

THE SALTSHAKER

FEBRUARY 2024 | VOLUME 276

THANK YOU!

The AVPC staff would like to give a huge thank you to Steve Klose! After many years of dedicated service as a leader in the AVPC Finance Team and IT Tech Team, Steve will be stepping down at the end of February to spend more time with his family.

Steve served as an AVPC deacon from 2002 to 2017 and was the diaconate Secretary for most of his tenure. He was the first chair of the Finance Team when it was created in 2006 and remained the chair until he rolled off the diaconate in 2017. He participated in several major financial decisions, including the addition of the new building in 2007 and the purchase of Altadena Park in 2013. Steve has returned to his role as Finance Team chair for the past two years during the critical transition of our accounting to an outside provider.

Steve has been a leader on the IT Tech Team since 2005 when he took charge of computer and phone maintenance at AVPC. He has always made himself available to troubleshoot IT issues in the church office so things can keep running smoothly. Steve also worked with Jim Sheetz last year to install a brand-new sound system in the Fellowship Hall.

Steve Klose's fingerprints are everywhere in the day-to-day operations of AVPC, from cloud-based file sharing software to numerous detailed spreadsheets keeping track of financial information and other data. So much of what we do every day would be impossible without all the work Steve has done.

Steve, you will be missed in the AVPC office. Thank you for everything you've done over the years to support our church family!

- The AVPC Staff

INSIDE

- 2 **Pastor's Pen**
Joint Session/Diaconate Minutes
- 3 **2024 Missions Conference Schedule**
GHK Update
- 4 **AVPC News**
- 5 **Children's News**
- 6 **Youth Happenings**
Men's Ministry
- 7 **Youth Happenings**
Meet Our 2024 Missions Conference Missionaries
- 8 **February Birthdays**
Women's Ministry
Young Adult Ministry
Financial Report



Pastor's Pen

Brad Allison, Senior Pastor

On Saturday, January 13, 13 AVPC members took a field trip to the Legacy Museum in Montgomery. The museum is the work of Bryan Stephenson's Equal Justice Initiative, and it is located on the site of a former slave warehouse, where slaves were housed as they awaited the auction where they were to be sold. Families would often be separated after these auctions, after mothers, fathers and children were purchased by different owners. The museum presented such horrific practices in graphic detail.

While it's easy to condemn the injustices of the antebellum era, I don't find it particularly helpful to do so. Instead, it is much more beneficial to ask ourselves to what degree the root sins of that era or any era can be found in our own hearts. For example, I was struck by the prominence of greed in this whole matter. I didn't know the extent to which cotton was the primary engine of our nation's economy in the early and middle 19th century, to the point that cotton was two-thirds of our exports. I also didn't know the extent to which our own state government was funded through a form of slave labor decades after the emancipation proclamation. Many southern states, including Alabama, embraced the practice of arresting black men for the most minor offenses or even trumped-up charges and giving them long prison sentences. The large number of prisoners would then be hired out to private contractors who would pay the state for the services provided by the prisoners. Though I forget the exact year, there was a time when 78% of Alabama's total state revenue came from this source.

I found myself asking the question, "Does this same greed live in my own heart?" What if I were a pastor in a southern church at this time? Would I be driven to maintain the status quo out of the fear of losing my job, which a pastor most certainly would have were he to speak out against slavery. Perhaps even more than a job would be lost. I found myself praying for God's mercy and strength to be a man with the courage to speak the truth, to take a stand against injustice wherever it may be found. May God help us, his people, to do so! Sadly, the church has often failed in this, and many examples could be given. Perhaps a good place to start is simply by asking God's Spirit to search us and know us, and see if there is any wicked way within (Psalm 139:23-24).

-Brad Allison

minutes

SESSION MEETING • DECEMBER 12, 2023

- Officers fellowship dinner. After the meal, the men who would be rolling off the Session or Diaconate were recognized and honored for their unique service to the church as servant leaders. Those men were David Allen, Clint Cvacho, and Nicholas Ireland, who were ending their terms on the Session, and Rob Wise who was ending his term of service as a deacon.
- The 2024 Budget was approved.
- Jennifer Rush and Hannah Short were approved for membership by unanimous consent.
- Missions Team budget was approved.

DIACONATE MEETING • JANUARY 9, 2024

- 2024 Team Deacon Officers
 - Chair: Trey Holmes
 - Vice Chair: Zac Campbell
- Request funds to Install handicap door actuators and controls on the double doors at the Fellowship Hall entrance.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2024 SCHEDULE

The 2024 Missions Conference is finally here! From February 7-11, you can meet with missionaries, hear several of them share, and pray for partners around the world. You can see the schedule of events below or visit our website for more information. Don't miss a single event!

- o Wednesday, February 7: Small Group Evening Meal (Various Times)
- o Thursday, February 8: Individual/Family Lunch or Coffee (Various Times)
- o Thursday, February 8: Community Group Gatherings (Various Times)
- o Friday, February 9: Fellowship Dinner and Youth-Led Worship Service (5:30 PM)
- o Saturday, February 10: Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM)
- o Saturday, February 10: Fellowship Dinner and Panel Discussion (5:30 PM)
- o Sunday, February 11: Sunday Worship – guest preacher Ed Thompson (LOGOI)

You can sign up to take a Missionary to lunch on Thursday (Feb. 8) or Friday (Feb. 9)! You can do so by following the QR Code below.



In the mean time, please pray for traveling mercies and the health of our missionaries who are coming this year to share with us the work God is doing in their part of the world. Pray also for your missions team as we seek to honor God in the planning and execution of our conference.

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

January is always a long month for God's House but we are so thankful for wonderful teachers who make the days seem short, the weather seem not so cold and the joy and laughter they bring. God's House would not be the same without these Godfearing women!



AVPC NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathies to James Tate and his family following the death of his father, Bill Tate.

UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING 2024

February 4	Fellowship Dinner
February 7-11	Missions Conference
February 25	Fellowship Dinner
March 1-2	Women's Retreat
March 17	Mercy Sunday
March 31	Easter Sunday
April 7	Fellowship Dinner
April 19	Membership Night
April 20	Youth Talent Show
April 21	Fellowship Dinner
May 5	Youth Sunday Senior Girl's Tea Senior Guy's Free Flight
May 12	Mother's Day Brunch
June 10-13	Camp Solid Rock

Faith Promise 2024



Please be in prayer over your 2024 Faith Promise giving. If you would like to make a faith promise pledge, please pick up a Faith Promise card located in the Welcome Center and Parlor. You can drop the completed bottom portion of the card in the offering, in the clay jars, or turn it in to the office. The deadline to submit your faith promise pledge is February 25.

Women's Conference September 13-14



Covenant Presbyterian Church will be hosting the "Made for More Conference" from September 13-14. This conference is for women ages third grade and up. Come join you AVPC sisters as we explore how God made us for more. Registrations opens March 1. You can register by scanning the above QR code.

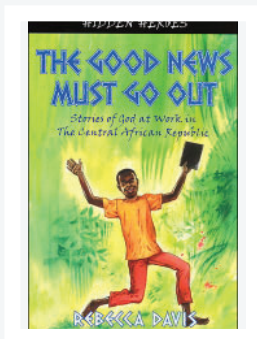
CHILDREN'S NEWS

As a student at Briarwood Christian School, Missions Emphasis Week was my favorite time of the year because it meant no homework, providing extra time for us to attend the various evening programs. Now at AVPC, I annually anticipate the month of February as we set it apart to focus on celebrating, honoring and encouraging our missionaries. In fact, a number of those people who sat in desks beside me during those Briarwood days are the same missionaries AVPC supports! God's surprises make me smile.

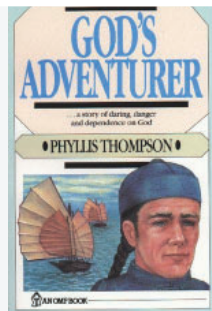
As Altadena's Children's Ministries Director, I regularly pray that God roots a heart for missions deep within our children and that our covenant children would grow to be the future missionaries and givers for God's glory. As we pray this, we can likewise intentionally build stepping stones into our rhythms so that missions is continually before our children. Here are five ways to do so:

1. Each week, AVPC identifies one missionary individual or family for whom we pray throughout the week. Take time to show your children their pictures on our Missions Wall. Reach out to the missionary and ask how you can specifically pray. Pray with your children for the missionary each day of the week.
2. Read missionary biographies with your children. Here are a few of our favorites:

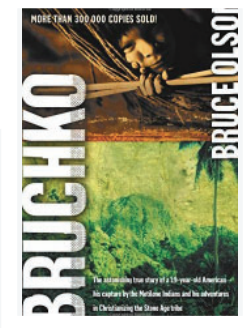
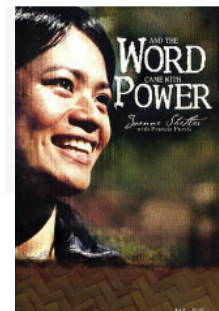
The Good News Must Go Out
by Rebecca Davis



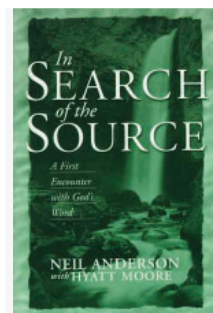
God's Adventurer: Hudson Taylor
by Phyllis Thompson



And the Word Came with Power
by Joanne Shetler



Bruchko
by Bruce Olsen



In Search of the Source,
by Neil Anderson

3. Pick up a Voice of the Martyrs prayer calendar at our AVPC Kids' Table. Pray daily for the people groups with your children.
4. Pick up a Missions Month Family Devotional at the AVPC Kids' Table. Set aside time to walk through the devotional prompts together.
5. Involve your children in Faith Promise! Help your child complete a Faith Promise Card for themselves. Work with them to find ways to earn money towards their commitment.

Let's join together as we raise the next generation of outposts of God's coming kingdom.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,
Catie Lumpkin
AVPC Children's Ministries Director

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

The Apostle Paul began each of his letters with pretty much the same greeting: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." While this short article is no inspired word from the Lord, I pray that you are living in that same grace and peace. As we enter the second month of 2024, it is that time when resolutions and promises we made to ourselves are already starting to slip. That exercise regimen you started with so much promise? Well, those mornings are feeling earlier and earlier and it is getting easier to hit the "snooze" button and stay in bed. That work you were going to stay on top of? Well, it is starting to stay on top of you instead. Those assignments that you were not going to fail to turn in? Well, January was a crazy month with weather delays and days out of school and you haven't built momentum and those "incompletes" are still next to your name in the gradebook. On the flip side, maybe you are still going strong, maybe you are up before dawn pounding the pavement or slinging weight around. Maybe you have been burning the midnight oil and keeping up with your reading or your equations without fail, at great cost to yourself.

Whichever camp you fall into, I would like to say congratulations to you! Let this moment be an opportunity for you to press into Jesus and to receive His grace. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul reflects on how late he is to his recognition of Jesus' lordship over all and even his own opposition to the early followers of Jesus. May his conclusion be the mantra for us all; "but by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:10) Do you believe that as you read this? Are you the sum of your failures, or are you a new creature, a child of God through the Grace of Christ? Are you merely the sum of your achievements, which are fleeting, or are you a new creature, a child of God through the Grace of Christ? Friends, join me in taking this opportunity to receive God's grace through Jesus in a fresh way with a grateful heart. May you continue on with "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Peace,
Clint Cvacho
Youth Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEBRUARY 2-4** | Senior Guys' Adventure on the Florida Trail **FEBRUARY 11** | Super Bowl LVIII Party
FEBRUARY 18 | Youth Ministry Night **JUNE 17-21** | The Edge (Junior High)
JULY 17-21 | White Swan, WA Mission Trip (Senior High)

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Cookout

Men from 2 to 102, join us on Sunday, February 25 from 12:30-2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a men's cookout. Enjoy a hearty grilled lunch and hear the new vision for the Men's Ministry!



Meet Our Missions Conference Missionaries!

**MATT AND RACHEL ALLISON
SERGE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**



**JAMES AND LISA DOUGHERTY
OVERSEAS MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP
DENVER, COLORADO**



**BETTY CARTER
DAYMARK COUNSELING
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**



FEATURED SPEAKER



**ED THOMPSON
LOGOI
MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**JACK HAUSEN
SHEPHERD'S FOLD
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**



**BRADLEY AND SARA CORDELL
MISSION TO THE WORLD
UKRAINE**



**STEPHEN AND KELLIE MERWIN
REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA (UAB)**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 2/1 Jane Whitaker
- 2/1 Scott Wilson
- 2/2 Pierce Bobo
- 2/2 Matt Hall
- 2/2 Kevin Nelson
- 2/4 Linda Orteza
- 2/4 Ed Wofford
- 2/5 Catherine Bobo
- 2/5 Christian DeRieux
- 2/5 John Young
- 2/6 Everett Alley
- 2/8 Andy Coats
- 2/12 Vickie Bookout
- 2/12 Amy Savoie
- 2/13 Raegan Campbell
- 2/18 Pat Beverly
- 2/20 Aleta Sheetz
- 2/21 Ashley Putman
- 2/23 Cheryl Linder
- 2/24 Steve Barley
- 2/26 Heather Sommer
- 2/28 John Boggs
- 2/28 Al Foster

Women's Retreat

MARCH 1-2, 2024

"That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
Colossians 2:2-3

Please join your Altadena Valley sisters at our 2024 retreat, as we connect in meaningful ways with one another through fellowship, prayer, sharing of the word, and worship.

QUESTIONS? Contact Heather Sommer (heather@avpc.org).

You may register online or by using the QR Code below.



Turn in registration with payment to the church office by February 25.



YOUNG ADULTS



The Young Adults of AVPC had a great time bringing in the new year at the Young Adult New Year's party.

SAVE THE DATE!
YOUNG ADULT LUNCH
FEBRUARY 18

On Sunday, February 18, following the late service, the Young Adults will be having a lunch. Please join us for a sweet time of food and fellowship! For details, contact Blake (blake@avpc.org).

MERCY SUNDAY
MARCH 17

The Mercy Team invites you to join us on Sunday, March 17, for Mercy Sunday. More information to come. See you there!

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	(\$77,384)	\$221,314	\$123,075	(\$7,406)	\$13,449
MISSIONS	(\$20,887)	\$88,638	\$33,034	\$7,406	\$42,123
TOTAL	(\$98,271)	\$309,952	\$156,109	\$0	\$55,572