

# THE SALTSHAKER

NOVEMBER 1, 2022 | VOLUME 265

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR SACRED ROAD MINISTRIES

Christmas is right around the corner and Sacred Road is putting out the call to fellow churches; a call to pack shoeboxes and love the communities they serve!

With the help of churches, families, and individuals around the country, they gave out just shy of 500 Christmas Shoeboxes last year! They hope to continue growing the Shoebox outreach this year and surpass last year's numbers!

The shoebox gifts are delivered in communities on the Yakama and Warm Springs Reservations, as well as the Georgeville and Celilo Village communities near the Columbia River. They also send boxes to Lapwai Reservation in Idaho.

Christmas Shoeboxes can be used as a ministry tool to remind the kids of God's love and faithfulness for us. Please pray about your ability and willingness to participate in the shoebox outreach this year.

### BOX GUIDELINES

There should be no money or gift cards in the boxes and boxes are to be UNWRAPPED. Boxes can be cardboard or plastic. We are trying to send 50 shoe-sized boxes to them: 25 girls and 25 boys.

### SHOEBOX GIFT ITEMS

#### ELEMENTARY AGE GIRLS

- Art Supplies
- Coloring Books and Pencils
- Play-dough
- Bracelets or Necklaces
- Hair Accessories
- Nail Polish
- Fun Hats & Gloves
- Fun Socks
- Candy
- My Little Pony
- Hello Kitty
- Disney gifts
- Pop-Its
- Shopkins
- Barbies

#### ELEMENTARY AGE BOYS

- Legos
- Superhero gifts
- Hot Wheels
- Action Figures
- Silly Putty
- Candy
- Glow Sticks
- Pokemon Cards
- Marbles or small games
- Puzzles
- Fidget Spinners
- Pop-Its
- Fun Hats & Gloves
- Fun Socks

The deadline to get your UNWRAPPED box to the church is Nov. 27. Collection area will be the Welcome Center café tables.

## INSIDE

- 2 **Pastor's Pen Session/Diaconate Minutes**
3. **Meet our New Missionaries**
- 4 **People News**
- 5 **Children's News God's House Kindergarten**
- 6 **Youth Happenings**
- 7 **Women's Ministry Men's Ministry**
- 8 **November Birthdays Mission News Budget Reports**



The Session will be calling for a Congregational Meeting to be held on December 4 during the Sunday School hour. In addition to our normal business of electing church officers, the Session also intends to give an update on the pastoral search process, as well as providing some time for questions from the congregation. We have been spending a good amount of time on this at every Session meeting, and we now have a couple of things we would like to share with the congregation.

First, the Session wants to bring a recommended timeline for this process. That timeline will include the date for the Congregational Meeting when a pulpit committee will be elected by the congregation. The difficulty about a timeline is the simple fact that we can't predict how long the search process will take. On the short end, the process can take 4-6 months, and on the long end as much as two years. That's a pretty wide range, making planning more challenging. The Session will be presenting its recommendation about the timeline on December 4, together with our reasons for the recommendation.

Second, the Session will be giving an overview of its work in this process over the coming months. A good pastoral search process requires that the pulpit committee and Session work together. There are aspects of this that rightly belong to the Session, and aspects that belong to the search committee. For example, as part of its governance responsibilities, the Session is tasked with overseeing the job descriptions of our staff, including a new Senior Pastor. But then the search committee's job is to find the man who will best be able to fulfill that job description. There is other work for the Session, too, and we will be giving a summary of that.

The most important work we can all do in this process is to pray for God's protection of our church, his guidance, and his provision. And again, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the Session or to someone on the Session's Transition Subcommittee (Danny Wachs, Steve Barley, and Paul Barber).

*Brad Allison*

## minutes

### **SESSION MEETING • SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

- The members of the Worship Ministry Team, Susan Larson, Heather Sommer, and Anna Waldrip spoke to the session. They desired to serve the church in roles that are biblically and theologically permissible for women.
- Danny Wachs reported that the AVPC Pastor Transition Committee seems to be hearing many of the same questions over and over. They had prepared a list of questions and answers listing some of those frequent questions.
- Missions Team: start monthly support for Santo and Mary Ellen Garofalo, serving with MTW in Italy.

### **DIACONATE MEETING • OCTOBER 11, 2022**

- God's House Kindergarten: Trey Holmes reported GHK is employing the previous bookkeeper until a replacement permanent bookkeeper is hired.
- APIC requests permission to continue to investigate installation of Trail Life funded athletic area in the park pending feedback from facilities manager. Motion was approved unanimously.
- The churches draft budget was presented.

# MEET OUR NEW MISSIONARIES

## *Doni & Albina Mehmeti* / A JESUS MISSION - KOSOVO

### 1. HOW DID YOU CHOOSE/ FEEL CALLED TO YOUR MINISTRY?

During our time with CRU we got to see the great potential that the online world has for sharing the Gospel. A Jesus Mission allows us to explore this with new ideas and see how we can best serve the Lord through these digital means. At the end of the day, the desire is to be faithful to God's Great Commission, and the digital ministry is a tool that God has entrusted us to use to carry his Good News forward.

### 2. HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR SPOUSE? WHAT WAS SPECIAL TO YOU ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE?

We met at a Christian youth gathering in 2014. I had heard about Albina's volunteer ministry with CRU beforehand, and in that initial conversation, I knew she was going to be my wife. I loved her serenity and mature way of talking, and she liked my approachability and sense of humor. Beyond that initial meeting, we got to talk online for 4 months before our first date, and we learned a great deal about our faith, convictions, and personalities.

**3. WHEN I HAVE FREE TIME I ENJOY...** We both enjoy reading, walking around our neighborhood, woodworking, and making cute vintage-looking wood signs.

**4. MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE MOVIE IS...** Doni: Hacksaw Ridge Albina: Leap Year

**5. MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE LOCATION OF MY MINISTRY IS...** People are very approachable and curious to hear the news. Everything is within walking distance, and there's a sense of community that is felt beyond religious or political belonging. The country is small, so you can read trends and change easily and incorporate them in your approach of ministry.

### 6. WHAT IS ONE WAY WE CAN PRAY FOR YOUR MINISTRY THIS YEAR?

Pray that we get to be faithful in our personal meetings, while maintaining a healthy and consistent ministry online. Also pray that we get to purchase our equipment (cameras, microphones, etc.) that would allow us to produce content independently instead of relying on peers in our team.

**7. ONE HOPE I HAVE FOR MY MINISTRY IS...** That it will become a movement of people who employ the digital world for the Gospel to its full measure, with a work ethic that glorifies the Lord.



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



### FRIENDSGIVING - NOVEMBER 19

JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 19, AT 5:30 PM, WITH A FRIEND AND A SIDE DISH, FOR A GREAT TIME OF FEASTING AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE HOME OF MARSHA WAKEFIELD.

# PEOPLE NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

In addition to regularly scheduled events, be sure to mark your calendar with these events too. If you need more details, contact the church office.

### November

6 - AVPC Sunday Fellowship Meal - 6:30 PM

8- Altadena Park Work Day

13 - AVPC Sunday Fellowship Meal - 6:30 PM

22- AVPC Hanging of the Green - 9:00 AM

### December

4 - Sunday School Brunch & Congregational Meeting - 9:45 AM

11 - Lessons and Carols - 6:00 PM

24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4:30PM

24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 6:00PM

25 - Joint Christmas Service - 11:00 AM

### OUR SYMPATHY

We express our heartfelt condolences to Tre Smith as he grieves the loss his grandfather who passed away on Sunday, October 13. Please remember Tre and his family in your prayers.



### ALTADENA PARK WORKDAY

Grab your shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, work gloves and any other tools that might be useful and join us for our next Altadena Park workday, Saturday, November 12, from 8:00 AM to 12 NOON.



### Congratulations



Mica Canaan Whitner was born on October 26, 2022. He weighed 6 lbs 6 oz and was 20 inches long. Parents are Kathy and Michael Whitner. Grandparents are Steve and Tracy Whitner, & Rod and Renee' Chase.

Beorn Stradford Macon was born on October 13, 2022. He weighed 7 lbs 4 oz and was 20 inches long. Parents are Joseph and Debra Macon. Grandparents are Diana and Russell Lloyd, and Connie Macon.



# CHILDREN'S NEWS

Sunday nights are Bridge Nights for AVPC Kids! What exactly are Bridge Nights? They are evenings where congregational members can serve as bridges for our covenant children into Altadena's larger church community. Together, we explore the life of Jesus and go a little crazy. This is perfect place to bring visiting friends, but also for grown-ups to witness what God is doing among our children and youth! Major shout out to our AVPC youth as they have served and loved our children on Sunday evenings during this time. You guys are the hands and feet of Jesus to these little ones! I'm honored to serve alongside you! Come and see us on Sunday nights!

-Catie Lumpkin



# GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

God's House has been busy this month as we learned about some of our Community Helpers that help and serve our community every day.

- Michelle Taylor, GHK Admin

James Spann spoke to the children about weather, and one of AVPC's own filmed the school for the nightly news.



They all enjoyed a visit from Police Officer Thompson and seeing his police car!



Mrs. Cammy, holding one of the cats our veterinarian guest brought to school.



The 4K classes spent a beautiful day at Old Baker Farm and brought home their own pumpkins.

# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

*In the last couple of weeks the Lord has reminded me of a great truth that is many times difficult to live out, but is such a great promise and a part of the gospel that has been a particular burden on my heart through 17 years of ministry. What I am speaking about is the fact that in Christ all of the walls that are built up to divide people are torn down as the dividing wall of sin between us and the Lord was destroyed by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. In Ephesians Paul calls us to this astonishing fact reminding us that we "are no longer strangers and aliens, but [we] are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians 2:19-21) On our own, we are strangers and aliens in this world. In spite of what we might think, we don't belong here and we don't really belong with anyone else. It is in Christ that we find true belonging. We find a true home and we find a family, and this family is bigger and more comprehensive than we could ever imagine. This family is made up of nothing but "outsiders."*

*This is what a group of dads and their kids are finding en route to completing the 14 State Challenge on the Appalachian Trail. My favorite picture from our last trip is not one that shows the beautiful scenery. It is a candid shot of members of the group hiding in the shade of a stack of railroad ties next to the tracks while waiting for other members of the group to arrive towards the end of our four day journey. After three nights of living as nomads, they look perfectly at home. Most of the group knew of each other, but didn't really know each other. That has all changed now as the journey has changed them and created real bonds. This is also the heart behind the Hippy Games. It is a reminder that in the family of God, built on the foundation of Christ, we are invited to be the unique image bearer we were created to be. We are invited to love brothers and sisters who we might never cross paths with in the world. The reality is that we don't just all go to church together. We are the church.*



*Peace, Clint*

## AVPC'S 4TH ANNUAL HIPPIE GAMES



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

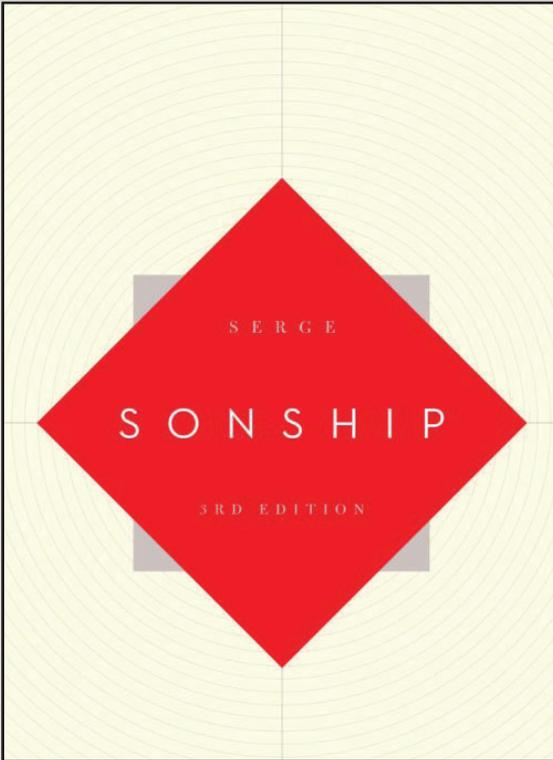
## *new women's small group*

New SONSHIP Small Groups will be forming in January 2023. Sonship is designed to help you take some of the glorious theological truths of the gospel and apply them to the reality of daily life as a Christian.

Contact Heather sommer at (heather@avpc.org) if you are interested in growing deeper in your faith in a small group.

You can also find more information about SONSHIP small groups by following this link:

<https://serge.org/product/sonship/>



# MEN'S MINISTRY

## **MEN'S RETREAT 2022 - "BAND OF BROTHERS"**

This year for the Men's Retreat God provided a deep and renewing time as a "Band of Brothers". It offered the men of AVPC time to connect beyond a quick "how are you?" in the Welcome Center. A time to slow down, to be still, to rest, to be renewed. Made in the image of the God who dwells in perfect relationship as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we were made to enjoy similar close fellowship. We long for bonds with brothers in Christ, but we sabotage or avoid them at the same time. Perhaps Jesus, who had a band of twelve brothers, is the model we need. But he doesn't stop there – what if he is indeed the ultimate "friend who sticks closer than a Brother."

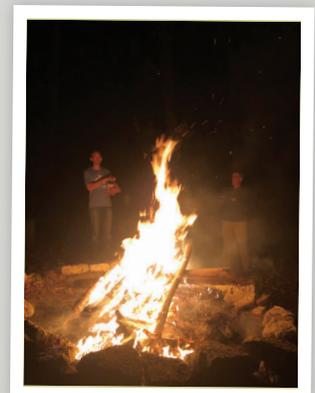
- Blake Harris, Adult Ministry Leader

Three generations of Bobo's!



The men of AVPC enjoying the inaugural "Men On Bikes". A bicycling journey, led by pastor Brad Allison.

A roaring fire and a roaring fellowship.



# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Dan Dougherty	11/12	Merrie Loper	11/18	Frank Thielman
11/1	Woody Armstrong	11/12	Joseph P. Putman	11/18	Karl Zier
11/1	James McCallister	11/12	Brandon English	11/20	Josh Osborne
11/2	Patricia Burgess	11/13	Mike Oaks	11/21	Carol Collins
11/4	Gayle Griffith	11/13	Carl Jacks	11/25	Juan Dunlap
11/4	Debbie Pennington	11/13	Jeff Schofield	11/26	Shahn Washington
11/4	Ezekiel Putman	11/14	Amy Grace Shepherd	11/28	Pierce Gamble
11/6	David Coley	11/15	Ginger Jackson	11/29	Scott Pennington
11/10	Melissa Parker	11/16	Shawn Schofield	11/30	Christin Murphy
11/11	Art Marxer	11/16	Layne Savoie		

# MISSIONARY NEWS

One of the tools that will help you engage with the opportunities of gospel needs around the world is the Joshua Project ([joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)). Joshua Project seeks to answer the questions that result from the Great Commission's call to make disciples among every nation or people group: Who are the ethnic people groups of the world? Which people groups still need initial church-planting in their midst? What ministry resources are available to reach the least-reached? Joshua Project gathers, integrates, and shares people group information to encourage pioneer church-planting movements among every ethnic group and to facilitate effective coordination of mission agency efforts.

Their website ([joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)) is a tremendous resource of information to help you not only learn about gospel needs on a global level but also allows you to dig deeper into specific people groups to better inform your prayer life. The chart below shows the current level of unreached people groups in the world. An unreached or least-reached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance. Take some time to explore this site and become more informed as you engage your heart in the global mission of reaching everyone with the gospel of Jesus.

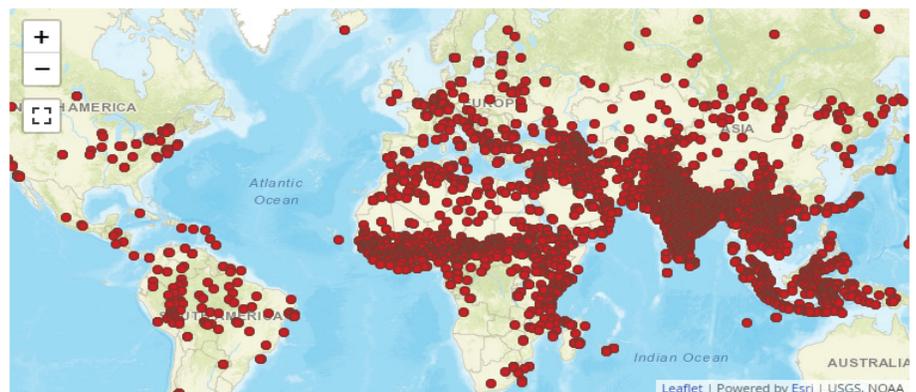
## Unreached: All Unreached

What does [unreached](#) mean?

People Groups 7,415	% of World's People Groups 42.5 %
Population 3,369,917,000	% of World Population 42.5 %

[Prayer Cards](#)

[Download Data](#)



# SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$-131,879	\$116,015	\$135,781	\$-6,572	\$-158,217
<b>MISSIONS</b>	\$197	\$15,651	\$33,001	\$6,572	\$-10,581
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$-131,682	\$131,666	\$168,782	\$0	\$-168,798