

MAY

2024

# MISSION FOCUS

*Lauren Broyles*

Dear Park Forest Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for praying with me as I seek the Lord and minister in Kenya through clean drinking water! I ask that you continue to pray for my ministry, as I am traveling to Kenya May 6th through the 13th. While I am in Kenya, I will be working with a Maasai-led ministry, Africa Hope, to help them minister to their communities with clean drinking water as they support the advancement of the Gospel.

Prior to pursuing my Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at Penn State, I worked with Africa Hope as a missionary full time and have stayed on part-time. While Africa Hope plants new churches and trains pastors, they also meet physical needs. In a highly relational culture, this demonstrates their commitment to the communities and opens doors for on-going ministry. With my training in water resources and civil engineering, I provide technical assistance related to Africa Hope's household water programming. While I am in Kenya, I often do a lot of follow-up and planning work for past and on-going household water treatment and clean water and sanitation education programs.

One thing Africa Hope is very interested in is evaluating how they meet food and water needs among the Maasai communities. During this trip, I will be planning this evaluative work with Africa Hope, which Lord-willing will also be translated into published research. As I partner with Africa Hope to better understand the food and water-related needs of the Maasai community, God is opening opportunities for me to combine this mission with my research partners at Penn State.

While I am on this trip to Kenya, would you please pray for me? In the table below, I have specific things that you can pray for me day-by-day.

Day	Please Pray For...
May 6	Traveling mercies to Kenya! (I get a bit anxious on long flights)
May 7	God to empower Africa Hope staff to minister the Gospel to unreached Maasai
May 8	God to help me understand how to faithfully steward all He has given me
May 9	Opportunities to share the Gospel during the trip
May 10	God to provide clarity to Jonathan and I regarding how He is leading us
May 11	Really productive planning meetings with Africa Hope staff
May 12	Vision and clarity for the future of the clean drinking water ministry
May 13	Traveling mercies. We are coming home!

Overall, my biggest prayer request is that God would help me understand how I can be a faithful wife, mom, daughter, sister, and friend AND faithful with the talents He has blessed me with. In this case, those talents are how to steward my Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and my opportunity to minister through clean drinking water in Kenya. One of my favorite Bible passages is the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). Another big prayer request is for the Lord to show our little family (Jonathan, me, and Noah) how He is calling us and what good works He has for us to walk in together. When I started working with this ministry, I was single. Since then, God has added and changed some things. We trust, however, that God is faithful to those who draw near to Him and will provide us clarity.



"Jonathan, Noah, and I loved celebrating Easter with our PFBC family!"



"Small group family (almost everyone pictured here)"



"When I go to Kenya, I provide support for Africa Hope's ministry to the Maasai through clean drinking water."

# PASTOR'S NOTES

*Pastor Jeremy*

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR WORLD TODAY AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE CHRISTIAN?

In the news this past week we have all watched the scenes unfold as antisemitic protests and encampments are popping up all over prominent universities. Hatred toward Jewish people is openly raging in America at level that we have not seen before. Along with these protests, has come various forms of violence and lawlessness, and universities and authorities seem to lack the ability to handle the situation or provide the moral clarity to properly address what is happening. If you were to take a few steps back and observe what has been occurring across society for the last few years, we would notice that a general sense of lawlessness is on the rise. Crime is up dramatically in our major cities, we have an open border and millions of people are pouring into our country, many who do not like the United States and have ill intent. The narratives of oppressor and oppressed continue to be the driving theme that is being taught to our young people and is the source of much of the division in our society. We are being forced to embrace gender ideologies and our culture continues to go farther and farther down the road into all kinds of forms of celebrating sexual immorality. ***What does all of this mean for the Christian today and how does Scripture inform us as to how we should understand what is going on and what we are to do?***

God tells us this in Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." What does that mean? God is saying that in this world evil is real and the spiritual forces of evil are always at work. What we observe, is more than mere human behavior, but behind all of the dark things going on in the world today, there is absolutely evil behind it.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power." 2 Thessalonians 2:7a says, "For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work." Those Scriptures define the times we live in. So what does this mean for the Christian? Is there a way that God instructs us to live in light of what is going on? Here are four quick things every person who loves Jesus and is following him needs to do according to the Bible.

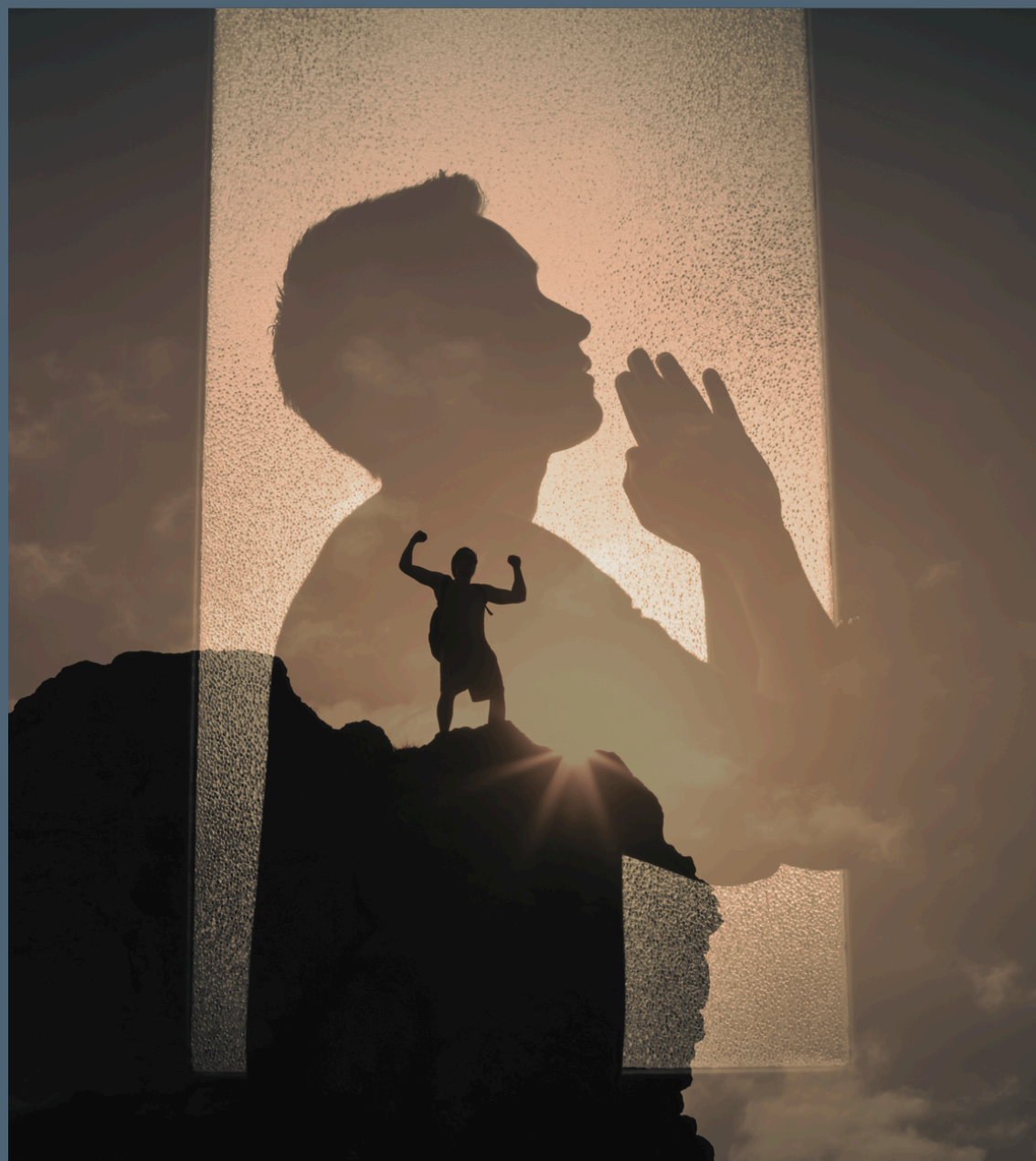
1. **Stand Firm.** 2 Thessalonians 2:15, "So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm..." Stand firm means to 'hold your ground, maintain a position'. God is telling us to stay strong in our faith in him. To be unmovable. The tendency to retreat when an enemy is advancing is always a tempting option in a war. In this spiritual war, God is telling his people to stand firm. Stay strong and do not cower. We need to know whom we have believed in and though a battle may be won here and there by the enemy, the war has already been won at the cross and all who are in Christ are on the right side of truth and eternity. We have no reason to fear, but rather to take up our mission of rescue to share the gospel of freedom that sets men free from the kingdom of darkness and brings us into God's glorious kingdom of light.
2. **Hold Fast to God's Word.** 2 Thessalonians 2:15, "So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter". 2 Timothy 3:13-15 says, "13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." Paul tells Timothy that in the last days there will be terrible times and his conclusion to Timothy (and all of us) to stay deeply connected to God's Word. How are you deepening your time in the Bible in your life? God's Word is the firm foundation for your life. The Christian needs to continue in what he has learned and become convinced of.
3. **Regular Worship with God's people on Sundays.** Hebrews 10:25 says, "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. "As we see the day getting closer and closer for Christ's return, we are to make sure that we do not forsake coming together once a week as the church to worship

the Lord Jesus together. God says this is how we encourage one another. And it is critical all the more as we see the return of Christ getting closer. Therefore, we all need to ask ourselves, "How am I committed to making Sunday worship with the body of Christ a priority in my life?"

4. **Prayer.** Ephesians 6:18 says, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Paul said this after he wrote about our struggle not being against flesh and blood and that the Christian needs to put on the full armor of God so that you can stand firm. Prayer keeps you close to the Lord. Prayer brings his strength into your life. Prayer can bring spiritual change to what is going on around us. Prayer is effective. How are you committed to seeking the Lord in prayer? As evil and lawlessness continues to ramp up, will your prayer life ramp up so that you can be strong in the Lord and stand firm in your life against the devils' schemes? Think about what is at stake if you don't. Think about what is gained if you do.

Let me leave you with this. As you go about the rest of today, tomorrow and the days after that, be encouraged by the truths of these Scriptures. Romans 8:31, "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?". Romans 12:21, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Revelation 17:14, "They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is the Lord of lords and the King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen, and faithful followers." Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In His Grace,  
*Pastor Jeremy*



# PFBC KIDS

*Babette Manning*

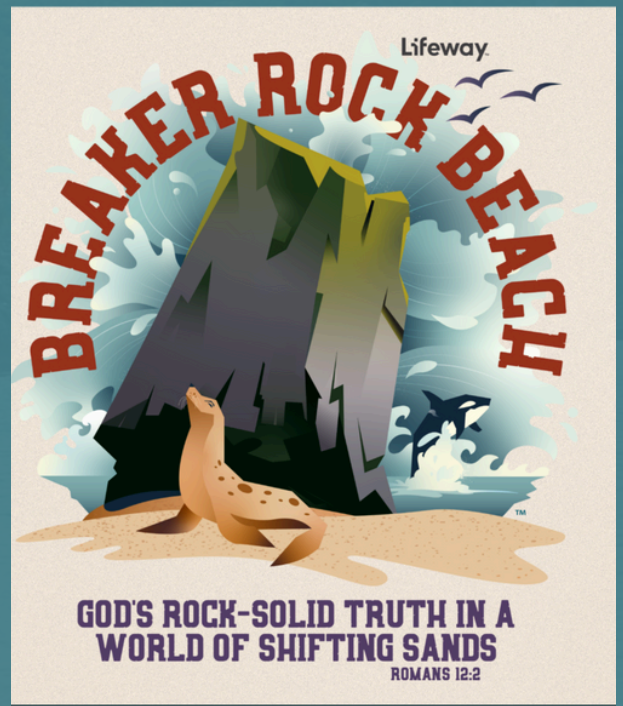
It is hard to believe that it is May already, but we are preparing for spring and summer in Children's Ministry. Rose Atkinson replaced the canopy on the play set at the playground, it look great! Thank you Rose.



Vacation Bible School is 3 months away and we are looking forward to inviting many students this summer and sharing God's Word with them. VBS will be held Monday, July 29th through Friday, Aug. 2nd from 9:00 am – noon each day. If you would like to get involved, please see Babette.

## VBS Workdays:

- Thursday, May 2nd (9:00 - 11:00 AM)
- Thursday, May 23rd (1:00 - 3:00 PM)
- Thursday, June 13th (1:00 - 3:00 PM)



## Craft for May:

Make a bouquet of flowers for Mom for Mother's Day  
Make an umbrella for "April Showers"

## Directions:

Take a large cupcake paper and cut slits (that will look like flower petals) on the sides, glue a smaller cupcake paper to the center of the larger cupcake paper. Glue the cupcake paper flower to the popsicle stick. You can write a message for mom on the stick or in the center of your flowers.

## Supplies:

Cupcake papers in different designs and sizes, glue, popsicle sticks.



## May Bible Reading:

Psalm 1 & 2  
Psalm 3 & 4  
Psalm 5 & 6  
Psalm 7 & 8

## Questions to answer after reading:

How does this passage teach me about God?  
How does this passage apply to my life?  
What questions do I have from this passage?



# Jenna's

## Jokes



- 1.) Why aren't there a lot of jokes about peaches?
- 2.) What did the limestone say to the geologist?
- 3.) How are false teeth like stars?

Answers: 1) Because most of them are pit-ful!  
2) Don't take me for granite!  
3) They come out at night!

# YAM

## Young Adult Ministry



Happy May!!!

April showers have surely brought way to May flowers. May always brings anticipation and excitement, at least in my mind, of the summer weather on its way. And of course, for those in school, excitement over graduations, the anticipation of what lies ahead for the future, etc. Praise the Lord for seasons of weather and seasons of life!

To the college students - enjoy your summer break! Whether it looks like lots of rest, work, travel, internships, or anything in between, allow it to be a continued opportunity for growth, particularly in a relationship with Jesus.

There are several other young adults who will be parting ways with PFBC here soon - if you see Lauren & Jonathan Broyles or Nate Dealy, be sure to wish them well as they prepare to move onto their next seasons of life!

Speaking of seasons of life, we're celebrating the little life Jessica & Josh Cetnar will be welcoming into their family soon! There will be a **Diapers, Wipes, & Clothes Baby Sprinkle on Saturday, May 18th, 11AM at Hannah Frantz's home.** Please RSVP to Hannah or Sam Strite by May 12th.

Looking ahead, save the date for our annual **YAM Picnic on Saturday, June 8th at 4pm at Josh & Jessica Cetnar's home!** This will be a great evening to kick off the summer, meet new people, and grow relationships with each other!

- Hamburgers, hot dogs, & s'mores provided
- Bring a side or dessert,
- Be thinking and praying about someone you could invite to come with you!
- We'll also have a fire, yard games, etc.

**Interested in connecting with YAM Fellowship?**

Contact [joshcetnar@gmail.com](mailto:joshcetnar@gmail.com)



# MEN'S MINISTRY

**Men's Breakfast:  
Saturday, May 4th at 8 AM.**

Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, juice, coffee,  
and a devotional - *Patterns of Evidence: The Moses Controversy*  
Contact John Askey.



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## *BABY SPRINKLE FOR JESSICA CETNAR!*

Jessica is expecting a baby boy this June! We are celebrating this little one arriving soon with a Baby Sprinkle on Saturday, May 18 at 11 A.M. This will be held at Hannah Frantz's home (229 Harvard Road, Port Matilda).



Bring diapers, wipes or clothes as gifts for the new baby. RSVP to Hannah or Sam Strite by May 12th

## *MOM'S LIFEGROUP*

Moms – as school wraps up and summer comes upon us, we will be meeting at parks monthly so our kids can play together and we can do life together.

June 11 – Spring Creek Park (State College) - 12:30 – 3ish - bring a lunch or snacks, swimsuits, etc. There is a little creek, kids can play in, along with basketball courts and bike paths and playground, plus sand pits.

July and August dates TBD – watch for date in June newsletter



## *LADIES RETREAT FINAL WRAP UP*

Here are some highlights from the women who attended our Spring Retreat. We had 26 attend, and it was a wonderful weekend.

- \*Walking around the camp premises.
- \*Small group time.
- \*Got to know new people, with a good range of ages.
- \*Connecting.
- \*Having fun.
- \*Spending time in God's Word.



Thank you again Retreat Committee – Meg, Lauren, Linda, Ellen, Priscilla and Stephenie!

Please save the date for our 2025 Spring Retreat at Camp Hebron...APRIL 4-6, 2025!

# RIOT REPORT

*Pastor Jon*

Do you know how to share your faith? Can you give a solid defense for the hope that you have in Jesus? This isn't something that we are naturally born with, and so we have to take time to learn it. During the month of April, we have been going through a series called "Truth Be Told." We have been focusing on the differences between what faith says compared to what the world says. We've been following that up with how that can help us give a solid explanation for our faith. We have looked at the difference between following our own heart vs. following God; the multitude of ways to get to a good afterlife vs. Jesus is the only way to heaven; judging whoever you want vs. letting God judge; and truth is whatever we want it to be vs. there is only one source of truth.

We are hoping to put these lessons to good use during the month of May as we go through a series called "Say Something" that focuses on outreach. You can check out a challenge we are going to give our teens on my office door starting May 1st. Our focus for May is going to be outreach and evangelism. As our teens go into their schools, they have an opportunity that adults do not. They have a direct line to their friends and classmates to share the gospel message. As we focus on outreach and evangelism, we are going to challenge them to speak up and *Say Something* to their friends, classmates, peers, teammates, and co-workers, sharing the good news and inviting them to our events and activities.

Please pray for us as we help our students, and please pray for our students as they step up to the challenge.