

March  
2023

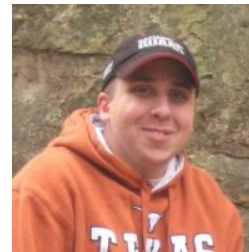


## News From Our Churches:

**Carlisle Baptist Church:** had two baptisms in February. One was a new follower and one who has followed Jesus for many years but wanted to declare Him publicly through baptism.



**Josiah's Way** (Paxtonville) officially announced that on February 26, 2023, they had called Caleb Snook to be their pastor. The church stated, "We look forward to witnessing the Lord continue His mighty work." Pastor Snook has been a member at Thompsonstown Baptist for many years.



**Stewartstown Baptist Church** will ordain four men into the deacon ministry on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Visitors are welcome to attend and there will be a potluck reception following the service.

Pastor Tim Parker also shared this story: "'Do you handle snakes?' Pastor Chandler Robinson, associate pastor at Stewartstown Baptist Church (SBC), was recently asked this question while doing community outreach in Stewartstown.

Pastor Chandler reported he met with the local Senior Center to see how Stewartstown Baptist Church might be of service. Much to his surprise, Pastor Chandler said that two senior ladies told him they had been unchurched for a number of years and had considered visiting SBC but were afraid that it was a place that practiced snake handling. Their question, while somewhat humorous, serves as a ready reminder that there is much work left to do in our communities to advance the gospel and dispel falsehoods for the glory of God."

## News From Our Churches (cont.)

**Family of God Community Church** (Red Lion) held its annual Family Ministry Kite Day on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Although they had a few snow flurries outside, around 30 enjoyed a great breakfast and fun inside and outside as they created and flew their kites.



**Greencastle Baptist Church** held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Missions Fair on March 10<sup>th</sup> to highlight different mission organizations their church is affiliated with.



**Heaven Bound** (Mifflintown) hosted a free square dance for the community at the Mifflintown Fire Department on March 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a crowd of around 120 people that came to dance and heard about the church.



**Central Baptist Church** (Mont Alto) Pastor John Buhr shared this story: “When we were planning VBS last year, one of our leaders suggested that we make the craft something meaningful for the children. We did not want them to make something that they would simply throw away. We came up with the idea of a Blessing Box. We got the children to build the box (with close adult supervision). We asked the children to bring items for the box.



We had a lot of items brought in and started to use the box. At first it was not getting used until one day a visitor came to the church about an unrelated matter and commented about how empty our box was. It has been up since last summer and we have been able to provide a lot of food, warm clothes (hats and mittens), hygiene products as well as Christian reading material. We even have people from the community helping with supplies for the box. I am glad we thought outside the box to create the Blessing Box because it has been a huge blessing.”

## News From Our Churches (cont.)

**Red Land Baptist Church:** (New Cumberland) continues its ministry to ProMedica Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center in Camp Hill by providing monthly cards of encouragement to its Alzheimer's unit. This ongoing ministry was a need that the center asked Red Land to help with. They were aware that some patients never receive a piece of mail or have visitors. Their thought was a card may bring a smile to those in the center. In February, Red Land also provided small stuffed animals to share with the patients for Valentine's Day.



## News From KBA:

**REALITY Student Apologetics Conference** is March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Downingtown, PA. Brad will be attending and is inviting KBA pastors to join him. The cost is \$40.00 for the conference and the hotel is \$120.00. If interested, contact Brad ([director@keystonebaptist.net](mailto:director@keystonebaptist.net)) for additional information.

**Pastor's Prayer:** Pastors continue to meet on Thursday mornings at 10: 00 am and 7:30 pm for prayer. All pastors and pastoral staff are invited to join.

**Pastor's Roundtable:** is scheduled for Thursday, March 23rd at 10:00 am.

**KBA Israel Tour:** Brochures for the Israel trip were sent to each KBA church. The trip is scheduled for February 8-17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and is open for any member of a KBA Church. For additional details or if you are interested, email Brad.

**Pastors' Wives** continue to meet by zoom for prayer on Mondays at 7:30 pm. On Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> they will meet at 11:00 am at Thompsontown Baptist Church for the quarterly Pastors' Wives Fellowship. If you have any questions email Theresa: [office@keystonebaptist.net](mailto:office@keystonebaptist.net).



**Mississippi Mission Teams:** We have churches in Mississippi who are ready to plan a summer mission trip to PA. If you are interested in a team coming to your church and helping this summer, please let Brad know. There are construction teams, VBS teams, and church outreach teams ready to come.

**The KBA Website:** Be sure to check the KBA website for updated information, videos, and future events. [www.keystonebaptist.net](http://www.keystonebaptist.net).

## KBA Financial Update

**2023 February Income: \$6,090.37**

**2023 February Expenses: \$11,620.74**

## A Word from Brad ~ “It Just Popped Out”

(Read to the end to find out where this title came from)

I recently asked a guy in a church if he could tell me his story, his testimony. He replied, “I don’t have a story”. Then I went on to share with him that he can have a story.

Now that you know that this article is about personal testimonies, before you move on to something else, I have one question for you. If you have shared your personal testimony to an unbeliever in the last month, then you can stop reading here. But if you haven’t shared your testimony in the last month, you will want to keep reading this article.

So, what is a Christian testimony? It’s basically your life before Christ, how you became a Christian, and life since asking Christ into your life. Just three parts; before becoming a Christian, how you became a Christian, and life since becoming a Christian. It can really just be three sentences, if that would be most comfortable for you. Every Christian has a testimony, although most Christians have never shared it. Your personal testimony is a transition from daily life to the gospel.

What does the Bible say about our testimony? 1 John 5:10, “Whoever believes in the son of God has the testimony in himself.” In John 9, we read of the powerful testimony of a blind man. In John 4, the woman at the well was able to bring her whole town to Christ because of her testimony.

It is interesting that five times in the Bible we have the story of Paul's conversion. I have sometimes heard people object to men frequently relating the account of God's dealing with them. God didn't mind frequently relating how he dealt with Paul, so I'm not sure why people object.

In Acts 13:15 Paul tells us, “If you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak.” It’s what God expects of us! God speaks to others through our testimonies. Your testimony is significant because it’s the personal miracle of how God transformed your heart of stone into a heart of flesh, and only you can uniquely bear witness to that miracle.

Here are 5 principles for sharing your testimony.

1. Keep it short. I call this the “Elevator Testimony”. You need to share your testimony in about a minute or two. Remember, your testimony is not about you. It’s about God working in your life.
2. Have a before, how, and after. This is a timeline of the most important spiritual events in your life. If you have been a Christian as far back as you can remember, tell how it went from being your parent’s faith, to being your faith.



## A Word from Brad (cont.)

3. Have a theme to your testimony. My personal testimony is that I was so deep in sin and desperate for God, I prayed only when I was desperate.
4. Avoid 'Christianese'. These are Christian words that most unbelievers don't understand, like "Grace" and "I repented". Most unbelievers understand, at least the concept, of forgiveness.
5. Practice, practice, practice. A 20-year-old girl was attending our church and every Sunday we would ask someone to share their personal testimony. I called on her to share her testimony, and she politely objected, saying that we have all heard her testimony 5 times. Well, two weeks later, she comes to church smiling and all energetic. That week she had been talking to an unbeliever and in their conversation, she said that her testimony just "Popped out". **Hence the title of this article.** Her testimony had become a natural part of her thoughts and then easily became part of her conversation.

Blessings!

Brad

## Pray for:

- Karen Gerstmyer and her health.
- Maynard and Amy Jones's daughter and son in law as they study in Italy over the next several weeks. Upon arrival in Italy their daughter Stephanie severely sprained her ankle. Please pray for complete healing.
- The London Mission Trip on April 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Seven will be going on this trip. Brad Horne will lead the team that includes Gary and Debbie Buchman (1<sup>st</sup> Hanover), Rob and Sarah Sheldon (Greencastle Baptist), and Greg and Josh Keefer (Carlisle Baptist).
- Good News Bible Clubs and Bible Adventure Clubs. Children ministry programs that are being led by KBA churches.
- The continued partnership with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and that it will be fruitful.
- KBA churches and their pastors. Please pray for wisdom, discernment, and God's will for the Pastor Search Committees at Mount Wolf Community, Fellowship Baptist Church in Fairfield, Mountain View Community Church in Richfield, and Living Faith Evangelical in Littlestown as they seek a pastor.

## Ministry Opportunity:

Rev. John Worrall is available for pulpit supply or interim work. Recently John and Alice completed their 10-month interim at New Hope Baptist Church which concluded with the blessing of New Hope finding their new pastor. John's Contact information: Cell: 814-460-7576 and Email: PastureJ@gmail.com.

## New Life at Penn State:

Students at Penn State spent their spring break on mission working at two churches. One in northern side of the state and one in South Jersey. Sharing the gospel with those they met.



On the final day of spring break, Eric hosted eleven students to his house for dinner. Four of the eleven were not Christian. Currently they have two students that are attending their New Life meetings that are unbelievers. Please pray for them.

Eric shares some of the hardships they are facing. Please be in prayer for these requests:

- Five out of their fifteen students that regularly attend meetings will be graduating.
- Eight of the ten students remaining are freshman, so they will only have two upper classmen that are returning.
- God will provide leadership among students.

**WMU:** The WMU of PA/SJ (Women's Missionary Union) will be hosting an all-day prayer event at Red Land Baptist Church for the National Day of Prayer on May 4th. The church will be open as we ask those in attendance to pray through the Great Commission.

During our annual meeting last November, Pam Ammons taught a class on Anxiety and Depression. On Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, Pam continued by sharing with a group of women on the Biblical response to anxiety, depression, and suicide. 20 women attended this seminar held at Country and Town. Mental Health is a part of WMU's compassion ministry emphasis this year. For more information about the church and Mental Health call or email Theresa Krieg.



**Save the date.** of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for the WMU Annual Meeting at Red Land Baptist Church. The time will be 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. More information to come.