



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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## MEET THE FAMILY

### Brian and Shannon Lawson



Brian was born in Lexington where he has lived his whole life and Shannon was born in Connerville, IN. They met where they both worked at Furrow building materials on Versailles Road in Lexington and were married in 1990.

Two years later they responded to an alter call at a revival service at Lexington Baptist Temple and have remained active in various areas of church service. Shannon taught in a Christian school for 17 years before returning to work for her previous employer, Lexington Clinic, in 2013. She later moved to UK Healthcare where she is the Practice Manager at the Women's Health Clinic. Brian has worked at Spectrum for 32 years, for

the last 23 years as a fiber optics Project Coordinator. They heard about Bluegrass Baptist Church through their friends the Bridenbeckers and the Prestons and joined in 2019. Brian is now a Deacon in our church.

Their first child, Joseph Ray, was stillborn. A second son, Zachary and his wife Marissa have three sons, Kash 6, Laine 4, and Clay will be 2 in June. Kash has been a focus of constant prayer following a heart transplant. Their youngest son Justin and his wife Megan have three daughters Brookelyn 5, McKenna 3, and Palmer will be one-year-old in May.

## Paul and April Dutille



Paul hails from Massachusetts and April is from Alabama. They met in Florida and were married there in 1994. April received Christ as her Savior in Florida, but it was not until they moved to Lexington for a job at Lexmark that Paul surrendered to Christ. Now they work as owners of several businesses, including one here in Georgetown.

The couple have two adult children, August and Lula, and 17-year-old Sabina who was recently baptized in our church

after completing a discipleship course with Sarah Kirchner. All three children have been informed by their parents that they would like 30 grandchildren! (The picture shows Paul and April on the left, and Sabina and August on the right).

They came to BBC after an invitation from the Loghry family, and stayed because they enjoyed the preaching and the fact that we kept our doors open during the Covid lockdowns.

## Sherrill Gunn

In 2018 Sherrill and Sharon moved to Georgetown to be close to their daughter Megan, her husband, Chris, and their 3 grandchildren who live in Lexington. Sharon moved on to her heavenly home in 2022.

Sherrill grew up in the small town of Manila, Arkansas, was raised in a Christian family and received Christ as his personal savior at age 12. His mother and father believed in hard work, being in church every time the doors opened, and serving the Lord. This was instilled in Sherrill along with his older brother and sister who were raised on their farm.

After graduating from Southern Baptist College Sherrill moved to Paducah, Ky. where he was employed by D.O.E. and then U.S.E.C. (now Centrus) for 38 years. The Lord led him to BBC as he searched for a church where the Word of God was preached



and taught, and where the Word was evident to him in the church family by their love and kindness.

## **PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

### **Why Do We Evangelize?**

The question I am asked the most as a pastor is, “Why do we evangelize the way we do?”

It's an honest question from church members and regular attenders, from pastor friends, and from folks in our community. The simple answer is that we evangelize because Scripture plainly tells us to evangelize! The core of the answer touches on the primary motivation for evangelism. The reason we do something will always be the determining factor in our continuing to do it, so we should evangelize not just as a matter of obedience to God but because doing so also enlarges, establishes, and enhances our faith in God.

Those who evangelize with the primary goal of seeing fruit (that is, people trusting Jesus for salvation) may be discouraged and stop sharing their faith because there will be seasons when nobody responds to the Gospel. With this in mind, personal evangelism at Bluegrass is driven both by our faith in God, and by our faithful obedience to His command to be witnesses unto Jesus (Acts 1:8).

As we enter Spring and Summer—seasons that present easy opportunities to share our faith with others—consider engaging in one of the three corporate areas of evangelism we provide. If you prefer to Gospel Blitz, then plan to spend an hour with us on either a first or third Saturday of any month. If you'd like to join the Welcome Wagon then grab a card from the church lobby and ask Edward just what approach is right in sharing the Gospel and the small gift from our church. If you'd like to knock on doors and meet people where they live, then plan to come along for about an hour on a Tuesday evening.

The point I want to stress is that if you approach personal evangelism as a means to grow your faith and demonstrate your faithfulness to God, you will always be ready to share the Good News of Salvation. Our corporate ministries are in place to help build your faith so that everywhere you go, anywhere you may be, sharing your faith in Jesus Christ will be a natural outflow of your life.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!



On a cold Saturday in March, ladies of all ages enjoyed an afternoon of warm fun and fellowship at the church. After re-arranging some of the auditorium chairs and adding a few tables, games of the day included “BUNCO”, “Sequence” and “Marbles”. Soon the air was filled with the sounds of a clanging cowbell and triumphant calls of “BUNCO!” interspersed by the chatter of conversation and gusts of laughter.

Also on hand were lots of yummy foods. By the end of it all the general consensus was that a wonderful blessing had been shared. Simple, godly fun is always the best entertainment!

### Visit The Church Library



Our church library will not eclipse the Library of Congress anytime soon, but it is a useful little source of information about all things Christian, right here on the premises and free to our members!

The various categories of books (all donated) include something of interest and inspiration for everybody. In addition to reference books, commentaries, and concordances (including word studies in the Greek New Testament); there is a complete set of sermons and sermon outlines on all books of the Bible; plus, many different Bible studies (including Spurgeon's masterful "Treasury of David), and books on church administration, church growth and church government. Of more general interest are books for husbands and wives; families; children; some Christian Classics; Christian Biographies; devotional books, books on discipleship, and books about missionaries and world evangelism.

If you're interested, you will find the library tucked away in the first room on the right as you enter our building by the side door. You may borrow as many books as you like, but please record what you have taken on the forms provided, and remember to return the books borrowed, within three weeks. If you have any questions or suggestions, please talk to Dana Thal.

## **ENCOUNTERS:**

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

**In this section we share anecdotes from church members about their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is increasingly hostile to Jesus Christ. Written submissions should be 200 to 300 words in length, or you could simply tell your story to us, and we will produce a suitable report. The anecdote below is an example of the stories we tell.**

#### **Working In The "Pile" and Kyle Corner!**

*By Kyle Fannin*

Before I was a pastor, even before I was in ministry, I worked in the secular world. As I look back I wish that my Christianity had been more evident and more vocal and that I had stories to tell of great encounters in sharing Jesus Christ with others. That is how it is supposed to be, as the people of God do the work of God beyond the walls of the House of God!

However, I do have a story to share while employed by Cornerstone Industries in Alexandria, VA. It was a diverse office of contractors tasked with supporting the Department of Defense. Different religious and irreligious people worked together there, and one person in particular stands out in my memory as a challenge to my immature spiritual faith. Payal (pronounced “Pile”), worked on the same floor as me, in an office on the same corner of the building. We were known as the “Pile and Kyle” corner!

She worked on editing and preparing seemingly countless PDF files for uploading to the intra-net at the Pentagon. The purpose was for quick retrieval of Joint Doctrine information for the general staff of the various military branches. My responsibilities included ensuring that our databases were synchronized with those onsite at the Pentagon, since we were located offsite. Part of the daily routine of the office staff (particularly the younger staff) was to go in groups of four to six to Pentagon City Mall and eat lunch in the food court. We talked about life, beliefs, sports, and anything else that would arise (but rarely politics). It was there that I learned Payal was a Jain Hindu. A little research informed me that Jainism has three main tenets: *ahimsā* (non-violence), *anekāntavāda* (non-absolutism), and *aparigraha* (asceticism). I didn’t fully know what those meant (truthfully, it’s still a bit unclear), so I decided to ask for more information one day as we walked to the food court.

Payal’s answer was not as technical as the tenets implied, but essentially laid out a belief that everything has a life-force and “chakra” — a Hindu word that refers to “energy centers” in the body. She was so adamant on the life-force issue that she would not knowingly kill bugs, and even walked barefoot across any grass that we encountered on the way to the mall. At one lunch, a couple of years into my working for Cornerstone, I asked Payal what she thought of Jesus. She replied: “I can accept Jesus. We have hundreds, if not thousands, of gods in Hinduism, so it’s no problem to add one more.”

I realized then that sharing my faith would be a lot harder with someone who had no context for my worldview. Unfortunately, I cannot claim that I made Payal a convert to Jesus. The best that I can say is that I introduced her to Jesus. While imperfect in my grasp of Christianity, I tried to do what God had command me to do, sharing my belief with another soul. I hope, in those later years at Cornerstone, when I decided to fully trust God and walk with God, that there was enough living testimony in me to go with my lunch conversations, so that Payal and others could see my faith was real to me.

## BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Life comes at us in a hurry, sometimes making it difficult to get timely answers to questions that confront us while reading the Bible or wondering how to apply Bible truth to real-world problems. Here we aim to answer your particular question while also providing a resource for our church family.**

**This Month's Question** is about Satan: Why was he allowed into the Garden of Eden to tempt Adam and Eve?

**The Answer** from Pastor Zach Kirchner briefly addresses the whole Problem of Evil. He notes that questions like this abound in good Christian circles. He refers to it as a “Deuteronomy 29:29 Question — The secret things belong unto the Lord our God.”

The “problem of evil” is a chief example of such a question because at the very least, it is intensely perplexing to comprehend why a good, omnipotent, loving God would allow such a catastrophic event to occur. No man throughout history has been able to comprehensively solve “the problem of evil,” and we will not either. However, by affirming truths found in the revealed Word of God, we can come to some sort of acceptance of the will of God.

The first and primary truth we must affirm is that God is all about His own glory. Nowhere in Scripture does He make this more clear than in Isaiah 48:9–11. God says that all things are about HIS name, HIS praise, HIS glory. Everything that goes on in the world will eventually bring God glory, whether we perceive it that way or not. A second truth we must affirm is that God is not the author of evil. Many passages make this truth blindingly clear (Jas 1:13, Job 34:10, Deut 32:4, 1 Jn 1:5). A final collection of truths we must accept is that God created Lucifer (Neh 9:6), God is omniscient (Ps 139:4, Rom 11:33), and God's will is perfect (Isa 55:9).

As I said earlier, fallen man cannot comprehensively solve the problem of evil, but there is a pseudo-solution for the growing and maturing Christian. All throughout Scripture, there are things that are challenging for our minds to comprehend, but the maturing Christian will hold all of these truths at the same time and allow the tension to deepen his trust in his incomprehensible, yet knowable God. The very fact that there are incomprehensible things about the Christian faith is a key apologetic for it! We can rest assured, however, that someday, the blinding scales of sin and corruption will be fully removed from our eyes, and we will see God and His perfect plan for what they truly are — holy and glorious perfection.