

TBPRES TRUMPET



March 2024

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

Volume 19 Issue 3

From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

TBPC's 2024 Missions Conference Follow-Up

We concluded our 2024 Missions Conference a few weeks ago.

It was a wonderful conference! Of the ten missionary families we support, only Carla Stevens and Michael Bridges were able to attend this year's Missions Conference. (Last year, I believe we had eight missionary families attend the conference.)

I must admit that I was initially disappointed that so few of our missionary families were able to attend.

However, despite my disappointment, we had a wonderful Missions Conference!

I think that there are three purposes for a Missions Conference. One purpose is to reconnect with our missionaries to learn how they are doing and how we can continue to support them. A second purpose is to be encouraged by what God is doing in expanding his kingdom. And the third purpose is to be challenged to be fully engaged in the expansion of God's kingdom.

While we were not able to reconnect with many of our missionaries, I think that purposes two and three were wonderfully fulfilled.

We learned that God is expanding his kingdom around the world. Jesus had said that he would build his church. And he is doing so.

We were also challenged to participate in the expansion of God's kingdom. All of us can pray for the continued expansion of God's kingdom on earth. And all of us can give financially to ensure that missionaries are sent out to the mission field. And, finally, all of us need to consider what it means for us to go ourselves.

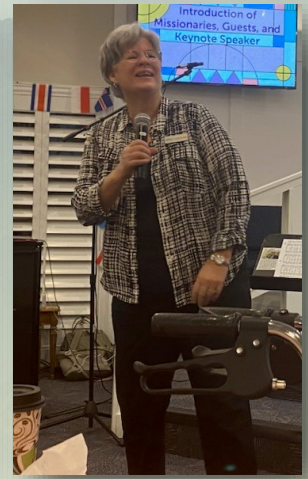
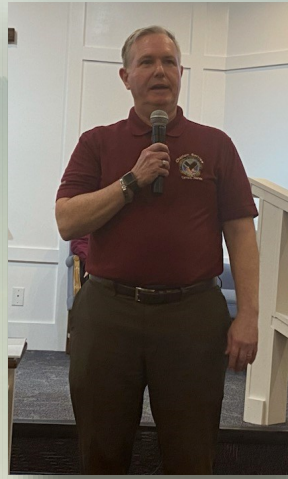
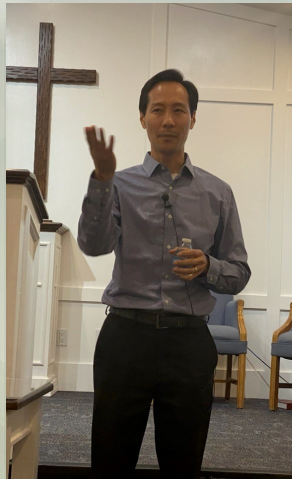
I want to give thanks to our keynote speaker, Dr. Lloyd Kim. It was so good to hear from him and learn more about Mission to the World.

Finally, I want to thank Rev. Scott Simmons and the excellent work that he did with the Missions Committee in putting on the best Missions Conference ever!

2024 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Theme: Kingdom Prayer

Photos Courtesy of Marsha Otto



BELIZE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP



The expressed interest in TBPC's Missions Trip to Belmopan, Belize has been most encouraging. A meeting for those interested will take place Sunday, March 10, after the worship service in the Youth Room. (Remember March 10 is Daylight Savings Time.)

The essential information about our trip is as follows:

The Date: Saturday July 20 thru Saturday July 27.

The Cost: Approximately \$1, 700 for airfare, food, lodging, transportation, and evacuation insurance.

Age: To go one must be at least 14 years old and if under 18, accompanied by a parent, responsible family member at least 21 years of age, or legal guardian.

Other: A passport is required, medical insurance, an up-to-date tetanus shot, and money for personal expenses.

At the meeting, we will answer the questions you may have. Hopefully, we will answer most of them before you ask. We, of course, will address fundraising.

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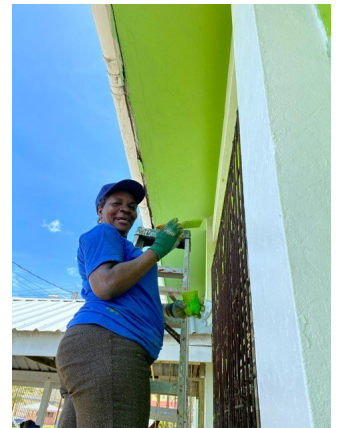
Belmopan is the capital of Belize. The Presbyterian Church of Belize has had the desire for some time to plant a church in the capital city. A core group has been established. The team that went to Belize last year met with the core group at a Bible Study. John and Karen Stodghill have overseen the development of the church plant.



Last year, in an amazing way, property was purchased. TBPC contributed to the purchase of the property. Also, the team that went to Belize last year walked the property and prayed for the Lord to provide for its purchase, which he did, the money being raised in about a month.



The first part of the trip will be to assist the church plant in reaching out to the Belmopan community. We will host a Vacation Bible School on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. It will also involve inviting the community to take part in the VBS and letting them know about the church. On Thursday, we will go to Belize City to help finish painting St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (Hootenanny Green).



You may wonder about Sunday. We will engage in worship with churches in Belize as well as visit in the community. Friday will be our free day or as some think of it, our fun day. There is much to see and enjoy in Belize. Saturday, July 27, we will return home.

There is paperwork that must be filled out not only for TBPC, but also for Mission to the World. The sooner we can get the paperwork in process, the better.

The meeting should provide you the information needed to make a decision about the trip. The great value of a short-term missions trip is visiting a mission field with one of our supported missionaries. You will get a better understanding of missions and, we trust, come home motivated to encourage and support the great work of missions.

Scott Simmons

On behalf of the Missions Committee

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those
who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
Isaiah 5:27 ESV

Children ages 4 years (by June 1st) through 5th grade (completed) may attend
VBS 2024 at Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church!

Monday, June 24th through Friday, June 28th, 9:00AM to 12:00PM daily.

Registration information coming soon.



Various ways for adults and youth to VOLUNTEER!!

During VBS: guide a travel group, assist at a station, lead games, play with toddlers

Before VBS: donate craft and snack supplies, prepare crafts, assist with decorations

Find out how you can help!

Call Mike-813.482.2350 or Toni-646.335.2097 or email mikeandtoni05@gmail.com



Hospitality

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)

March 31 is Resurrection Sunday—a day to celebrate Jesus’s victory over death. It also is a lovely opportunity for the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church family to gather for breakfast before worship. This annual event is always such fun, with the opportunity to fellowship and enjoy a meal. We will provide a sign-up sheet for anyone who wishes to attend, and look forward to a special time together on Easter Sunday. Anyone with questions, please reach out to Joan Kosanovich (jmkosanovich@gmail.com) or by text/phone at 352-206-7887.

We ask, please, that if anyone makes coffee for activities at the church building, please make a full pot. The coffee machine misbehaves when less than a full pot is brewed, and “remembers” the last water fill used. Thank you very much for being mindful of this—it is truly appreciated. Anyone who wishes to do so may bring light snacks to have with the coffee and tea each week. We ask that items be purchased (rather than homemade) and kept in the original packaging. Anyone wishing to bring pastries, cookies, or similar store-bought items is welcome to do so, and you do not have to make any commitment to the Hospitality Ministry to bring goodies to share with our TBPC family!

If you are interested in volunteering in the Hospitality Ministry, in a short- or long-term capacity, or for more information, please contact Joan Kosanovich or the church office. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and the Kingdom.

Welcome to our new members!



Blaine & Andrea Schultz

Photo Courtesy of Toni Cacioppo

byFaith Magazine Update

As you may already know, byFaith recently transitioned to a digital-only format. Instead of a quarterly print magazine, readers should now look to byfaithonline.com for the news and feature articles they've read for years. The content is updated daily. Hence, byFaith readers will benefit from checking the web page frequently, as they would other online news sources. You can always have updates delivered directly to your inbox by subscribing [here](#).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3 ESV



Books to Give

A number of Christian books and history books were donated and are available at the church for anyone who is interested. Please let Scott Simmons know if you would like to browse the titles. After Sunday morning service is generally a good time.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Christy Almonte March 3, 2008
Tom & Vicki Moore March 17, 1992
Jeff & Marissa Skipper March 21, 2008

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Cindy Burns	March 1	Harris Kunanayagam	March 15
Joshua Kakarla	March 5	Joe Kirkpatrick	March 17
Joel Kakarla	March 5	James Barber	March 20
Richard Smoot	March 6	Kiliaen Sauls	March 21
Sia Kagalkar	March 7	Nancy Kirkpatrick	March 23
Ken Pothoven	March 8	Rebekah Skopp	March 23
Craig Tyler	March 8	Gary Smith	March 25
David Cross	March 9	Stephanie Smoot	March 25
Ezra Schultz	March 11	Esaie Etienne	March 26
Ashleigh Kemp	March 12	Karen Stodghill	March 29
Pharell Karibi-Whyte	March 14	Coleen Knecht	March 30
Valerie Simmons	March 14	David Mickler	March 30
Marissa Skipper	March 14	David Cunningham	March 31

SPECIAL COLUMNS

TBPC members contributed the following articles for the edification and encouragement of the church.



IN THIS ISSUE

Grief (Part 2)

Passages About Grief from the Book of Genesis

Passages About Grief from the Book of Genesis

By Michael Bridges

In this second article regarding the word “grief,” I wish to share five examples found in the Book of Genesis. Yes, grief started long ago—with the fall of mankind. The examples all consist of a loss.

Genesis 3. This chapter shows us many losses and reasons for Adam and Eve to grieve. For instance, they were ashamed, guilty, frightened, separated from God, experienced pain, would experience pain throughout their lives, and were cast out of the Garden of Eden where they would have to work under difficult circumstances outside paradise.

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Genesis 4. Chapter 4 shows us the first loss of human life. Adam and Eve's second and youngest son was murdered by his older brother. They also lost their first son because God punished Cain and made him a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth. Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and also from the presence of his parents.

Genesis 6. In chapter 6, verses 5–7 we see that God even grieved.

Genesis 6:5–7 ⁵"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD."

Genesis 26. Chapter 26, verses 34–35 show us that Isaac and Rebekah's son (Esau) brought grief to them by his decision to marry two women from another tribe/nation. Isaac and Rebekah were disappointed and experienced a loss in their expectation.

Genesis 26:34–35 ³⁴"When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and they made life bitter and filled with grief for Isaac and Rebekah."

Genesis 50. Chapter 50, verses 1–10 show us the grieving by Joseph and his family over the death of Israel.

Genesis 50:1–10 ¹"Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. ²And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. ³Forty days were required for it, for this is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

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⁴And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, ⁵'My father made me swear, saying, "I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me." Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.'" ⁶And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear." ⁷So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, ⁸as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen. ⁹And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company. ¹⁰When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented

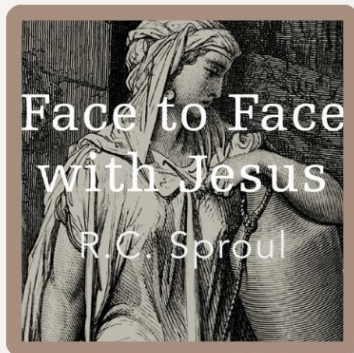
there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days."

To reiterate from my first article, grief and loss go tougher. We grieve due to a loss and there is much pain. From the fifth example, we see that grief and mourning can last a long time. We can also remember that by looking in the Bible at God's promises for the future, we can have hope. In the future, God will totally remove evil, remove sin, remove death, remove grief, and give us eternal life in paradise or new Garden of Eden (i.e., New Earth, New Heaven, and New Jerusalem) in God's presence.



We can also remember that by looking in the Bible at God's promises for the future, we can have hope.

Women's Winter Bible Studies



Continue tracing the unfolding story about Jesus as the main focus of all Scripture as we study from the Gospels with RC Sproul and then the Great Commission with Buck Parsons.

MONDAY EVENINGS

(JAN 8, 2024)

6:30-8:30

ZOOM

Abby Hutto points out that each work of Jesus narrated in John reveals an aspect of God's character and nature, along with modern-day testimonials applying these truths.

TUESDAY EVENINGS

(JAN 16, 2024)

5:30-7:30

TBPC

TUESDAY MORNINGS

(JAN 9, 2024)

10:00-12:00

TBPC

STUDY GUIDES IN THE NARTHEX TODAY \$20

TBPC ADOPT-A-MISSIONARY PROGRAM

The TBPC Adopt-A-Missionary Program began in 2020 to help our ministry groups get to know our supported missionaries and chaplains through communication and prayer. TBPC currently supports 8 missionary families with prayer, encouragement, communication, and financial support. We also support, in all areas except financial, 2 chaplain families who are associated with the Presbyterian & Reformed Commission on Chaplains & Military Personnel (PRCC) and Mission to North America (PCA).

The Missions Committee would now like for this opportunity to be available to families and individuals in addition to church ministries. How much more will our missionaries, chaplains, and their families be encouraged if our prayers and communications are multiplied! The expanded program will begin on Saturday,



February 10, at the Missions Conference Dinner here at the church. Sign-up sheets and information on each of our missionaries and chaplains will be available at the dinner and in the church foyer for a few weeks following. Our 2024 Missionary Profiles brochure provides information and a photo of each family with contact information, birthdays and anniversaries. In addition, helpful information on praying for missionaries is included in Appendix B. Missionary newsletters and updates received

throughout the year also provide good information in better knowing your missionary and how to pray for them. These are emailed to the entire church family as received and also included in the *Intercessor* weekly prayer guide. Your role as an Adopter will be to faithfully pray for your missionary/chaplain family and periodically communicate your encouragement to them via email or snail mail. Cards for birthdays and holidays are one way to do this. Gifts are not a good idea, particularly for families living outside of the U.S.

Will you consider adopting one of our missionaries/chaplains for a year until our 2025 Missions Conference? This commitment to regular prayer and encouraging communication will bring blessings to the missionary/chaplain family and also to you as you follow the Great Commission of our Lord. Please call Nancy Morrison, Missionary Care Coordinator, 828-674-2614, if you have any questions or would like more information.

Calendar of Events: 2023-24



Fall

Winter

Spring

Summer

Women's Small Group
9/5 - 11/14

Women's Bible Study
9/11 - 11/14

Men's Breakfast
9/16

Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
9/3 - 12/17

Men's Bible Study
9/2 - 12/17

Youth Group
7/17 - 12/17

Membership Class
11/5

Church Retreat
11/10 - 11/12

Thanksgiving Dinner &
Service
11/19

Youth Group
12/3 - 2/18

Women's Christmas
Brunch
12/2

Beginning of Advent
12/3

Christmas Eve Service
12/24

Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
1/7 - 3/31

Men's Bible Study
1/7 - 3/30

Women's Bible Study
1/8 - 3/26

Missions Conference
2/9- 2/11

Membership Class
2/18

Passion Week
Maundy Thursday
Service
3/28

Good Friday Service
3/29

Easter Sunday
3/31

Youth Group
4/1 - 5/26

Women's Bible Study
4/1 - 5/14

Men's Bible Study
4/6 - 5/25

Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
4/7 - 5/26

ESL End of Year Lunch
4/27

Membership Class
5/19

Vacation Bible School
June 24-28

Missions Trip to Belize
July 20-27

Membership Class
8/18

Contact us



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Bob Morrison,
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Patricia Harshfield,
Custodian

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NTCA Director

TBPC Ministries

Adult Bible Fellowship
Ed Jordan

Nursery
Stephanie Smoot

Children
Vacant

Outreach
Bert Barber

Brunch Bunch
Alisa Carrier

Pastoral Care
Rev. Freddy Fritz

Greeters & Welcome Table
Brian Carrier

Ushers
Jennifer Schumm

Hospitality
Joan M. Kosanovich

Women's Bible Study
Eileen Fritz &
Debbie Jordan

Men's Bible Study
Rod Proctor

Women's Ministry
Brandi Shultz

Men's Ministry
Brian Carrier

Workshop Ministry
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Stephanie Smoot

Missions
Scott Simmons

Youth
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NTCA
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Grace Lee, *Co-Editor*

It is the goal of the *Trumpet* staff to provide articles for learning and growing, news for connecting with our church family, and information on opportunities for service and participation. The views and opinions expressed in the *Trumpet* have not been reviewed or endorsed by the Session.

Please forward articles, pictures, ministry reports, and calendar items for the next edition of the *Trumpet* to grace76548@gmail.com by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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