



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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## MEET THE FAMILY

Ken was raised in Colorado by devout Christian parents and attended a Christian school. He was saved in 1973. Lauren grew up in central Pennsylvania as a child of multiple divorces. Her family attended a Lutheran church, but God was not a strong presence with them. The couple met while working together at a large equine veterinary practice in Ocala, Florida. In 1999, they moved to Lexington when Ken got a position at a company now known as Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, where he still works. Lauren has her own practice.

They were both focused on their careers and neither were living like Christians, but after Jade was born in 2007 they began looking for a church home. They settled on a Baptist church in Midway, where Lauren understood for the first time that it was possible to enjoy a personal relationship with Jesus. She was baptized in 2013. They became members here in 2016 and feel completely blessed to be part of our church family. Jade received Christ as her Savior in February of 2017, followed by baptism.

Ken's son and his wife live in Alaska and have three children. Jade attends university in Tennessee where she is studying to be a nurse. For recreation she competes in rodeos!

### Ken & Lauren Canterbury



## Bonnie Howard and Amy Slone



Bonnie and Amy are a mother-daughter duo who teamed up to find a good church and came to BBC! Several years ago, a door hanger was left at Amy's home and was still there two weeks later when Bonnie came to dinner, read it, went online several times to hear sermons, and told Amy they needed to visit. Now they love being part of our church family.

"I'm so grateful for that door-hanger," says Amy. "From the moment we stepped inside here we knew we had come home! Everyone has been a blessing to us."

Bonnie is a widow, originally from New York State where she was saved as a young child. In 1971 she moved to Hazard, KY to work for 40 years as a nurse at the local hospital, raising two children (and now has two grandchildren and two great-

grandchildren). In 2020 she moved to Lexington to be close to Amy who was born in Hazard and was saved in Third Grade. She has two children (daughter and son), two stepchildren and two grandchildren.

## PERSPECTIVE

### RUNNING ON EMPTY!

*By Shane Colvin*

I consider myself a fairly conservative, low risk, type of guy. You won't catch me skydiving on the weekends or participating in the running of the bulls. I make sure to wear safety glasses when I weed eat and I always measure twice before cutting.

But there is one area where I push the envelope (or needle).

The gas tank! While on our family vacation this summer I knew we needed to get gas when we left our hotel room and headed south to finish our drive. I passed gas station after gas station waiting to find that one stop with the best gas at the cheapest price. Who likes overpaying for gas? Not me! As the mileage left to empty continued to dwindle the digital display in our car prompted me with “Tank almost empty. Would you like to search for nearby gas stations?”

This got me thinking about my walk with the Lord. How many times do I run myself on empty when He is all around me just waiting for me to come fill up? Why does the warning light have to come on before I take action? Perhaps as you read this you relate to my predicament.

Perhaps instead of waiting until we are almost empty it would be better to “fill up” or refresh half way. To my mind there is no better time to do this than by attending our Wednesday night meetings! But our excuse is often, “I’d like to but I work hard and I’m tired”. Sometimes, early on Wednesday mornings the devil will start planting little seeds of doubt for me: “It’s going to be a long day, you should probably stay home tonight.”

A good counter to that is a good prayer to the Lord: “Help me be strong today. Give me the strength I need to get to church this evening. And Lord, not just to get there, but to be strengthened by thy Word. Amen.”

Recently, Brother Edward taught a very helpful series about the Mysteries of God. Pastor Zach just wrapped up a wonderful series of messages from the book of Phillipians. If you’ve missed any of these I highly recommend checking them out on our church app or on the Bluegrass Baptist Church YouTube channel. And then resolve to attend every Wednesday night.

Jeremiah 31:25 reminds us that God more than satisfies every weary or sorrowful soul—and the best place to experience that is in church!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

This picture of teen and pre-teen boys gathering in our church lobby before a Sunday service nicely illustrates the way in which generations naturally group together—and it also speaks to the legacy of families in our church who are raising present and future disciples of Jesus Christ.

### Generations!



### Brave Spelunkers Go Exploring



Some of the Empty Nesters LifeStage visited Hidden River Cave in Cave City, KY to test their endurance—there were 650 steps down and up again!

They all returned safely home, after being told that that the huge rock above their heads would eventually collapse and cause a massive sinkhole!

(P.S. “Spelunking” is American slang for cave exploration. The British call it “potholing”. Some of us would just prefer to stay above ground).

## Bible Adventure Club Gets Going



Bible Adventure Club (for three age groups from 4 to 11 years) is up and running with a new curriculum from Truthopolis. The children's first lesson, "Forgotten Treasure," was based on 2 Kings 21–23 and the discovery of the lost Book of the Law. Through this study, they learned to treasure the Bible and explored ways to care for it. The picture shows pages being torn as examples of how NOT to treat our Bibles! Parents, please look for items and family study sheets the children bring home—completing these sheets will help them earn points throughout the year.

## All-ages Strings Orchestra

Music teacher Abbie Rincon put together a septet of strings (six violins and one cello) for our Sunday morning worship service in mid-August. She's the one on the far left—husband Joe is hidden playing the piano. The violinists ranged in age from eight to 18, and their rendition of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" was a blessing to us all.



## ENCOUNTERS:

### LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

*Here we share anecdotes from church members about their experiences and thoughts, as Christians living in a world that is indifferent to the Gospel and Christian values in general. This month's contribution from **JESSICA FANNIN** addresses the challenge Christians face to worship God in times of adversity, and quotes Job as an example to follow. She begins with an incredulous question:*

#### He Did *What*?

As a child, I didn't really enjoy the story of Job. Sunday school teachers and Christian school teachers alike would tell the story as interestingly as possible. I would sit, listen politely, and wonder, "why in the midst of a Book full of wonderful and exciting stories like Jonah, Noah, and David, should we take time to learn about a man whose story was [to me] quite depressing?"

As an adult, I've read through the book of Job multiple times as I've journeyed through the Scriptures. At times and in seasons, I've found myself turning to Job to try to understand the answer to the age-old question...WHY? (Hint: The WHY is never revealed to Job.)

Perhaps it's because of the amount of time I've spent getting to know Job and the God of Job that I can honestly say, *I love the book of Job!* This helps explain why I was listening to a sermon on Job one night while doing the dishes. As I listened to the Scriptures being read from Job 1:12-22, I recalled the storyline. The multiple disasters that befell this godly man and his family. The repeated "...and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." I imagined how completely broken and grief-stricken Job must have felt. The speaker came to the portion of the chapter that I could quote almost by heart, verses 20-22. "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, *and worshipped.*"

Wait a minute! He did what? That's not the verse! I thought it said, "...and wept," not "...and worshipped." Maybe it's a different translation? I grabbed my Bible and, sure enough, Job 1:20 says that Job worshipped! How could Job possibly react in worship when he had just lost everything—animals, livelihood, and worst of all, children. Everything. All gone in one day!

I can't imagine the horror. If the story were to happen to me, I feel confident the writer would say "...and she wept," or "...and she was completely broken-

hearted and lay on the ground in a puddle of tears moaning ‘why, why, why?’” I’m pretty sure that *worship* wouldn’t be my first response.

How did Job respond with worship in the face of such tremendous loss? The answer lies in understanding that Job’s response was the result of a long held conviction revealed in verses 21-22 “Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.”

*Long before* Job lost everything he had come to the conviction that it was all God’s anyway. Convictions aren’t established in the fire of a trial; convictions are exposed in the fire of a trial. What we believe in our heart is most easily seen by others when we walk through the fire. Job held everything with an open hand well before he ever lost it. It was ALL God’s...both his fortune and his family. When it was all taken away, he did what he had always done: he worshipped.

Job came humbly before his Lord, broken-hearted, grieving...and he *worshipped*. Because it was God’s to give, it was God’s to take. May my response always be the same.

## BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

*In this section we answer questions about Bible doctrines or texts or Church life or Christian life in general. If you have a question that you think may prompt an answer helpful to yourself and to the church family, please let us know. This month **Pastor Fannin** answers the question: What is the most important lesson to learn from the life of Hagar? The answer:*

### **Your Choice, Your Consequence!**

Hagar was a woman treated like livestock, caught in someone else's sin, and her choices still echo through two billion lives today.

Hers is not a name many people know. She did not lead a nation, or write a psalm, or perform a miracle. Hagar is a footnote in someone else's story. But the ripple effects of what happened to her, and what she chose to do in response, still shape the world we live in now. Her story is found in Genesis 16 and 21, where the principle woven through every verse is this: **You always have a choice, and your choice always has a consequence.**

## A Difficult Life

We don't know how Hagar ended up in Pharaoh's household. We only know that when Abram passed off his wife Sarai as his sister, in a cowardly act of self-preservation, Pharaoh took Sarai in and handed Abram a collection of servants as a kind of bride price. Hagar was one of them (Genesis 12:16), traded along with sheep, donkeys, and camels. She had no say in the matter.

She grew up in Egypt, a world of elaborate false gods, polytheistic religion, and the absolute authority of Pharaoh. The Sphinx was still brilliantly painted. The Great Pyramid was already a thousand years old. She knew Ra, Osiris, Isis, and Anubis, amid a pantheon of gods built on corrupted half-truths. And now she was the property of a man who worshipped one God, the God of Heaven. These events happened to her, but at critical points in what followed she was responsible for her own choices.

After Sarai was returned to Abram she remained childless, and growing impatient with God's promise she hatched a plan rooted not in faith but in relevant legal codes of that day. (Genesis 16:1-4). Article 146 of the Code of Hammurabi permitted a barren wife to give her servant to her husband, with any resulting child legally regarded as the wife's own. It was culturally acceptable within the laws of man, but not within the leading of God.

Sarai appears to have been ignorant of Article 119 of that same code, which forbade her from selling or disposing of her servant once she had become a "secondary" wife and gave birth to a child. Sarai had made Hagar Abram's wife and then rejected the result of her lack of faith in God.

Abram, for his part, refused accountability. When Sarai complained about Hagar's pregnancy, he simply handed the servant back to her, washing his hands of the mess he had helped to create. God had spoken to him directly about a son and heir, but Abram chose his wife's impatience over God's promise.

Hagar paid the price. Pregnant, mistreated, and fleeing back to Egypt, Hagar found herself at a spring near Shur (Genesis 16:7), an ancient Egyptian military outpost on the border between the Promised Land and the Nile Delta. She was headed home, back to everything she had ever known. But the Angel of the Lord (a Christophany, or pre-incarnate appearance of Christ), met her there and told her to return to Abram's house. Hagar was challenged to trust that the God of Abram, who had never been her God, was the God who saw her in her difficult situation. She obeyed and named God *El Roi*, "The God who sees me."

There may not be a clearer picture of salvation in the entire Old Testament! A woman headed away from the place of promise, confronted by Christ on the road, and turning around in faithful obedience. In this account, we find the coming of the Omnipresent One, the command of the Omnipotent One, the comfort of the Omniscient One, and true conversion through repentance, rebirth, and restoration.

### **A Disastrous Offspring**

Fourteen years later, Isaac was born. God's promised son to Abram had finally arrived, and with his arrival, everything changed for Hagar and her son, Ishmael, whom Abraham loved (God had by this time changed Abram's name). Ishmael had been the only heir for well over a decade, but he had grown up watching as his mother was mistreated, discarded, and caught in the crossfire of poor decisions by others. True to the prophecy spoken over him in Genesis 16:12, he was "a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

Ishmael responded to Isaac's birth with mockery and malice, not grace and kindness. His smart mouth cost him (and Hagar) everything. Sarah (whose name had also changed) demanded they be sent away, and a grieving Abraham complied with her request because of the mess his home had become.

Hagar had been saved at the spring near Shur, but she never assimilated into the family where she had been placed. The dysfunction around her, and the choices made within that family, had shaped both her and her son who carried wounds that would later impact the whole world.

### **A Demonstrated Principle**

Hagar's life was like a kite in a hurricane, blown about by the bad theology of others and their wrong choices. Her suffering was often not her fault, yet at every significant juncture Hagar still had a choice. In the end, life's circumstances shaped the outlook of both her and her son, and the world has felt the consequences ever since. The Koran traces Ishmael's lineage to the founding of Mecca and, through him, to the prophet Mohammed. Over two billion people on earth today look back at the story of Hagar and Ishmael as the root of their spiritual identity.

The theological divide between Islam and the Judeo-Christian faith traces directly to a tent in Canaan; a barren woman's impatience; and a man who listened to his wife instead of God's promise. The lesson for us is to choose carefully. And when an unjust choice is forced upon you, remember that you still have a voice. Use it always in obedience to God.