



# BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 2022

Editor Janelle Daum

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*“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.”  
Proverbs 25:11*

For several years I have received the *5 Love Languages* newsletter. I have profited greatly from Dr. Gary Chapman's insights. This edition came with the encouragement to share it on social media and with friends and family. It spoke to my heart and I decided to share it with all of you:

A few years ago I asked over 75,000 people what issue they were particularly interested in learning more about. The majority of

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responses came back to one particular area—communication. That said, it's fairly safe to say that if you are reading this, then chances are good you've experienced at least some sort of breakdown in your communication with a loved one or friend.

What is it that kills communication in so many relationships? Is it boredom? Ignorance? Indifference? Genetics? While these may be legitimate excuses for a lack of communication, they don't solve the problem of a relationship that is growing more distant with every passing day. You see, you'll never grow closer without communication.

If you find communication between you and someone you care about dwindling, here are a few steps you can take to reverse the trend and begin the journey of growing closer.

1. Talk about your communication patterns. Is the person with whom you want to draw closer mutually interested in growing the relationship? If so, discuss areas that may need work and how you can both intentionally take steps to improve your communication patterns. Chances are, the conversation alone will spark new life in the relationship, which will allow you to build on this foundation.

2. Learn to ask the right questions. To increase chances of quality communication, you'll need to make sure that your questions are specific and non-threatening. The question, "How was your day?" is too broad to initiate any kind of real conversation. Some parts were probably good; some were probably bad. Average them together, and you'll likely get the ever-popular "Fine" as a response. The more specific you are with your questions, the better chance you have of getting a substantive response—one that can evolve into a full-blown conversation. Curiosity is the catalyst for growing relationships.

3. Look for common interests. Maybe communication is lacking because you don't have enough to talk about. If your personal interests differ significantly from the person you care about, you may not have enough common ground between you to support frequent communication. If you can't find common ground or interests, look for areas you can take upon yourself to develop some. Make an effort to learn about the things they are interested in. Not only will it give you things to talk about, but it will also demonstrate to that person the lengths you are willing to go in order to improve your communication.

May you find greater intimacy with all those you care about, and may these tips set the stage for the type of healthy communication patterns that sustain it.

Blessings,  
Pastor Randy

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **DISCIPLESHIP TEAM REPORT**

The discipleship team met 6-14-22 at BVBC. Present were Pam O., 2-D, Pastor Randy, Theresa F., and Erica S. 2-D opened in prayer. The first “one room SS class” was past Sunday with 9 in attendance and lessons on “fruits of the spirit” We discussed continuing these lessons every other week due to low attendance. 2-D has agreed to teach the lesson on June 26 and July 10th and Erica teaching July 24th. The next SS social will be June 26th with lunch and games following SS. Pam will bring sloppy joes, buns, and chips. 2-D will order pizza and chicken strips from pizza ranch. A poster announcement for the social and VBS will be placed on the bulletin board. Erica has material for VBS and is now making arrangements for teachers and helpers. Marlene has agreed to assist with nursery duty during church services. The committee will be alert to any families with small children in order to provide this service. A revised children’s church assignment list will be handed in to Janelle for print. An extended discussion included how to increase SS attendance for younger ages. Much prayer is needed in this area. Next meeting scheduled for August 9th.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JULY AND BEYOND**

## **EVENTS CALENDAR 2022:**

### **Sunday's**

**9:30 a.m.** Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.** Sunday School for the Whole Family

**Sunday, July 10**, Hymn Sing during the Sunday School hour followed by a potluck

### **Wednesday's**

**7 p.m.** Middle & High School Youth Group (no Awana)

### **Thursday's**

**3 p.m.** Prayer & Women's Bible Study at BVBC

**6:30 p.m.** Women's Evening Bible Study will not meet for the summer.

### **Saturday's**

**8 a.m.** Men's Bible Study will not meet for the summer.

**Monday, July 4**, Independence Day, Church Office Closed

**Saturday, July 9, 8 a.m.**, Leadership Team

**Tuesday, July 12, 2 p.m.**, Discipleship Team

**Sunday, July 17 - Thursday, July 21**, Vacation Bible School

**Tuesday, July 26, 7 p.m.**, Outreach Team

## MISSIONARY UPDATES

### PAUL & JANET HARKNESS - AWANA



June 15, 2022

Yes, it has been some time since the last Memo. It has been a busy time.

First, my report on the Black Hills region contacts May 15 - 24.

Throughout that time we made 19 pastor/AMD visits. One neat thing about that was that 9 of them were with churches that do not currently hold Awana. Praying they will all come on board in the coming year or two. In those 10 days, we only took one day off for ourselves to relax, but it was well worth the push. We got to meet and visit with many wonderful servants of the Lord.

Since that trip, we have met with 3 other church leaders from two churches to talk about resilient child discipleship. One of these churches is considering Awana.

**Pray** as this week we are preparing for a large mailing to go out next week.

**Pray** for scheduling and preparations for our Awana Connect meetings in July and August.

Blessings,

Paul & Janet Harkness

## ARLYN & MARCY NIES



June 2022

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!” Psalm 103:1 (ESV). As our world seems to be spinning out of control, we must keep our eyes on the Lord. We must remember that He is in control, and we can count on Him.

We experienced some exciting events in the past weeks that keep us encouraged and praising the Lord for all He does. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing with your gifts and prayers.

We attended our grandson Ben’s high school graduation and our granddaughter Autumn’s dance recital. The dance company is led by a Christ-follower who desires to help the young people worship through dance and guide those who attend the recitals also to worship. We spent Mother’s Day with some of our family.

We spent a week with the Sr Field Leadership Team in North Carolina. The itinerary included plans for an all-US missionary meeting this fall and decisions to help develop our missionaries as leaders.

We concluded the week with an event called Discover Awana. This is a time for those seeking the Lord’s will as Awana missionaries. We gave them what they needed to make well-informed decisions. It was a successful week.

We also spent a great day visiting with several pastors. Our topic was

the challenges they see the young people in their communities facing in today's world and how we can disciple them to stand firm for the Lord now and be lifelong Christ-followers.

We ended that day with a dinner to hear what God is doing in South Asia. The director, Gajendra Tamang, and his wife Manju shared the opportunities they and their team of missionaries have in that part of the world. The Lord has led them to minister to a marginalized group of people in eastern Pakistan. Because they are not Muslims, they are persecuted and live in abject poverty. The Lord has given the missionaries creative ways to share the gospel with them.

As we all navigate an ever-changing world remember that God's got this! For His Glory, Arlyn and Marcy

## **HARLAN MOSS - PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY**



June 2022

“The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:7

The Bible is amazing! It will counsel us through every circumstance of our lives! Many things that happen in life will never make sense to us, but our faith is in a loving, almighty, & sovereign God! Some men have told me they won't believe unless they see. The Christian life is all about faith and keeping our focus on Jesus and His Word!

It is intriguing to me how many men want to talk about Jesus' prophecies, and the things going on in the world today. One young man listened intently as I shared the gospel. Then I asked him if he had ever heard it before, he said, "No." He had never gone to church and never had much for a home. I gave him Christian literature and a New Testament to read. I will follow up with him.

An 18-year-old man told me that he gone to church for about seven years in his adopted home. He ended up in juvenile detention and had not gone to church since then. When he did go to church, he didn't pay attention to the teachings, but was thankful for the Christian parents who adopted him when he was five years old! He knew about the gospel, but thought he had to wait for the time when God would change him. I explained that he had to take the next step and trust Jesus as his only hope of salvation. He prayed to trust Jesus.

When I go cell to cell I pray that the Lord will lead me to the men He is working on and He always does.

Praise the Lord for so great a salvation!

Recently I visited men in the Springfield prison. I have known two of them for over 12 years. Jade is being released shortly and Sam will be released in six months. It was a joy to visit with these young men who have a zeal for God and a passion to see others come to Christ. Sam is always thinking about how he can encourage the other inmates in their Christian walk. Both are an important part of the church in the Springfield prison. Sam wants to write a paper that can be distributed to new inmates coming into the prison system with a long sentence. In this paper he wants to give hope to them and let them know how to do time constructively in prison! It was about 20 years ago when he entered the prison system at 19 years old. At that time, he surrendered his life to the Lord. Sam has been an example to other inmates, and a spiritual leader, encouraging others throughout his time in prison.

When Jade came into prison in Jameson, he was led to the Lord by a friend of his who I led to the Lord a year earlier. Jade is more of an evangelist who loves sharing the gospel one on one with others and discipling them.

He is very capable of leading Bible studies. When he was in Jameson in Sioux Falls several years ago, he took an evangelism course through Ray Comfort Evangelism. Jade has a heart to see others come to the Lord! He had a peace about him even though he was getting out soon. These men will both be missed by the prison church!

Thank you for your prayer support and financial support! I am thankful to the Lord for this ministry, and it is a joy to share the gospel behind the walls!

In Christ, Harlan

## **AMANDA BENSON - PHILIPPINES**



June 1, 2022

**WE HAVE A HOUSE!**

After much prayer and consideration, we decided to sublet the house that was offered to us! This means that we will rent it while the people who currently live there (and actually the ones who own the house in this case) are gone on furlough. We will stay for this year and then will be looking for a more permanent house where we won't have to move every year.

We weren't super excited about subletting instead of having a permanent place, but we have seen God's hand at work in the details of providing this house. There are so many details that God had ordered, and we believe that this is how He is providing for us in this situation. It seems that so often

God's plans are not our plans, but His plans are always better! We know that we are going to be able to better serve the new staff in this house than we would be able to being in separate places and far from school.

I will be moving in next week, and Marissa will be moving in later in July, as she has some obligations at her current house until then. We will be about a 5-7 minute drive from school, and the house has four bedrooms that we can use! We are looking forward to being able to host and also help new staff transition.

As of now, we don't have anyone set to live with us, but there is currently one single lady in the process of applying, so if she gets approved, we'll be chatting with her to see if she would like to stay with us. We still have quite a few staff needs, so there is a possibility that others will still come, or ~~that they may even come once school has started. Even if we don't have~~ anyone living with us, we hope to regularly have new staff over to help them build community.

Thank you for your continued and faithful prayers. We are so excited for this new ministry! Thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given so far. We know we will continue to need it as we work with the new staff at school.

This past month has been a whirlwind of activity! It was SO awesome to get to finish a school year in person! We had an 8th grade retreat, an 8th grade party, and graduation in person! God has been so good to us. Most of the Philippines still is not in person for school, so we consider ourselves blessed.

### ***Praises***

- We have finished the school year! Everything got done that needed to be done!
- We have a house! It is amazing to see how God provided for that!
- We have been able to have so many in-person events to finish the school year. We are so blessed by that.

### ***Prayer Requests***

- Pray that the moving would go smoothly. Pray that we can find a time to get some people to help move the big items and that we'd be able to settle

in quickly.

- Pray for a restful and refreshing summer for the staff and students.
- Pray that God would provide the staff that we need. Middle school REALLY needs English and Science teachers.
- Pray that Marissa and I would serve well with the new house that God has provided for us.

June 15, 2022

## **PowerUp! Prayer Update**

### ***Praises***

- We were able to get help from the employees at Faith and got all of our big things moved on Friday! I have been able to unpack just about everything and am mostly settled in.
- Marissa and I have been able to have our first house guests in the past week!!! It's so fun to get to host others at our own place!

### ***Prayer Requests***

- I am traveling with some friends to a different island from Saturday to Wednesday. Pray for safe travels, good fellowship, and good time to rest and refresh.
- Pray that God would continue to provide the staff that are needed for next year. There are still quite a few holes.
- Pray that I would have wisdom as I start to figure out my new role as VP. I'm starting to learn a bit more about the job but also am in summer mode and don't want to think about school. :)

### ***Ongoing Prayer Requests***

- That God will refresh the hearts of the staff and students this summer, and that we'd be ready to start a new school year.
- That we would use our house well to serve the community around us.
- That God will bring the staff members that we need for the next school year.

## CRISIS IN UKRAINE



Your gifts to Help Ukraine are SENDing Help and Hope!  
From a church partner in Ukraine:

“Every day except for Sunday we hold meetings for refugees in our church, where they come, sit at the tables, and we have some discussions. We pay special attention to their inner world because they have been through horrible things like bombing, when the Russian army was trying to destroy them.

We were talking about the Ascension Day. The majority of these people dream about going back home to their cities. With each day their desire gets stronger. One man shared his pain with us today. He said that his house had been hit by a shell that had broken the roof and had gone all the way down to the first floor. So there is nothing left from that house anymore. He dreamed so much about coming back home, but his house isn't there anymore. We were all touched by his story because the war not only made these people move from their homes and made them refugees, but it also took their homes from them and they don't have a place to return to now.

John 14:2-3 “In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

When we were reading this passage almost everyone cried, because they don't have an opportunity to return to their homes but they have a

home, that Christ made for them in Heaven. And no one will ever be able to take this home away from them.

We can see how God's Word gives encouragement and hope. We can see how important it is what you and we are doing together for these people."

Thank you for giving, and praying for Ukraine. God is using his people and his church to do incredible things in the midst of the crisis in Ukraine.

## **THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS**

June 16, 2022

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled."

~ 1 Peter 3:14 ESV

**FRENCH GUIANA: Pastor Fatally Shot and Church Burned**

Sources: CNEF, Evangelical Focus, The Christian Post

French Guiana is an overseas region of France located in northern South America. On the night of May 3rd, the pastor of the Gado Lobi church in Saint-Laurent du Maroni was shot and killed and at least seven other people were injured. A few hours later, the church building was burned to the ground.

Pastor A. Kalloe, a member of the Guiana branch of the National Council of Evangelicals in France (CNEF), had met with a delegation from France the day before the attack. During the meeting, the council members discussed the implementation of recent French legislation which has been considered by some as a violation of religious rights in that, among other things, the law restricts the wearing of religious symbols by government employees.

The motive behind the attacks, and whether there was a connection with the meeting held on the previous day, currently remains unknown. Pastor Kalloe had been actively involved in the community and with his church family. A local politician, Lénaïck Adam, referred to the pastor as "a man of faith." He further expressed his thoughts by saying, "I honor his memory and offer my sincere condolences to his family. I wish the injured

a speedy recovery. May the perpetrators be quickly found.”

Prayerfully remember the family and friends of Pastor Kalloe as they grieve the loss of this respected church leader. Also uphold the injured survivors of the attack as they recover both physically and emotionally from the trauma. May all the members of the destroyed church, who are not only left without a leader but also a place of worship, experience the sovereign guidance of the Holy Spirit as they seek to establish God’s plans for future ministry in their community – including His continued work through the church’s evangelistic outreaches.

#### REPORT UPDATES

PAKISTAN: Death Sentences Upheld for Alleged Blog Posts

Sources: CLAAS, The Hindu, ACLJ, USCIRF, Gatestone Institute

In 2014, two Pakistani brothers, Qaisar and Amoon Ayub, were arrested and accused of blasphemy for posting online material – allegations that go back to 2009. In 2018, both Christian men were found guilty and subsequently sentenced to death. Since that time, there have been appeals to their convictions and sentences.

According to reports, the initial complaint came after Qaisar had a quarrel with a Muslim colleague. The co-worker then filed a complaint stating that he found a blog containing blasphemous content against Islam, listing Qaisar as the author. Amoon was arrested alongside Qaisar because he shared the same office address and phone number as his brother and allegedly created the website. However, Amoon believes that the website was created by Qaisar’s Muslim colleagues to settle the score.

On June 8th, the Lahore High Court rejected the brothers’ appeals, upholding their death sentences. The case is now to be appealed to the Supreme Court. While numerous people throughout the country have been sentenced to death for blasphemy, Pakistani courts have never yet carried out the death sentence. In some cases, those facing blasphemy charges have spent many years in prison. A considerable number of them were falsely accused because of interpersonal conflicts or religious intolerance. For more information on the persecution facing Christians in Pakistan.

Pray for these Christian brothers who have been imprisoned for years

due to the allegations. Also uphold their families, including Qaisar's three children, as well as the lawyers who are presently preparing their appeal for the Supreme Court. May this case come before the court quickly, leading to the justification of Amoon's and Qaisar's innocence. Moreover, pray that Pakistan's lawmakers would address the rampant misuse of the country's blasphemy laws.

CHINA: Zhang Chunlei Granted Lawyer's Visitation

Source: ChinaAid

On the morning of March 16th, 2021, public security officers raided the Ren'ai Reformed Church in Guiyang, taking ten Christians into custody. The church's leader, Elder Zhang Chunlei, went to the police station to negotiate but was also detained himself. In the many months that followed, access to his lawyer was severely restricted.

In a recent social media post, Zhang's wife, Yang Aiqing, says her husband was finally allowed to meet with his lawyer on June 6th. According to the lawyer, Zhang has lost weight but appears to be in good health. He asks Christians not to worry about him but instead to pray about the situation. Zhang let it be known that while awaiting his release in God's timing, he is praying for other Christians.

More than four months have passed since Zhang's case was transferred to the Guiyang City Intermediate People's Court, but his lawyer has still not received any indictment papers. Consequently, it is still unknown when his trial will take place and what charges will be made.

Please remember Elder Zhang in your prayers. Praise God that he remains strong spiritually and in good health physically. Continue to pray for his family, as well as the members of the Ren'ai Reformed Church, asking the Lord to fill them with His hope, comfort and strength. Finally, pray that the courts will proceed efficiently and fairly, leading to Elder Zhang's ultimate release from custody.

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**Step 2:** Click on the "missionaries" label.

**Step 3:** Click on the national missionary to whom you would like to designate your support.

**Step 4:** Click on the "give to.." button on the national workers page.

**Step 5:** Fill out the form. All gifts given through the NAB are tax deductible.

**BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**PRESENTING A CHANGELESS CHRIST FOR A CHANGING WORLD**