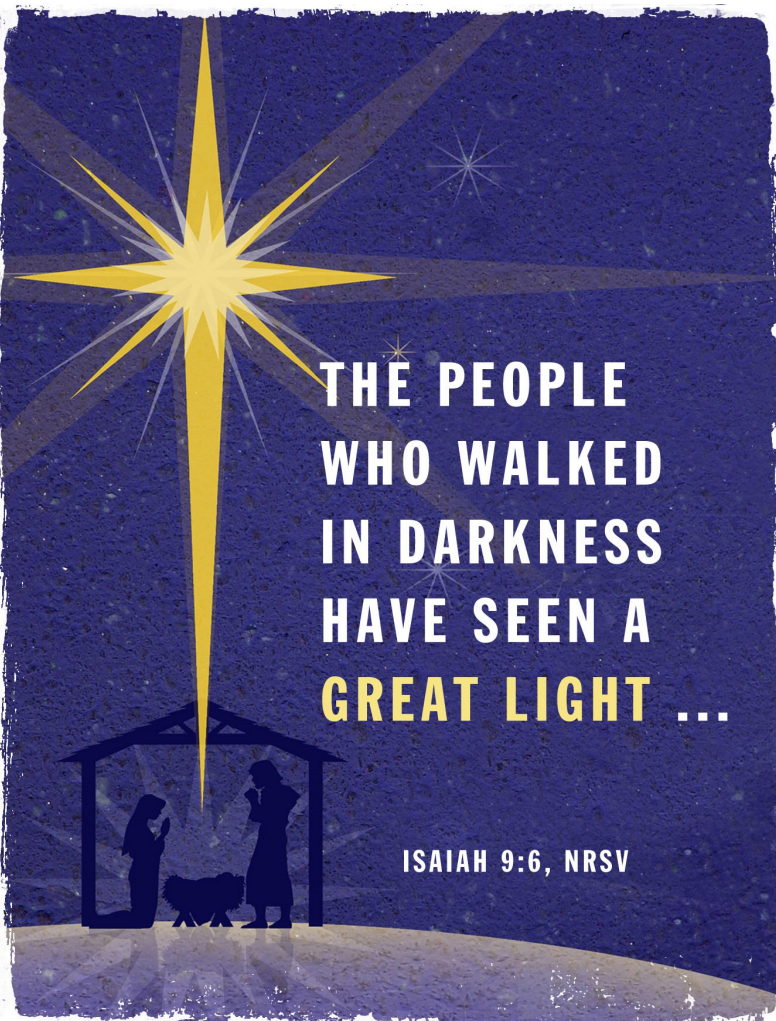


# December 2019



THE PEOPLE  
WHO WALKED  
IN DARKNESS  
HAVE SEEN A  
GREAT LIGHT ...

ISAIAH 9:6, NRSV

**December Memory Verse:**

Trust in the Lord forever,  
for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.  
—Isaiah 26:4

**Marrable Hill Chapel**

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To protect from identity theft, birth-  
days are not listed in the on-line version  
of the Chapel Communique. Thank you for  
understanding!



Golden Heirs  
Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall

Come to a celebration of Christmas. Vicki Evans is in charge of this program and there is no telling what fun stuff she will come up with! Don't forget to bring a gift (< \$10), since there will be a "Dirty Santa" (gifts under \$10). Bring your favorite potluck food and come enjoy fellowship and fun!



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- December 6 — CEF Fundraiser in Fellowship Hall
- December 7 — Mike & Evelyn Noone's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party
- December 8 — Guest Speaker: Bob Holmes (Beat Bob)
- December 9 — Bob Holmes (Beat Bob) @ EHS Gym
- December 15 — Guest Speaker: Jimmy Lambert
- December 19 — Ladies Night Out @ Laura's House
- December 22 — Guest Speaker: Tyler Brantley
- December 22 — Candlelight Communion @ 6 PM
- December 24-26 — Christmas Break — Office Closed
- December 29 — Testimonies During Morning Worship Service
- January 1 — New Year's Day — Office Closed



## God is on the Move By Natalie Butcher

There are many reasons why a church may find itself without a senior pastor — resignation, firing, death, medical illness, etc. The transition time from losing a pastor to the hiring of a new pastor can cause a church and its members to flounder and cause a significant decline in attendance as people search for another church. However, it can also be a time of renewal as people seek God’s will, step up to fill the void felt by the loss, and prepare their hearts for a new pastor and the changes that he may bring. I think that Marrable Hill Chapel (MHC) is experiencing the latter.

MHC has been without a pastor since March 31st. During this time, attendance has stayed relatively steady with some new people coming and some leaving. The church leaders and staff have stepped up to fill the void: finding a great variety of guest speakers (Thank you Paul Sandifer, Blake Dailey, Danny & Beth Endel, and Joe Williams); lead prayer time for the preparation of church members’ hearts for future changes, the search committee, and the new pastor after church services on Sundays; and many other things that must be done to keep the church running. It hasn’t been an easy time, but as Philippians 4:13 says “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

While it is great that the church is still “running” during this time, the most important thing is whether or not we are fulfilling the mission of the church — reaching the lost and discipling the saved. How are we doing? Well... I have noticed that God is moving at MHC. More people are serving. In AWANA and Youth, students are being saved regularly. There will be a baptism of a youth on the 8th and more students in the near future. The Young Adult Group on Sunday night is growing and Sunday School attendance for adults is increasing. People are praying and talking about being prepared for a new pastor and the changes he will bring. While we know that we should honor the good of MHC’s past, we must also remember that the past is the



*(MOVING — Continued on page 7)*

## Fall/Winter Decorations By Natalie Butcher

If you have been in the Sanctuary during the last few months, you noticed the incredible decorations. Leigh Ann McGoogen has kept our church beautifully decorated in Fall and Christmas colors. Like previous decorators of our church, she has an incredible gift that she is using to serve our church. Guest speakers have commented about the beauty of our church and its decorations. Leigh Ann has added many new items that she has paid for out of her own pocket.

Please let her know how much you appreciate the behind-the-scenes work that she does for our church.



## Jesus in Our Schools and Community By Natalie Butcher



Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) is a Marrable Hill Chapel (MHC) supported missionary organization that brings the Gospel of Jesus to local public schools, day cares, and senior centers. On December 6th, CEF held a fund-raising banquet in the MHC Fellowship Hall where attendees enjoyed food, music, a talk on Hanukkah, a sermon, children's testimonials, and an update on CEF.

After eating a delicious meal prepared by Regina (one of our talented cooks from Victory Bible Camp), Katina Buzzbee and her two sons, Timothy and Gabriel, demonstrated and discussed the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah (a candelabra with 9 candles) for the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah. Wearing authentic Jewish prayer shawls, the Buzzbees started the demonstration by blowing the shofar — a ram's horn. Katina explained that the shofar was first mentioned in the Bible during the time of Moses to call the people on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19). She went on to explain about Hanukkah. Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of the one-day supply of consecrated oil miraculously lasting eight days as described in the Talmud, the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and primary source of religious law and Jewish theology. According to the Talmud, the forces of Antiochus IV was driven from the Temple during the Maccabee revolt. The Maccabees wanted to consecrate the Temple, but found that only one of the ritual olive oil vessels was still sealed by the High Priest — enough for a single day. It takes 7 days to press new olive oil and 1 day to consecrate it. By faith, they lit the oil and it miraculously burned for the eight days required to make more. The menorah is lit during Hanukkah to represent this miracle. The outside eight candles represents the eight-day miracle of the single container of oil staying lit. The middle “helper” candle is used to light one candle each day during Hanukkah.



*(CEF — Continued on page 6)*

## *CEF (Continued from page 5)*

You may be wondering what Hanukkah has to do with Jesus in the schools and the communities of America. Like the shofar, Katina used the demonstration as a battle cry to Christians. She explained that for over 10 years prayer has been removed from public schools. It is time that we, like the Maccabees, consecrate our schools to the Lord by bringing the light of Jesus. That is why CEF has after school programs.

Bro. Lee and Crystal, worship leaders at Bible Baptist Church sang “Who Am I (That a King Would Bleed and Die For)?”, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, and “Just One More Soul”. While I knew the first two songs, I don't think I have ever heard “Just One More Soul”. Wow! What a powerful message in the lyrics — the reason for CEF.

**“The preachers are weary. The singers are tired. The church as we know it is losing its fire. Some are discouraged from bearing the load, but we must determine to keep pressing on. ‘Cause if just one more soul were to walk down the aisle, it would be worth every struggle — it would be worth every mile.”**

The song goes on to encourage the preachers to keep preaching, singers to keep singing, and **laymen to keep sharing that Jesus is King, because it is worth it.**

Donna Allen gave an update. Over 700 kids will be reached this year. CEF is now in all El Dorado Schools — including the addition of Barton Jr. High and El Dorado High School this school year. She shared the story of Dustin — a student that was saved on the last day the Good News Club (GNC) was meeting at his school during that school year. She had several students get up and sing songs from the GNC — songs like “I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N” and about bringing a



friend to club. In GNCs, they learn about reaching their friends for Jesus. One student explained that she learned to share the Gospel and for two years in a row 3 friends (total of 6) were saved.

Others like Bro. J.D. Weido, pastor of Bible Baptist Church, and Gary

*(CEF — Continued on page 12)*



## Golden Heirs By Nadine Williams

The Golden Heirs group held their monthly meeting on Friday, November 8. Our speaker was Bruce Gilmore from Malvern, who presented us with a challenging Thanksgiving message.

He started off with asking us to name some of the things for which we were thankful. After we named some of these — family, friends, our health, our homes, good food to enjoy, and the freedoms we have from living in America — he then reminded us that, although these were all good things, they are fleeting and someday will come to an end.

But, in Luke 10:19-20, Mr. Gilmore read where Jesus was talking to the 70 followers He sent forth saying “Behold I give you the authority to trample on servants and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this that the spirits are subject to you but rather rejoice because your names are written in Heaven.”

Mr. Gilmore then made this comparison — even, as these followers, we should rejoice over the many blessings God has given to us to enjoy, the main thing we should be rejoicing over is that our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.



### *MOVING (Continued from page 3)*

past and that we need to continue to grow and change without compromising the Gospel to help us to reach more for Christ. Life is change.

As we eagerly await a new pastor, let us not forget that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. He is our Pastor. As Philippians 3:14 says, let us “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

## Missionary Briefs By Joan Hershberger

*Missionary briefs from letters sent to the church by Marrable Hill supported missionaries:*

### **Jim and Jody Smith:**

Jody Smith wrote that her students usually have so much homework for other teachers that they have lost interest in English. In China, the better the teacher the more homework they assign. She said,

“I am a so-so teacher, not much homework.”

A daily frustration: our internet and trying to connect with the outside world. All VPN’s (a relay that allows us to cross the barriers set up by the Govt) are being closed down, so getting things done is challenging. Jim’s work with Global University requires a working internet and VPN. Any news that has not been filtered, comes through our computer. Many days our internet is just turned off. We send notes and they don’t arrive. The purpose is to keep the outside information out. Everyone is having these problems. I remind myself that when we first came, we didn’t even have a phone, so that cheers me up.

Jim has joined two weekly Bible groups as a facilitator. We think Jim might be teaching architecture classes next semester. Each semester, one of the teachers in Jim’s group is supposed to host a group dinner. It was our turn, so we acted like everything was as usual. I think they were happy that Jim was still wanting to be in their department. A few weeks back, we treated his co-teachers and wives to a dinner. Everyone seemed to agree that Jim would be back.

Interesting things: On my way to school last week, some guys with huge buckets of white paint were painting all of the tree trunks. Jim says it has some pesticide in it to keep the bugs out next spring. More paint on the painters I think and today all the 100s of trees up and down our road painted white half way up.

Another day guys were painting the drab grey metal electric boxes along the roadside. We have more and more boxes to house all the wires for the cameras they are putting out. Now the boxes are brightly colored with ocean scenes or flowers.

*(MISSIONS — Continued on page 9)*

## *MISSIONS (Continued from page 8)*

Qingdao has a reputation for being the least polluted city in China, so lots of official meetings are held in town. When a meeting is happening the police and extra guards are everywhere.

At the crosswalk, helpers show up holding a little red sign. When the light is green for us to cross the street, they holler, “cross the street now” and hold up the red sign. They are volunteers and often are just looking at their cell phones. The other day I crossed the road at the wrong time, with no cars in sight and that crossing guard got quite upset. I guess if one chases me down, I will find out if they have any authority.

Jim and I have tickets purchased to go to Thailand for medical check ups in late January. Being over 60 in China is more challenging than being in our 30’s and 40’s. China is a physical challenge in many ways. After all morning of classes, I need a nap. We are keeping up our daily walking, trying to get 2 miles in each day, and the weather has held out so far. We go down to the seaside to walk, too much pollution walking on the streets now. One bonus with the pollution, our sunrises are really colorful.

### **Vidal and Cathy Perez: Guatemala:**

We are thankful for your prayers with the youth outreach early in November. Vidal did a three day focus of helping them understand that God created them in His image as with physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and relational components, then he shared the gospel through an evangelistical painting lesson and two youth raised their hands that they prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior Vidal said he heard other people praying but they didn’t raise their hand to confirm their decision, and then on the last day Vidal shared verses to give those who had prayed assurance of faith and explained the next step of ways to grow in their faith. It was a wonderful time working alongside our friends Rebecca, Dallas, and Denver. Rubelio and Yojana also helped us.

### **Kevin and Barbara Roscoe:**

We have some wonderful news we would like to share with you. Yesterday, we made the decision to sign a contract to have a permanent space (about 1400 square feet) for the House of Prayer! This is quite a historic moment for us. If all goes well, we will have the House of Prayer up and running in this new space by January

*(MISSIONS — Continued on page 10)*

## *MISSIONS (Continued from page 9)*

1st. This will allow us to immediately do at least 20hrs of weekly prayer together with the local church. In May, God gave us this vision. Now, after raising \$22K and finding partners along the way, this dream is coming true. This space can fit 60 to 70 people and will give us room to grow and build momentum to do 30hrs or 40hrs each week. We need your prayers, as the upcoming month will be very busy for us!

Would you please take 30 seconds to pray for us right now? Here are a few things to pray for:

- 1) **Wisdom to make all of the decisions** regarding how to divide the space / interior design / AC design / soundproofing / etc. There are so many decisions to make.
- 2) **God's protection over the facility** and favor with the neighbors. We will be renting an office space on the top floor of the building - in both a key and central part of the city.
- 3) **Partnerships with the local congregations.** Already, we are partnering with various fellowships. But we need more friends in this work to "tend the altar" with us. With more partners, we will be able to cover more hours of prayer for our city and the nations. We are also in need of \$3K more for furnishings and rent for the 2nd half of the year.

This is a turning point for our team and also for the nation we live in. We are expectant for God to move in incredible ways this coming year. Thank you for being there with us on this journey!

### **Curt and Karen Talley with Awana-Arkansas:**

They wrote that Awana partners with local churches to reach children and helps to disciple them. He wonders if the children of today will be remembering the effect of Awana on them in 2050.

He said that stories about the effect of Awana today can be found on Facebook at [curtawana](#) or [ArkansasAwana](#).

Since it is the giving time of the year, Talley mentioned the Anchor fund – one time gifts that keep them anchored financially if the monthly income fluctuates.

### **Dan and Paula Flynn with Global Service Network:**

*(MISSIONS — Continued on page 11)*

## MISSIONS (Continued from page 10)

Dan recently spoke with 65 international students from 14 nations Europe, Asia, the mid-East, Mediterranean regions

He said they reminded him of Jesus who left his home to come to a foreign country (earth). He was not treated with hospitality, people did not understand him and he felt lonely and out of place.

He then went on to explain that most Bible stories follow the pattern of an impossible situation, a likely bleak outcome and a surprising rescue for the one who trusts God.

He said he touched on the fiery furnace and other events and he asked about their impossible situation. Adding that they have a much worse impossible situation in that as sinful people how can we ever be forgiven. He also explained that God sent his innocent Son to pay the debt owed (our surprising rescue). 10 students professed Christ that night.

This is Dan's 37th year of reaching out to college students with the Gospel by Speaking, Training Christian communicators, and Writing for God's glory.

With our move to GSN, we've encountered some hidden expenses (like securing our own Health insurance) and need \$1,500 more each month. Dan asks folks to prayerfully consider a special one-time gift or to join them with monthly support. He knows that God has been and will continue to be his provider.



## Pastor Candidate By Natalie Butcher



On the weekend of November 17th, Pastor Larry Luffman and his wife, Melissa, came to El Dorado to learn more about our church and community "in view of a call." They are from Martinsville, VA.

## PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

On Saturday, they had the opportunity to meet with church leaders (Deacons and Elders), Pastor Search Committee, and staff. During the Sunday Morning Worship Service he preached a message on "What Does El Dorado Need? Revival!" He returned later that night and preached during Growth Group. On the 24th, the congregation approved the hiring of Pastor Larry by a vote of 103 out of 105. The Elders met the next day to discuss the job offer and Tuesday the offer was sent to Pastor Larry. Pastor Larry quickly replied — letting the church leaders know that they will be reviewing and praying over the offer. They are taking a couple weeks to fervently fast and pray about God's will along with reflecting and contemplating what they heard, talked about, and experienced while in El Dorado.

Keep them in your prayers as they make this decision.

## CEF (Continued from page 6)

Atkins, head of CEF Arkansas, shared about CEF and reaching the lost.

If you would like to personally donate to this ministry, mail your checks to: CEF-SCA, PO Box 29, El Dorado, AR 71730

CEF — saving the lost and training the saved to reach others. "A lifetime of labor is still worth it all if it rescues just one more soul."

