

THE SALTSHAKER

FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 287

FRIENDSHIP PARTNERS

The world has come to the United States and to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, which has 1097 international students from 83 countries. 70% of the international students who study in the U.S. never get invited to an American home. Altadena addresses this by joining with the Friendship Partner Ministry of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, directed by Courtney McGregor.

Being a Friendship Partner to an international person represents a unique opportunity to reach out to the world. The Friendship Partner program includes international students and other internationals who live in the greater Birmingham area. To become a Friendship Partner, you will need to attend a Briarwood Friendship Partner Orientation. Once you have attended an orientation, however, you don't have to attend another.

Everyone who wants to be a friendship partner must also fill out a new Friendship Partner application. This is required even if you have filled out an application before or if you are a current Friendship Partner. Note that any international who wants a Friendship Partner must also attend an orientation geared to the international student or other international, and fill out an application. This way, both the local people who want to be a Friendship Partner and the internationals who want a Friendship Partner are all on the same page with respect to what is expected of this friendship. Friendship Partners are expected to spend time together once or twice per month.

For more information or an application please email Tom Hinke at thhinke@gmail.com or scan the QR code below.



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Pastor's Pen

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

— **Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933 Inauguration**

"Much has been given us, and much will rightfully be expected from us. We have duties to others and duties to ourselves; and we can shirk neither."

— **Theodore Roosevelt, 1905 Inauguration**

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

— **1 Timothy 2:1-4**

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

— **Romans 13:1**

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

— **Colossians 1:16-17**

Inaugurations of American Presidents occur every four years like clockwork. However, their impact and opportunity extends much longer. Elections have consequences that no crystal ball or time machine can predict — so who knows? God knows every day's events and their implications with clarity and providence.

I am not commenting on a candidate or party — I am calling us to take God at his true and good word and pray for our leader, our country, and the United States of America's role in the world.

Pray for the many Christians the Holy Spirit places in positions of power and influence. Pray for the conversion and protection of our leaders and their families.

Let us be known as those who thoughtfully engage the news, politics, and position of our leadership but do so with a firm eye on Christ who alone is our King!

– Kyle Parker, *Senior Pastor*

Women's Retreat

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, 2025

ALTADENA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

- Psalm 46:10

Please join your AVPC sisters at our 2025 retreat, as we connect in meaningful ways with one another through fellowship, prayer, sharing of the word, and worship.

Come strengthen old relationships and build new ones as we seek unity as a body of sisters in Christ.

We hope to see you there!

You may also register on the "Event Registrations" tab of our website or by scanning this QR code →



AVPC NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We want to express our deepest sympathies to the following:

- Ashley Hood for the recent loss of her uncle, Curtis Hood.
- Judy Steele for the recent loss of her sister.
- Brad Allison for the recent loss of his mother, Betty Jo Allison.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



It was a powerful experience visiting the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum. We hope to revisit soon.

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP MEALS

February 23

April 6

April 27

FAITH PROMISE 2025



Please be in prayer over your 2025 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 28.

minutes

SESSION MEETING • DECEMBER 17, 2024

- Michael MacCaughelty made a request coming from the Missions Committee, to have visiting missionaries involved in leading worship in services during the missions conference in February. The Committee had expressed the desire to allow the missionaries to minister during worship in ways they serve in their fields of service. This would be in addition to their giving testimonies and reports on their work. The request was approved by a voice vote.
- The Adult Discipleship Ministry Team had requested approval for the Sunday school class meeting in the Mezzanine Room to teach on the topic "Desperate People of the Bible" during the winter quarter. The requested topic was approved by unanimous consent.

DIACONATE MEETING • JANUARY 14, 2025

- Discussed the needs around Handyman service team. Communications to go out to revitalize team participation.
- Coffee service expense discussion. Idea of leasing the equipment was presented.
- Attention was drawn to the the underutilization of radios and ear pieces by hospitality team/lead.

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

From painting beautiful pictures to donning hilarious fake moustaches, this has been a great start of the year at God's House Kindergarten. Thank you to the faculty and staff for such a great start. We can't wait for the rest of this year.



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

As you sit still and read this article, stillness is merely an illusion. You may be sitting still, but you are sitting still on a planet that is spinning 1,000 mph and hurtling through space on its orbit around the sun at 64,000 mph! As our planet spins, it is tilted along its north-south axis at 23.5 degrees, which means as it travels in orbit around the sun, we experience different seasons as the northern and southern hemispheres take turns leaning towards the sun. We truly live in an amazing world, but why do I bring this up? In Romans 1:19 and 20, Paul proclaims that God's attributes, "have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made." As we began 2025 with snow in January, it served as a stark reminder of the beauty that is found in the changing seasons, both in the natural world and in our lives. This semester in youth group, our theme comes from Ecclesiastes 3 where Qoheleth reminds us that "for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

Perhaps this comes from feeling the winds of change blowing in my life, which allows me to see this truth in the lives of our students as they are in a period of rapid change. Some people are in a good season and they have a sense of dread that this good season will end. The bad news is that, yes, it will end. The good news is that your hope is not found in that good season lasting. Some are sitting in a bad season and they fear it will never end. The bad news is that, contrary to what Eastern philosophies would have us believe, those bad things really are bad. Suffering is not just in our minds and something for us to transcend. The good news is that those bad seasons will end as well. The better news is that even those bad seasons can produce good fruit. Qoheleth also assures us that "he (God) has made everything beautiful in its time." Our goal this semester will be to take a journey of hope in the goodness and sovereignty of our heavenly Father through the changing seasons of our lives. My prayer is that our students (and the rest of us) will have steadfastness as we hold to the promise that in Christ, at the end of all things, there will be great beauty.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Peace,
Clint Cvacho
Youth Director

February 9: Super Bowl LIX

July 12-19: Mission Trip (Sr. High)

June 16-20: The Edge (Jr. High)

May 4: Youth Sunday

Meet Our Missions Conference Missionaries!

DAN & GINI HERRON
SERGE
ARIZONA



SCOTT & DANA JENNINGS
WORLDWIDE EVANGELISM FOR CHRIST
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND



JOHN & LYNN LEHN
GREATER EUROPE MISSION
CROATIA



FEATURED SPEAKER

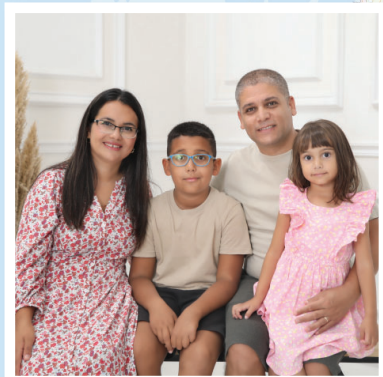


JEFF GUINAN
ALABAMA CHURCH
PLANTING NETWORK
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

JEREMY & ANGEL MARTIN
SERGE
LONDON, ENGLAND



HYSEN & ESMERELDA KANANI
CRU
ALBANIA



NOT PICTURED:
PETER & JANET H.
SERGE

ARGON & ELONA SOPAJ
CRU
KOSOVO



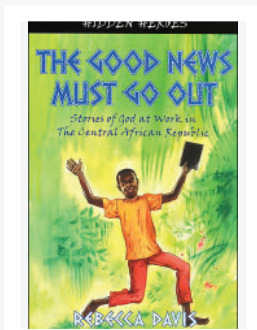
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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.

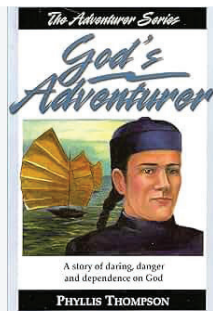
As Altadena's children's ministries director, I regularly pray that God roots a heart for missions deep within our children, and that our covenant children would grow to be the future missionaries and givers for God's glory. As we pray this, we can likewise intentionally build stepping stones into our 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:

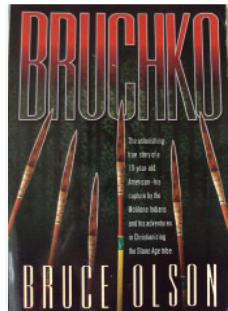
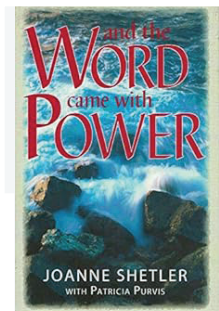
The Good News Must Go Out
by Rebecca Davis



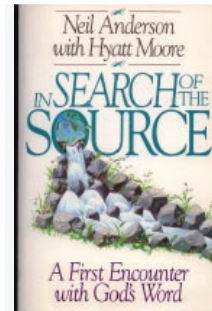
God's Adventurer: Hudson Taylor
by Phyllis Thompson



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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Scott Wilson	2/6	Everett Alley	2/18	Whitney Jones	2/23	Cheryl Linder
2/2	Matt Hall	2/8	Andy Coats	2/18	Pat Beverly	2/24	Steve Barley
2/2	Kevin Nelson	2/12	Vickie Bookout	2/20	Pierce Bobo	2/24	Shepherd Harris
2/4	Linda Orteza	2/12	Amy Savoie	2/20	Aleta Sheetz	2/25	Ben McGlothlin
2/4	Ed Wofford	2/13	Raegan Campbell	2/21	Ashley Putman	2/26	Heather Sommer
2/5	Catherine Bobo	2/13	Tina Dorsey	2/22	Jackson McGlothlin	2/28	John Boggs
2/5	Christian DeRieux	2/14	Patty Thurston	2/22	Johnnie Paterson	2/28	Al Foster
2/5	John Young	2/17	Lucy Jones	2/23	Zach Bostrom		

MEN'S MINISTRY

There were men and there was fire at the first ever Man Moot.
Thank you to all who attended!



SAVE THE DATE:
MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

This spring we have the opportunity to gather as brothers in prayer on the first Mondays of February, March, and April. We will share a hearty breakfast and focus on praying for revival in our church. The first meeting will be Monday, February 3. See you there!



DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$62,101	\$462,430	\$138,490	(\$6,669)	\$379,372
MISSIONS	(\$19,122)	\$88,660	\$37,328	\$6,669	\$38,879
TOTAL	\$42,979	\$551,090	\$175,818	\$0	\$418,251