



# CONNECTIONS

at Stanley Heights  
BAPTIST CHURCH

From Pastor Baughman's Desk...



## Making Sunday Count: A Guide for Family and Personal Discipleship

One of the greatest challenges I have faced as a man is discipling my family in worship. I knew I needed to, but I didn't know how. Or found as my children got older and our life became more complicated so did our worship and discipleship family time. More often than not, I felt like a failure.

As I thought about this challenge (that I still face), I wondered if I could help our people with the tension I experience. I wondered how I could give our men and families a tool to aid them in leading and discipling their

families. I wanted it to be something anyone could do whether a couple, a single, or a household with a house full of children. I wanted it to build on Sunday since that is the day set apart as the Lord's Day when we worship with our church family.

My solution? "Making Sunday Count!" beginning the first Sunday of 2018 will be...

- Helpful – You will know just what to do to lead by carrying out the daily activity.
- Varied – Every day has something different.
- Simple – This can work for any age or attention span, any time frame, or any place (even in the car).
- Convenient – The guide is on the back page of the bulletin you receive every Sunday.
- Flexible – Do what you can do for as many days of the week as you can.
- Integrated – It builds off of Sunday ministry, so Sunday can have an impact all week.
- Supplemental – This can coordinate with anything else you are doing as an individual or as a family.
- Intentional – You will focus weekly on prayer, praise, testimony, meditation, and the character of God.

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### CONDOLENCES to:

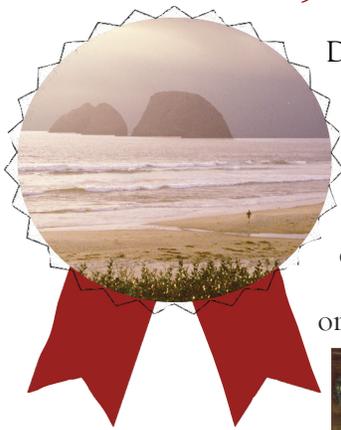
- the family of Juanita Babcock in her homegoing
- the Wilkinson family in the loss of June's brother in November
- the Patton family in the loss of Pam's mother on December 15
- Chris Norman in the loss of his grandmother on December 28

## Find Us Faithful Missions Conference – February 21-25

The theme of our annual global outreach ministry is *Find Us Faithful*. Guest missionaries are Dr. Richard Jacob & Leah (USA), John & Brenda Gossett (Trinidad), and James & Rebekah Scott on deputation for Japan.

In addition to the conference theme, we want to emphasize the importance of Faith Promise Giving. While sending the gospel to regions beyond is the objective of giving, you and your relationship with the Lord is actually at the heart of the matter. Of utmost importance is: submitting yourself to the lordship of Christ; surrendering your will to His; tuning your heart to that of God in the matter of giving; and accepting that God is able to provide for you.

Your faithfulness can be shared in the form of a Faith Promise Commitment. Cards will be collected on Sunday and also the following week.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- David & Linda Wemmie
- Daniel Baer



The Jacobs (l. to r.): Emerald, Marcus, Richard, Leah, and Gideon.



James and Rebekah Scott and Joshua



The Gossetts (l. to r.): Anna, Jonathan, Brenda, John, and Rebekah.

# A Report on Japan Ministry

By Pastor Brent Baughman

I was honored to go to Japan from November 29 – December 12 at the invitation of Dr. Ron White. He and I did a series of concerts entitled Christmas in Piano and Brass: *Where History, Theology, and Christmas Meet* in churches and at the Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School. In these concerts we incorporated Scripture reading, Christmas carols (with two instruments), stories about carols, theology of the carols explained, and Bible preaching. I did not know what to expect when I prepared for this trip. So much of what I prepared had to be changed or eliminated.



Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School



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From the Osaka area, down to Iwakuni to be with the Knights, to Tokyo we were on board planes, trains and automobiles toting instruments and planning variations of our program, preparing new sermons, adapting and writing new music to meet the needs of the day. In all, we did 11 concerts and 3 other events in the time we were there.

Part of agreeing to do this with Dr. White was getting time to be with Brandyn and Alicia Knight and their boys in Iwakuni. We had such sweet fellowship with them and were able to share the burdens they bear for the work the Lord has for them to US military. They were able to come up to Kansai for the Bible College concerts, so we had even more time together!

Some crazy things happened including spending an unexpected night in the international terminal of Tokyo’s Haneda airport with a couple hundred terminal buddies, crazy valve issues with instruments, and Dr. White’s vision challenges that created additional challenges for us both.

Another blessing of the trip was being able to renew acquaintance with pastors and their families I had met before and meeting some new Japanese pastors as well as some missionaries. Besides communicating the truth, the time with these brothers and sisters may be the most important ministry that I had.



©Lance Cpl. Andrew Johnson  
Marine Corps Air Station - Iwakuni

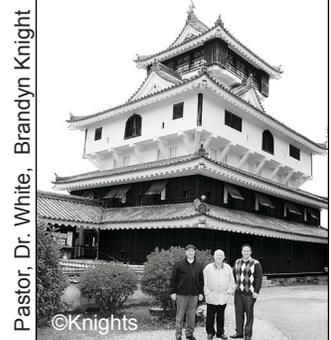


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Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School



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Pastor, Alicia, Dawsyn, Gavin, & Brandyn Knight; Dr. White



Pastor, Dr. White, Brandyn Knight

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## TO THE JEW FIRST...

### Germany’s Rising Anti-Semitic Elements

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced concerns on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 to Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel about the rise of anti-Semitic elements within German politics. He stated, “Israel is worried about the rise of anti-Semitism in recent years among political elements on the right and on the left, as well as among Islamist elements.” His concern is focused on those making efforts to deny responsibility for or to marginalize the Holocaust.

For the first time in almost 60 years, the first far-right political party has won seats in Germany’s parliament. The Alternative for Germany (AfD) party saw the largest increase in voter share of all of the country’s main political parties. It is now represented in 13 out of 16 state parliaments predominantly in the former Communist east.

The AfD was first formed in 2013 at the height of Europe’s debt crisis as an anti-European Union and anti-Euro Party. It is now mainly known for its anti-immigration (namely, anti-Islamic) stance. Party platform continues to evolve as leaders split on future direction of the party. One of AfD’s key figures is Björn Höcke who once called the Holocaust memorial in Berlin a “monument of shame”.

*Editor’s Note: Excerpts from: and www.cnn.com, “Germany’s far-right AfD party: 5 things you need to know” and www.timesofisrael.com, “In chat with Merkel, Netanyahu says Israel worried about rising anti-Semitism”*

### “For Such a Time as This” The Testimony of Esther

By Mark Oshman



The holiday of *Purim* usually occurs in late February or early March of every year. It commemorates how God delivered the Jews in the Medo-Persian Empire from extinction at the hands of Haman, the king’s chief minister.

Esther (whose name means ‘star,’ in the Persian language) played a vital role in thwarting Haman’s plot. As the wife of the Medo-Persian monarch, Ahasuerus, Esther exercised a unique influence over her husband.

The author of the book of Esther described her as “fair and beautiful” (Esther 2:7). Furthermore, “Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her” (Esther 2:15).

Solomon wrote that “(f)avour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30). Esther had more going for her than physical attractiveness and charm.

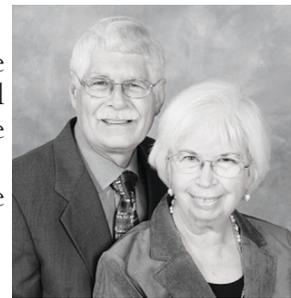
She possessed a submissive spirit; a readiness to subordinate her will to God’s will. Esther also demonstrated her courage in opposing Haman, not fearing that the Medo-Persian king might choose to side with Haman, rather than with her.

The book of Esther bore testimony to that queen’s testimony for God in a non-Jewish culture. It is no wonder that Jews extol her name!

## Annual Business Meeting Results

The Annual Business Meeting on December 20 resulted in approval of the 2018 budget and the endorsement of two new deacons for a three-year term. Phil Crosby and Don Duncan join current deacons Tom Hill, Phill Harris and Dave Wemmie. The willingness of each one of these men to serve is a blessing.

Ron Bennecke and John Tucker have completed their three-year term and are rolling off the team this year. Thank you Ron and John for your faithful service.



Don & Carlene Duncan



Phil & Judy Crosby

## From Orthodox Jew to Finding Jesus

By Mark Oshman

I grew up in Brooklyn NY as an Orthodox Jew. Whenever I sinned against God, according to Deuteronomy 27, I was both condemned as a sinner, and accursed as a covenant-breaker. Even worse, I discovered that the Jewish faith, as practiced today, offered me no way to become reconciled to a holy God. Though I tried to live as uprightly as I could, I kept sinning and offending God.



By the time I entered my early teens, I stopped practicing Judaism. I started reading materials about other religious faiths and philosophies. None of them provided me any answers to my basic question: how could I get right with God?

When I entered the U.S. Air Force in 1971, a member of the Gideons' International Bible Society gave me a New Testament. I read through that New Testament, for the first time, during military basic training. At that time, I learned who Jesus Christ claimed to be ~ God and Messiah ~ and what He accomplished ~ dying on a cross to atone for my sins. The book of Hebrews showed me how Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice for my sins and the perfect High Priest to present that sacrifice.

I didn't understand, at first, how I could take what Jesus Christ did for me and apply it to myself. At a religious retreat, two men shared the gospel with me. They explained to me how, by faith, I could receive the benefits of Jesus Christ's atonement applied to myself. I needed to repent of my sins and accept Him as my Savior. Before the religious retreat had ended, I did so.

## Christmas Drama

By Pastor Chase Basinger

This year, SHBC desired to do something just a little different ... I asked Jessica Baughman back in March of 2017 about doing an all-children's Christmas program. We both agreed that this program would be a ton of fun, not only for the children' choir, but for the adults involved in the drama. After months of rehearsing 8 brand new music selections, and memorizing pages upon pages of drama lines, 'Christmas Carol' was ready.

I'd like to thank Jessica Baughman for her energy, passion and patience working with your wonderful children. The choir sounded amazing! Ms. Jessica is a true servant.

Thank you to the drama team for their countless hours of preparation. The message of Christ's love for us was greatly portrayed.

The Lord blessed both performances that Sunday, December 17 and we as a church family at SHBC can truly say, "to God be the glory, great things he has done!"



©Chase Basinger

Children's Choir



©Chase Basinger

Harrison Cochran; Samantha Harris; John, Natalie, and Sarah Mims; Olivia Harris; and Ruth Earnshaw

## Junior Class Mystery Party

By Kellie Wemmie

Saturday, November 11th, the Junior Sunday school enjoyed fellowship and fun solving mysteries. First they were able to show off their disguises while getting their "mug shot." They put their powers of observation to test with guessing what crazy things from Mrs. Wemmie's house were wrapped in aluminum foil.



©Dave Wemmie

Kellie Wemmie and Sarah Mims

Using deduction they solved "who dun it" in a game led by Mrs. Mims. Even snack time required guessing. They chose their snacks which were listed using aliases. The kids enjoyed revealing the true identity of their snacks - it was quite delicious.

Our detectives, armed with flashlights, scoured the darkened halls of the church following clues to find "hidden loot." Even their agility was tested as they maneuvered a laser "yarn" maze. All cases were solved and criminals caught (by parents) and a really good time served.



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## The Return of Daylight Saving Time

On Sunday, March 11, we will say good-bye to Eastern Standard Time until November 4, 2018.

Don't be late...turn clocks **FORWARD** one hour on Sunday, March 11 by 2 a.m.



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Home of Ray & Jean Thompson

### Teen Rake-a-Difference



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Home of Janis Rowland



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### Teen Fall Retreat



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### Trunk-or-Treat at East Ridge Elementary School



### Junior Class Mystery



### Christmas Drama

### Preparing Missionary



### Christmas Cards



### and Ornaments



©Dave Wemmie



### Christmas Caroling



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