



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

BOB AND BRENDA GRAHAM



A lifetime of faithful service to the cause of Christ marks the steps of Bob and Brenda Graham – married, saved and off to study for the ministry in the 1970s, then pastoring their first church in 1981, days after Bob graduated from Hyles Anderson College.

Along the way they raised a family, now numbering five children, 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren (including Bluegrass members Jolie Preston and Chris Graham and their families).

Bob followed his first pastorate at Williamsport Baptist Church in Attica, IN with pastorates at Bedford Baptist in Bedford, KY and Grace Baptist Church in Point Pleasant, WV, before planting Harbor Light Baptist Church in Lexington, KY in 2005. The family settled in Georgetown that same year. After Bluegrass Baptist Church was established in 2008 the families at Harbor Light voted to dissolve the fellowship and join the new work.

“It’s a decision none of us have regretted,” the Graham’s commented. “We are blessed to have been members of BBC since the beginning and have enjoyed being part of what God is doing here.” (See “Encounters” below for more on their story).

Blake and Heather Stewart

Like many others who visit our church, Blake and Heather Stewart responded to a Gospel Blitz door hanger. It happened shortly before they moved to Georgetown from Virginia in 2013 and were looking for a home to rent. They didn't take the house, but they did keep the door hanger!



The couple were both born in Virginia and were both saved there before they married in 2006. They met while Heather, a hairdresser at the time, was cutting Blake's hair.

Blake is a pharmacist who wanted to work for military veterans. His successful application for a job at the VA in Lexington was the reason for the family's move, and from the moment they found a spiritual home with Bluegrass they immersed themselves in church life. Heather is a faithful servant in the nursery. Both Blake and Heather teach Sunday School, and Blake helps with security. They have two boys, Logan and Liam, and a daughter, Lydia. Logan leaves for Marine Corps boot camp in July.

PERSPECTIVE

BEARING BURDENS ON THE MISSION FIELD

Last month's Perspective appeared under the headline, "Bearing Fruit On The Mission Field", as missionary Matt Goins shared the story of a transformed family and a husband who came home from a long absence to find a life in Christ that he could not have imagined.

Below is the shocking update we received immediately after the publication of our May Newsletter, with Edward Thal's response to the news.

God Knows. God Cares. God Has a Plan.

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8)

In March of 2023, a young man in his first year at Bible College was struck down by a distracted driver. The suddenness of his death cut short plans to follow the example of his family who had labored for over 20 years on the mission field to build a thriving Gospel outpost for the glory of God.

Jadon Goins had grown up in El Progreso, Honduras. He became best friends with Carlos Andres Ruiz, whose mother had responded to the Gospel and joined the Beacon Baptist Church (Iglesia Bautista El Faro) after her husband suddenly left the family to go and seek his fortune in the United States. Eight years later Luis Ruiz returned, rejoined his family, yielded to Jesus Christ and became His fervent disciple.

After serving faithfully in the church for many years he answered a call into the ministry, successfully completed his studies, and was ordained in April this year—about two years after Jadon’s tragic death.

And then Carlos was struck and killed a month after his father’s ordination, by a motorbike in a hit-and-run accident when he stopped to care for someone who had fallen off a bicycle near the church in El Progreso.

Two sons of two fathers serving Christ, two best friends looking to one day serve Christ together, dying two years apart without warning, in similar circumstances, leaving behind two heartbroken families who are nevertheless determined to continue serving their Savior.

How does a Christian explain this to unbelievers? How do Christians explain it to themselves, especially those who carry such a heavy burden of loss?



Jadon Goins and Carlos Andres Ruiz

Scripture provides a coherent answer and goes on to reveal an ultimate purpose that God alone could devise for a world lost in darkness. To accomplish His purpose, the Creator entered His broken creation in the form of a human, first immersing Himself in the darkness before absorbing it, becoming one with it, and then conquering it.

This divine act of mercy and grace is incomprehensible to darkness, leaving Adam's blinded race struggling to even imagine such grace and glory. They must be taught through the example of others like them, yet unlike them. This is why God invites "people that do know their God" (Daniel 11:32) to suffer!

For a select few, the suffering may be intense—full immersion in the darkness of pain and weakness and discomfort—so that others trapped there may be attracted to the light shining within them, overcoming the darkness. For the parents of Jadon and Carlos it means they will continue to serve God, worshipping Him, trusting in His goodness, because they know and are loved by God and find their strength in Him.

As for Jadon and Carlos, they are now united in heaven, furthering a forever friendship because of Jesus Christ!

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

The Bible Adventure Club Awards *(Report by Wes Wade)*



29 children aged four to twelve qualified for awards this year. After the indoor ceremony following a Wednesday night church service, the children came outside and were challenged to make funny faces. They quickly obliged! The challenge to parents is to see if they can recognize their little angels in this bunch.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame *(Report by Shane Colvin)*



If you look closely you will see a lot of familiar faces in the crowd of baseball enthusiasts!

The Faithful Men Ministry made their way north to the Queen City for a titanic tilt between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Cincinnati Reds on Friday, June 6th. Twenty men, sons, and grandpas braved the incoming rain through 6 innings of tied baseball before the game was suspended in the 7th inning (Reds would win the resumption of the game the following day). The matchup featured home runs to our section and a fireworks show on the river afterwards!

Summertime is Camp Time! *(Report by Pastor Zach Kirchner)*

The youth group made their annual jaunt to the Wilds on June 9th. The weather was beautiful and the kids played a lot of fun games, in an environment that encourages like-mindedness and makes spiritual growth cool! Our speaker for the week, Morris Gleiser, eagerly and clearly taught the Scriptures. One of our teens described him as “a cool grandpa,” and it was clear that he loved God and loved to share Jesus Christ with teenagers. The teens were clearly spiritually refreshed, as evidenced in their singing hymns and spiritual songs learned at camp on the way home.



Campers ready to depart for The Wilds.

Vacation Bible School



VBS 2025 was another wild and wonderful week for more than 50 children and 35 sheriffs, teachers, helpers and chuck wagon workers at Wonder Junction!

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. This month's story provides highlights from Bob and Brenda Graham's incredible journey as they followed God's calling and raised five children with little to support them but faith and prayer.

Bob and Brenda both grew up in Louisville, Ky, where they met one night at popular local restaurant. Soon they began dating. Bob was employed by the Ford car plant in Louisville, making good money, and spending a lot of his spare time at chicken fights, which apparently was quite a big thing in Louisville back in the 60's. The couple married in 1970. Bob was 25, and Brenda was 20.

When Brenda was ten years old she asked Jesus to save her because she was afraid of hell. It took another 12 years before she fully surrendered to God, while lying in bed and thinking about how little she acknowledged God in her everyday life. Bob was raised a Catholic and was not bothered by such thoughts until Brenda began praying that God would convict him of his need for salvation. He too surrendered to God while lying in bed, but did not think to mention the fact to Brenda until several weeks later. Soon he became immersed in the life of their church, including the bus ministry and personal evangelism.

Brenda was occupied with caring for their first child, Chris (now a deacon here). A second child, Greg was born, and then Bob announced he felt God was calling him into the ministry. It was 1976, and the start of their life's adventure. A year later Bob left his well-paying job at Ford and moved the family (now with a third son, Tim) to Tennessee Temple Bible College in Chattanooga.

They financed the first year by selling land they had bought for their first home in Louisville (and shared some of the money with a friend who was struggling to support a wife and five children). Then in 1978 Bob and Brenda moved again, this time to Hyles Anderson College in Crown Point, Indiana. Their fourth child, Leanne, had just been born.

The move to a housing project in Hammond, IN was difficult. They were living paycheck to paycheck, with 4 small kids and a bug infestation that was out of control. Bob wore himself out between maintaining his studies and earning enough money to provide for his growing family, including the birth of Jolie in 1980 (she would later marry Jason Preston). One Christmas the couple sold their wedding rings to purchase gifts for the children. Brenda says, "That's when I really learned to pray."

A notable answer to her prayers came after Thanksgiving plans with their parents were canceled when Bob and several children became ill. They had no means to provide a meal for themselves, but when Brenda prayed for a miracle someone from the church delivered pumpkin pies, and then a store where they often shopped raised donations for a full meal, plus \$20!

When Bob graduated in 1981 there was a surprise gift of \$1,000 that financed their move to their first church. Then there was the winning prize for Brenda from a forgotten raffle ticket. After the children prayed for “a real home” they were provided a 6 bedroom “mansion” on 3 acres, at a greatly reduced price. Bob sold it at a considerable profit when they moved to a church in West Virginia where they stayed for the next 17 years. They purchased another “real home” there, with a pool the children had requested. Their faith was tested on occasion, but they had learned the value of prayer and continued to see prayers answered. Once, they ran out of toothpaste and immediately stopped to pray for more. At that moment the mail was delivered, including a free sample of Crest toothpaste! Another time, they needed a new HVAC system and were pressed to ask a store if there was a used one for sale. Instead they were able to purchase and install a discontinued new unit at a fraction of the usual cost. When they moved to Georgetown to plant a church, Brenda prayed for someone to buy their home in West Virginia. Soon after, a stranger knocked on the door and asked if they were interested in selling. The deal was done at a profit with no realtor sales commission.

In 2008, the new church Bob was pastoring, Harbor Light Baptist, voted to join with Bluegrass Baptist Church. They have been faithfully serving here ever since.

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 email Pastor Kyle or Pastor Zach or Edward.

(So much else happened in June that we ran out of room for Answers—but check back again next month!)