

Renate Reiner

Summer 2023

I read the parable of the growing seed in Mark 4:26-29 today and thought how it relates to the man who scatters the seeds and watches them sprout and grow until it's time to harvest. He doesn't necessarily understand the process of growth, but he reaps the harvest at the right time. This picture of evangelism and its rewards reminds me of the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit brings us to salvation in Jesus Christ, but He continues to work in our lives by leading, sometimes prodding, to be Christlike.

My last update explained my dilemma with few ministry opportunities. It also listed several ministries in Brazil to which I could contribute. A few are on hold for the time being, however, I've been able to invest some time to the missionary biography.

When the Brazil field received a large donation from an anonymous source, we decided to distribute it to the production of Sunday School materials for Brazilian churches. You may remember I was working on a curriculum project from 2017 to 2020 when funds became depleted. I was glad to hear that one of the regions on our field decided to fund the portion of the project I had been working on. The added gift would allow the Press to produce materials for other age groups. I was excited about this and expressed my desire to return to the ministry of developing the Sunday School books and the Press was glad to have me back.

I am now working on revising the teachers' book for the two- and three-year-old curriculum. This will involve updating the lessons to be culturally relevant and will require new visuals. I'm also looking at some lessons that were written for young teens and plan to revise and format them into a quarterly. It's challenging but stimulating work and I am happy to be able to contribute to the biblical and theological education of young children and teens. There is plenty to do and should keep me busy for a long time to come. The Holy Spirit's leading in this is humbling.

In other news, I participated in a VBS in Pensacola, Florida this year. I taught the younger ages stories from the life of Peter. The children were engaged and responsive, remembering what we had learned from day to day.

My church in Winston Salem is organizing a missions trip to Alaska in August. I'll be joining that group for seven days of ministry near Fairbanks. I have always wanted to go with a group and experience the trip from a participant's perspective. I'll report on that in my next update.

Lastly, I'm hoping to visit some supporting churches in the fall. It's been far too long since I have given in person updates.

As always, I thank you for your prayers on my behalf. May the Lord bless you.

Full letters are available at the missionary table.

OUR COUNTRY AND WORLD AFFAIRS: Remember to pray for our country and our government leaders. Pray that people's hearts would be turned to God, and that His Word would be taught in our churches. Remember also those who are suffering for their faith.

MILITARY: Remember to pray for God's guidance and safety for our military personnel: **David Casement, Brendun Deer, Aaron Good, Adam Good, Zack Hanson, Joshua P. Harold, Stephen Harold, Jarrod Harris, Justin Ivan, Zachary Ivan, Scott McKinney, Lia Staats, Liam Thisse, and Alex Wallace.**

Year-to Date Budget \$418,666 / Year-to-date Giving \$421,105



EVANGEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Evangel @ Prayer

9/6/2023

September 6, 2023

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Irene Graef** (former Evangel pastor's wife) went to be with the Lord on Sunday. There will be a memorial service in Stanford, KY on September 23rd at 1:00pm, visitation will start at 11:00am. Please pray for the Graef family as they celebrate the life of this beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend.
- **Robert Bates** is slowly recovering from his hospitalization over the summer. He has heart issues and now has Stasis Dermatitis, a serious skin condition that can affect his heart. Please pray for healing and wisdom for his doctors.
- **Kurt Ulrich** (Ray Simmonds' brother-in-law) has a health issue in his abdomen. He is scheduled for a scan at the end of the month. Please pray that his doctors can determine what the problem is.
- **Beth Wenz** is scheduled for hernia repair surgery next Tuesday, September 12th. Pray that it will go well and that her recovery would be quick with minimal pain.
- **Donald Hurley** has been released from the hospital after a major seizure on Sunday, but he is still struggling. Continue to pray as the family is adjusting to a new place.
- **Lynn Shelton** has gone through a couple days of prep before a test earlier today. Please pray for continued strength and good results from the test.
- **Millie Nicholson** has 11 more weeks of treatments and procedures to go. Please pray that she will not have any side effects and that she will be able to continue to work.
- **Sue Lodico** has a tooth that has been causing her pain since last week. She was able to get some antibiotics and had a root canal scheduled yesterday. Pray for a good recovery.
- **Krista Bonesteel** is finishing up the second round of the latest chemotherapy treatment. She will have a PET scan next Tuesday, September 12th to determine if they can move forward with stem cell therapy the following week. Continue to pray for health, strength, and energy. Please also pray that she will finally be able to move on to stem cell therapy treatment.
- **Dee Aebersold** (Jean Lowrance's mother) saw her hematologist recently and her platelets were even lower than the previous visit. She successfully received another platelet infusion, and her blood pressure did not spike this time. She has other health concerns that will need to be addressed with her primary doctor.
- **Shawn and Emily Morehead** are expecting another little boy. At Emily's last scan, it showed that his kidneys remain enlarged and are still holding extra fluid. She will have another repeat scan soon to check the kidneys once more. Continue to pray for peace of mind for Emily and Shawn and that the baby will be healthy.
- **Larry VanWashenova** needs prayer that he would come back to church and connect with the body of Christ.
- **Barb & Henry Thimmes** need prayer for strength, encouragement, and wisdom as they make daily caregiving decisions.

- Pray for our Senior Saints: **Freida Baker, Mary Barnes, Bessie Bass**
- Pray for our Young Adults: **Hunter Adams, Nathan Bell, Bethany Bonesteel**

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Nursery Ministry – Joan Jubenville / Alison Diserens
Downriver Pregnancy Resource Center – Kim Casement

Rooted ABF – Joe Kiesznowski, Teacher
Abundant Life ABF – Gary McGuire, Teacher

Pastor Rogier – Senior Pastor; DPRC; Christian Education
Pastor Diserens – Care & Connections; OASIS

Chris Wallace – Deacon
Lee Widener – Deacon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Virtual Financial Peace meetings will be held on Monday nights at 6:00pm running September 18th to November 13th. Register on the Church Center app or online at <https://evangelbaptist.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1409627>. Please see Pastor Diserens for more information.

COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

Attention ALL LADIES! You are invited to Coffee & Connections starting September 21, 2023. We will meet every Thursday at the church from 5:30–7:30 pm. Our purpose is to build connections from the old to the young as sisters in Christ. To register or see more information, please visit the Church Center app or online at <https://evangelbaptist.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1889205>.

MISSIONARY REPORT

THIS Sunday, September 10th Nate & Maam Beckman will be giving a report of their ministry in Thailand. Their presentation will be during the ABF/SS hour at 9:30 am in the main auditorium.

MISSIONARY REPORT

On Sunday, September 17th Renate Reiner will be giving a report of her ministry to Brazil. Join us during the ABF/SS hour at 9:30 am in the main auditorium to hear what God is doing through her ministry.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

9/11 – Cara Sparks, Katie Lounsbrough

9/13 – Jon Erwin **9/14** – Dave Svacha

9/10 – George & Carol Wenz **9/11** – Jon & Kim Erwin

9/12 – Wayne & Sandy Adams

9/15 – Jason & Heather Hamilton, Shawn & Emily Morehead