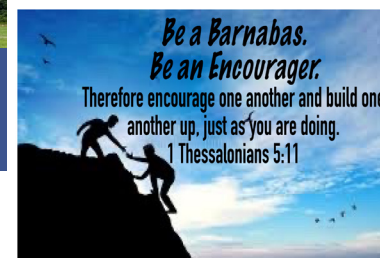




Issue #178
November 15, 2023
252-235-3868



From Pastor Hal

It's always such a special weekend when we honor our veterans and the members of the church who graduated to Heaven this year. We still have some special gifts at the church for any veteran who wasn't able to make the service this past weekend. Please see Ms. Glenda or me for your gift. Our church family loves you and would like to honor you with something special.

**Happy belated Birthday to the United States Marine Corps. To augment the U.S. naval forces in the Revolutionary War, the United States Marine Corps was established on November 10, 1775.



Important note: I didn't realize Mrs. Sue Bass was a faithful attendee of White Oak FWB Church. She went to Heaven about the same time as my mother and a few things slipped passed me. Please forgive me Bass family for her exclusion during the Homecoming service. Thank you for your understanding. We really do love your family!!



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child campaign this year. Brother Jonathan led us in prayer as we asked the Lord to place our gifts in children's hands around the world. Through the church's collective efforts, we were able to give 167 shoeboxes full of love to needy children around the world. That also means 167 children will receive the gospel message this Christmas. To those who gave this year, thank you for your generosity.

Homecoming

We have an update on our Homecoming offering. It appears some folks left their gifts at home for the Homecoming offering and brought them this past Sunday. After receiving these donations to B.C.C., the total amount has reached \$18,703.75. Once again, our church family has proven we care about local missions. Thank you, everyone! Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."



We would like to welcome Mrs. Kim Mobley to the White Oak Hill Church family. She joined the church this past Sunday. Welcome, Mrs. Kim!!



Why can't we enjoy a Thanksgiving fellowship time for our church family?! Isn't that what people do at Thanksgiving? Gather with family! We have an abundance of Hotdogs in the freezer. I believe with a little potato salad and some sweet tea we can gather Tuesday evening for a great time in the Family Life Center. Let's meet for dinner at 6:00 p.m. Following dinner, we will have praise and testimony time in the gym. Doesn't that sound like fun? You will not need to bring anything except a smile and a thankful heart. And in case you are wondering, the hotdogs in the gym are Bright Leaf.

**Since next week is Thanksgiving, there will not be a newsletter. Sorry, I am going to be in Wilmington Wednesday-Saturday.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "1 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."



This past Wednesday during the business meeting our church family voted to purchase a new Clavinova. Following the advice of our piano repairman, Ken Renfrow, and the leadership team; the church body decided to purchase a Clavinova from Ruggero Piano. The motion was passed with 55 yes votes and 2 no votes. There was a sweet spirit in the meeting, and I appreciate everyone who stayed to engage in God's work.



The church will be hosting a Christmas decoration party at the church November 26th. It requires a lot of hands to make the church beautiful for the season we celebrate our Savior's birth. The fun will start at 5:30 p.m. Pizza, hot chocolate, coffee, and other beverages will be available for everyone who can make the fun.



Let's look ahead past Thanksgiving. We have several important events in the first week of December.



- The Sonshine Club will meet on December 2nd. At 5:00 p.m. Rumor has it the pastor has a special Christmas surprise for the last meeting in 2023. You don't want to miss it.



- The church will have a business meeting following the Sunday morning service on December 3rd. The church needs to vote on next year's budgets, church officers, and teachers. I will be sharing next year's theme with the church. Here's a hint: It's found in Hebrews 12:2.



- The Youth Christmas party is scheduled for December 6th at 7:00 p.m.



- Brother Randy has ordered poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. Please sign the sheet in the foyer if you would like to purchase some of these plants in memory or in honor of someone special.



- The Sonshine Club will take its annual trip to the Meadows Restaurant and Meadow Lights on December 7th. The shuttle will leave at 3:30 p.m.



- The Christmas Cantata "Breath of Heaven" will be presented by the choir on December 7th. The service time will be 10:30 a.m.



We will have the December church calendar out on the vestibule table this weekend. There are a lot of activities planned in the church. We wouldn't want you to miss anything.



In closing let me share two thoughts. Please don't forget our commitment to encourage the local educators around the church. I have noticed the giving to H.O.P.E. has decreased quite a bit. They need our prayers and they need our encouragement. Please..please..please help these teachers in the public schools know we care about them. As the school year progresses, the need for our encouragement increases. Thank-You!



If you happen to see a 6'8" young man in the church Wednesday evening (Bro. Jonathan), please wish him a Happy Birthday.

Listed below are the prayer needs in our church:



- Judith Grant- Please pray for Ms. Judith! Please pray specifically for her lungs to function normally.
- Patricia Register - Please continue to pray for our dear sister. She still needs the healing hand of God to perform a miracle.
- Tim Riggs - Please pray for our former pastor. His kidneys are not working, and he needs a kidney transplant.
- Carl O'Neal Family - Please don't forget his memorial service will be this weekend!
- Melisa Belcher - Melissa is home getting physical therapy as she recovers from Bacterial Meningitis. Let's continue to pray for the Lord's healing hand in work in her life.
- Loretta Lamm - She is Sue Lamm's daughter. They found a few suspicious lumps in her intestinal tract and are doing a biopsy.
- Bailey Christian Childcare - Please pray we can get the inspector's approval to open the doors next year.
- Teresa Medlin - Ms. Teresa is better, but still not 100%. Thank you for your prayers.
- Thomas Wal l- Thomas is feeling much better. What a blessing to see him return to church.
- Earlene Pitts - Many of you know she has been struggling with Parkinson's disease for years. She is having a very difficult time. Please pray for Brother Gene and Ms. Earlene as they navigate this season of life.
- Joyce Batchelor - Ms. Joyce is in Wilson Medical Rehab. She is doing much better. She is scheduled to go home from Wilson Rehab. this Friday. She isn't completely well, but this is wonderful news for our dear sister.
- Gail Pridgen - Ms. Gail has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for her and the doctors as they seek treatment and healing.
- Faye Bottom - This is Dottie Massey's cousin. Dottie asked us to pray for her.
- Harold Brantley - Brother Harold is at home band doing better. Please continue to pray for him and Ms. Nancy.
- Peggy Bunn-She is doing much better. We thank God for the improvement. It's great to see her smiling face at church again. She is such an encourager.
- Israel - Let's pray for peace!
- Lisa Snow—Ms. Lisa's health is slowly improving. But she desperately needs the hand of God to mightily move. Please pray church family.
- Mickey Bissette - Our dear brother had hernia surgery this past week. Let's pray for healing and patience. He is a hard worker, and it is difficult for him to rest. Farmers are hard workers!
- Jimmy Worrell- This is Bobby Worrell's brother. He was at Rex Hospital and is currently in the Brian Center after experiencing several mini-strokes.

Love in Christ,

Rev. *Paul W. Jones III*
Pastor Hal

Galatians 2:20

IM NewsBeat

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023

THANKFULNESS

As we enter into the end of the year, with both thanksgiving in our hearts and celebrating the arrival of Jesus our Savior, we want to take time to reflect on 2023 and all that we have to be thankful for this year.

Here are a few expressions of thanks from IM missionaries and field workers to YOU:

"Because of your heart for the hurting, we have seen friends go from new refugees to business owners, from hungry to fed, from aimless to having purpose, from friendless to a part of our family." —Josh & Bethany, Spain

"Because of your heart for missions, people will have the chance to hear the Gospel for the very first time as we launch New Life Church in Hokkaido, Japan!" —Doug and Miriam Bishop, Japan

"Because of your heart for missions, we get to build relationships with unbelievers through outreaches like our English Conversation Time!" —Sam and Lauren Riggs, Spain

"Because of your heart for missions, young men and women in France are being exposed to the Gospel through basketball." —Tyler Justice, France

"Because of your heart for missions, hundreds of children and parents in Muslim villages have heard about the Son of God." —Josh Provow, Bulgaria

In addition to the many amazing stories of changed lives, the Gospel going to the Ends of the Earth, and so much more, we want to share creative ways you can have a thankful heart this holiday season. Here are five "thankful hearts" ideas for the month of November that can be done individually, as a family, in your small groups, or at work. We hope these activities inspire thankfulness in your heart this month.

1) November 2 – Thankful Hearts with a Thankfulness Pumpkin

Begin the month of November with a thankful heart by creating a thankfulness pumpkin. Write all of the things you're thankful for on the pumpkin. Set the pumpkin somewhere you will see it each day to be reminded of how much you have to be thankful for.

2) November 9 – Thankful Hearts Personal Message

On November 9, take a moment to send a

Thankful hearts

for your partnership in
taking the Gospel
to the Ends of the Earth

personal message to a special person in your life expressing how thankful you are for them. This may be a catalyst for reaching out more often to close friends and family to express your gratitude for who they are and for all they do.

3) November 16 – Thankful Hearts Social Media Giveaway for IM Heart Mug

On November 16, IM will post on social media (Facebook and Instagram) pictures of the IM heart mugs from missionaries. You will be invited to tag a friend in the comment section of this post to let them know you're thankful for them. When you do so, you will be entered into a giveaway. We hope this post will have a domino effect of "thankful hearts" spreading thankfulness to many through the tagging.

4) November 23 – Thankful Hearts Social Media Challenge

On November 23, we invite YOU to post a photo on social media of one thing you are thankful for. We want to flood social media with thankful hearts. Tag us (@imincorg) to join the challenge!

5) November 30 – Thankful Hearts Pray

On November 30, take a moment of your day to pause and pray. This may be in the car going to work or school drop-offs, in the morning drinking your coffee, or before bed. With thankful hearts, we can partner in prayer with those who have sacrificed everything to move overseas and dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

Scan the QR code at right to visit the IM website and find more details and instructions on the activities!

Most of all, we want to express our thanks to YOU for partnering with us in taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth!



Lauren Biggs has served as media and content coordinator for IM, Inc. since February 2020.

FAMILY HAPPENINGS:

Hannah Goucher
(IM missionary to Japan) was recently commissioned by her home church in Olive Branch, MS. She arrived to the field in Japan on October 31.



Scarlet Bishop was elected student body vice-president for her Japanese elementary school.



Emily Petty will marry Osam Sakamoto on December 15, 2023. Please pray for God to bless their marriage and continued ministry in Tokyo, Japan. Pray also for Osam who will go before the IM board in December.

Our IM missionaries in Bulgaria had a wonderful national conference in Tryavna with more than 130 people attending, 7 baptisms, and great preaching. They shared, "Thank you for praying and supporting the work in Bulgaria! God is working!"



Emily Edgmon will marry Nic Cruz on December 11, 2023. Please pray for God's many blessings over their marriage. Emily will graduate from Welch College in May 2024.

The Hubbards in Japan want to express their heartfelt gratitude to you for your unwavering support of Hope Alive Church. "We saw an average of four new visitors for the first nine months of 2023. Many of the people who came stepped into a church for the first time ever! We are seeing that growth come about in part because of your support of IM and specifically Hope Alive missionaries. You are impacting Japan with the Gospel in great ways. Thank you for your partnership."

Twenty pastors from across the West African country of **Togo** gathered on October 23 for a training seminar led by IM missionaries (**Dennis Teague, Kenneth Engleton, and Matt Price**) and Ivorian leaders from our Free Will Baptist work in the Ivory Coast. Continue to pray for these pastors!



Church Attendance

November 8th

Wednesday Night 80

November 12th

Sunday School 86

Sunday Worship 150

MEET YOUR MISSIONARIES

Sam and Lauren Riggs (Spain) have been married since 2017, after meeting at Welch College. Their introduction to missions played an important role in their decision to pursue a career in missions.







Sam grew up as a missionary kid in northern Spain, and Lauren participated in both ETEAM and CMP. They recently completed their two-year internship in Spain where they taught English, led prayer groups, preached, and filled in wherever they were needed. Their favorite part of this internship was building relationships with non-believers during English conversation time and also seeing God work in the lives of new believers. This past year the church in Alpedrete has seen four baptisms of new believers! Praise God that He is moving and working in Spain.

Please pray for Sam and Lauren and their two children, Emilia and Theo, as they raise funds in the States. They would love to visit your church or sit down and have coffee with you and share how God has worked in their lives these past two years and where they feel God is leading them in the future ministry at Villanueva Church in Spain.



PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the IM board meeting taking place on December 5-6. Pray for the candidates who will go before the board seeking to be appointed. Pray for wisdom and for God's will in each of the decisions and topics that will be discussed.





[@imincorg](https://www.iminc.org)



Visit www.iminc.org for the most up-to-date news.

Your partnership in the Gospel yields dividends around the world in lives changed and churches planted. If you would like to discuss ways to see that impact continue long-term, call 1-877-767-7736 for information on Planned Gifts or Estate Planning.

GIVE FROM THE HEART

Give from the heart to take the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth! Receive an "I heart IM" mug by giving a special end-of-year individual gift of at least \$200 directly to the **World Missions Offering** from **December 1-12, 2023**. Complete the FULL IM mug series set (including mugs featuring seven other countries) by giving a monthly individual donation of at least \$150 to the World Missions Offering. Each month we will mail you a

different IM Mug. You can mail a check, give online at iminc.org/, or set up a recurring payment with an ACH draft form accessible from our website. We are currently at \$513,896 for our \$1 million goal for this year's WMO. Thank you for partnering with us this year in giving!



THE EAGLETONS HAVE LANDED

Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton were commissioned in 1985 and have returned to American soil for their new "home base". Kenneth will continue serving with IM as the Director of Field Partnerships. Curt Holland reflects on their ministry through the years, "Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton, after serving faithfully in a medical ministry in Ivory Coast, have brought their family legacy in Brazil full circle. Their ministry with FWB churches, training seminaries, and pastors for the past 15+ years in Brazil continued the rich heritage

and labors of IM missionaries. Over the past 65+ years, when you say 'Brazil', the name Eagleton has many times followed. Kenneth and Rejane recently said their goodbyes to Brazil as missionaries, but our FWB ministries in Brazil can continue onward."



FOULKS TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE

IM Missionary intern Bryson Foulks recently married his long-time girlfriend, Marla. He will be taking a leave of absence from his ministry in France with IM. This break will provide valuable time for their marriage to flourish and enable them to carefully evaluate their next steps. We want to congratulate Bryson and Marla on their marriage, and we hope they will return to work with our IM family in the future.



CASHES SUBMIT RESIGNATION

Ken and Jayne Cash, IM missionaries to Bulgaria, have submitted their resignation. After being appointed career missionaries in May 2020, they left their ministry in the States in obedience to God's call and moved to Bulgaria. They served faithfully alongside the Bulgarian team, completing each task given to them. They now feel God is leading them back to the States for their next chapter. Ken and Jayne, once again, are being obedient to God's direction for their lives.



GIVING TUESDAY AND THE WMO

Join us on Giving Tuesday (November 28) for a special Livestream event on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/imincorg>). Giving Tuesday is a nationally recognized day (always the Tuesday after Thanksgiving) focused on generosity. On this special day, you are invited to give generously to the World Missions Offering. We will release more details on our social media about the Livestream event and how to give. Make sure you follow us so you're one of the first to know!



STATESIDE MISSIONARIES

Many Stateside missionaries are scheduling services at churches across the country to raise awareness and financial support for their ministries. If you'd like to host a missionary at your church so they can share how God is using Free Will Baptists across the globe to fulfill His Great Commission, scan the QR code to visit the IM website and view the full list of Stateside missionaries and their contact information.

