



# SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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## MEET THE FAMILY

### Richard & Barbara Dobson

Richard, from Jackson, TN, accepted the Lord in Junior High School. God's presence in his life kept him faithful while growing up in a broken home. Barbara, from Lynchburg, VA, made a profession of faith at 19 after a family tragedy brought the rest of her family to salvation. But it wasn't until she was 34 that she came to a full understanding of Christ's completed work and atoning blood for her sins.

The couple met at a small Bible college in South Carolina and married in 1981 while attending graduate school in Greenville, SC. They served at a Christian school in North Carolina for seven years and then moved to Frankfort, KY, to assist Barbara's father in establishing the independent Free Grace Bible Church. Richard taught Sunday School, established a weekly radio broadcast and contributed to a church publication while working for the State government. He eventually became pastor of the church while Barbara homeschooled their two daughters who are both saved, married and mothers of seven children who bring immense joy to their grandparents.

After the providential closing of their Frankfort church, Richard and Barbara searched and prayed for three years to find a new church home. When they at last attended Bluegrass Baptist Church they found, in their words, "a faithful pastor and staff serving the Lord with biblical preaching and the love of Christ, along with like-minded members welcoming them into fellowship and service for the Lord."



## Ed & Brenda Weddle



Ed and Brenda were both saved as teenagers but rededicated their lives to Christ and were baptized at Bluegrass Baptist Church in October. They began attending here after being invited by friends of Dale and Nora Oliver.

Ed comments: “We were so happy to find this church! We love Pastor Kyle’s preaching and everybody is so friendly!”

Brenda was born in West Liberty, KY, and Ed is from Somerset, KY. They met at a pee-wee football game in Lexington

where Brenda’s grandson was playing. Ed had known Brenda’s daughter for years, and she introduced him to her mother during the game. That was back in 2009, and they married a year later. They each have one adult son and one adult daughter from previous marriages, and have been blessed with nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

They are both retired. Ed worked as a chemical biologist for a small environmental company and Brenda worked for a Toyota contractor where she was a supervisor and auditor.

## Alicia Holt

Alicia surrendered to Jesus Christ as her Savior in April this year after reading the Bible and turning to a friend for help.

She works in the same government department as Richard Dobson, who invited her to attend Bluegrass Baptist Church with himself and Barbara. Alicia was baptized here in September, joining our fellowship because she enjoys hearing the Good News about Jesus Christ.

Originally from Austell, GA, Alicia moved to Kentucky to be closer to one of her two adult sons.



## PERSPECTIVE

### DISCIPLESHIP IS A WONDERFUL THING

*By Jessica Fannin*

My favorite Pastor (!) recently preached a message entitled “Success for the Church”, from Paul’s letter to Titus. (If you missed it, the church app has all previous sermons, including this one, saved in both video and podcast format).

Part of the message addressed the subject of mentoring from Titus chapter 2. It presents a wonderful model for who should mentor, what should be taught in the mentoring process, and some things to avoid when mentoring others. Which brings me to my favorite way to mentor: Discipleship!

My first experience with discipleship was as a young, newly married, 20-something at our church in Virginia when I was handed a discipleship manual with the encouraging words: “We have a new member. She’s new to Christ and needs to be discipled. Go do it!”

Having never been formally discipled, I was nervous. But, with the manual in one hand and a Bible in the other, Kate and I made our way through the materials as I witnessed her growth in Christ, week by week. Soon she began inviting others to church. What surprised me most was that I was growing too!

Soon, Kate’s friend, Tracy, received Christ as her Savior and there was my new second disciple! Since then, over the past 17 years I’ve had the honor of coming alongside more than two dozen ladies and helping them grow and deepen their walk with Christ.

Here’s what keeps me coming back to mentoring others again and again:

It’s **Personal**: Discipleship is one-on-one. There are other churches that present “discipleship classes,” but we believe it is most effective one-on-one, or two-by-two. (Kyle and I have sometimes had the privilege of discipling couples together). In either case, keeping it very personal is our preference.

It’s **Practical**: Because it is personal, the lessons become intensely practical, meeting the specific needs of each disciple. Not everyone grows the same way in a walk with Christ, or at the same speed. Meeting one-on-one means spending a lot of quality time together and getting to know each other quite well, enabling practical and personal applications rather than sharing generic principles with a larger group.

It’s a great **Program**: The one we use at BBC is called **Sequoia**. I love it! The lessons are laid out in such a way that a strong foundation is laid for the disciple, who is then able to build upon it. Every lesson is Bible-based, ensuring

that the teaching is true to Scripture while helping each disciple get acquainted with their own Bible—how it is laid out, where various books and verses are located—and most importantly, what God has to say on a variety of topics. As an added bonus, *Sequoia* personally benefits me! Isaiah 55:11 promises that God’s Word will not return empty, and I’ve found that true in my own life. Every time I go through the lessons I learn something new!

At our church we make it easy to be a disciple. If you have never been discipled and would like to grow in your knowledge and walk with the Lord, talk to Pastor Zach Kirchner and he will introduce you to someone who can teach you! You don’t have to be a new Christian. Anyone, young or old, saved a long time or just a few minutes, will benefit from discipleship.

For those who would like to disciple others, the requirement is not that you must be a “perfect” Christian. And you don’t need a complete knowledge of Greek and Hebrew! All you need is the desire to teach and a commitment to devote a few hours a week to studying each lesson and then sharing it with someone else. If you’re interested, talk to Pastor Kirchner. He will provide you with a *Sequoia* teacher’s manual so that you can get started.

And, of course, if you have questions not answered in this article, please let me know. I am happy to help and encourage others to share the joy and fulfillment that comes from discipling.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING!

### Family Decides to Evangelize Neighborhood

Stephanie Jeffries wants to reach others with the Gospel but does not feel comfortable cold-calling on people who may have questions or objections she can’t answer. She and her husband Stephen and eight-year-old Maddie often can’t make it to Gospel Blitz.

So one day Stephanie got the bright idea that she was going to evangelize her neighbors! Her family lives in a new neighborhood near Toyota, and they share a neighborhood Facebook page.



“I wanted to put out door hangers, but was intimidated by reading stories on Facebook by neighbors complaining that sales people were constantly knocking on their doors or leaving literature. I did not want to be one of those photos posted by an irritated homeowner, so I introduced myself on Facebook and asked my neighbors what their reaction would be if I placed invitations on their doors to visit our church.

“I got replies from almost everyone and most of them were very positive. Even an atheist told me he would be fine with it! The only negative response was from someone who wanted to know why I even bothered to ask the question because she never wanted stuff on her door!”

Encouraged by the largely positive response, Stephanie, Maddie and Stephen set off one Sunday afternoon in early November and distributed about 100 door hangers (being careful to avoid the one unwelcoming home). It felt so good that they have picked up another 100 door hangers from church and plan to do it again!

## Flag Football Frolics



Flag Football drew an enthusiastic crowd for an intense (several minor injuries) but enjoyable round of games between four teams, and one game between adults and teens. Bragging Rights went to the adults!

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

*Here we share anecdotes from or about church members, telling their experiences (inspirational, amusing, or sad) as Christians living in a world that is indifferent or hostile to the Gospel and Christian values in general. This month's contribution from **Mark Byrum** highlights the importance of persistence in sharing our faith with those who are closest to us.*

The year was 1966, when John Lennon said the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. Jim Ryun set the World Mile Record, Star Trek debuted on NBC, and I got saved!

My family attended the Encanto Baptist Church in San Diego, California where my dad served as a deacon and my mom was the church secretary. Being “smarter than anyone I knew” as an 11-year-old, I knew how to be saved, and ought to be saved, but I did not see the immediate need for salvation, even though three good friends my age were all saved church members!

Then came a week of revival services starting on an April Monday. My family would of course be there. On Monday night before the service one of my friends took me aside and told me that I needed to get saved (you can say that to a friend!). I told him he was right, I knew what I needed to do, but I wasn't ready. On Tuesday night the second of my friends did the same thing and I repeated the same excuses. On Wednesday night the third of my friends approached me and we repeated the same drill – yes, I knew I needed to get saved, I knew how, but I wasn't ready.

The Holy Spirit was working on me, and I was gripping the back of the chair in front of me every night during the invitation, but I wasn't letting go. On Thursday night before the service, our Pastor found me and asked me whether I wanted to discuss getting saved. I replied with the same story.

Then came the opening hymn to the service: “Why Do You Wait” (by: George F. Root).

Why do you wait, dear brother,  
Oh, why do you tarry so long?  
Your Saviour is waiting to give you  
A place in His sanctified throng.  
Why not? Why not? Why not come to Him now?

Pastor looked at me from the platform and raised an eyebrow. That did it! Down the aisle I came, crying all the way, and my life was forever changed.

I never discovered if my friends planned together to talk to me, or if the Pastor orchestrated the whole thing. It's possible that the Holy Spirit prompted them all to pursue me. I didn't know. I didn't care. I only knew I was saved at last, then baptized, and I never looked back!

Do you have friends at church you know are not saved? How about friends at school or in your workplace? You can ask them. You can encourage them. You can plan with your friends to encourage them. I recall a song lyric from James Rowe:

When in a better land before the bar we stand  
 How deeply grieved our souls may be  
 If any lost ones there should cry in deep despair,  
 "You never mentioned Him to me!  
 "You met me day by day and knew I was astray,  
 "Yet never mentioned Him to me!"

## 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 in general, please let us know. This month **Pastor Zach Kirchner** continues a series that he titles: **Harmony of Scripture: Reconciling Apparent Contradictions**.*

Can God be seen? I see God in his Word, but I have never seen God with my own eyes, and you haven't either. None of us is taken aback by that statement, for Christ himself taught that God is an immaterial Spirit in John 4:24. The Apostle John twice declared that "No man hath seen God at any time" — once in the prologue to his gospel and once in his first epistle (John 1:18, 1 John 4:12).

If it is indeed the case that no man has seen God at any time, then what are we to do with verses such as Exodus 6:3, in which God says, "I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob"? This type of "God-appearing" language is far from a rare occurrence in the OT, and the LORD's appearing is not restricted to the patriarchs of Israel. For example, Job, Isaiah, Amos, the Seventy Elders that served alongside Moses, Samson's parents, and several others are said to have seen God (Job 42:5, Isaiah 6:1–2, Amos 9:1, Exodus 24:9–10, Judges 13:22).

Skeptics run these supposed contradictions up the flagpole and set a spotlight on them in an attempt to free themselves from the implications on their lives if, in fact, Scripture is true. So we must ask ourselves: Is Scripture contradicting itself? Have we been duped? The answer to both of those questions, of course, is no. Scripture does not contradict itself, and we have not been duped. Let's think, then, about how we should answer these supposed contradictions, even when they prove to be difficult.

We must first start with what is abundantly clear, namely, that no man has ever seen God. The passages in John and 1 John are pertinent, and two others are worth our attention. In Exodus 33:20, God emphatically reveals to Moses that "no man [shall] see me, and live." Elsewhere, Paul declares of God that man cannot approach God, and that no man hath seen God or can see him (1 Tim 6:16). The verdict of Scripture is clear. No one has seen God.

*(In our next issue, Pastor Kirchner deals with the numerous passages in Scripture where people are said to have seen God).*