



# Bethel ON MISSION

**Equip ~ Send ~ Go**

**Winter 2026 Newsletter ~ July-December 2025 In Review**

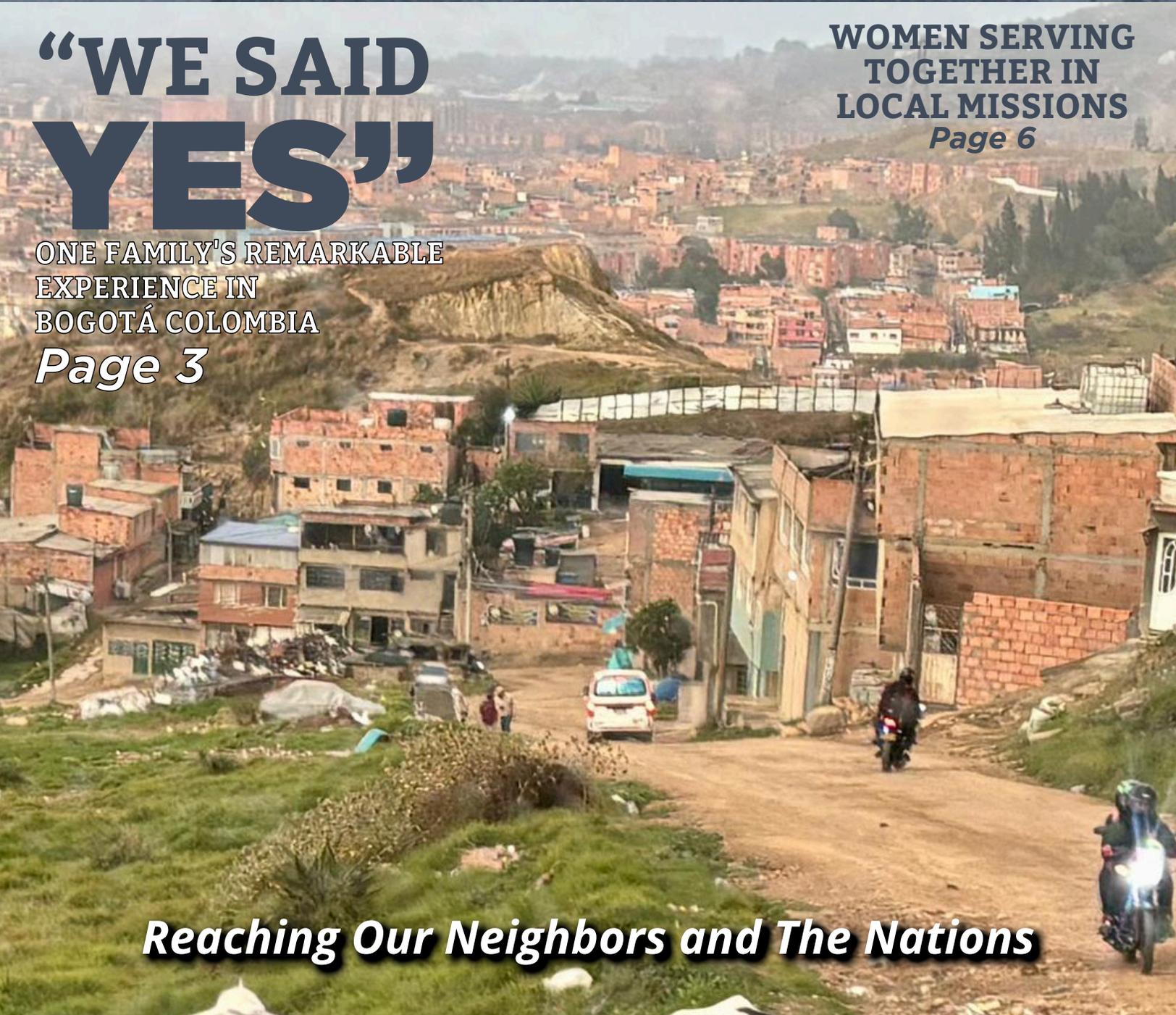
**“WE SAID  
YES”**

**ONE FAMILY'S REMARKABLE  
EXPERIENCE IN  
BOGOTÁ COLOMBIA**

***Page 3***

**WOMEN SERVING  
TOGETHER IN  
LOCAL MISSIONS**

***Page 6***



***Reaching Our Neighbors and The Nations***



# Bethel ON MISSION

## A Note from the Missions Pastor



Dear Church Family,

As your Missions Pastor, I want to reaffirm why we pursue the work of missions with such passion and commitment. Acts 1:8 gives us both the mandate and the power for this calling: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Jesus did not give us a suggestion—He gave us a mission. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the good news of Christ, beginning in our own community and extending outward with intentionality. Missions is not a program of

the church; it is the very heartbeat of who we are as followers of Jesus.

This verse also shows us the scope of our responsibility. "Jerusalem" represents our local neighborhoods—our homes, schools, and workplaces. "Judea and Samaria" represent the surrounding regions, the people similar to us and those different from us, reminding us that the gospel crosses every cultural and social boundary. And "to the ends of the earth" reminds us that God's heart is to reach every nation, tribe, and tongue with His gospel of grace. We do missions because God desires all people to know Him, and He has chosen us to carry His message of hope. May we continue to step out in obedience, empowered by the Spirit, to make Christ known everywhere He sends us.

All for Christ!

*Pastor Brian Parker*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Acts 1:8

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Note from the Missions Pastor**

*Page 1*

**Family Mission Camp**

*Page 2*

**Colombia**

*Page 3-4*

**Vermont**

*Page 5*

**Women's Ministry Missions Circles  
Shoe Boxes/Backpacks**

*Page 6*

**Toronto**

*Page 7-8*

**Military Missions**

*Page 9*

**Equip...Send...Go...**

*Page 10*

**2026 Missions Calendar**

*Back Cover*

*Front cover photo:*

*Bogota, Colombia, photo by Wendy Parker*

# MISSION CAMP PARTNERS WITH THE FIX MINISTRY, WITNESSING LIVES TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

By Marissa Henrich



Our most recent Family Mission Camp was held in September 2025. We partnered with The Fix Ministry in the Richmond area, witnessing firsthand the powerful work of God in transforming lives and bringing hope to those battling addiction. The annual camp, though tasks vary each year, remains steadfast in its mission: serving alongside brothers and sisters in Christ to glorify God.

The Fix Ministry operates a year-long program dedicated to helping individuals transition off the streets and find freedom from addiction. Their church community is uniquely composed of recovered addicts and their families, creating a powerful testament to redemption. Bethel participants joined the ministry team, learning and observing God's undeniable movement through people passionate about people.

The trip began with an evening at the men's and women's group homes, where dinner was had and followed by shared testimonies and heartfelt

conversations, fostering connection and understanding. The following day, volunteers lent their hands at The Fix Ministry's thrift store, providing much-needed support.

The journey continued with men serving meals in the area near the church, even in the midst of the rain, while the ladies engaged in a dedicated Bible study before reuniting for a church service. A significant part of the experience involved serving directly in downtown Richmond, where many stories of individuals at various stages of their journey were heard – some just beginning to seek change, and others boldly sharing their new lives surrendered to Jesus.

"Each year is so special because of the unknown," one participant shared, reflecting on the experience. "But God works in the unknowns because He already knows!" This sentiment was echoed by the entire team, who walked away feeling profoundly blessed, far beyond their expectations, and with new, cherished friendships formed.

The partnership with The Fix Ministry underscored the biblical call to love our neighbors and care for the vulnerable, demonstrating the power of Christ to bring healing and restoration (Matthew 25:35-40). The ongoing commitment to prayer for those in the program, the caretakers, the church, and all involved highlights the recognition that God is doing something truly significant through this ministry.

The Family Mission Camp serves as a powerful reminder that God is at work in every circumstance, bringing light into darkness and offering new beginnings through His grace and the dedication of His people.



For more information about The Fix Ministry, check out their website at: [thefixministry.org/](http://thefixministry.org/)

# WE SAID YES!

## ONE FAMILIES REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE IN BOGOTÁ COLOMBIA

By Tiffany Hinson



Justin and I never planned to go on a mission trip—not while our kids were still young. We always said,

*“When the kids are older... when life slows down... someday.”*

In our minds, our mission field right now was our children.

But God has a way of gently redirecting our comfortable plans.

It began when our youngest, Laney, told us she wanted to go on a mission trip. Someone mentioned she might be too young, so instead of backing down, she went straight to Pastor Brian. His response sounded almost too simple:

“Great. You can go to Bogotá!”

At first, Justin and I laughed it off. But when the invitation came again, we looked at each other with that wide-eyed realization:

*Are... we doing this?*

Soon, planning began. Pastor Brian asked me to help lead children’s ministry activities. Justin was asked to teach a class on biblical love within the family. Everything about this trip seemed intentionally family-

centered, and it felt like God was gently nudging us forward.

So, we said yes.

Even before the plane took off, God started stretching us. I am a comfort person—I plan, organize, and prepare. But leading ministry in unfamiliar spaces, through a translator, was something I had never done. Justin felt the weight of stepping into new teaching responsibilities as well. Yet it was exactly the kind of stretching that reminds us of 2 Corinthians 12:9: *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

And so, in our weakness and uncertainty, we went.

### **Bogotá: Street Evangelism & Park Planning**

The moment we landed, the city wrapped around us with movement and noise. Carson immediately noticed “how busy everything was,” especially the traffic. Laney thought it looked like a normal city—until the driving began. Then she quickly decided, “The driving was crazy!”

But beneath the chaos, something deeper stood out: the people.

Carson said the people were “more willing to talk about their faith and the Gospel than people in the U.S.” That openness shaped everything.

On our first full day, we served alongside the Lion of Judah Church, evangelizing through the neighborhood and preparing for a large park outreach for families and children. From the very beginning, what moved us most was how the church members welcomed us like family. Justin said the people “prioritized relationships over schedules,” a simplicity and intentionality we are not used to seeing at home.

As we walked the neighborhood, prayed with families, and planned for the upcoming park event, I kept thinking of Romans 10:15: *“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.”*

Our family was not just witnessing ministry—we were part of it.

### **La Florida: Poverty, Joy, and a Little Girl with a Mission**

The next day, we traveled to La Florida, an area severely affected by poverty. This was the day God broke our hearts in the best way.

We set up for children’s ministry outdoors—crafts, games, Bible lessons. The kids came running with excitement. Carson said his favorite part was simply “seeing their excitement.” Laney loved “seeing how happy they were making crafts.”

And this was the day we met the little girl whose joy changed us.

She was so thrilled that we were there that she grabbed our hands and pulled us house to house—inviting everyone to the church. Her eagerness to share Jesus stirred something deep in each of us. Laney later said that seeing her passion “made me want to have that same desire for telling others about God.”

In her simple joy, we saw Matthew 19:14 come alive: *“Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

Walking through La Florida was humbling. Justin said the hardest part was “seeing the life there and not being able to instantly make a difference.” But even there, God was moving.

### **Bogotá: The Park Outreach That God Redirected**

The following day, we returned to Bogotá for the large park outreach we had spent days planning. But there was a problem—rain clouds rolled in. We worried the event would be completely shut down.

But God had a different plan.

The weather forced us to move the outreach inside the Lion of Judah Church. Instead of passing by at a park, families walked through the church doors—many of them for the very first time. We had food,

games, skits, crafts, and time to share the Gospel.

What we feared would ruin the event deepened its impact.

Instead of the community seeing us in a park... they saw the church. They met the church. They entered the church.

It felt like God whispering Isaiah 55:8-9 over the entire day: *“My thoughts are not your thoughts... neither are your ways my ways.”*

By the end of the day, the sanctuary was full of joy, noise, families, children, and the presence of God.

### **What God Taught Us Through Our Children**

Throughout the week, Carson and Laney were not just participating—they were ministering.

Carson said God taught him “to be more willing to share my faith in the U.S.”

Laney said the trip showed her that “even though cultures and languages differ, when we follow God, we share something deep and unifying.”

For us as parents, watching our children worship, serve, invite, teach, and love with such purity was one of the greatest gifts of the entire mission.

It reminded us that God doesn’t call adults only. He calls families.

And He meets each of us exactly where we are.

### **The Thread God Wove Through Our Week**

We saw a simplicity to life in Colombia—a relational warmth, a sense of community that humbled

us. Justin said it helped him recognize “the difference between wants and needs.” Carson said he learned “not to take things for granted.” Laney said the trip made her want to pursue missions more intentionally in the future.

As for Justin, he connected deeply with our translator, Juan Carlos—two fathers from two different countries, discovering the same joys and struggles in raising kids. And despite the language barrier, I found an immediate bond with Elli, who leads children’s ministry at the Lion of Judah Church. Passion for ministry speaks its own language.

Both Justin and I left feeling the weight and beauty of Matthew 28:19: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”*

This was not just a trip. It was obedience. It was stretching. It was sacred.

### **Gratitude & God’s Timing**

We gained an even deeper respect and gratitude for Pastor Brian and Wendy. Their leadership, their love for the Lord, and the way they shepherd mission teams with gentleness and strength gave us so much peace. When people said, “If you ever go on a mission trip, go with Pastor Brian,” they were right.

This trip stretched us, humbled us, and changed us in ways we never expected.

Mission work did not pull us away from our calling as parents. It strengthened it.

God did not wait until our kids were grown. He invited all four of us—together—into His mission now.

And we are so grateful we said yes.



# WILL YOU JOIN WHAT GOD IS DOING?

Serving Alongside Northeastern Baptist College in His Kingdom's Work

By Steve Gregorin



Seek where the Lord is moving and join Him in His kingdom's work. This has been my heart's meditation ever since my first missions' trip to NEBC in Bennington, Vermont. God is moving in the northeast, and we have a great opportunity to be a part of His kingdom's work at Northeastern Baptist College. Throughout the more than ten years of partnership with NEBC we have seen the many ways God has been active in the northeast. My favorite highlight from this year was hearing about the 600+ baptisms that had occurred through the various students and ministries of NEBC.

What does the mission trip look like you may ask? Our main focus is definitely construction, however it is not all that we do. Some of

the highlights have been converting multiple floors of a hotel into a seminary, an old motel gutted and renovated into student housing, a lodge turned into a library, and most recently an empty field became family duplexes. Along with construction, we have supported the office and library staff; there is never a dull moment no matter what your skills. We have also had opportunities to share the Gospel one on one and in town. We have built lasting friendships, lead VBS, partnered with local churches and their outreaches. All of these things are to join the Lord in what He is doing at NEBC and the northeast.

At Northeastern Baptist College, the mission statement is for every student

to gain 'the mind of a scholar, the heart of a shepherd, and the perseverance of a soldier.' Each student who is called to ministry through NEBC serves local churches throughout New England and we have been witnesses of how the Gospel has spread. Each year we meet new students, teachers, and of course the founder and president of NEBC Mark Ballard. Every time he shares updates of the Gospel impact and importance of the work accomplished in Vermont. The work that we do allows the students, faculty, and future residents to continue making an impact long after we have completed our week's work. Will you join us this year? Seek where the Lord is moving and join Him in His kingdom's work!

# WOMEN SERVING TOGETHER IN LOCAL MISSIONS

## Women's Ministry Missions Circles Represent Long History of Missions At Bethel

By Donna Hertzler & Christina Brandal

"Bethel has always been a missionary church, affiliated with Southern Baptists." So starts the chapter on WMU and the Emphasis on Missions in Elizabeth Smith's book, STEADFAST FAITH, written for the occasion of Bethel's 150th anniversary in 1990. Mrs. Smith indicated that it was about 1927 when the first missionary society came into being at Bethel.

### Pat Cox Circle

Today there are three missions circles at Bethel, The Pat Cox Circle has been active the longest. It is named for a missionary to Japan who was personally known by a Bethel member.

This group meets at 10am on the second Thursday of each month from September through June and the members enjoy good fellowship as they work together to support local ministries such as the Peninsula Rescue Mission, Thrive, and Care Net. They also encourage and show appreciation to the local fire stations by providing goodies occasionally. Women of all ages are welcome to join this group by contacting Bonnie Dixon at 757-527-0872.

### Penny Leonhard Circle

The Penny Leonhard Circle was started in 2004 as the Daytime Women's Friendship Circle, a Women's Enrichment Ministry Group. After a few years the names were changed to better reflect the groups purposes and Women's Enrichment Ministry became Women's Ministry and the circle became the Penny Leonhard Circle, named for a Wycliffe Bible Translator whose husband's uncle and aunt, Billy and Anne Davis, were members of Bethel.

This group meets on the third Thursday of every month from September through May at 10am. They feature a different local ministry every month and either provide needed supplies, such as diapers for Care Net, or go to the ministries to provide hands-on help such as packing food boxes at the Rescue Mission or providing office help at Care Net. Women of all ages are invited to join this group. Donna Hertzler, 757-877-9708 is the contact person.

### Elsie Carpenter Circle

The newest Missions Circle is named after Elsie Carpenter, one of the originating members of Women's Missionary Society of Bethel Baptist Church. In the 1930's, Elsie was the Youth Director for the WMU, organizing several youth missions groups. For many years a plaque was on display in the church that read, "Elsie Page Carpenter, was better known as "Miss Elsie" by the myriad of children, youth and adults whom she taught and touched..."

In honor of Elsie's dedication to children & youth, the new circle group focuses on missions efforts for that age group. In their first few meetings they have collected donations for CareNet Resource Pregnancy Center, made Care Bags for the Sheriff's Department to give to children they interact with during incidents, and made plans for future endeavors.

The Elsie Carpenter Missions Circle meets the first Monday of every month, from 6-8pm. For more information, contact Christina Brandal at 757-846-4044.

## CHRISTMAS MISSIONS: SHARING JESUS BY FILLING SHOE BOXES & BACKPACKS

By Jane Bates

Bethel members and friends continue to demonstrate their generosity by their participation in filling Christmas Backpacks and Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. This year, we filled 47 backpacks as part of a Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia initiative. They will be delivered to churches in Appalachia, in the eastern part of Virginia, who can distribute them to children in need. Each child will also receive a Bible with their backpack.

This year, students from our Bethel Baptist Christian School decorated the insides of 100 of our cardboard shoe boxes. The

Senior Adult Bible Fellowship Class led by Jay Noble and Ken Hertzler had a packing party where they packed 127 shoe boxes, slightly over their goal of 125 boxes. Several families from the Abide Moms group which meets twice monthly at our church also packed shoe boxes. Additional individuals and families also packed shoe boxes, so our total for this year was 258.

We can continue to pray for all the children who receive our backpacks and shoe boxes, that many will hear the gospel and come to know the Lord!



# ONE GOSPEL, ONE FAMILY

**Bethel Baptist Church Serving Alongside  
Faith Emmanuel Baptist Church in Oshawa, Canada**

**By Dean Robertson**



In the summer of 2025, Bethel Baptist Church (BBC) sent out a group of twelve to Oshawa, Canada to serve alongside the bride of Christ at Faith Emmanuel Baptist Church (FEBC). This is a relationship between two churches which continues to grow through prayer, annual interaction, and returned visits. The request made by Pastor Francisco and the church was to come alongside them to help evangelize the lost and edify the redeemed. On both accounts, the missions team experienced the joy of serving beside extended family. From the moment we arrived, Pastor Francisco, his family, and the church would continue to greet us as “family”. (Eph. 1:5) While on mission it was in this way that our team both ministered and were ministered to. That the love of Christ, which is found in the adoption of His children, has no bounds or limitations. In this world there are only two divisions to mankind: saved and the unsaved. God’s grace given to us during this trip was in the form of a relationship brought together supernaturally by His grace alone. What a blessing it was and continues to be.

The evangelism and edification took on many forms during our first two days in Canada. The team came together to put on a soccer camp and immediately followed by a VBS styled ministry held inside the FEBC building. This event was promoted by FEBC to their church members and surrounding community. By God’s grace the message of the gospel was shared in group discussions and private interactions throughout the two days. For some, it had been the first time the name, Jesus Christ had been mentioned. Both ministries took place on or near the FEBC property. During the evenings we traveled off property to support two separate church plants supported by FEBC. In case you missed it, BBC sent out a missions team to support a church in Oshawa, Canada. This church was currently planting two additional churches! Glory be to God for His marvelous work.

The first church plant we visited was located in Brampton, Ontario where our team met with the church plant members at a local outdoor park. During this meeting we were able to pray and worship through the teaching of God’s

Word, while other mission team members played with the children. The second church plant was located in Markham, Ontario which is being led by Leonardo Avendano and supported by his wonderful family. Our team was able to travel there on our second evening to meet with Leonardo, his wife Angela, and a few members from FEBC.

Over the course of our stay, the missions team was blessed to hear the life and testimony of Pastor Francisco. Our team heard how the providential hand of God moved in his life to call him out of darkness and into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9) Pastor Francisco has much to boast about in the flesh. However, his radiance finds its source in the ultimate life giver, his Savior, Jesus Christ. We witnessed as the true Light sustained Francisco and his family through long days, sacrificial giving, hard work, and exhaustion, all wrapped in love for the church and the lost.

For the remaining days, God orchestrated the gospel message to continue to spread through planned and unplanned events. FEBC put on a community food festival, which

was a great hit experienced by those in the surrounding neighborhoods. This event was followed by a sweet time with the FEBC body to share God's Word both collectively and in breakout sessions. The breakout sessions proved to be a more intimate time to share testimonies of the power of Christ in the family, whether that be a church family or a domestic family. On our final day with FEBC, we spent the morning in worship. The Word of God was shared, we sang together as one body, and mission team members lead the children's ministry. That afternoon, the FEBC property was used by the Family

Palooza ministry team from North Carolina. The same ministry team that visited BBC to minister was going to be in Canada during the same dates as our mission trip. FEBC and those in the community enjoyed their time during the Family Palooza. That evening was closed out with a presentation of the gospel and another reminder of how we go on mission in obedience to Christ and watch God as He remains faithful to His church.

The mission was simple: Glorify God by making much of Christ in His church and in world around it. (1 Cor. 2:1-5) Fulfilling the mission was

only made possible by prayer and full reliance on God to perform the deeds outside of our control. He richly blessed us with willing and caring translators, spacious venues, safe travels, sacrificial volunteers, and a drawing of the lost.

Bethel family we all want to say thank you for sending us. For your prayers, financial support, continued edification, and love. The beloved at FEBC shared this same gratitude towards you all and continue to serve one another so that others will come to know the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.



# BBC MILITARY MINISTRY REPORT

JULY TO DECEMBER 2025

By David Bates



The Military Ministry team hosted a dinner for active duty military wives and singles on September 22 at the home of Jane Bates. 12 women attended and enjoyed an evening of tasty food, warm fellowship, and lively conversation.

The MILMIN team moved into its busiest time of the year with several events scheduled for the last quarter of 2025. The team hosted the annual All Military Picnic after the worship service on Sunday, October 12. The “picnic” was held in the church fellowship hall due to rainy weather. Over 125 people attended, to include active duty personnel, retirees, veterans, and Gold Star families. Attendees dined from a robust menu of pork barbecue, fried chicken, hot dogs, mac and cheese, potato salad, baked beans, slaw, cupcakes, and beverages. Team Leader Kirk Deitrich prayed for God’s blessing upon the food, the fellowship, and the participants. The event concluded with a raffle in which an Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and retiree participant received a gift bag filled with patriotic mementos and devotional books.

On November 11, Reverend Bob Bonta invited the MILMIN team and other military members of the church to participate in a Veterans Appreciation Service at the Harmony assisted living facility in Yorktown. Active duty and

former military personnel and their family members filled key roles to provide a patriotic ceremony that thanked residents for their service to our nation. Church members served as emcee (Jim McGrath), guest speaker (David Bates), prayers (Bob Bonta), singers (Kathryn Arthur and Susan Goldsmith) and musicians (Robin Reeves and Debbie Dodd). Other members (Bill Heely, Catherine Todd, Will Goldsmith, Patrick McGrath, Rex Gray, and Chris Nielsen) distributed patriotic mementos to residents as each one was recognized for their military service. Jane Bates, Diane McGrath, and Barbara Reeves were also among the 55 people who attended.

During the regular Wednesday night dinner on November 12, forty-one Bethel active duty personnel and veterans were treated to a free meal courtesy of the military ministry. The MILMIN team, including new members Bryce and Brittany Comer, decorated the tables and fellowship hall in a patriotic theme, and Dave gave a special prayer of thanks during the meal.

The MILMIN team promoted a Weekend to Remember marriage enrichment event that was held in Williamsburg from November 21-23. The event was sponsored by Family Life of CRU ministries and offered discounted prices for seminars and lodging to service-members and their

spouses. Three couples from Bethel attended and enjoyed the presentations and break-out sessions.

December featured the annual Active Duty Military Dinner, which was hosted by the MILMIN team on December 13 at the home of James and LaDonna Armstrong. The 15 participants included active duty military, spouses, singles and the MILMIN team for a festive celebration of the Christmas season. Sadly, the military ministry bid farewell to team members Kirk and Valerie Deitrich, who planned to move to Indiana in January, 2026.

The team also encouraged Bethel members to participate in an Adopt a Service-member program for the Christmas holidays. Dawn Henry assisted the team in establishing the program and served as a liaison with a unit on Langley Air Force Base. Dave coordinated with the chaplains on Fort Eustis to identify soldiers who might want to participate. Several Bethel families expressed an interest in hosting a service-member during the holiday period from December 21 to January 3. Although only one airman participated in the program with the Dunster family, the MILMIN team laid the groundwork for future endeavors of this nature designed to strengthen the ties between Bethel Baptist and the local military community.

# EQUIP

**And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”**

**Ephesians 4:11-12**

# SEND

**“For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.”**

**3 John 6-8**

# GO

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

**Matthew 28: 19-20**

# 2026 MISSIONS CALENDAR

## January

18-30: Tanzania  
23: DC March for Life

## February

*CareNet Bottles4Life*  
15: BF Missions Report

## March

*Annie Armstrong*  
*Easter Offering*  
3-12: Republic of Georgia  
28: Mobile Grill

## April

22: Richmond March for Life  
8-10: Student Mission Trip

## May

9: Peninsula Walk 4 Life

## June

4-10: Colombia

## July

19-25: Vermont

## August

5-11: Toronto

## October

*Operation Christmas Child/  
SBCV Backpacks*

## December

*Lottie Moon*  
*Christmas Offering*