



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCING THE FAMILY / PERSPECTIVE /
WHAT'S HAPPENING! / ENCOUNTERS / BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

MEET THE FAMILY

Ryan & Jenna Vance

Ryan and Jenna are both from Scott County. They attended the same high school but did not begin dating until after graduation, and were married in September, 2011.

Both received Jesus as their personal Savior in 2014. This came about from a simple prayer, asking God, "What is truth?" God answered by sending a follower of Jesus Christ to clearly and simply explain the way of Salvation in Jesus alone. It was a free gift that had been awaiting their acceptance all their life!

For the next two years they attended a weekly Bible study (at a dog grooming salon!), and joined Bluegrass Baptist Church "because of the excellent Bible-centered preaching and teaching".

In 2017 they welcomed their first child Aariah. Owen came a year later. Jenna is a stay-at-home mom while Ryan supports the family through his business, "Pathway Contracting".

They are active in church life, feeling that God has richly blessed them as they seek to do His will. Jenna comments: "Though we fail, He does not. His grace is sufficient in all areas of our life!"



Nick & Victoria Lanter

Nick was raised partially Catholic. He was sprinkled as a baby, but what he remembers most was turning to God only when he had done something bad.



Church was just what you were supposed to do. Then his mother and stepfather joined a church where he heard the Gospel, accepted Christ as his Savior, and was baptized.

Victoria grew up occasionally attending a small country church with her mother. There she learnt that baptism was "washing away your sins". She refused to get baptized because it felt hypocritical. But she did claim to be a Christian.

Later, at Georgetown College she was excited to join the "religious studies" class and also joined a club that paired Christian upperclassmen with Christian freshmen. These groups talked about God — but no one ever presented salvation to her! She had no relationship with God and no real knowledge of Jesus Christ, despite claiming to believe in both.

Then Victoria began attending a weekly Bible study (in a dog parlor) where she heard salvation clearly explained, until she surrendered to Christ, by herself, and only thought to tell others about it a few weeks later! She was baptized at Bluegrass Baptist Church in 2014.

A year later, six weeks before Nick left for Marine Corps boot camp, they reconnected and began dating, then maintained a long-distance relationship until Pastor Fannin married them in 2017. When Nick's Marine service ended, they moved back to Georgetown from North Carolina.

Nick works as an electrician. Victoria left Toyota to be a homemaker after Jocelyn was born in 2024. Their son Asa arrived a year later. Now they manage a small homestead with many animals, fruit trees and gardens, grateful for the way God works all things for their good and happy to be part of a church where truth is taught from the Bible, and for a church family that exhorts and encourages them.

PERSPECTIVE

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH: FROM SEEKING TO SERVING

By Pastor Kyle Fannin

The third chapter of John is famously home to John 3:16, but the surrounding narrative offers a much deeper roadmap for the soul. It traces a transformative arc from the tentative questions of a seeker to the radical humility of a servant.

The journey begins with Nicodemus, a respected religious leader who approaches Jesus under the cover of night. While often interpreted as fear, Nicodemus's choice reflects the heart of a genuine seeker: he desired an uninterrupted, exclusive audience with the Teacher.

Nicodemus recognized God's presence in Jesus' miracles, but he initially missed Jesus' person. This is the classic trap of religion—admiring the works while failing to recognize the Worker. Jesus immediately challenged this intellectual approach with a spiritual necessity: **"You must be born again."**

Jesus explained that while physical birth gives us human life, spiritual birth is required to enter God's kingdom. He compared this spiritual regeneration to the wind—mysterious and invisible, yet undeniable in its effects.

To illustrate how this happens, Jesus pointed to a story from Israel's history. When the Israelites were dying from venomous snake bites in the wilderness, Moses lifted a bronze serpent on a pole. Anyone who simply **looked** at it lived. They didn't need to understand how, or kill the snakes; they just had to look!

Nicodemus' story doesn't end in the dark. Throughout John's Gospel, he moves from the **darkness of confusion**(Chapter 3) to the **dawn of conviction** (Chapter 7), and finally to the **daylight of confession** (Chapter 19), where he publicly helps to bury Jesus. He transitioned from a curious observer to a courageous servant.

This transition is epitomized by John the Baptist in the latter half of the chapter. When his followers grew jealous of Jesus' rising popularity, John offered the ultimate mantra for every believer: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

This is the mindset of a true servant. It is the process of sanctification—daily shrinking our own ego, reputation, and kingdom so that Christ's glory can take center stage. We see then that the message of John 3 is straightforward: Jesus alone saves. We are all living with the calamity of a fallen nature, but Jesus didn't come to condemn us, He came to provide the only antidote: His life replacing ours!

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Blitz Blesses the Bluegrass Again!

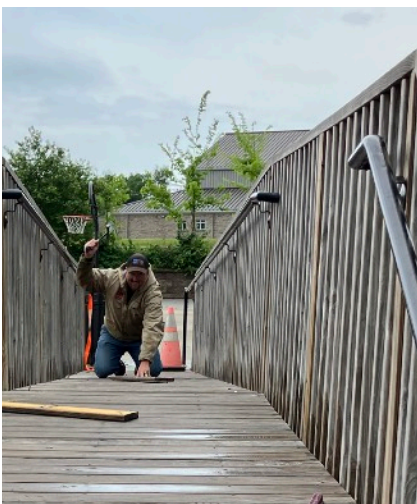
We enjoyed another big turnout for our May Gospel Blitz, distributing 2,000 door hangers with an outline of the Gospel and an invitation to attend church.

This month's picture highlights the friends we sometimes meet—on this occasion it was a dog who brought a shoe to exchange for the invitation on his door!



Out With The Old...

Last month it was the modular building that disappeared. This month it's the walkway to the departed modular building being demolished by Wes Wade and Joe Rincon, and Joe tearing up grass to replace with rocks (the grass around our main building takes a beating each winter from anti-slip salt).



Children Sing!



We're blessed too have a choir of little angels who sing for us each month, thanks to McKenna Clemons who leads them and Hannah Kim on the piano.

Serving With Joy

Busy hands and joyful conversations marked the annual get-together of our Women for Christ (and their daughters) to make gift packages for Ashton Grove, Ronald McDonald House, Hope Children's Home, and letters of encouragement to all our missionaries. The pictures show tables with ladies hard at work; a lunch break for daughters; and a table with finished products ready to be delivered.



Bible Adventure Club Awards

On the last Wednesday in May 29 children aged 4 to 12 received their awards for the spring semester, where they studied God's actions in the past, present, and His plans for the future. Topics included lessons on the rapture, the tribulation and what believers should be doing while we await Jesus' return. Check out the hallway bulletin board for all the individual photographs of children with their awards. Thanks to Wes Wade, the children in this picture are doing funny faces!



ENCOUNTERS:

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

*Here we share anecdotes from church members, telling their experiences as Christians living in a world that is indifferent to the Gospel and Christian values in general. This month's contribution from **Erin Seaman** recounts her growing from a child into a young woman totally dedicated to pursuing athletic excellence. Then the day came when it was made clear to her that spiritual excellence was more important and much more rewarding.*

I grew up in a loving home with my mom, dad, and brother, well provided for in every way except that church attendance meant an occasional visit with a friend or with my mom on certain holidays. I wasn't taught the things of God and the Bible. Instead, swimming captured my attention from the time I was nine years old until I was twenty-two.

I swam year-round. What began as summer league fun grew into three practices a week and then during high school it was nine practices a week. I swam before school three mornings a week from 4:45 to 6:15 a.m., drove thirty minutes home while eating breakfast, quickly got ready for the day, attended school from 7:30-2:10 p.m., practiced again from 3:45-7:15 p.m., came home and ate dinner, studied and completed homework, and hopefully went to bed by 10:00 p.m. Swimming was my life!

I went to Auburn University on a swimming scholarship. As I left for college, my mom acknowledged her failure in teaching me about religion and spiritual things and encouraged me to seek out wisdom, not just learning. During team orientation my freshmen year a presentation was given about becoming a three-dimensional athlete, so I filled out a card and soon a leader from Campus Crusade for Christ followed up with me. We met on campus and she shared the gospel that day, but I did not respond to it. Evidently, I was comfortable with being 80 percent sure that if I died, I would go to heaven—like most people, I considered myself to be a pretty good person.

When Thanksgiving that year came around, I invited two teammates home with me for the break, and one of the girls shared the gospel with me again! It was then that I saw myself as a sinner in need of a Savior, went back to my bedroom, kneeled and prayed, and asked God to save me.

The next big obstacle I faced was being confronted by the blurred moral lines and conflicting messages on a secular college campus. How was it possible for a Christian to be different from the world? I had lots to learn, and my dilemma was increased because I was not connected to a church. But the Lord was gracious, and introduced people to my life who helped me get spiritually rooted and grounded, growing slowly but surely as my understanding developed that life with Christ is called the Christian "walk" for a reason!

We are instantly forgiven the moment we get saved, but we are transformed and sanctified over a lifetime. I am grateful to God for those who taught me, and for His evident grace in my life! May my Savior find me continually pressing “toward the mark” (Philippians 3:14) as I seek to become more like Him.

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 **Joe Rincon** answers the question: **What is the Difference Between Laziness and Biblical Rest?***

Since the beginning, humans were designed to work. God placed Adam in the garden to tend and keep it (Genesis 2:15). In 2 Thessalonians 3:10, Paul tells believers, *"if any would not work, neither should he eat."*

Paul himself modeled this principle by continuing his occupation as a tentmaker to support himself financially while he preached the Gospel (1 Thess. 2:9).

Numerous other examples throughout Scripture reinforce the same truth: work is a good and right thing. Humans are wired to pursue purpose and to find satisfaction in what they accomplish by their work. Yet, while it is necessary to fulfill God's plan for us to work, it is equally important to recognize that rest is also part of God's plan!

Genesis 2 tells us that on the seventh day of creation, God rested from His work. This rest established the pattern for Sabbath observance (Exodus 20:8-11). The children of Israel were to work six days a week and rest on the seventh. That day of rest was intended not only for physical renewal, but also for spiritual renewal through worship. In Mark 6:30-32, Jesus instructed His disciples to withdraw to a quiet place and rest, given the demands of their ministry, which had been so intense they had not paused to eat (v. 31). Rest and refreshment is necessary for people to remain effective in their work.

Despite this God-given purpose and calling (work first, then rest), humans often fall into the trap of laziness. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:12, *"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."*

To be lazy is to come under the power and control of one's own disinclination to work. This is vividly illustrated in Proverbs 24:30-34:

"I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man."

Here was a man with work that needed to be done, but he was dominated by a slothful spirit. This example demonstrates the sin of laziness and the consequences it brings.

Simply put, **laziness is rest that is purposeless, while biblical rest is rest that is purposeful.** That purpose is to rejuvenate and renew us for the calling God has placed on our lives. The key lies in one's attitude toward work.

Does your relaxation stem from a desire to avoid responsibilities you know need to be addressed? Is your downtime pursued solely for personal pleasure with no regard for duty?

Make no mistake, it is good to take a vacation, relax on the porch, or spend time resting in an armchair. But we must always know that we are people of purpose. Rest is both the reward for diligent labor and the renewal that prepares us for continued productivity.

Ecclesiastes 5:12 reminds us: *"The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep."*