

EMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH

THE EDGE

March 2019

ELLS International
is Spreading Its Wings


By: Stan Myers

An edition on ELLS International

If money were no object and the sky was the limit, I would charter two 747s and fly our whole church to Africa to see and experience what God is doing through the ministry of ELLS International. The most exciting, most invigorating, most gratifying thing I've ever experienced is being in a room packed with dozens of impoverished, uneducated, ill-equipped pastors who are learning how to study, interpret, and preach the Word of God. I wish you could see the eagerness on their faces. I wish you could observe the way they listen, the way they take notes, and the way they cherish the notebooks we provide. I wish you could see "the lights go on" in their minds as they absorb the teaching. And I wish you could sit with them at lunchtime under the shade of a tree and hear their personal stories. I think you would be as enthralled as me, and I think you might become as endeared to these brothers and sisters in Christ as I am.

I also think you would be convinced that there are few things in this world more valuable than what ELLS International is doing in terms of kingdom advancement. We have now completed our three to five year training course in six regions of Kenya and Uganda, averaging approximately 175 pastors and church leaders at each conference. During this time, more than 700 pastors have received certificates of completion, meaning that they attended every conference and did all the course work (many more pastors started attending in the second or third year of the conference, and thus have not completed all the course work). This means that hundreds of local pastors are better equipped to preach and teach God's word with accuracy and competency. The result is a stronger, more mature church in these developing countries, and the opportunity to raise up an army of disciples who can help fulfill the Great Commission. Nearly a thousand local churches and forty thousand individuals have been impacted by the ministry of ELLS in just seven years!






This has happened with a bumbling, volunteer Executive Director (me!), limited time and resources, and an absence of sustainable funding which is evidence that God has done this! What is more, ELLS International has received at least a dozen requests in the last year to begin its program in countries and regions where we have never been. In late March and early April we will be going to three countries and meeting with representatives of twelve African nations who are pleading with us to begin the ELLS program in their respective regions. The requests go something like this:

- “We don’t have anything like ELLS International in West Africa, and it is badly needed”
- “We are desperate to learn how to preach and teach the word with power and clarity, and there is not one Bible training institute in our country. Please come and teach us!”
- “What ELLS is doing is exactly the kind of training we need. If our churches are going to be strong we have to learn how to accurately interpret the Word and preach it with integrity. Please help us!”

But what to do with all these invitations? I can barely keep up with all my responsibilities as senior pastor of Emmanuel Bible Church. If ELLS International is going to even begin to respond to these pleas, we obviously need more resources and personnel. Someone needs to give this ministry their full-time, undivided attention. And that someone needs to be highly qualified and specifically called for this unique ministry.



That brings me to Grant Clay, the senior pastor of Clay Center Covenant Church in Clay Center, Kansas. Grant was a member of the ELLS International team last June, and he preached and taught a number of times in the four towns in which we conducted our conferences. He adapted remarkably well to the culture and challenges of a developing country. He saw the need firsthand, and it was an even greater need than he had realized. He got to see the inner workings of ELLS International, meet and befriend the African team members, and actively engage in the program. He also fell in love with the African pastors and was captured by their eagerness to learn and implement the teachings.

Pastor Grant is eminently qualified for the position of Executive Director. He has two Master’s degrees and is nearing completion of his Ph.D. in hermeneutics (the science and art of biblical interpretation), which is the most substantive part of ELLS International’s curriculum. His wife, Suzanne, has a rich history in missions, and they have three children.

By faith, the Board of ELLS International has extended a call to Pastor Grant to serve as full time Executive Director beginning August 1. This will necessitate a transition for the Clay family from Kansas to Oregon (the Salem/Silverton area). It will also require that we have adequate funds in order to secure Grant’s services, and ensure the health and longevity of ELLS International. We have set a target and are trusting the Lord to provide \$150,000 by July 1. This amount would cover Grant’s first year’s salary and benefits, 2019 office expenses, and the 2019 ELLS program.

You will be hearing much more from me about ELLS International in the days to come. When I return from my trip to Africa, I will spend a Sunday morning (April 14) giving you a report and talking about what God is doing.

May the Lord continue to bless this ministry, and may He strengthen His church in remote areas of the developing world!

- *David & Nicole Aitken Family* -

Family Profile. . .

By: Yelena Galante

I met Nicole in their beautiful SE Salem home. It was a pleasure to speak with her and learn more about the family that David and Nicole have created.

David and Nicole Aitken will celebrate their 18th anniversary this April. They have two children, Mikayla, age 16, a junior, and Jakob, age 14, a freshman. They are both homeschooled by Nicole. They also have a furry family member, a Havanese named Freddy who is doted on by all.

Both David and Nicole grew up in the suburbs of LA. Nicole had one sister and her parents worked in the aerospace industry as satellite inspectors. She was not brought up in a Christian home and for a while she struggled as a kid who was dropped off at church but who never really felt like a part of the church. Nicole came to know Christ personally when her high school boyfriend's mom bought her a Bible and insisted that Nicole go to church with her every Sunday. Eventually this woman led Nicole to the Lord. After becoming a Christian, Nicole did break up with the boyfriend because he was not interested in being a Christian.

David was an only child, and both his parents were sheriffs. He was raised in a Christian family, but during high school he chose to go his own way for a while. He did not have a personal relationship with Jesus until he became an adult.

The story of how David and Nicole met is like a plot for a romantic movie. Nicole used to go rollerblading on the boardwalk with a friend, and they would ride past the place where David lived. One day, David said hello and they made small talk. Soon they went on a date – all this after Nicole had just told her friend that someone would fall into her lap. Then 10 minutes later, David said hi. They both knew they had met “the one” on their first date. Later, they were married on Redondo Beach in California.

Nicole used to own a day spa but once Mikayla was born, she became a stay-at-home (and now homeschooling) mom. David graduated from Chico State University with a Master's in Business administration and is an insurance agent. He owns Aitken Insurance Agency in Oregon and California. When Nicole's parents retired in Oregon, the Aitken family relocated to Oregon to be closer to them. They really love it here!

The Aitkens have been attending Emmanuel Bible Church for about a year and a half. Nicole says “We used to drive past EBC and the kids wanted to check it out because the church we went to at the time didn't have a lot of kids their age”. They decided to visit, liked what they saw, and have come to EBC ever since! Nicole has enjoyed attending the monthly S.O.S. gatherings, and David has enjoyed the Men's Ministry Bible Study. In addition to EBC activities, the Aitkens are also involved in the Molalla Fired Up Youth Group and David serves with prison ministries.

David, Nicole, Mikayla, and Jacob all love the outdoors and enjoy hiking together. David likes to surf, ski, and go bike riding and Nicole is crafty at everything including making cards, cooking, and photography.

The Lord has been teaching Nicole and the family: “Be still, and know that I am God.” Life has been so busy the last couple of years, so God has been calling Nicole to rest, get into His word, and renew and recharge. Together they focus on simplifying life and learning that God and family are most important.



By: Wade Wiegand & Mindy Myers

Going to Others...



EVENT PAGE

THE HAPPENINGS AT EBC

MARCH EVENTS -

11 & 12 - Staff Retreat

The staff will be spending some time together on March 11th and 12th. Kami Myers will be working in the church office during that time and you may leave a message with her until the staff returns. For any urgent pastoral care needs, please contact the elder on call: Harold Tuggy.

12 - Women's SOS (Seeking Our Savior) Night

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: South Building

(more details located on page 8)

14 - Baby Shower for Valerie Flanigan

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: South Building

All ladies are invited to shower Valerie (and Cole) as they prepare and anticipate the arrival of their baby girl!

They are registered at babylist.com

17 - Child Dedication

Time: 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM

Location: Sanctuary

If you would like to publicly dedicate your child(ren) to the Lord on Sunday, March 17th, please contact the church office.

(there will also be a child dedication on Mother's Day, May 12th, if you would like to participate in that dedication.)

25 to 29 - Spring Break

Events Cancelled: Afterschool, Awana, Lifeguards, and the Men's Ministry Bible Study.

APRIL EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

05-07 - Lifeguard Retreat

Location: Seakrest Lodge

Contact: Tom and Annette Aman

09 - Women's SOS Night

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: South Building

Rosie Roth will be speaking on God's attribute of "Goodness".

All ladies are welcome, even if you haven't registered before.

19 - Good Friday Service

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Sanctuary

Everyone is invited to our Good Friday service, including all friends and neighbors! We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper together.

21 - Easter Worship

Time: 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM (no Sunday school)

Location: Sanctuary

Join us as we celebrate the Risen Christ together on April 21st!

24 - Awana Awards Night

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Sanctuary

28 - Lifeguards Sausage Feed Fundraiser

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a yummy sausage dinner while supporting our Jr. High group and hearing about their events!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AE/SS = Adult Education/Sunday School SOS = Seeking Our Savior WC = Women's Council YAM = Young Adult Ministry					<u>01</u>	<u>02</u> 9:00 Awana Grand Prix 1:00 Cheryl Ashley Memorial Service
<u>03</u> 8:00/10:45 Worship 9:30 AE/SS 6:00 Youth Group	<u>04</u> 2:00 After School Program 7:00 Elder Board Meeting	<u>05</u> 5:30 Men's Fellowship	<u>06</u> Bite with Friends 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeguards 7:00 Prayer Meeting	<u>07</u> Friends 7:00 Men's Ministry Study 7:00 YAM	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u> 6:30 Elder Board Prayer Meeting
<u>10</u> Daylight Savings 8:00/10:45 Worship 9:30 AE/SS 6:00 Youth Group	<u>11</u> Staff Retreat	<u>12</u> 5:30 Men's Fellowship 7:00 SOS	<u>13</u> 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeguards 7:00 Prayer Meeting	<u>14</u> 7:00 Valerie Flanigan Baby Shower	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> 8:00/10:45 Worship 9:30 AE/SS 6:00 Youth Group	<u>18</u> 2:00 After School Program 7:00 Church Board Meeting	<u>19</u> 5:30 Men's Fellowship 12:30 WC Meeting 11:30 Forever Friends Luncheon 6:30 Simonka Chapel Service	<u>20</u> 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeguards 7:00 Prayer Meeting	<u>21</u> 7:00 YAM	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> 8:00/10:45 Worship 9:30 AE/SS 6:00 Youth Group	<u>25</u> 7:00 Elder Board Meeting	<u>26</u> 5:30 Men's Fellowship	<u>27</u> Spring Break 7:00 Prayer Meeting 8:00 Missions Comm. Meeting	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u> 8:00/10:45 Worship 9:30 AE/SS 6:00 Youth Group						

- March 2019 -

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 01** Shelley Myers
- 02** Molly Kuenzi, Henna Mulkey, Ann Rue, Kelly Stupfel
- 03** Brad Dettwyler, Wyatt Greenwood, Glenn Izer,
Sophia Stadel, Helen Widmer
- 04** Kurtis Kaufman, George Kuenzi, Amanda Tourtellotte
- 05** Alex Gardner, Whitney Lierman
- 06** Lucian Batson, Chloe Gehring
- 07** Kim Haury, Kevin Kuenzi
- 08** Jadon Idol, Mike Whygle
- 09** Claire Roth
- 10** Brett Davisson, Tiana Goode
- 11** Patty Cypert, Hope Gehring, Anthony Shetler,
Daniel Spalding
- 12** Connor Goode, Jeannie Scheller
- 13** Betty Woodall
- 14** Brett Simmons, Sophia Walz
- 15** Cathy Stadel
- 16** Pat Twede
- 17** Kathy Beutler
- 19** Kinley Baskett, Andy Miller
- 20** Mary Kuenzi
- 21** Avery Brenden, Sarah Davisson, Micah Shetler
- 22** Rick Kinzer, Fay Tourtellotte
- 23** Janie Twede, Teddy Wallace, Freddy Wallace
- 24** Jena Davisson, Claova Johnston, Austin Rawie
- 25** Reuben Idol, Kendra Seefeldt
- 26** William Jennings, Svet Stefanovich
- 28** Abigail Ford, Annie Hoffman, Kim Spalding
- 29** Jane Gardner, Shane Johnston, Michael Tourtellotte
- 31** Caleb Kohl
- 02** Ron and Kelly Bizon, Ray and Jeannie Scheller
- 03** Yajkiimaa and Loraine Akeeem
- 07** Mike and Molly Plumb
- 09** Lance and Karie Kamstra
- 11**
- 12** Harold and Linda Hari,
Larry and Deloris Stoutenburg (**57**)
- 14** Loren and Joanne Hargreaves (**60**)
- 18** Dale and Alice Koger
- 20**
- 27** John and Nikki Tuggy
- 28** Tim and Esther Lawrence
- 29** Stan and Mindy Myers, Terry and Arlene Rice,
Dan and Jean Wright
- 30** Boone and Becky Miller

*If we inadvertently left you out of the Birthday or
Anniversary list or if you would like to be added to the EDGE
mailing, please notify the office at:
503.364.6179 or office@ebcsalem.com*

Emmanuel Bible Church

8512 Sunnyview Rd | Salem, OR | 97305

www.ebcsalem.com

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Services 8:00 & 10:45 AM

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S.O.S.

SEEKING OUR SAVIOR

March 12th, 2019,
7:00 PM

Claire Roth will be teaching on
God's attributes of Eternality
and Infinity.

All Women are invited to join
us in the South Building!
Doors open at 6:45 PM, and
the event begins at 7:00 PM.

Questions? Contact:
Jenny Shetler

(via the church office if you don't
have her contact information)

