



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June - July 2021

From the Pastor's Study...

During prayer time, I often will mention our thanks for the freedom to come together and worship we enjoy every Sunday. It wasn't always so: At one time, every Baptist in America and elsewhere was a member of a persecuted faith.

The greatest heat generated from that struggle took place in Virginia, and the furnace was hottest right around Elk Creek. In surrounding counties like Orange, lay preachers like Elijah Craig (yes, the same one on the bourbon bottle!) and John Burruss in Caroline went to jail rather than compromise on that freedom, and the most prominent voices for freedom in America, like John Leland, preached at Elk Creek. They took the Bible seriously enough to sacrifice so that others, and even people like us 200 years later, could come to church and do what we do every Sunday, no matter what their faith. They agreed that the God of scripture desires our freedom—all of us.

While we have to be vigilant here still to make sure this freedom is protected in courts, and from mobs that conspire to restrict and even harm other groups, people elsewhere are still at risk. The magazine *Christianity Today* has just published a story entitled "The 9 Nations Where It's Hardest to Be a Baptist." The Fairfax-based Baptist World Alliance (BWA), which has a presence in the U.S. and 125 other countries, opened its 2020 Congress (online and delayed from last year) with a focus on the persecuted church that forms the basis for the article. Nine countries are listed, including places that might seem obvious, like Syria, but it also includes India (violent Hindu nationalism) and seven African countries. (The only reason China isn't mentioned is because they have 1 million Uyghur Muslims in concentration camps, not Baptists.)

Pam is a nurse manager at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Her employees frequently are from outside the United States and refugees from some of these very same countries. They and their families have suffered beatings, bombings, and murder. One had an immediate family member

murdered a few weeks ago. And all of this suffering has happened because other people want the freedom you and I often take for granted.

Elijah Brown, an acquaintance of mine and General Secretary and CEO of the BWA, quotes a principle that goes back to the earliest Baptist persecutions, where "Our concern is for the Baptists, but not only for the Baptists. We share concern for all of the citizens in the country who may be struggling."

In other words, no one is free unless everyone is free. . We in the United States have been a beacon in the cause of freedom, where Baptists have led the way, and that is still true. Yet the survey finds 1 in 4 Baptist worshipers and 1 in 5 of their churches are "very vulnerable" to persecution, and just this past week, 121 students were kidnaped from a Baptist high school in Nigeria. They are still missing.

Swimming against that ugly dark tide, won't you join me in at least praying for the persecuted, wherever, and whoever, they may be?

Mickey

DATES TO REMEMBER

July

Mission Project

CBF Global Missions Offering

18th

Quarterly Business Meeting after the 11:00 service
All are welcome to attend.

August

28th

Fall Cleanup, 9:00 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July

Brown, Brad & Doty	02
Weeks, Jerry	05
Strevig, Gerald	07
Woods, Frances	07
Good, David	10
Hawkins, Kathy	15
Duerson, James & Dorothy	16
Talley, Jerry	18
Norwood, Lesia and Kevin	18
Wyckoff, Gerry	19
Davis, Judy	23
DeZorzi, Carol	24
Ashwood, Connie `	26
Michalski, Vickie	29

August

Chewning, Doug & Mary Frances	07
Jenkins, Penny	09
Scanlon, Patrick	12
Edmonds, Lynn	14
Hale, Pamela	14
Keene, Linda	14
Wyckoff, Gerry & Bunnie	14
Teller, Rick and Cheryl	15
Canova, Jay and Jo	16
Bridges, Linda	16
Bridges, Mike	19
Vancampen, Wanda	25
Croce, Larry & Susan	27
Rapp, Caitlin	28
Edmonds, Lynn & Larry	29

Volunteers at the Resource Council Food Pantry



Church Spring Picnic - Great time by all!!























Lakeside view. We are so blessed!!



Richie's handy work!! - Thank you for the repairs at the lake!!



Together in Christ.

Alana Frazier