



Eastwood Presbyterian Church Montgomery, Alabama

Volume 20 Issue 7 - September 2015

“Reading and Leading”

“If you're going to lead you must read!” an older pastor told me when I was young. I did not like to read. I found it boring. I had a hard time concentrating and was easily distracted. I had rather be outside or watching Hogan's Heroes. My wise mother recognizing these tendencies and determining to redirect me enrolled me in the Vestavia Hills Public Library Summer Youth Reading Program in my childhood. I had to read 30 books each summer. I hated going to the Vestavia Hills Library. I tried to find and read the shortest and most juvenile books that would pass muster with the program. So, despite my mother's best intentions, her plan in the short run was counter productive and only reinforced my dread of reading.

In high school a gradual transformation happened. My 10th grade year, I had to read Charles Dicken's A Tale of Two Cities. I found that despite my best attempts at evading this task, the book not only held my interest but it captivated me. Slowly I began to realize that books were not the problem, my attitude towards books, learning, and mental exercises were. Now I love reading. In fact, I had rather read than talk, exercise, or pursue some hobby. I guess reading is my hobby. Today, I have the modest goal of reading ten books a year (in addition to commentaries for sermon preparation). I have found that goal difficult to reach in some years. But it is an enriching practice.

I hope that in addition to daily Bible reading, you would make a goal to read a book or two or three or four a year. I know to some that is seemingly an impossible goal. With so many demands on your time and all the competitors to your free moments: Netflix, internet surfing, or watching Fox News who could possibly carve out quiet opportunities to read. But I challenge you to take five evenings in a row and don't turn

on the iPad or TV and attempt to get into a book.

What should I read? I would recommend the Christian classics. *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan or *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer are great places to start. Kevin DeYoung's *Hole in our Holiness* is an excellent modern explanation of living the Christian life in the 21st century. Rosaio Butterfield's *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* is an exceptional and encouraging story of a remarkable conversion. For the more ambitious, Martin Luther's *The Bondage of the Will* or the new translation of *Calvin's Institutes* by Robert White and published by the Banner of Truth. Devotionally it is hard to beat the abridgment of the Puritan classic, *The Christian in Complete Armour* also Published by the Banner of Truth. C. H. Spurgeon, the great 19th century preacher in London offers this endorsement: “Gurnall's work is peerless and priceless; every line is full of wisdom, every sentence is suggestive. The whole book has been preached over scores of times, and is, in our judgment, the thought-breeder in all our library.” For the budget minded with Kindle access, Amy Charmichael's *Things as they Are Mission Work in Southern India* is a free e-book that describes the challenges, disappointment, opposition, and victories on the mission field at the turn of the 20th century.

These days I find myself being more selective in my reading. My thinking goes something like this: If I live to 70 I have 25 more years. That sounds short and leaves me only 250 more books to read. If I live to 80 that is 350 more books. Recognizing the brevity of life (Psalm 90:12), may we all commit to enriching our walks with Jesus by pursuing our love for God with our minds. So much to read and so little time. . .

Bart



BART LESTER

Pastor
Rev. Bart Lester

Associate Pastor
Rev. Billy Joseph

Student Ministries
Rev. Billy Joseph

Church Administrator
Mr. Jerry Knotts

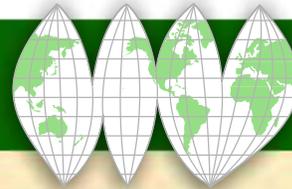
Music Director
Seongho Choi

Organist/Pianist
Mrs. Frances Baker/
Mrs. Carrie Carboni

Children's
Discipleship Team
Mrs. Sonja Hinton/
Lynn Grace

Church Secretary
Mrs. Lynn Grace

Missions 2015



Amazon Outreach Mission Trip

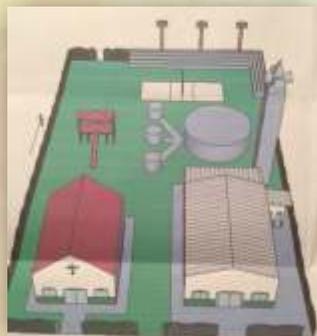
By Jay Hinton

Early in 2000, Erika Bezerra began working in a remote area of the Amazon as a Presbyterian Missionary. Little, if any, religious or medical influence was in the area known as Lake Carara. Soon after visiting the villages surrounding the lake, Erika began to make acquaintances. After months, those acquaintances became friends including an elderly lady (see below) and several others who regularly talked with Erika about the Bible.



As her contacts grew, so did her personal life. She married Vanderley Oliveria who agreed to continue the mission work in the Lake Carara area with Erika. Interest grew in the protestant faith and a small group of early church members started meeting. But, they needed a place to congregate

Through contributions of Eastwood and other churches connected with Amazon Outreach, enough money was raised so that a church could be built on property donated by the son of the earliest church members (pic. right). Vanderley came up with a master plan and construction began on the "mission house" where Erika and Vanderley were to live. The church grew with Eastwood's help.



Master Plan



Mission House

From the late 2000s, via Amazon Outreach, EPC sent several teams over the years to encourage and help the church grow. We stocked the church's library. We built them a playground. We donated rocking chairs and communion trays. We gave them their first baptismal font. Each trip brought medical, dental, children's ministry and discipleship help to the community surrounding the Presbyterian Church in Sol Nascente, the largest of five villages surrounding Lake Carara.

As the church body in the Amazon grew, the congregation voted to build a



The Library



Playground Equipment



Communion Trays



Baptismal Font

sanctuary for worship. Eastwood was again there to help. The latest trip in 2015 was tailored specifically to construction with a team of kids from California. It

included our participation in Sunday worship, baptism of new believers, donation of Bibles and hymnals to the existing and future members, and medical outreach to the entire community and surrounding villages in that part of the Amazon.

Construction began in the summer of 2015 with the simple digging of a footing for the new building. The 2015 mission team then hauled sand, gravel, water, rebar, and concrete to the site and



Amazon continued from page 2

mixed and poured concrete footings for the sanctuary. At week's end, Eastwood's donations of money and manpower had helped build the foundation for the new church sanctuary. Within weeks of our leaving, the congregation picked up where we left off and continued to build .

Eastwood has also donated money for two handmade pews to be the first in the sanctuary once completed. Additionally, money for Portuguese pew Bibles and songbooks were raised by our children at VBS here in Montgomery and used to purchase those items.

Eastwood's participation in church planting and sharing the gospel reaches well beyond Montgomery and the United States and extends to remote regions of Brazil. Please continue to pray for the growth of the Presbyterian Church of Sol Nascente and the completion of that church's sanctuary in God's good timing.



Fernando, Jay, Jander and Vanderley help build the foundation of the new sanctuary (2015).



Digging the footings for the Sanctuary.



Vanderley and Erika



Mixing the Concrete



Pouring the concrete footing.



The Cornerstone



The building of the sanctuary continues.



Thanks From the Session

Due to financial constraints, Nancy Evan's position as church accountant has been eliminated and the services have been outsourced. We would like to express our appreciation to Nancy for her 20 years of faithful service as our church accountant.

Thanks to Wright Draper (Youth Intern) for his good work this summer with our youth. We are continuing the search for our next Youth Pastor. In the interim, Billy Joseph will be overseeing our youth program.

We welcome Lynn Grace, who has accepted the position of part-time Eastwood Secretary. Her hours are 8-1 Monday through Thursday. Jerry Knotts will be answering the phone when she isn't there. You can also leave a voice mail. If you have an emergency, call Jerry.

Eastwood's 1986 Softball Team

A quiz for Eastwood "oldtimers": Can you name these men?



Men's Prayer Breakfast Well Attended



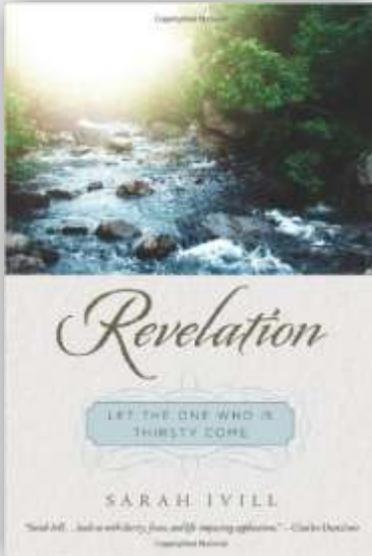


PILLARS

Women *in* the Church

Psalm 144:12

Ladies Fall Bible Study



The Ladies Bible study this fall and spring is studying the book *Revelation, Let the One Who is Thirsty Come* by Sarah Ivill, P&R Publishing. The book can be bought from Amazon and from Westminster Bookstore (wtsbooks.com). The study is 21 weeks and will break for holidays and conclude March 15. The study is rich and an excellent book to follow our two years study in the Old Testament with Nancy Guthrie. Of course, reading and homework is involved! Regardless of what you can do, we really treasure our time looking at the Word and our fellowship together - please join us!

The **morning study** will meet **Tuesdays, beginning September 15, from 10-12 at the church**. Please contact Lynn Grace by September 1, if you need the nursery. She can be reached by cell or email. Her contact information is 334-782-8800 and lgrace76@charter.net.

The **evening study** will also begin **September 15 from 6:30 - 8:30 at Susan Dunn's house at 8624 Sturbridge Drive**. Her number is 334-239-9295.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Trumbull at trumbulln1@gmail.com.

Needs For Friendship North

EPC has sponsored a room for women at Friendship North and they need our help. Bedbugs have necessitated new furnishings and items include a vinyl sofa, chairs, metal wire shelves and an indoor/outdoor rug.

Please contact Bonnie Catching if you can help with these needs. Donations would be gratefully accepted and checks can be made out to EPC and write in the memo line: "Friendship North/Eastwood Room" and can be placed in the offering plates or given to Bonnie. Her phone number is 324-4973.



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Births

New Members

- 2 Morgan Dunn
- 3 Vicki Cannon
- James Roden
- 4 Wilmer Glasgow
- 5 Meghan Davies
- 6 Nancy Trumbull
- 9 Luke Morrison
- 10 Allison Trumbull
- 15 Leigh Morrison
- 19 Barry Grace
- 22 Jackson Hinton III
- 23 Dawn Geiger
- Lori Hudgins
- 26 Ben Youngquist

Congratulations to Samuel and Jessica Sumner on the birth of their covenant daughter, Jane Lucy Sumner, on June 15, 2015. The proud grandparents are Lee and Suzanne Sumner.

Congratulations to Daniel and Lauren Souers on the birth of their covenant son, Jesse Parker Souers on August 12, 2015.

Baptisms

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Joy Godwin, covenant daughter of Andrew and Carrie Godwin, on May 31, 2015.

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Sawyer Black, covenant son of Danna Black, on August 23, 2015. The proud grandparents are Barbara and Robert Harrington.

The Sacrament of baptism was administered to Felix Rook Pritzel on August 30, 2015.

Deaths

Love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Libby Perry and family upon the death of her mother, Mrs. Mary Lou Harper, on Saturday July 25, 2015, in Mobile, AL.

Love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to John Geiger and family upon the death of his father, Dr. Robert Geiger, M.D. on August 13, 2015, in Visalia, CA

Please Welcome



Seongho and Ariana, Choi, with daughters Easter, Yeriel, and son, Jedediah. Seongho has recently become Eastwood's Minister of Music.



Michael and Teresa Williams and son, Sam



Danna Black and son Sawyer



Joel and Lee Bius, Jake, Brooks and Mary Jewel



Chuck and Julia McNeil, children Madilyn, Charlotte, Katherine, and Cole



Thanks to generous hearts in our congregation, new shelving was purchased and taken to the Eastwood room at Friendship North. The women are so appreciative for our help and participation in their lives. Many thanks!

DEACON of the WEEK

- Aug 31-Sep 6.....Bill Goehring
- Sep 7-13.....Robert Harrington
- Sep 14 - 20..... Bo Hodges
- Sep 21-27.....Rick Joki
- Sep 28-Oct 4.....Adam Lawton



Eastwood Presbyterian Church

1701 East Trinity Blvd.
Montgomery, Alabama 36106

Schedule of Events

- Sunday** 8:30 a.m. ESL Class for Spanish Speaking Students
 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:55 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. Missions Prayer Time
 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship (Fellowship Hall)
- Wednesday** 4:30 p.m. Choir Vocal Touch-up
 5:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice
 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study/Tim Cantey (Missions Room)
 11:30 a.m. Fasting and Prayer in Sanctuary

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE MINISTRIES CALL:

Church Office - 272-3103 Children's Discipleship Team: Sonja Hinton,
Women's Ministries (Angie Stallings)..... - 239-9295 and Lynn Grace.....-272-3103
Student Ministries: Interim, Billy Joseph.....

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study in Missions Room-Tim Cantey, teacher 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study in Session Room-Billy Joseph teacher	3	4	5
6 ESL Meets Young Marrieds Pot-Luck Lunch in FH	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8	9 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study in Missions Room-Tim Cantey, teacher 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study in Session Room-Billy Joseph, teacher	10	11	12
13 ESL Meets Communion Congregational lunch following worship - FH	14 Diaconate Meets 5:30 p.m.	15 Pillars Bible Studies !0:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.	16 6:45 AM and 7AM Men's Bible Studies. Joint Diaconate & Session Meets 5:30 P.M. Pillars Prayer	17	18	19
20 ESL Meets	21	22 Pillars Bible Studies !0:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.	23 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study in Missions Room-Tim Cantey, teacher 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study in Session Room-Billy Joseph, teacher	24	25	26
27 ESL Meets	28	29 Pillars Bible Studies !0:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.	30 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study in Missions Room-Tim Cantey, teacher 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study in Session Room-Billy Joseph, teacher			