

## Life Giving Water

By Don Gardner

In January 2018, Mayfair World Bible School (WBS) began working with Healing Hands International (HHI) to install boreholes (water wells) to provide clean drinking water and water for irrigation to the arid countries of Zimbabwe and Malawi. Recently, the two organizations marked a significant milestone by installing the 100<sup>th</sup> borehole on September 18, 2023, in Winji, Malawi.

HHI estimates that globally, over 700 million people lack access to clean water, leading them to spend much of their time and energy each day searching for a clean water source. Failure to find clean water leads to serious health implications as people often consume water from rivers, lakes, and watering holes that are contaminated by waterborne diseases. Furthermore, lack of water for irrigation inhibits crop growth, resulting in poverty and starvation.

Boreholes have been drilled at locations such as churches, prisons, schools, colleges, hospitals, childcare facilities, a library, and a police station. They serve areas of varying sizes from a few rural households to communities of thousands.



**Life giving water flows from a borehole drilled in Mpheta, Malawi**

Many of these areas already have local congregations of the Lord's church. The availability of clean water makes the boreholes a gathering place for the local communities. This in turn allows Christians in the community to deliver Living Water, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to lost souls as it facilitates evangelistic activities such as student recruitment and WBS lesson distribution. Due to the diligence of the Lord's faithful servants in these areas, many lost souls are being taught the Gospel using World Bible School.

The average cost of drilling a borehole and installing a manual pump is around \$7500. In April 2023, Mayfair raised \$139,546 by sponsoring a Walk4Water event, which funded 18 of the 100 wells that have been drilled. HHI Vice President Joseph Smith estimates that about 50 more wells were funded by individual Mayfair donors, while the remaining wells were funded through HHI donors.

Donations can be made through the Mayfair church office and earmarked "WBS Boreholes."



***"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42 ESV).***

# Jesus Sets Out for Jerusalem

By Dick Savage

*“As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51 NLT).*

This statement is made about six months before Jesus is to be crucified in the spring of the following year and marks a pivotal point in Luke’s Gospel. From here forward, the road to Calvary comes into sharp focus. Jesus would endure His most challenging days of humiliation, disgrace, and betrayal on His journey to the cross to die for our sins. His road would pass through the barriers of Gethsemane, Golgotha, and the grave. The Lord would face arrest, torture, and agonizing death. Isaiah predicts His suffering: *“I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mockery and spitting” (Isaiah 50:6 NLT).*

Rather than turn away or back out, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. No enemy or obstacle would deter Him from accomplishing His purpose. It was a physical journey that could have been accomplished in two or three days, yet it took about six months.

Jesus set out to go to Jerusalem to fulfill God’s purpose for His life. Obedience to His Father’s will was central to Jesus’ life and mission. He came to suffer and die, offering His life as a sacrifice for sin so that all who believe in Him might be saved and granted eternal life.

When Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem, He knew full well what was ahead of Him. And here, shortly after the Mount of Transfiguration event, He has made the choice to fulfill His mission and set out toward the cross, death, and our redemption. When He set out for Jerusalem, He set out to die.

Jesus now says farewell to Galilee. He had finished public preaching in that region. Education of the twelve now had priority over all else.

The Lord had known all along that He would make this fateful trip to Jerusalem one day. He would lose all protection and become the object of not only the wrath of mankind but also the wrath of God. This was not only sheer determination and willpower to do the job He was called to do, it was also the determination to face the greatest physical, emotional, and mental torture ever suffered by anyone in taking



**A model of ancient Jerusalem  
from the Israel Museum**

on the massive burden of our sins, and actually becoming sin on our behalf.

Luke's and John's gospels together present a picture of a Jesus with a vast program to fulfill and with only a limited amount of time in which to do it. He was set on making a great appeal to the entire nation before going to Jerusalem for the last time. He is pictured as moving ceaselessly from place to place, always surrounded by crowds of people, so that all the country that had not heard Him might have the opportunity to see and know that the Messiah, the Son of God, was in their midst. During those months, Jesus drove Himself hard, so that when this ministry culminated in a week of special appeal to Jerusalem, He was a worn-out man.

To set out resolutely towards Jerusalem meant something quite different for Jesus than it did for the disciples. You can see the visions of greatness that danced in their heads. In Luke 9:46 we read that an argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. Jerusalem and glory were just around the corner. Oh, what it would mean when Jesus took the throne!

But Jesus had another vision in His head. Here's what Jerusalem meant for Jesus: *“... I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem” (Luke 13:33 ESV).*

Jerusalem meant one thing for Jesus: certain death. He was not under any illusions of a quick and heroic death. He predicted *“... we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him they will kill him” (Luke 18:31b-33a ESV).*

When Jesus set His mind to go to Jerusalem, He set

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his face for suffering and death, and He knew it. We must remember that He had a nature like ours. He did not enjoy pain any more than we do. He would have enjoyed a long life and esteem in the community. He had a mother, brothers, and sisters. He had special places in the mountains where He enjoyed going. To turn His back on all this and heaven and set His course toward the vicious whipping, beating, spitting, mocking, and crucifixion was not easy.

*"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13 NASB).*

We must all **make up our minds** to do the will of God. We must go to our own version of Jerusalem.

So, what does Jerusalem represent in your life? We each have a Jerusalem - that place where God is calling us to go and proclaim His Kingdom; to confront and challenge the authorities of our world with the greater Truth of God's love. Your journey toward Jerusalem may begin by journeying within; an inner journey to hear God as the authority in our life and in the world.

It may be an inner journey up a mountain where you might witness God's glory; where you might glimpse God's kingdom; where you might hear God's

voice saying, "You are my Beloved Son; You are my Beloved Daughter in whom I am well-pleased." Or it may begin by simply setting out, with your eyes, ears, and hearts open to the directing of God's spirit.

Who are the authorities that we listen to and believe because what they say appears to be true; or because everybody else believes them? What do we believe about the way of the world? What "truths" do we accept and put up with because we believe we are powerless to change them? Because we are fearful? Or because we are hopeless?

On the journey to your Jerusalem, when you find authorities that deny who you are, that lie to you about your value or your place in the world; when their "truth" drains your life or saps your soul, ask, "Is this God's Truth?" You can confront those authorities and challenge their assertions about what is true, what is valuable, about how the world works. And as we challenge the authorities concerning ourselves, we may find our eyes are opened and our courage is stirred to challenge those authorities on behalf of our neighbor, our sisters, and our brothers. As we journey toward our Jerusalem, let us always remember that every Jerusalem is God's turf. And it is God's Kingdom that we proclaim. We need not be afraid.

## A Frontier Within the Temple

By Butch Kinzer, M.D.

Many years ago, I came across an article detailing a case of recalcitrant *C. difficile* diarrhea. As a last resort, the lady's doctors turned to what is now referred to as fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT), taking a donor's stool and placing it in the recipient's lower intestinal tract.

The recipient in this first case was allowed to choose her donor. She chose a friend. The transplant was successfully carried out with the resolution of her diarrhea. However, an apparent complication arose. She began to put on excess weight. A challenge she had never experienced. A problem her donor had battled for years.

Today there is an FDA-approved fecal microbiota treatment for *C. difficile*.

First, let's define what the microbiota (gut microbiome) means. It is a group of microorganisms that co-exist in the intestinal tract (which is technically out-



side the body). The microbiome constantly changes in response to changes within our bodies induced by diet, medication, and exercise.

The case report has led to my fascination with health and the gut microbiota. The following are several correlations I have come across.

It has been noted that there is an increased incidence of depression in late adolescence and young

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adults with a certain gut microbiome. This has been corroborated by a later study looking at the interplay of metabolites and the gut microbiome. It concluded that energy metabolism is disturbed in individuals with major depressive disorders.

I came across articles connecting gut microbiota with anorexia nervosa, Parkinson's Disease, increased BMI (basal metabolic index), myalgic encephalomyelitis, otherwise known as chronic fatigue syndrome, and abnormal lipid metabolism.

There is a correlation with the gut microbiota found in chronic fatigue syndrome to that found in individuals with long-term COVID-19. These two diseases share similar symptoms and underlying biology.

Another study looked at FMT from donors without diabetes in a group of 22 with diabetic nerve pain. The control group numbered 10 and received a placebo transplant. Assessment of the participants before and 84 days following transplant revealed on average a decrease in pain of 35% versus 5% in the control group.

The last article I am referencing was done with mice. There were 3 groups of mice. The first group was judged to be "energetic." The second group was judged to be lazy. The third group had been manipulated to be born with a sterile gut. The third group was also judged to be lazy. The researchers performed FMT from the energetic to the lazy. Both groups of recipients were judged to be significantly more energetic.

I have had days in the past when I lacked any desire to do anything other than sit and vegetate. I considered how I might correct that lack of desire short of FMT from a mouse. I chose to eat one container of yogurt daily. For me, I have noted a significant increase in my initiating and completing tasks.

Having said that, what can we do to improve our gut microbiota? Unfortunately, the current state of science does not give a conclusive answer.

A consideration is the elimination of artificial sweeteners. My reasoning stems from a study concluding that the use of artificial sweeteners (types studied were not identified) does not improve control of diabetes and conveys an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

We assume that when using an artificial sweetener, we get the benefit of a sweet taste and then it passes through the gut unchanged. However, I suspect they alter our gut microbiota in ways that have negative health consequences. So again, what can we do? I have several unproven suggestions:

Increase your dietary intake of prebiotics (dietary fiber that feeds a "friendly" microbiota in our guts. I infer from this those artificial sweeteners feed "unfriendly" microbiota.) Examples of probiotics are whole grains, bananas, greens, onions, garlic, soybeans, artichokes, and nuts.

Examples of probiotics ("friendly" gut microbiota) are yogurt, sauerkraut, kefir, tempeh, kimchi, miso, Kombucha, pickles, traditional buttermilk, some cheeses (mozzarella, gouda, and cheddar), and cottage cheese.

Are there any over-the-counter (OTC) probiotics? Yes, there is a plethora of available OTC. How well do they work? No one knows. There are a few studies with probiotics that have shown equivocal results.

A dietary approach to altering the gut microbiota is the Mediterranean diet. This diet is heavy on whole grains, fruits, vegetables, beans, herbs, spices, nuts, and healthy fats such as olive oil. Also, lifestyle changes such as increased activity and dining in a relaxed dining atmosphere have a positive effect on gut microbiota. Also, the DASH diet (Dietary Approach to Stopping Hypertension) has been shown to promote a "friendly" gut microbiota.

My interpretation of the equivocal results mentioned is that we do not understand the interplay of the gut microbiota and our bodies. Thus, a new frontier for exciting findings in the future. A future that demonstrates the intricacy of Our Lord's creation and an additional approach to caring for His temples.

### **Mayfair Assistance Helpline**

**256-704-3384**

**Mayfair offers a helpline for members who may need assistance with home maintenance, automotive repairs, or transportation needs. Call to leave a message and you will be contacted for details.**

# ***“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life” (Proverbs 16:31 ESV)***

In this issue of JOY in the Journey, we continue our series on Mayfair’s Senior Members, who truly wear a “Crown of Glory,” as we learn more about Bettye Thomson.

## **Serving Senior Saints: Bettye Thomson**

By Lisa Yokley

If you have been at Mayfair very long, you will remember John and Bettye Thomson with fondness. Brother John as he was affectionately called by many, passed away in 2012. Mrs. Bettye is still doing well and will celebrate her 94th birthday in January.

Brother John and Mrs. Bettye have a lifetime of service to the Lord and much of it right here at Mayfair. There is so much more to know about these two wonderful Christian people.

Brother John was born on February 29, 1928, in Tuscaloosa, AL, and was raised just north of there in Northport AL. That is where he met Mrs. Bettye, but more about that later.

Mrs. Bettye was born on January 8, 1930, in Florence, AL, where her family lived until she was in the fourth grade. They moved to Tuscaloosa for a few years before settling in Northport. Her family all attended the Northport Church of Christ.

After graduating from Tuscaloosa County High School, she attended David Lipscomb College (now Lipscomb University) following in the footsteps of her father and her uncle, Howard C. White, who went on to teach at Lipscomb before serving as President of Pepperdine University for several years. This church of Christ history is important to the Thomson story because Brother John was introduced to the church through his association with her and his attendance at the Northport Church of Christ during college and their courtship.

Mrs. Bettye was at Lipscomb for two years before transferring to Tuscaloosa to graduate from the University of Alabama. It just so happened Brother John was there too.

He graduated in 1950 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. After graduation, he went to work for the Blue Ridge Glass Corporation in Kingsport, TN

until he was drafted in 1952. He served in both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. With the Army, he was stationed at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL where he worked in rocket research and development. Upon discharge from the Army, he stayed in Huntsville as a civilian rocket development engineer.



**Bettye Thomson**

Mrs. Bettye graduated from the University of Alabama in 1951 with a major in sociology and a minor in psychology. After her graduation, she worked for the American Red Cross and later the Alabama Welfare Department. Brother John and Mrs. Bettye kept up their courtship through these years and on November 15, 1957, they were married at the Northport Church of Christ and the reception was held at the University Church of Christ. They began their

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married life together in Huntsville and began attending the Mayfair Church of Christ at the Bob Wallace location. They were part of the pioneering group of Christians who stepped out in faith to plant a church at the Whitesburg Drive campus, which at the time, was outside of town.

The Thomsons suffered a tragedy early in their life together when their baby girl, Patricia White Thomson, passed away. Following the baby's death, Mrs. Bettye went to work at the Huntsville Welfare Department for a while. They then went on to have four wonderful boys: Jay, Grant, Pat, and Tommy. They and their wives have been such a blessing to their parents. Brother John and Mrs. Bettye were blessed to have 54 wonderful years together and to see all of their children and grandchildren grow up and mature into the beautiful people they are today.

The Thomsons were always faithful members of the Mayfair Church of Christ. He served as a deacon from 1962-1975 and as an elder from 1975-1995 with Mrs. Bettye ever by his side. During this time, many positive things occurred for Mayfair including the hiring of Gary Bradley as pulpit minister and Lem Tipton and later Lee Milam as youth ministers. He was also involved in the early planning to transition to the current Jones Valley campus.

Brother John also helped found and serve as the first President of AGAPE of North Alabama, a beloved and well-known Christian adoption agency in the area. AGAPE has helped so many children through the years and is still affecting many lives for the Lord.

As for Mrs. Bettye, she has always been involved in



**Bettye and John Thomson**

everything that her boys and husband were involved in, but always quietly and behind the scenes. Her son Grant said, "When we were in elementary school, Mom volunteered at the infirmary. When we were in scouts, Mom was involved in that. Throughout our church lives Mom was always teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and volunteering in the nursery. I still remember Mom and Dad being leaders of Group 6 at Mayfair, which was a small group of members who dined and socialized together throughout the week and month outside of church activities. We always knew that Tuesdays were Mom's 'Ladies Class Day,' so she would be tied up on that day. Mom has been involved with Monday Meals (a service project of Tuesday Ladies' Bible Class) for many years. After one of her recent accidents, a friend of mine asked how she was doing. I started telling him she was doing great and that today was her Monday Meals Day. He replied 'So she is going to be brought her meal today?' I had to tell him 'No.' What I meant is that she is out preparing meals and delivering them to others who need them. She is resilient and always trying to do for others – friends, neighbors, children, grandchildren." In addition to Monday Meals, she has been an important part of World Bible School at Mayfair and has taught many people in Zimbabwe about Jesus.

For the last 14 years of his life, Brother John fought the effects of Parkinson's Disease with tremendous courage and grace. Mrs. Bettye was right by his side every step of the way. Her beautiful smile and kind Christian spirit make her the lovely Christian lady that she is. She has been a particularly dear mentor and friend to me my whole life and I am grateful that



**The Thomson Family: John, Bettye, Jay, Grant, Pat, and Tommy**

## Spreading Joy: The MAGI Project

By Jan Porter



Healing Hands International (HHI) is an organization supported by volunteers from the churches of Christ. It was founded by Dr. Randy Steger, the brother of our own Rodney Steger. As a professor at David Lipscomb University in 1991, Dr. Steger assigned a class project that eventually became Healing Hands International. Our God is amazing!

For several years, Mayfair has participated in Making a Godly Impact (MAGI), a project spearheaded by HHI. MAGI boxes are gift boxes packed with articles such as clothing, toiletries, educational tools, toys, and household items that we take for granted, but are greatly needed by many. We are not merely playing Santa to other nations, but working in a much bigger, worldwide effort of evangelism.



**Rick Norton and his grandson  
Atticus pack MAGI boxes**

Participation in the MAGI project helps HHI achieve its stated mission: **“...to aid, equip, and empower those in need around the world, in the name of Jesus Christ so they might experience God’s healing grace.”**

Each year, HHI provides a map showing where that year’s MAGI boxes will be shipped. This year, 30,000+ boxes are to be delivered all over the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska; to Mexico and most countries in Central America; to the Caribbean countries of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico; to the South American country of Paraguay; to the African countries of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ken-

ya, and Uganda; to the west European countries of Ukraine and Romania; and India. Mayfair packed a total of 275 boxes that will go to Central America.

HHI provides a list of suggested items based on the goals of the project. We work from that list in filling the boxes, but our project is structured to also provide numerous physical, emotional, and fellowship opportunities for Mayfair members.

We provide many methods of participation to allow more Mayfair members to be involved. While some members donate funds, others collect items individually or in bulk, while still others pack boxes.

If we wanted to accomplish the task more efficiently and cost-effectively, we could simply take up a collection and send it off to HHI for them to take care of everything. It would be efficient for us, but it would not lighten the load of the Nashville volunteers, and it would limit the challenge and opportunity for our members. By working together, we develop vital relationships and become more fruitful servants.

One MAGI goal is to provide a *“go into all the world”* activity for those who cannot go on mission trips. We distribute a list of items for them to prayerfully purchase to fill their boxes as they think about and pray for the child who will receive their sacrificial gift. It’s a wonderful opportunity to create empathy, as Gary Bradley has defined it: *“Your pain, or needs, in my heart.”* We use the MAGI project to provide an opportunity for **everyone** to participate together regardless of age, physical ability, or financial situation.

### MAKING A GODLY IMPACT

Packing parties provide that opportunity to everyone whether they can afford to purchase items or not and whether they can stand or must sit to do the work. MAGI activities work well in blending age groups to work for a common cause.

Packing parties are intended to bring all age groups, especially children, into the project working together. Recently, a very young girl was packing

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MAGI boxes at a packing party with her grandmother. She looked at the “gift” items of undies, toothpaste, soap, etc. that were gathered and said, “I wouldn’t want these things for Christmas.” After just a moment’s reflection, she added, “Well, if I didn’t **have** these things, I **would** want them for Christmas.”

In the twinkling of an eye, this little girl got it. She suddenly understood that the blessings she takes for granted every day will be precious gifts to those who have little. A lesson in empathy. An awareness of her many blessings. She and other children delighted older workers with their enthusiasm and willingness to work, a priceless benefit of the MAGI project. MAGI is a wonderful way to bring our children to a new level of spiritual maturity.

Shop for MAGI all year. Check sales and clearance tables for listed items. Look into the other activities of Healing Hands International. They organize, you just show up to follow directions and help. Check out



**MAGI boxes are packed and ready to ship**

hhi.org for much more information on MAGI and all the opportunities for service provided by Healing Hands International. You will be uplifted!

Ladies are invited to attend the HHI Women of Hope Weekend in Murfreesboro, TN, March 22-23, 2024. More information is available online at <https://www.hhi.org/women/> or in the Mayfair Messenger.

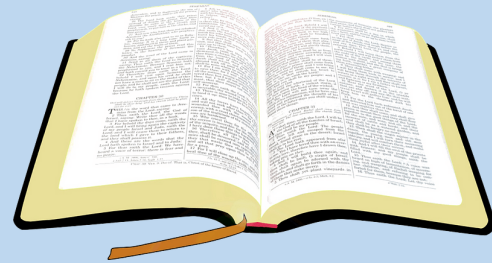
## When God Laughs, It is Not Funny!

By Al Nunley

Have you ever heard in the Bible that God laughs? What do you think God would laugh about? Three times in the book of Psalms it is written that God laughs. It may surprise you to see what God laughs about!

**(Psalm 2:1-6 NASB)** *Why are the nations restless and the peoples plotting in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, “Let’s tear their shackles apart and throw their ropes away from us!” He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, “But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.”*

**(Psalm 37:7-13 NASB)** *Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not get upset because of one who is successful in his way, Because of the person who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and abandon wrath; Do not get upset; it leads only to evildoing. For evildoers will be eliminated, but those*



*who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land. Yet a little while and the wicked person will be no more; and you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there. But the humble will inherit the land and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity. The wicked plots against the righteous, and gnashes at him with his teeth. **The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming.***

**(Psalm 59:6-8 NASB)** *They return at evening, they howl like a dog, and prowl around the city. Behold, they gush forth with their mouths; swords are in their lips, for, they say, “Who hears?” **But You, LORD, laugh at them; You scoff at all the nations.***

God laughs or scoffs at those who do not recognize and respect His great power. As in Psalm 37:13, **The Lord laughs at the wicked, for He knows his day is coming!** When God laughs, it isn’t funny.



# Getting to Know Your Elders

Mayfair recently appointed three new elders, Butch Kinzer, Scotty Sparks, and Dudley Brewer. Each of these men shared with us a little of their history and how they came to be at Mayfair.

## Butch Kinzer

I entered this world at Memphis Naval Air Station. Dad was a flight surgeon. Our family moved to Huntsville when I was nearly five years old.

I attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through eighth grade. Following graduation from Huntsville High, I attended The University of Tennessee-Knoxville and subsequently, The University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences in Memphis. I received an MD degree in June of 1976.

My three-year Family Practice residency began in July 1976. Early in residency, I met Marta at Huntsville Hospital while she was working in the lab as a medical technologist. We began dating a few months later.



**Butch and Marta Kinzer**

I began visiting her home congregation. As a Catholic, I became fascinated with the concept the inspired Word of God held all you needed to know for salvation.

Not long after our engagement, I was baptized by my now brother-in-law Mark on February 28, 1977. We were married in a pasture on May 28, 1977. We began attending Mayfair in early 1977.

We have five children who all grew up at Mayfair and were baptized while a part of Mayfair's youth group. We also now have nine grandkids, two of whom, with their parents (Ian and Kayla) attend Mayfair.

In 1986, I made my first medical mission trip to Belize and have participated in 19 such trips over the years. I have also made several trips to Santa Rosa de

Copan, Honduras as well as to the Baja. I have served on the missions committee for several years plus several short-term committees at the elders' request. I have also taught several classes here at Mayfair (and continue to be quite nervous doing so) through the years. Also, I have attended multiple medical emergencies during services for decades.

Within the community, I have had the opportunity to serve on the board of directors for Madison Academy and the board for AGAPE of North Alabama. While on the medical staff of Huntsville Hospital, I have served on many committees and was privileged to serve as Chief of Staff (Medical) for two years.

In retirement, I have developed better Bible study habits, traveled, read, gardened, and enjoyed the grandkids.

Several verses that I hold dear are Philippians 4:4-9; Philippians 1:21; and Psalm 116:15 (*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints*).

## Scotty Sparks

I was born in a town just north of Chattanooga, TN. Growing up, I attended a local church of Christ there with my family. I obtained my undergraduate degree at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and relocated to Atlanta where I received a master's degree at Georgia Tech.

I accepted a job at NASA-MSFC, moving to Huntsville. In 1989 I began attending Mayfair. It was here that I met my wife, Vicki Bell, daughter of Jim and

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**Scotty and Vicki Sparks**

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Sue Bell. We were married at Mayfair in 1994 by one of our present elders, Dick Savage. We have two adult daughters, Sara Grace who lives in Nashville, and Natalie who lives here in Huntsville. Both participated in the youth program at Mayfair.

We served as Huddle leaders in the Mayfair Youth Ministry for many years. We have participated in other mission activities, working with the Mayfair Youth Ministry on trips to San Quentin, in Baja, Mexico. I also participated in a mission trip to Cuba in 2016. Vicki served alongside Dr. Tate on Mayfair medical mission trips to Belize.

I retired from NASA and am now working with Axient providing consulting engineering services to NASA. Vicki is a dental hygienist with Segrist Family Dentistry. I have been devoted to Christian education, serving as a member and Chairman of the Board of Madison Academy for many years.

Vicki and I currently attend the Seekers class, where I serve as the class coordinator, deacon, and regular teacher. My hobbies include reading, jogging, and photography.

I came to Mayfair in 1989 seeking a place to attend and found not only a church but a family as well. Since coming to Mayfair I have met my closest friends here; I met my wife here; I was married here; and I baptized both my daughters here. After the loss of our first daughter, our church family carried Vicki and me through that hard time. Mayfair truly is our family.

One scripture that I believe is very important for me: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind"* (John 1:1-4 NIV).

## Dudley Brewer

I am a native of Madison County. Jan and I have known each other since we were kids and married her senior year in 1982, celebrating 41 years of marriage. We came to Mayfair in 1997 looking for a strong youth program to help guide our children, and now we both look back with hearts of gratitude to those who invested in our children's lives.

I worked for a local company, Technicolor, in the engineering department as a machinist and recently retired after 35 years. My wife, Jan, has served as the Executive Director of Friends, a local non-profit organization that attends to the needs of those seriously ill or disabled in this community for 21 years.

We have two children who are active in the Lord's church. Both were raised at Mayfair. Our daughter Ashley is married to Joel Essner, son of Joe and Beth Essner. Joel serves as a youth deacon at Mayfair. Our son, Adam, married Bruce and Jacquie Thompson's daughter, Natalie. They recently moved to Jonesboro, AR, where Adam is now the lead minister at the Southwest Church of Christ. We are blessed to have four grandchildren.

At Mayfair, I have served 20 years as our facility maintenance deacon. Jan and I have been very involved in the Baja mission work for the past 24 years, making many trips to encourage the churches there and going to Honduras and Houston, Texas, with the youth. I also volunteer to drive our church bus for youth and senior activities and on mission trips.

One of my greatest joys is serving with my brothers and sisters at Mayfair and in the Baja. I enjoy life: My family time, traveling with Jan, camping, and working with my hands.

My favorite scripture: *"But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy mountains"* (Psalms 3:3-4 NIV).

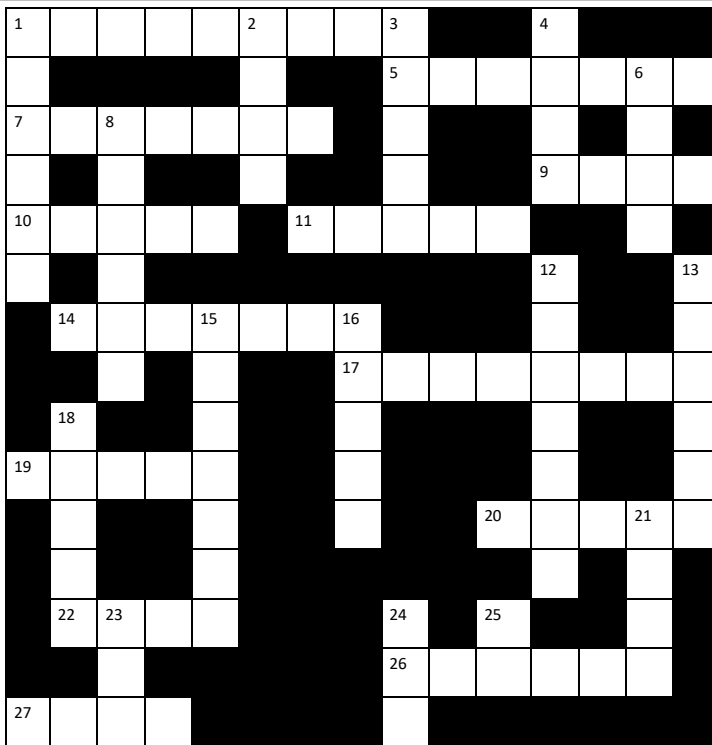
This passage of scripture brought great comfort to me during a challenging time with my health. We praise God and thank our church family for walking with us through my illness. So many of you wore bracelets that said, "Pray For Dudley" James 5:15. I am thankful for all the many blessings and God's faithfulness!



Dudley and Jan Brewer

## Search the Scriptures Crossword #1: The Book of Genesis

Let's challenge your knowledge of the scriptures with this crossword puzzle. All answers are found in the book of Genesis with book and chapter references provided in parenthesis. If you need help, feel free to open the scriptures to find the answer. Answers are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV). You might just learn something!



### Across:

- 1 Sarah was buried in the Cave of \_\_\_\_\_ (23:19).
- 5 This man fathered a child with Sarah in his old age (21:2).
- 7 This woman married Isaac (24:67).
- 9 God told him to build an ark (6:14).
- 10 This was used in making burnt offerings (8:20).
- 11 Daughter of Jacob who was defiled (34:5).
- 14 He deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden (3:13).
- 17 Nationality of Sarah's female servant (16:1).
- 19 Name of Ishmael's mother (16:15).
- 20 Rebekah's brother (24:29).
- 22 Rachel's older sister (29:16).
- 26 Jacob's name was changed to \_\_\_\_\_ (32:28).
- 27 The tree of life was in the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:8-10).

### Down:

- 1 Abraham was to offer Isaac in the land of \_\_\_\_\_ (22:2).
- 2 He sold his birthright to his brother (25:31-33).
- 3 The city where Terah died (11:32).
- 4 He murdered his brother Abel (4:8).
- 6 God made a woman from his man's rib (2:20-22).
- 8 Rebekah's nurse was buried under an oak near this city (35:8).
- 12 Abraham's wife after Sarah died (25:1).
- 13 The land promised to Abraham's offspring (17:8).
- 15 He occupied the throne of Egypt (41:39-40).
- 16 Father of Abraham (11:26).
- 18 The Lord confused the language at this tower (11:7-9).
- 21 Killed by his brother Cain (4:8).
- 23 She was called "the mother of all living" (3:20).
- 24 The first woman was made from Adam's \_\_\_\_\_ (2:21-22).
- 25 Abram's original home was \_\_\_\_\_ of the Chaldeans (15:7).

***All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16 ESV).***

# MAYFAIR CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Upcoming Events:

By  
Doug Smith



Over the last few years, Mayfair has conducted GriefShare seminars, a 13-week support group, and a teaching module designed to help those who have lost a loved one. This ministry has grown and encouraged people from both the community and the Mayfair family.

It's never easy to lose someone no matter the circumstances. However, it is amazing how God works through others who have also experienced loss to help heal our pain as we support others through their pain.

During the 13 weeks, the group will watch a video of experts discussing common characteristics of grief that tend to be universal to all. Participants then take the remaining time to discuss the video and their own personal experiences with loss. No one is forced to talk, but all are free to express themselves.

The next series of weekly GriefShare sessions begin on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM at Mayfair. If you are struggling with the emotional pain of a loss please join us. If you know someone who could benefit from this seminar, please invite them. It is a great way to find encouragement and realize you're not alone. The following link is provided for GriefShare registration:

<https://www.griefshare.org/groups/176590>



Today, more and more people are going through divorce. As a church, we are supposed to be here to encourage and support those who are going through a difficult time. We often don't know what to say or do when someone is going through a divorce. And the person experiencing this divorce often feels lost

and alone. Our goal is to help someone through this difficult time and know they are not lost and alone.

DiVorce Care is a 13-week seminar. Each week consists of a video teaching element and a discussion element. There also is a workbook that participants can use at home between the weekly meetings.

The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday night January 17, beginning at 6:15 pm. If you know of anyone who might benefit from this program they can register at the following link:

<https://www.divorcecare.org/groups/176728>



Grace Marriage is a program we have been using with married couples for the last four years. It is a proactive approach to working on your marriage. Our goal is to encourage and help couples build Godly marriages that are centered on working to have and keep a good marriage. We plan to start this program again in the new year. Look for signups coming at the end of January.

Search the Scriptures Crossword												
Solution from Page 11												
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