zylsta, & Dan & Danielle Panik. Their children, Darla, Harriet, & Levi are also in the picture.

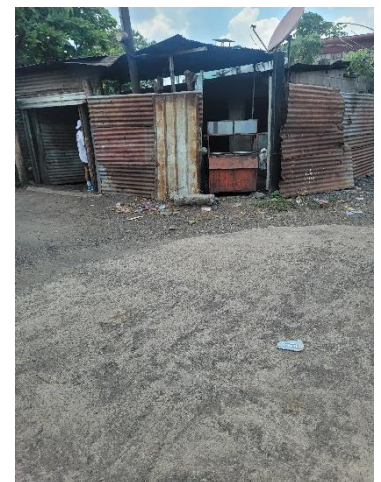


Guatemala

My trip to Guatemala, the week of March 19-26, was another good trip. Monday we cleaned and reorganized wheelchair parts and pieces and worked on vehicles. Tuesday we went to another ministry in Escuintla Land Of Hope and saw about eight different patients, mostly special needs children with Daryl assessing and teaching parents care and therapy. We also laid hands on and prayed over each of them. We measured two of the children for wheelchairs. Wednesday Daryl and I started off our day by putting two wheelchairs together for the children from Land of Hope, then off to San Loucas to another orphanage to check in on a couple young girls with wheelchair problems. Daryl and I assessed the chairs and knew we had to fix them immediately. We made the trip back to the bodega for parts, returned, and fixed both chairs.



Thursday was a different day on this trip. Hope For Home purchased a beautiful orphanage that was sitting vacant in the village of Parramos about an hour from San Antonio Aguas where three of the four special needs homes are located. We worked on doors that were sagging and in need of attention. Hope For Home is planning on moving all four homes to this property. Friday we went into the village of Aceituno for the feeding program, feeding about 75 people mostly women and children.



Saturday, I had to prepare to come back home again. Jackie has not yet been able to join me on any of these trips but we hope she will be able to go on the next one. Our plans are to take a two-week trip in November. I am hoping to take another trip before that.

James 2:14-17 *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*

God bless and thank you,

the Larsons



Pastor’s Birthday

Pastor Jonathon’s birthday was March 4th. The next day we celebrated with Sundaes instead of cake during fellowship time.

Congratulations on reaching another mile stone!

RENEW Women’s Retreat

Anika: In January, Oak Forest Retreat Center held its second Refresh Women's Retreat and I was so thankful to be able to attend. It was great getting to know women from EBBC as well as other area churches. I love when we can gather, dig into the Bible and worship God no matter our denomination.

Karen Petkau, a fabulous speaker from Forest Springs Camp, shared how our life contains different "seasons". Just as a farmer has specific jobs to do in each season, we also have practices of the heart to grow, help others and prepare for the next season to come. Karen shared a lot about her family's recent grief and how they feel they are in a "winter" season, but they know God will bring forth buds and fruit through their trials. In the past I've felt like I was in a long winter season, struggling in several ways. Thankfully, I feel like spring is coming; there is brightness and I'm looking forward to seeing how God was preparing my heart and planning my future in those difficult times. I'd love to chat more with anyone about their seasons of life, but I'll leave you with a quote from Karen, "Look back and thank God, look forward and trust God".

Submitted by Anika Enger

Nicole: To have anything “social” on my calendar is exciting in itself. But as plans tend to go in the season of four kids, elementary to high school, and a highly demanding 40+ hour/week job where I’m always on call...I was a bit stressed and of course running late leaving work, forgot to pack something on my rush out the door that morning for work after less than four hours of sleep, and hadn’t eaten more than the go-to nurse lunch of graham crackers with peanut butter all day.

Jimmy Johns to the rescue while enroute with my sister for our mom break. Since it was dark and below 30 temps when we arrived at Oak Forest Retreat & Conference Center, we couldn’t recognize the beauty we entered driving down the wooded driveway.

The focus of this retreat was **RENEW** – the word itself implies a restoration of what has become faded or disintegrated so that it seems like new.

The Lord filled that intimate-sized conference room with tables of women who found themselves feeling a little faded. There really is no description of how perfectly God used the worship songs & speakers to brighten our souls & faith that weekend, with tears, laughter, conversations that we could actually start & finish in their entirety, delicious food-like I can’t stop thinking about the most amazing waffles & this fancy dinner we were served where I stopped listening to the chef describe what he prepared because I didn’t understand half the words-but most importantly, we were reminded of this:

Seasons will always come, but each season has a purpose.

One statement that really stood out to me, especially the season I am in, focuses on the stormy seasons of our journey.

“Storms reveal the lies we believe and the truths we NEED.”

~In the storm, identify the lies you need to reject.

~And search for the truths you need to find.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

To summarize, the weekend at the RENEW Retreat succeeded in their stated goal-that we would regain a newness in our lives in Christ; restore, if need be, to the JOY He can bring.

Thank you Lord, for the JOY You provide, no matter the season. Amen

Submitted by Nicole Majeske

Lynda: To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . . Ecclesiastes 3:5

In the dark and snowy season of a deeply entrenched Wisconsin winter, the Renew Ladies Retreat, held at Oak Forest Center in Frederic, Wisconsin, the end of January provided a season of renewal, relaxation, recreation, re-connection, rejoicing, and reassurance.

Five ladies from East Balsam Baptist Church attended the retreat, each with anticipation and expectancy of what purpose God had in mind for her through the general sessions, workshops, and free time.

The primary speaker chose to reach out in particular to those in attendance who may have felt they were living through a “winter” season of life. Her transparency in sharing her own recent winter season touched the hearts of all to realize we are not alone. Her sharing of the Scriptures which brought her comfort gave reassurance that God is in control, even in the storms of life. She illustrated that concept from the Scriptures. Jesus, knowing all things, directed his disciples to get into a fishing boat that he knew would nearly sink in a horrendous storm he knew was brewing. These season fishermen were so terrified by the storm they questioned whether or not Jesus cared if they all should perish. Jesus was there in the storm with his beloved disciples, and at the proper season, he calmed the storm, reassuring the disciples he cared for them and had EVERYTHING under control.

During times set aside for recreation, a few adventurous souls braved the -30C temperatures for some outdoor sledding. Others played board games, relaxed around the fireplace, or engaged in the scavenger hunt to find hidden puzzle pieces and assemble a 500-piece puzzle. I personally was excited to reconnect with a woman I had known 30 years ago when she was a teacher at Chisago Lakes Baptist School as well as connect with a woman who teaches my granddaughter in the Head Start program in Balsam Lake. Others in our group connected with a woman who teaches second grade at Unity. My heart rejoiced to know that my granddaughter and other children have daily association in their classrooms with women who love the Lord!

The “Renew” retreat was the fulfillment of God’s purpose in my life for this Wisconsin winter season!

Submitted by Lynda Hall

MISSIONS

Bruce & Candice Beatham—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

- We are making progress in village checking the translation for the Southern Coicoyán area. We have finished with Mark and are about 4 chapters into John.
- We have been asked to teach a literacy course in a high school in the language area. We were told that



Checking book of John



Teaching Literacy Class

there would be about 30 students taking the class but when we taught our first lessons March 21, the room was packed with over 50! May God allow each and every one of them to learn to read and write their language in preparation for reading God’s precious Word in their mother tongue!

- Bruce has other roles as digital resource developer for the Mexico Branch. As the digital age takes over more and more of our lives, he provides guidance and support for all of the teams as they try to keep up with the new opportunities and changes that are constant and can be challenging.
- Candice keeps extra busy as a supervisor of the supervisors of teams that work in translation projects. The direct supervisors care for and support the translation teams and when there are questions or problems, they get bumped up the ladder to her and her team. Helping others think about and solve problems can be very tasking, but she finds it very rewarding at the same time.
- Abby is still at home with us but has taken 3 dual credit courses each semester of this school year online with LeTourneau University. She is also enrolled in three courses at the school in Oaxaca City but does that mostly online from our home in the language area as well. She's doing great!
- May 6, Benjamin and Mikiah graduate from LeTourneau University in Engineering and Nursing and on May 8, they will be united in Holy Matrimony! We have much for which to be thankful to God!

We thank you for the prayers and support you are to us. Thank you for being a blessing!

Candice, Bruce and Abby

John & Lori De Cleene—Mobilization Associates, Converge

Dear Saints at Balsam Lake,

Thank you for your continued prayer and partnership with us as we work with those whom the Lord has called to serve Him fulltime in ministry. Praise the Lord, the first week of March - 12 candidates attended Missionary Discovery and Assessment. Ten will pursue full time service! Please pray as they prepare to resign from their jobs, as they speak with churches and individuals who will partner together with them to bring the gospel to the least reached. In mid-March there was yet another Launch training where appointees make a video, prepare a Five-Year Plan, and prepare to meet with people they can talk to about where God is leading them.

Personally, we praise the Lord for continued good health. We look forward to our 8th grandchild in May. The summer will bring our eldest home from Kazakhstan with her family for a few weeks. We hope we will be able to see you in the coming months to share more about all God is doing in so many lives, and, in so many ways!

Serving together with you,

John De Cleene

Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher—Wycliffe Bible Translators-Florida

Carol Jean's work:

Carol Jean recently served on Wycliffe's Leads Development Team, which responds to people inquiring about serving in Wycliffe. She conducted initial Zoom conversations and corresponded with inquirers. If they were eligible and ready to move forward, she referred them to a missions coach, who would walk them through the next steps. Other team members are now fully handling the workload, while Carol Jean finishes revising the procedures manual.

Carol Jean serves as registrar for the online Pathways course. In March, 28 participants enrolled and explored how God might be leading them to join Him in reaching the nations. She provided daily updates for participants, responded to emails, and kept track of student progress. Together we shared about Bible translation work in PNG in one of the live evening sessions.

Steve's work:

Steve continues to research and write for the Translator's Notes series, which are translation guidebooks in simple English. His work will help teams around the world to make their translations of the book of Exodus more accurate, meaningful, and natural.

Praise God for...

- The great people He is leading to join the ministry of Bible translation.
- 28 people who registered for the Pathways course.

Please pray...

- For God's leading in the lives of those interested in serving with Wycliffe.
- For more people to join Wycliffe in reaching the Bibleless people of the world.
- For uninterrupted blocks of time needed to finish revising the Leads Development Team procedures manual.
- For Steve to make progress in writing helpful translator notes on the book of Exodus.
- That the claim for Steve's lost suitcase would be processed successfully now that it has been officially declared lost and unrecoverable by the airline.
- For personal and spiritual renewal for both of us.

Steve & Carol Jean want you to know how grateful they are for the church's prayer and financial partnership.

Gil & Norene Zinke—Training Leaders International (TLI)

Gil spent most of January in Ethiopia. He and some co-workers left on March 2nd and flew to Sierra Leone, arriving on Friday night. The trip was about 31 hours door to door. Saturday he found out which church he would be speaking at on Sunday. The church, by denominational decree, said the sermon would be on Jonah 1. Gil had a sermon prepared on Jonah 2, but spent most of the night creating an exposition of Jonah 1. He returned home on March 19th.

Gil is now preparing for a trip to Ethiopia in mid to late May. He asked for prayer to find teachers for that trip. God had different plans. In a letter dated April 10th, Gil reported that by the Good Friday deadline, he had no teachers signed up for the trip so it was cancelled.

Did God let them down? He has something better in mind. Perhaps He wants the trainees in Ethiopia to have more time to pass Course 2 before they take Course 3. Perhaps He wants Gil to attend his son's graduation from Bethlehem College and the dedication of his first granddaughter on Mothers' Day. He would have missed both events if he was in Ethiopia. Perhaps He wants Gil to speak at our church sometime in May. Perhaps... Perhaps...

Gil does, however, have a full team for a trip in October. And, he is thinking of possibly making a trip in June or July.

Continue to keep Gil, his co-workers, and this ministry in prayer.

Information submitted by Gil Zinke and edited by Joan Michaelson

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 – 6:00 P.M. Youth Group
Saturday, 7:00 A.M. – Men's Bible Study
Other meetings and activities announced in the bulletin & on the 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