



A Publication of Westphal Avenue Baptist  
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“Sin’s masterpiece of shame and hate became God’s masterpiece of mercy and forgiveness. Through the death of Christ upon the cross, sin itself was crucified for those who believe in Him.”

**Billy Graham**



## A Message from Pastor Toby

### *What do you think of the Resurrection?*

As winter gives way to spring, and Christmas becomes a fading memory, I’ve been reflecting on a recent trip to a local theater to watch the Dicken’s classic, A Christmas Carol. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance and even teared up a little when I heard old Scrooge vow, “I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.” Indeed, a truly admirable and worthy goal.

That got me thinking, when we look in the New Testament, the observance of Christ’s birth (Galatians 4:4) is not spoken of nearly as often as the Resurrection of Christ (Acts 4:2). If you want a Bible study, use your computer and compare the number of verses between the birth and the resurrection. The spotlight is definitely on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Typically during December, we greet one another with a, “Merry Christmas,” which I love to do, but during April, as we approach the observance of the resurrection, what common greeting will we use? Frankly, outside of chocolate bunnies, colored eggs, or Easter lilies how many Americans will have any expression at all of this life changing historical miracle?

Don’t misunderstand me, I love to celebrate Christmas and there are ample opportunities to share the hope of Jesus within that season, but the overwhelming message of the Apostles in the Bible was that “Jesus, which was dead,... [is] alive.” (Acts 25:19) Furthermore, the resurrection of Christ lays the foundation for the resurrection of the followers of Christ, to live forevermore.

So what holiday greeting will we use for such a monumental event, “Merry Resurrection?” Well, I’m drawing a blank, but perhaps the better approach would be to ask our friends, neighbors, family, or the cashier at the checkout counter, “So, what do you think of the resurrection?” Then, give them time to freely answer, and see what conversation may grow from that holiday greeting. (1 Peter 3:15)

### **A Prayer for Pastors**

Lord, I lift up my Pastor to You. Thank You for his servant’s heart. Keep him from losing heart when ministry gets tough. Help him prove faithful with the things you have entrusted to him. Teach him Your ways so that he knows You and finds favor with You as He leads us. Keep him open and honest before You and help him to represent the truth clearly. Amen

## All Aboard for Sugarcreek, Ohio

Friends of Israel will host a Prophecy Up Close Conference at Sugarcreek, Ohio on **Saturday April 13th, 2019**. This is a one-day event 9am-3pm for \$12.00. (lunch included) You will hear about bible prophecy and how it relates to Israel and our world today. Join us as we study God’s Word together and fellowship among friends. Everyone is invited to attend. Sign up today at Information Desk.

### **Upcoming Events!**

- Resurrection Sunday  
April 21st
- National Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 2nd
- Mother’s Day  
no evening service  
Sunday May 12th
- Graduates Sunday  
May 19th
- Memorial Day Picnic  
Pastor Toby Home  
Sunday May 26th

## What does it mean to be a Deacon? (1 Tim 3:8-14)

“An Interview with Scott Lincke”

**Nancy:** Scott, how many years have you been serving as deacon of the church?

**Scott:** I think 8-10 years. It has been so long ago, it is hard to remember.

**Nancy:** It sounds like you have made a career, as a deacon, lol. But, I would like to hear what sparked your interest in this.

**Scott:** Smiling, he said “It was my parents who first set the foundation, by teaching me to help others. I believe I learned to have a heart to want to serve at a young age, because I saw it in my parents.

**Nancy:** When were you Saved?

**Scott:** 1999

**Nancy:** Do you have a momentum you could share with the readers?

**Scott:** Well, I remember Pastor Toby would ask me to go with him to visit some sick folks in the hospital. It was one of those visits, he began to talk to me about the idea of being a deacon. He ask me to read *1 Timothy 3:8* and pray about it. This was a turning point in my life, because I already had a heart to helping others, and knew this had to be God’s calling on my life.

**1 Timothy 3:8** *Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;*

**Nancy:** What are the responsibilities of a Deacon?

**Scott:** It is to assist the Pastor; in other words to take some of the load off of him. Some of those things include: (1) Visitation; (2) Church Attendance;(3) Security to the building; (3) helping others; specifically older folks who are unable to drive or do things around their home; (4) and anything that may arise unexpectedly.

**Nancy:** Is there anything you would like to add, regarding your experience as a deacon?

**Scott:** Sometimes it can be discouraging, but I try to keep in mind I am doing this for the Lord. I truly appreciate my church family. When I see a smile, handshake, hug, or a little food (lol), this is encouragement to me in helping others. Also, I want to thank my Pastors for being good role models.

## Deacons Nominated for 2019

Congratulations to the following men who were nominated by the church to serve as Deacons for 2019.

- ◆ Jim Farrar
- ◆ Michael Haycock
- ◆ Azak Davranov
- ◆ Scott Lincke

### \*Do you know the baby?



*“I once received an award from a plaid sport coated Jimmy Crum for work I had done with a special needs student.”*

\*Answer will be in Westphal Weekly.

*Thus saith the LORD of hosts;  
Consider your ways.*

**Haggai 1:7**

## Is Westphal Avenue Baptist under attack? by Nancy Mitchell

STOP.....PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING. I have not been informed of a plan to attack Westphal Avenue Baptist. We know that these type of attacks do exist within our world, and we take the necessary precautions to avoid them, however, evil has existed in our world from the beginning. (Genesis 4:8-11)

The bigger question we need to ask ourselves; “**Is the Christian Church under attack?**” The word church comes from the Greek word *ecclesia* which means assembly of believers united in one faith or the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth. Next, the word “attack” in my metaphor is a *spiritual attack*. I believe the church has been under a spiritual attack from the enemy “Satan”. The church is experiencing empty seats like never before, our rights to freely share our faith in the workplace has been taken away, our brothers and sisters on foreign land are being arrested or tortured for preaching the gospel, the list of persecutions are numerous, including the ones that Satan attacks us with in our daily life. If the next generation is going to teach the gospel to others, then the believers today must “Stand on the Word of God”. When Goliath saw David, the shepherd boy, with only a staff and sling, he mocked and cursed him. But, David saw the battle from God’s perspective. “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord” (1 Samuel 17:45). David came in God’s name, for God’s fame, and God would win the battle.

Are you fighting your battles as Goliath did, with your own strength, or are you coming against them in the name of the Lord, like David? Friend, God wants you to consider your ways (Haggai 1:7) and fight your battles on bended knees.



# Ministry Updates



## Volunteers Needed for Adopt a Child by Chris Ogden

Thank you for your prayers for the Children's ministry. We are going to make a change for the kids that arrive on the bus. Currently, most of them sit together in the first two rows until dismissed for Junior Church. We want to start a program for adults to *adopt a child* while they are with us during worship service. Volunteers are needed to show love and guidance; as far as proper manners while praying, greeting time, when to be silent, and being excused for any reason. If interested in adopting a child, see me.

### Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

*"And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua...And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel." Judges 2:7, 10*

This is a very sad commentary. They simply forgot and/or neglected to hand down their faith to the next generation, and the whole nation suffered immensely for generations to come (verses 14-15). It's been said that Christianity is only one generation away from extinction! There is nothing that should be as important to us as believers, as the spiritual welfare of the next generation! Please remember our youth in prayer, they are the next generation.

**Submitted by Pastor James**

## Make a Difference!

Would you like to make a difference in the next generation? We are looking for individuals interested in teaching kids, rotating between Sunday School and Junior Church.

No experience needed, on the job training by our AWESOME GOD!



## Esther's Prayer Warriors By Nancy Mitchell

As we close the final chapters of Esther in our Saturday bible study, I meditate upon Esther's life and the difficult situations she faced. It was very clear that she was a prayer warrior, which believed in corporate prayer. As I thought upon this, tears came to my eyes as I realized that trusting God to answer my prayers takes GREAT FAITH! Esther was determine to SAVE her people, the Jews, no matter the cost. We do not see God's name in this book, yet we see Him working in some of the most peculiar ways. Really, Haman building gallows for his own execution! Without fasting and prayer, the ending to this story may have turned out different. If only we could trust God with all our needs, imagine the endless possibilities God could work in our lives.

Ladies, join us each 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:30am as we discover more people like Esther, and learn how to apply these principles to our life.



# Missions Projects

## MARCH

### **SANNA KENNY (Montenegro)**

I grew up in rural Ohio, moved to Chicago for University where I studied health science. While studying, I became involved in campus ministry of Cru. I was excited as I experienced the Lord working through me; changing lives, including mine, by the power and depth of His love, and the joy in the mission he has called us to.

Montenegro is located in southeastern Europe and is a small country that has natural mountainous borders. It is nicknamed- *Wild Beauty*. The past two years, I have experienced both the wild and the beautiful parts of this country. I have fallen in love with the country, and am passionate for the people to know Jesus. It is known as a Post-Christian culture, meaning less than 2% of the population have accepted Christ. It is my great joy to be able to initiate conversations, build relationships, and continuously reflect Christ as I continue learning about the local culture.

**Sanna Kenney**  
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## APRIL

### **ZACH & VERITY LEFEVRE (Romania & Bulgaria)**

Concerning the ministry here, we are glad to report that the Lord is doing great things. Our little family has had the honor of working with eight other American families, in the furtherance of the gospel, among the Turkish, Romanians..

Our work is mostly with the Turkish people in Romania and Bulgaria. They are the POOREST people in the area. They are a rough and tumble group of folks, who are outcasts in Romanian society. But they are receiving the gospel, and are being brought to salvation, and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We are thankful to be a part of the work God is doing here, and look forward to many more years in His service..

**Zachary LeFevre**  
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## MAY

### **CALVIN & MINDY HOUSIER (Philippines)**

#### *The Filipino Focus*

There are well over 100 million people in the Philippines. Although 98% of the population are Roman Catholic, Muslim, or enslaved in religious tradition, this nation remains one of the most open countries in Asia for the Gospel.

Considering the fact that over 60% of the world's population lies in Asia alone, we realize this strategic open door in the Philippines is for such a time as this. Did you know that over 20% of the Filipino population works overseas in places such as China, Japan, India, and Malaysia? Or have you considered the staggering two million Filipino workers in the Middle East alone? Think of the potential for the spread of the Gospel! What we see is an open door – not just to one country, but too many “closed” countries – for the Gospel's sake. This is **The Filipino Focus**. This will be our focus. This is an open door.

**Calvin Housier**  
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