

# Joy IN THE JOURNEY

Activities & Service Opportunities of Mayfair Senior Adults

## University Christian Student Center

By Cliff Mann

For several years, Mayfair and other local congregations have, in one way or another, been serving and reaching out to students at our local colleges and universities. It is an important work in God's kingdom.

When God was ready to start His worldwide movement called the church, He picked a time and place where there were people gathered from all over the world. He knew the people who came to know Jesus in Acts 2 would soon be the people in Acts 8, who would be scattered and preach the word wherever they went.

This speaks to our college campuses today more than ever, where many from around the world have come, seeking education and answers to life's most pressing questions. Most of them are away from home and in need of a place of encouragement and community. It's during these formative years that

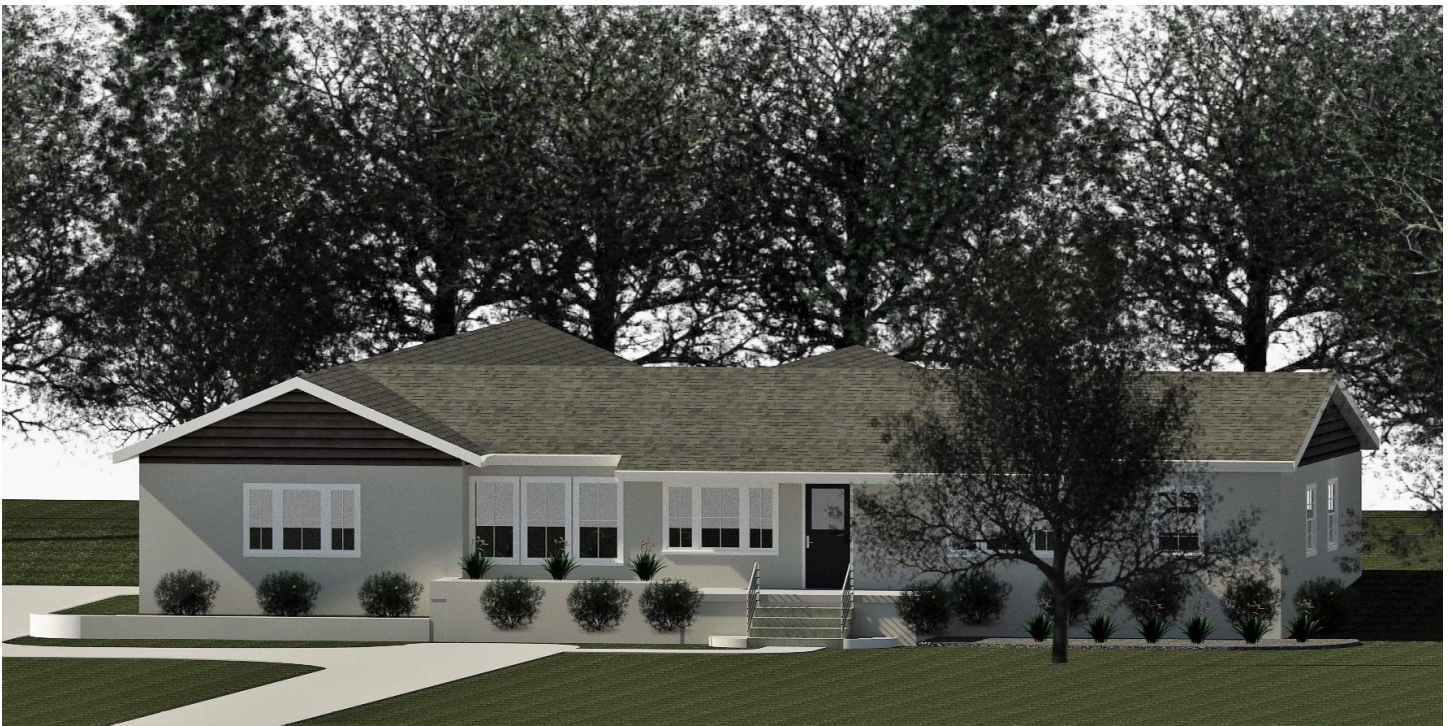
many will decide their future career, lifestyle, their mate, and even their faith. The University of Alabama in Huntsville alone now has nearly 10,000 students from 49 states and 53 countries.

While they are on campus, we have only a small window of time to meet these souls, love on them, and bring them to Jesus, before they graduate and scatter to take the Gospel message with them. A campus minister friend of mine, once told me, "God has indeed brought the foreign mission field to our dorm steps."

Just imagine these new brothers and sisters becoming Bible class teachers, ministry leaders, deacons, elders, godly husbands and dads, godly wives, and mothers who will influence others for Christ for generations to come. As one minister has said, "Change the campus today and change the world tomorrow."

Many in the Mayfair family as well as many in other congregations say their own lives have been touched

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An architect's rendering of the University Christian Student Center

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and changed through student centers and churches on a university campus. Their stories are inspiring and are a testimony to the power of touching young lives with the love of Jesus.

God is at work through us! However, the Mayfair elders realize this is a much bigger mission than we can effectively carry forward alone. Instead, it creates an exciting opportunity for several area congregations to join together in this local mission effort. Many members in nearby congregations have been affected in one way or another by a campus ministry and would cherish the opportunity to pass that experience and faith development on to another generation.

The Mayfair elders have taken the step to create and incorporate the University Christian Student Center (UCSC), a non-profit organization, to oversee the ongoing renovation, maintenance, and oversight of activities at the student center. Initially, the Board of Directors will be comprised of elders from Mayfair



**Workers renovate the UCSC facility**

and other area churches who wish to support this ongoing outreach on our area campuses. Various committees are being formed with members from participating congregations to carry out specific tasks both immediately and long term.

Due to the generous donations and hard work of many individual members, including college students, and other area churches, the renovation work is well underway at the UCSC facility at 4903 Holmes Avenue through a number of workdays that have already been conducted.

With a community of believers coming together in a combined effort, we hope the dream can be realized and the new University Christian Student Center open and ready for ministry later this academic year. It is our prayer that the UCSC will be a safe place where students from area churches can come together, inviting their friends to Bible studies, devotionals, and enjoyable social activities.

We welcome your prayers, participation, and financial support for this exciting work of the Lord. To learn more about how you can be involved and donate to this mission visit [www.Mayfair.org/ucsc](http://www.Mayfair.org/ucsc)

May God be glorified for years to come by many souls brought to Him.

## From the Shepherd's Pen

### Peace, Perfect Peace

By Jim Flowers



When Kerrie and I were in college, our campus minister, Jim Brinkerhoff, would occasionally tell the college group, "You will never have as much free time in your life as you have while you're in college," and I suspect most of us thought Jim was a little out of touch with reality. After all, we had full loads of classes, assignments to complete, tests and pop quizzes, mid-terms, and final exams. We attended worship services, weekly devotionals, Bible classes, small group gatherings, and service activities. Of course, we weren't about to miss the athletic events like football games, basketball games, baseball games, and gymnastics meets. It didn't seem possible that our schedules could get much more hectic than they were in college.

It turns out, repeatedly, that what Jim taught us was a truth that we wouldn't understand or appreciate until years later. Our post-college lives raising children, cultivating our relationships, trying to succeed in our careers, and being involved in the church have been hectic, and exhausting. This summer alone, Kerrie and I pulled off the following:

- Moved our youngest daughter home from college after her graduation.
- Moved our oldest daughter and son-in-law between apartments in Nashville.
- Moved our youngest daughter from home to her new apartment in Nashville.
- Helped our oldest daughter and son-in-law house hunt and move to Huntsville.
- Made trips to both homes to shuttle "stuff" to the girls and check on their wellbeing.

At the same time, we were also working hard to cultivate our marriage, advance in our careers, maintain our home, stay in touch with our extended family, and remain active in the work of the church. Oh, how I miss my schedule from college!

As the activities of this hectic and stressful summer were winding down, the following prophecy Zechariah made about Jesus prior to His birth really struck me:

*And you, my Child, will... guide our feet into the path of peace (Luke 1:76a, 79b ESV).*

What a blessing it is that Jesus came to (gently) guide us to the path of peace. Right alongside all of the incredible things Jesus brought to us, things like mercy, grace, forgiveness, salvation, and reconciliation, He also came to guide us to peace. I could use an extra measure of that right about now.

But Jesus' life and the lives the apostles lived alongside Him seem anything but peaceful. He was regularly in conflict with the religious leaders, He was forced to leave towns He was visiting, He had no place to call home and lay His head, and His execution was brutal and chaotic. Where do I find an example of Him bringing peace to someone's life so I can get a glimpse of this incredible blessing? Well, the encounter I keep going back to that displays this to me is when Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

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**An artist's concept of Peter's attack on Malchus, the servant of the high priest**

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Each of the four gospels shares the story of Jesus' arrest in the Garden with varying levels of detail, but all four specifically mention when Judas led the authorities to Jesus. Luke tells it like this:

*And when those who were around Him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear (Luke 22:49-50 ESV).*

John is the only author who tells us that Peter is the disciple who couldn't keep his sword in its sheath, and he is also the only author who tells us that the servant who was struck was named Malchus. So I try to imagine being Malchus at that moment, simply doing my job, finding myself in a stressful situation, in a garden in the middle of the night with a large contingent of other people, when all of the sudden my ear gets sliced completely off the side of my head. In the milliseconds that followed, the following thoughts, at a minimum, would have gone through my head:

- Did my ear really just get cut off?
- Am I going to bleed to death?
- Is the wound going to get infected?
- Will I still be able to hear?
- Will I be able to do my job?
- Will I be able to find another job if I'm disabled?
- How will I feed my family if I can't work?
- Will my wife still love me if I'm missing an ear?
- How will I survive if my wife leaves me?

I'm sure if I was Malchus, my heart rate would have skyrocketed, my blood pressure would have shot through the roof, and my life would have flashed before my eyes. The stress, helplessness, and hopelessness at that moment would have been tremendous.

Only Luke, the physician, records what followed:

*But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And He touched his ear and healed him (Luke 22:51 ESV).*

Malchus is potentially in one of the most intense moments of his life. He's about to make an unjustified arrest of a popular teacher, in the middle of the night, after being led to Him by one of His former followers. Weapons are probably drawn on both sides after the first lethal blow has been struck, and he has



**Actors portray the scene of Jesus healing the severed ear of Malchus in the movie, "The Passion of the Christ"**

been directly affected by that first blow potentially throwing his entire life into utter chaos. In addition to the pain and shock that certainly existed at that moment, imagine the exhaustion Malchus would also eventually feel.

But Jesus makes all that disappear.

I picture Jesus placing His hands on both sides of Malchus' head as his right ear reattaches, and for that brief moment the noise that surrounds him is silenced, the chaos is blocked out as he stares into Jesus' eyes, and the pain subsides, and all of the uncertainty of the future disappears when Jesus removes His hands from the sides of his head and Malchus realizes he has been healed. Can you imagine the relief, the calm, the peace, Malchus must have felt at that moment?

As we bask in the countless blessings God, through Jesus, provides, things like salvation, grace, mercy, and love, it is my prayer that we also relish the fact that He is guiding us to a path of peace... perfect peace... that only He is able to provide. May your upcoming days, months, and years be guided by Jesus into that peace.

### **Mayfair Assistance Helpline 256-704-3384**

**Mayfair has a helpline for members who may require physical assistance with home maintenance, automotive repairs, or transportation needs. Call and leave a message regarding your needs and you will be contacted for details.**

## Knowledge of God

By Dick Savage

*For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in knowledge of God rather than burnt offering (Hosea 6:6 NASB).*

When we that speak English use the verb “to know,” we think about our mental understanding of facts. However, the meaning of the Hebrew word translated into English, as “to know”, is much broader. Rather than just knowing information, the Hebrew word stresses knowing from experience and relationship and then acting on that knowledge.

This is important to understand when we consider the biblical concept “knowledge of God”. We may think this means being able to prove God’s existence and developing a theological model to explain the nature of God. But, in the Hebrew view, “knowledge of God” is having a life in relationship with Him.

From the Jewish perspective, knowledge is not just knowing about God, it is devotion to Him as well. Jews see knowledge of God as intimacy with God. We should think of that when we have an opportunity to share our faith and the Good News of Jesus with others. Are we trying to fill people’s minds with facts about God, Jesus, and scriptures, or are we trying to bring people to know the LORD?

Just how close do we feel to God ourselves? How well do we know Him? It is difficult to share something we have not experienced.

Within all of us, there exists a strong desire to be known and to know others. The most important one to know is our Creator. In fact, Jesus taught that eternal life is not just a span of time; it is a relationship: *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” (John 17:3 NIV).*

The key to truly knowing God is found in what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible. He wants to be known. The problem is our sinfulness. We are all sinful and we fall short of the standard of holiness required to commune with God. We have *“exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles” (Romans 1:23 NIV).* So, in order to truly know God, we must first acknowledge our sins and repent of them.

In turning from sin, we must turn to Jesus Christ,



the only Savior from sin. We receive Jesus by faith: *“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12 NASB).*

Jesus’ death and resurrection provided for the forgiveness of our sin, and He alone is the way to a personal knowledge of God: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me” (John 14:6 NKJV).*

Jesus reveals to us who God is, so to know God we must look to Jesus: *“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...Believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me” (John 14:9b, 10b NIV).*

Every work that Jesus did was in obedience to the Father in heaven. Every word Jesus spoke was straight from the Father. To know God, we must know Jesus.

Another key ingredient in truly knowing God is reading the Bible, God’s Word. In the Bible, we have God’s revelation of His character, His promises, and His will.

- It is through the Bible that we know that God is *“a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness” (Psalm 86:15 NIV).*
- It is through the Bible that we know that God is *“mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes” (Deuteronomy 10:17b NIV).*
- It is through the Bible that we know that God is *“the King eternal, immortal, invisible,” worthy of “honor and glory for ever and ever” (1 Timothy 1:17 NIV).*

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Truly knowing God also comes through our commitment to obey what we read in the Scriptures. We were saved unto good works, and, as we obey the Lord, we become part of God's plan of continuing to reveal Himself to the world. We are salt and light on this earth, designed to bring God's flavor to the world and to serve as a shining light in the midst of darkness. Jesus, Himself placed the greatest importance on loving God with all we are and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

These are keys to truly knowing God. Of course, those who know God will also be committed

to prayer, fellowship with other believers, sincere worship, and walking in the Spirit. Jesus taught His disciples about the Holy Spirit, contrasting the world's ignorance of Him with the disciples' knowledge: *"The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you"* (John 14:17 NIV).

It is through the Spirit of God that we have *"adoption to sonship ... The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children"* (Romans 8:15b-16 NIV). Through Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit, our lives can be filled with God, and we can experience the joy of truly knowing Him.

## Is a Ventilator for You?

By C. L. "Butch" Kinzer M.D.

Would you want to be on a ventilator? If so, how long would you want to stay connected?

These are questions that few of us spend any time contemplating. We don't spend much time considering that we will die unless our Lord comes first. Yet, if we want to have some say in what happens to us when death is imminent, then we must consider it. It can come down to choosing a prolonged death versus a dignified death.

Indeed, all these questions, even the contemplation of our death, are difficult because we tend to fear the unknown. We do not want to leave our loved ones; yet, we know that *"for you are dust and to dust you shall return"* (Genesis 3:19). Just how often do we take this to heart?

Sadly, these end-of-life decisions are often left to our loved ones. They are faced with hard decisions at a time when they are distraught with an impending, heart-rending loss. They are confronted with decisions that may make them feel complicit in the demise of a loved one.

This sounds harsh, yet, in my experience, the reality is even harder. I have been on the side of making the decision to stop my father's resuscitative efforts. I agreed with my mother's decision to forego further treatment for her lymphoma and sat with her when she passed from this world.

During my practice, I would see the point where the care I provided no longer added to the quality of life and that care was prolonging death. I was forced

to have a discussion with my friend and their loved ones that their care was prolonging death. I would invite them to make those hard decisions concerning the end of life before the time was imminent. This discussion is one that many physicians find very hard to have, so they may avoid it.

All these gut-wrenching thoughts and the inevitability of death, hopefully, lead you to ask the question "How do I ease the burden of that final decision?" The answers to me are simple. Execute a living will and appoint a health care proxy. These two documents are often melded into one.

A living will document allows you, in writing, to express your wishes concerning a ventilator. By all means, if there is the hope of restoring meaningful life, then use the ventilator. If you are on a ventilator and the chances of living without the ventilator are slim to none, you can say discontinue it. If there is no hope then do not start it in the first place. With a living will document, you can say no to many things, such as saying no to antibiotics when dementia sets in and your mind is gone, while your body remains.

Some people might say that allowing death is wrong, but I would contend that delaying death might be worse. Further, I would contend that allowing a natural death is kind; something, I think modern medicine sometimes has forgotten.

Concomitant with executing a living will document, you need to appoint a health care proxy for when you are unable to verbally express your wishes. The document can be referred to as a health care power of attorney. This is not to be confused with a

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power of attorney which designates an individual to make financial decisions when you are unable to take care of your own affairs. When appointing a health care proxy, it is always good to have a frank discussion with that person about your wishes. The discussion allows them to have a better understanding of your wishes when circumstances do not quite fit what you have put in writing.

A living will document only goes into effect when

your doctor determines that further care would be fruitless. Further, in most cases, the decision must be agreed to by a second physician. Once these conditions have been met, then your Health Care proxy is asked to consent to stop life-sustaining care. At this point, they are acceding to your request, not making the hard decision on their own.

Finally, when death comes, I am comforted by these words; *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints”* (Psalms 116:15 ESV).

## The Blessings of Baja

By Denton Kimbrough

I love Ezekiel 34:26 which speaks of God showering blessings on His people. I feel that God has certainly showered His blessings on us as a church this summer. He gifted us with so many wonderful, life-changing opportunities for missions and service in so many places including two awesome trips to Baja, Mexico.

The first trip to Baja was the family trip in June. That team ministered to, served, and encouraged the people at the San Quintin church. Hungry people were fed, physically and spiritually. Children were loved and taught the good news of Jesus. Special emphasis was given to meeting the needs of the elderly. Jason Bybee preached the Word each evening on the theme “Anxious for Nothing.”

Covid had its destructive effect in Baja just like it did here; so Jason’s lessons were particularly timely. Perhaps the most significant and needed aspect of the trip was the hugs, smiles, and love generously shared. The San Quintin church was greatly edified and spirits were lifted by this team. God certainly blessed those who went and also blessed those precious members of the church there.

The second summer trip to Baja was in July. This team was made up of teens and parents whose emphasis was to encourage and minister to the teens at

the San Quintin church and their youth minister, Braulio, and his wife, Victoria. The teens there had become very discouraged and disconnected because of the isolation of Covid, and they were struggling to



**Denton Kimbrough and his granddaughter Bailey Morrow pack gift bags in San Quintin**

reengage. It was amazing to see how God worked and answered our prayers to get those teens to recognize their value to the Lord’s church. Even though this was the first foreign mission experience for most of this team, God worked mightily through our teens and parents to minister to their peers in San Quintin.

The Spirit of the Lord filled the teens from both Mayfair as well as San Quintin. I was amazed how, in just a short period of time, language and cultural barriers were shattered and deep relationships were formed. There was a spirit of love and joy that permeated that place. Even though they could not speak the same language, there was real bonding and a spiritual connection. Laughter speaks a universal language. Love transcends all barriers.

The San Quintin teens joined the Mayfair teens to

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***Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.***

***James 1:27 ESV***

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serve others. As with the first trip, food and hygiene items were assembled into gift bags to take to the homebound members of the church. Through these visits, we were able to spend time with those who are the “least of these,” those who are hungry not only for physical food but also for prayers and encouragement.

***‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’***

***Matthew 25:40 ESV***

Most of the homes were only one room with dirt floors. Those were unforgettable visits for our team as we stood there with our new friends from Baja realizing they most likely live in similar conditions. Our teens and adults alike were reminded how blessed we are and that a prayer of thanksgiving should always be on our lips thanking God for all that He has given us. Blessings were showered upon us as we stepped into the homes of these faithful, joyful servants of Christ. May we never forget!



**Mayfair teens work and fellowship with the San Quintin teens**

One other way that God has poured blessings on the work in Baja is through a new effort, Camp Baja. This project began about a year ago. The purpose of Camp Baja is to minister and serve the children and families in Baja, as well as those teams who travel there. Construction has begun and is progressing.

The outdoor devotional area is now completed. The family gathering pavilion is completed as well. The bathrooms for the boys and girls are nearing completion, as well as the boys’ and girls’ dormitories and



**The outdoor devotional area at Camp Baja**

work will begin soon on the outdoor kitchen.

The second phase of this project will be an independent living home for some of our elderly widows and widowers who struggle to take care of themselves. It will be such a special place for these special people. Surely, God smiles when there is an effort to take care of those who struggle to take care of themselves. God is opening wonderful doors of opportunity. The word is spreading in the San Quintin community regarding Camp Baja.

Growing crops is the major source of income in this part of the Baja Peninsula. The Driscoll Strawberry Plant has a major operation in this community. Two of the representatives of the Driscoll company reached out to us with their interest in helping with this project because of what it potentially means to the San Quintin Valley. Praise God! It is our hope and prayer that Camp Baja will be a lighthouse for the love of Christ in the valley and beyond.

As we departed San Quintin, our hearts were overflowing with emotion, inexpressible joy, genuine thanksgiving, and indelible memories. We thank God for all of His tremendous blessings including the blessings of participating in the mission to Baja. May God be praised and glorified through this effort. We certainly look forward to when we can return.

As I walked along the edge of the water in San Quintin, I looked down and noticed this rock. I brought it home to serve as a reminder of Baja and the love that God’s people there have and share. May we share His love, too. All for Him.

