



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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## MEET THE FAMILY

### Caper & Sharon Overall



Both were born and raised in Kentucky and met when Sharon was introduced to Caper by her mother while visiting on a lunch break at Webasto factory. That led to an outdoors wedding three years later, at the home of Sharon's parents on a warm day in December 2012.

After losing their first child in 2013 they began looking for a church home. Sharon was unsure about her salvation and Caper had never made a commitment to Christ.

They were familiar with Bluegrass Baptist Church because Sharon had attended several times at the invitation of her sister, Stacy Watson. Then in September 2015 she met Jessica Fannin while serving at a restaurant and started regular attendance and a discipleship course at BBC that led to a fresh commitment to Christ, Caper's salvation and baptism, and membership in our church in February 2016.

Sharon worked as a dental assistant until the birth of Lucas, then Noah. Now she is a fully employed mom. Caper works at Adient Factory, building components for Toyota.

## Gary & Gerri Humphrey

Gary is from Paducah in Western Kentucky and Gerri hails from nearby Russellville Kentucky. They met at Paducah drag races in 1981 and were married in January 1982. Now they have three children, five grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and Gerri declares they love each other more than when they first met. Gary heartily agrees!

They were both saved at 12 years old. Their move to Georgetown came in 1988 after Gary took a job at Toyota. Roy and Delores Wood became friends, inviting them to visit Bluegrass Baptist Church.



Both Gary and Gerri have struggled with ill health in recent years and have thought about moving to live permanently in their Paducah vacation home. But for now, they're staying here!

## PERSPECTIVE To The Ends of the Earth

The distance from Georgetown, Ky, to Hong Kong, China, is about 8,000 miles, a journey of about 20 hours by plane. The historical and cultural distance is just as great, but there is no distance between Christians here and there—we rejoice in the same salvation and worship the same God, in the same way!

That was the discovery of Pastor Zach and Sarah Kirchner who set off with their two little babies to visit Hong Kong from the end of December to early January. Sarah's parents are missionaries there. They describe their flights there and back to Kentucky, with several stops to change planes in each direction, as "challenging"—surely an understatement with Zoe a couple of weeks old and Madelyn just over a year old! But the learning and the joys they experienced in fellowship with Chinese Christians made all the inconveniences worthwhile!

Their first impression of Hong Kong was of people crowded everywhere—eight million crammed into a small area, living in small apartments stacked in high rise buildings and filling streets with a constantly moving human tide.



One of the curious aspects of that human tide was the interest shown in the Kirchner babies. Strangers would come up to Zach and Sarah and ask to take pictures! Most people spoke a little English, and fellow Christians were always nearby to translate the conversations and explain that they were visitors from America. The encounters made it easy to hand out hundreds of tracts— wherever they went, people on the streets accepted the Christian literature.

Church services were a highlight of the visit to Hong Kong. Most hymns were similar to those we sing in our church, though in a strange tongue, and both Zach and Sarah were able to contribute their musical talents in the services and at an outreach concert that attracted a crowd of 300 people. Since it was the Christmas season, they also went caroling!

Their fellowship within the Christian community found that they believe and practice their faith in the same way we do, but against a backdrop of the general culture where people are also very cautious around strangers because of sensitivity to government surveillance. A strong academic focus and curiosity about the world seemed to be a common motivator.

The congregation was diverse, yet all sharing a common bond in Christ. In addition to Chinese from Hong Kong and mainland China, there were believers from Russia, India, Thailand and the Philippines. For both Zach and Sarah it was an eye-opening experience that they highly recommend for others to share!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## Winter!



*It's been an unusually snowy start to the New Year. The view on the left is in Scott County, January 11, 2025. The view on the right is the same location, in September '24.*

*Some teenagers could not get enough of the cold, so they went ice skating!*



*In the picture below, the Empty Nesters LifeStage stayed inside for their winter get-together.*





*Ladies at their first 2025 monthly Bible study and fellowship meeting.*



## Rise Up and Build!

*The first of several small-group meetings was well attended to hear Pastor Kyle explain the steps that will unfold in the next 18 months as we prepare to move into a new and bigger facility. The meetings provide a time for questions and answers, so plan to attend on your invitation date during the next month.*



## **ENCOUNTERS: LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD**

**Here we share anecdotes from church members about their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is hostile to the Gospel. This month's story is by Lydia Au.**

My parents are first-generation Christians. My father grew up in Malaysia, and my mother in Hong Kong. They were saved in their young adult years while studying here in America and through participating in a local church's wonderful ministry to international college students.

They met and married and began what they could not have fully realized would be a long and difficult journey of working through all the personal and cultural baggage that had been inherited for generations. Their marriage and our family suffered, as the old ways before Christ of thinking, feeling, and behaving were brought to light.

My siblings and I grew up in Pennsylvania. We were poor, but God always provided us with food, clothing, and a place to call home. Our childhood was tumultuous. My siblings and I were left to raise ourselves while my parents were absorbed in their struggles. But they still took us to church, where I was by God's grace brought to Jesus Christ.

Yet my goals were shaped by my wanting to run away from problems and run towards what I thought would bring me happiness and sanity, primarily a career that would show my independence and success to everybody who had forsaken me. Instead, I invited more grief and regret into my life, wasting precious youth and time that could have been spent serving our Lord. Vanity, anger, and bitterness over my circumstances blinded me.

BUT GOD continued to do the work which He had begun, despite my lack of understanding and lack of faith. He showed me my sin and that, though my parents were not perfect, there are also no perfect children! God has helped me to see and greatly appreciate the courage that my father and mother demonstrated in being the first to tackle spiritual and cultural bonds for the sake of their children, and by introducing us to Jesus. They had already given us ALL. My siblings and I could ask for no greater gift.

Most importantly, God showed me that I had never been alone, even when I felt like an orphan at times. By His Word and throughout my life, God showed me that He has always been a perfect parent to me—



Loving, correcting, teaching, and guiding me through His only begotten Son so that I might receive the Spirit of adoption, and cry, “Abba, Father.” Psalm 27:10 is a precious verse to me: “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.”

As I was paging through my children’s Bibles one day, I smiled as I saw the pages where Ken and I had lovingly written their names, our names, and the date on which we had given our kids their Bibles. I thought about how good God is, and I also felt a little sadness because I had never received God’s Word from a devoted parent. I wondered what it must be like to be that child.

Then God lovingly reminded me, “But you have received such a gift. It was My own Hand that presented your Bible to you.” With childlike wonder, I took up my Bible, sat down, and turned to its Presentation Page. On the line following “Is Presented To:” I carefully wrote my name. Then, on the line following the word “By:” with a full heart I affectionately recorded, “Abba, Father.” I then recorded a date from around the time that God had presented me with this Bible, and this date is also the day when our little family became members of this most wonderful Bluegrass Baptist Church family.

Looking back, I imagine what life was like for my parents when they were young, and how much hardship and brokenness they, and their parents, and further back, have endured. I look at my children today and see the immediate family in which they are being raised, and I am ever grateful to Jesus for the everlasting and earthly deliverance He has purchased with His Life.

Though I continually fall short of being the wife and mother that I want to be, it is only by the Hand of God, our perfect Father, that I can see the changes that God has already accomplished in my family’s history. I continue to pray that by His Spirit each generation that follows will grow more faithful to our Lord than the one before it.

## **BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Answering your particular questions while also providing an information resource for our church family.**

**Last Month Pam Lindner addressed the question of how to find the right church.** This is especially significant for military families — Scott served 22 years in the Marine Corps and the family moved many times, living in four different countries and in several different American states. As a result, they learned to trust God while also learning much about what church membership entails, and why it was so important for them.

Here Pam picks up her story about the time when Scott volunteered for Marine Security Guard duty that would send them to any embassy or consulate in the world. A military base will always have at least one church nearby that is aimed at ministering to service members, but embassies or consulates are not bases, and there was no guarantee they would be placed somewhere with a church nearby. It was a big step of faith for them to trust that God would provide what they needed, whether that meant finding a church, or isolation.

Then the day came when their first assignment was handed out: JERUSALEM, ISRAEL!

Pam continues: “What a dream as a Christian to get to *live* in this place. I searched the internet for church options. This was in the days before we had GPS, and reading a map in a foreign language wasn’t easy. After a couple of weeks driving around and searching, we finally found a little Baptist church tucked away in the Arab side of town. We had to park several blocks away and walk through the busy Muslim neighborhood and back alleys to find the church door. But as soon as we entered we knew we were home!

“This was the smallest church we have joined. We were one of only five families, but they had a true love for the Lord and welcomed us with open arms. All were of Arabic descent, living out their faith right there in the middle of a predominately Muslim neighborhood. They would preach in Arabic and translate for us into English. They taught us hymns in Arabic and prepared traditional Arabic meals for us to try. They took us into the streets where the church was located and we would give out tracts to everyone in the area, often to Muslims in full, traditional Arab dress. Imagine doing that as American Christians shortly after 9/11!

“We had language and cultural differences with our church friends, but we shared a Savior and the fellowship was sweet. We have remained friends with some of the families to this day.

“When our time in Israel was up, we received our second assignment and test of our faith in God’s plan. Our orders read: Tallinn, Estonia. Estonia is a small Baltic country below Finland, on Russia’s western border.

“The only reason we knew this was because for ten years leading up to this time we had sent support to friends of ours who were serving as missionaries in



*Tallinn, Estonia!!* Out of more than 200 possible locations in the world, God directed that it be a place where we had long-time friends and a good church.

“We spent the best year and a half of our lives at this duty station. It almost felt like we were missionaries ourselves as we were privileged to work side by side with our missionary friends. We didn’t drive in this country so our journey to church meant a combination of walking and taking 3 buses, sometimes in snow over two feet deep, in a trip that took over an hour one way. But what a joy when we arrived at this little church to be greeted by Russians and Estonians and feeling that same, familiar love of fellow believers.

“That’s the thing about fellowship in church. No matter if we are in California, Japan, South Carolina, North Carolina, Missouri, Israel, Estonia, or Kentucky we all serve the same God and have the same Holy Spirit dwelling in us that helps us commune with one another.”

(Next Month: The final installment in this series, Pam Lindner shares hints about how to fit into a new church environment).