



Goshen News

Goshen Baptist Association

WWW.GOSHENASSOCIATION.COM

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Email address: GoshenAssociation@hughes.net

"The purpose of this Association shall be to proclaim Christ as Lord, to expand the Kingdom of God, and to assist our affiliate churches to carry out their mission before God."

You are invited to the

Commissioning Service for the 2024 Mission Team to Armenia

on Sunday, August 4 at 2 p.m. at Louisa Baptist Church

Let us join together in unity to support our brothers and sisters in Christ as we build His Kingdom!

What God can do with a **NASCAR** dream

A Testimony of Josh Bowen, Director of Mountain View Community Church, Orange Campus

How does someone with no racing experience beyond go-karts when he was just a kid become a quote-unquote professional NASCAR driver? How does someone with minimal ministry experience become chaplain for a nationwide company like NASCAR Racing Experience (a company that provides opportunities to drive a race car on the major national tracks, or ride along with a professional)... better question: how is this me?! **ONLY GOD!**

Let me share how we got here... it's a story of incredibly weak faith. We have to go back to March of 2020. The pandemic had just begun. It was announced that pretty much everything was shutting down for two weeks... and it didn't take long for us to realize that it would be longer than two weeks.

Mark, our lead pastor, and I sat down, looked at each other with the understanding that online only was going to get old really quick. We both agreed that we would commit to pray and ask God to show us some things we could do to keep things interesting, if that was His will.

God did answer. One thing we did was to record the message for Memorial Day weekend in the National Cemetery. Now it's no small feat to get approval to film in a national cemetery, let alone a sermon for church... but God opened that door wide open and it was very powerful.

Anyway, back to the story at hand. I went to bed praying that first night over what God would have us do with this new temporary look to our worship services. I woke up early the

next morning, well before my alarm clock. Before my eyes even opened, there was immediately an idea in my mind and an image in my mind's eye. It was a crazy idea; so crazy that I immediately dismissed it.

But, it kept coming back and I couldn't shake it. I just knew it was a dumb idea and was pretty sure that it was just something from me, from a selfish place, so I continued to push it aside... it had all the feel of God speaking to my heart, but seemed so outlandish that I wouldn't accept it.

Finally, about 11:30 that morning I gave up. With all the spiritual maturity and big, bold faith that I could muster... I decided to explore this silly idea... and by doing so, I would show God that this was a dumb idea that it was living in my flesh and not from Him. [I'm sounding really good, right?!]

So here's the idea that I couldn't shake: I preach a message while driving a NASCAR race car... right. So, I took the most basic, least personal, least likely route to reach a real person that I could think of, and I submitted one of those online form submissions to NASCAR Racing Experience... you know the type, fill in the blanks with your name, email, and a brief message, and someone will get back to you.

I cast my idea in a paragraph or two and that was it. I was sure this would be ignored and that would be the end of it... BUT, I told myself that I was being obedient and willing to pursue it.

It was less than two hours later that I get an email from the

See **NASCAR** continued on page 6



RuraLove Ministry

587 Mica Road, Mineral
540.894.8440

The RuraLove Thrift Store is open to the public to purchase clothing and yard sale items on Wednesdays (year-round) and the first Saturday of the month April-November from 8-12:30. In the past month (through your contributions and donations to RuraLove) you have helped local families in crisis by providing:

- 14 Families with financial needs (\$7,291.24)
(Rent, Mortgage, Utilities)
- 2 Families with household items
- 1 Family with clothing
- 1 Family with the loan of medical equipment
- 1 Family with a project

Total Thrift Store sales: **\$6,792.50**

The RuraLove Thrift Store served:

346 with clothing and 733 with household items.

- ◆ 871.5 volunteer hours were donated in May with the average of 10-12 volunteers on Mondays (sorting) and 18-22 volunteers each Wednesday (sale day).

In May volunteers made:

- ◆ 2 deliveries of donated items
- ◆ 3 deliveries of purchased items
- ◆ 12 pick ups of donations
- ◆ 518 total miles driven for pick ups and deliveries
- ◆ Received \$170.40 for recycling metal

We are concentrating on focusing on better outcomes allowing the Lord to provide the income and for us to be good stewards of His income.

RuraLove is in need of:

Mattresses & box springs (especially full & twin), microwaves, electric stoves, refrigerators, washers & dryers, chest of drawers, etc.

RuraLove is a ministry of Goshen Baptist Association churches to local families in crisis. Churches are needed to **follow up** with families in crisis to build a relationship with the goal of meeting spiritual needs.

All items are to be nice enough to give in Jesus' name.

Call 540.894.8440 for more info.

100% of proceeds go to local families in crisis



Have you ever considered being a driver or helper on one of the RuraLove vehicles? RuraLove has experienced increased requests for picking up donated items and deliveries and could still use more volunteers. If you would consider this, it would help out tremendously. Please call 540.894.8440 and a coordinator will return your call.

Temporary Ramps and Firewood

The Crosspoint Outdoorsman Ministry has a ramp ministry for anyone needing a temporary ramp. Crosspoint also gives firewood to those in need. For more information contact Roy Hopkins at 804.943.0734.

Attention church sewing groups

Please send Goshen Ministry Center a picture of your church sewing group in action, let us know what you are working on and average attendance to goshenassociation@hughes.net

Thank You Note

Dear Members of Goshen Baptist Association;

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation to the Paul Stefan Foundation. Your support helps us provide a variety of programs and services to our residents. Our moms and babies are so very grateful for your kindness and generosity. Our foundation is blessed to have your prayers and contributions for the moms and babies at our homes.

As you are aware, we are a nonprofit, charitable organization serving mothers and babies. We have depended on donations such as yours to help us provide quality services to those who come to us in need. Your support has been the core of everything we do, enabling us to carry out these crucial services.

Again, on behalf of our Spiritual Director, the Board of Directors, volunteers, and the mothers & babies who occupy The Paul Stefan Home for Expectant Mothers, we thank you for your generosity and support in helping to make all of this possible. We are deeply grateful for your shared belief in the importance of our mission.

Randy James, President and CEO
The Paul Stefan Foundation
See: www.paulstefanhome.org

Mission Opportunities

The Projects for July:

Christmas in July ~ collect school supplies for your local school to be distributed to those in need.

Church Planter support—Six more commitments of \$200 for 2024, 2025 & 2026 are needed to reach our goal. All other commitments have been paid for 2024 except for two. To be one of the last six generous Kingdom builders needed to meet the goal, make a commitment today and call 540.894.8440.

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**Paul Stefan Home** (Pro-Life Maternity Housing & Educational Center) [www.paulstefanhome.org](http://www.paulstefanhome.org) ~ 120 Caroline St., Orange. 540.854.2300 See website for current needs. **Volunteers also needed!**

**The Journey Home** [www.journeyhomemineral.org](http://www.journeyhomemineral.org)

**Southwest Virginia Partnership Inc.** based in Nickelsville, VA and ministering in Clinch Valley, Powell River and Wise Counties. Register a team of volunteers or get info at [www.swvpartnership.org](http://www.swvpartnership.org)

**Hope for Appalachia** <http://hfavateam.com> ~ make "Hope Boxes" for students age 4-18 to be given out with salvation message at schools in Kentucky in the spring and fall. See website for info.

**BGAV Impact Virginia Disaster Response** See [www.bgav.org](http://www.bgav.org) for more information and trainings.

**Christ In Action (Disaster Response Org)** in the Culpeper Air Park, 21465 Business Court, Elkwood, VA 22718. Call Susan Boston, 703.368.6286 to schedule a tour Mon-Fri 8-4. [www.ChristinAction.com](http://www.ChristinAction.com)

**Hope House 540.371.0831** Battered women's shelter for abused women and their children ~ 902 Lafayette Blvd., Fredericksburg

**Shelter for HELP in Emergency 434.963.4676** Working to end domestic violence. Charlottesville.

## International Mission Opportunities

**Romania: Ministry to Roma People at Ruth School**  
Brittany Garton: [Brittany.garton@project-ruth.org](mailto:Brittany.garton@project-ruth.org) or see: [www.project-ruth.org](http://www.project-ruth.org)

**Little Dresses for Africa:** [littledressesforafrica.org](http://littledressesforafrica.org)

**Door of Hope, South Africa (finding homes for unwanted children)** [www.doorofhopesa.com](http://www.doorofhopesa.com) & [facebook.com/doorofhopeSA](https://www.facebook.com/doorofhopeSA)

## Collecting

~Old prescription eye glasses and reading glasses (found in stores) for a missionary in Guatemala.

## NOT Collecting at this time

Please **do not** save prescription, medicine, or vitamin bottles at this time. If you know a person working directly with Doctors Without Borders, please call the Goshen Ministry Center at 540.894.8440 with their information so we can contact them. Thank you!

## Ministry Action Budget 2023-2024

| <u>Church</u>        | <u>May</u>         | <u>YTD</u>         | <u>GMO</u>      |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Antioch              | 271.92             | 2,211.08           |                 |
| Berea                |                    |                    |                 |
| Blue Ridge Shores    | 241.65             | 1,495.95           |                 |
| Craigs               |                    |                    |                 |
| Crossroads CC        |                    | 750.00             |                 |
| Dogwood              | 277.00             | 2,421.00           |                 |
| Elk Creek            |                    | 5,625.00           |                 |
| FBC, Louisa          |                    |                    |                 |
| Gordonsville         | 2,485.87           | 8,311.35           |                 |
| Louisa               | 1,891.12           | 4,492.66           |                 |
| Mechanicsville       | 751.99             | 7,987.25           |                 |
| Memorial of Columbia |                    |                    |                 |
| Mine Road            | 700.00             | 2,770.00           | 400.00          |
| Mineral              |                    | 8,646.00           |                 |
| Mount Gilead         | 263.76             | 1,941.70           |                 |
| Mount Hermon         | 200.00             | 700.00             | 250.00          |
| Mountain View        | 200.00             | 1,300.00           |                 |
| North Pamunkey       | 494.45             | 5,082.60           |                 |
| Oakland              | 443.00             | 4,567.00           |                 |
| Orange               | 437.81             | 4,228.43           |                 |
| Perkins              | 434.00             | 3,614.00           |                 |
| Rhoadesville         | 625.00             | 4,875.17           | 50.00           |
| Shady Grove          |                    | 500.00             |                 |
| Smyrna               |                    | 850.00             |                 |
| South Anna           |                    | 1,456.00           |                 |
| St. Mark             |                    | 250.00             |                 |
| Trinity              | 100.00             | 800.00             |                 |
| Waldrops             |                    | 875.00             |                 |
| Walters              | 882.92             | 3,999.06           |                 |
| Zoar                 | 200.43             | 1,966.36           | 65.00           |
| Others               | 5,418.00           | 15,463.00          |                 |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$16,318.92</b> | <b>\$97,178.61</b> | <b>\$765.00</b> |

## 2023-2024 Annual Budget Report

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Budget for 2023-2024 | \$186,562.00        |
| Monthly Needs        | \$15,547.00         |
| Received May         | \$16,319.00         |
| Received Oct-May     | \$97,179.00         |
| <b>Budget</b>        | <b>-\$27,197.00</b> |

Totals as of 5-31-2024



## Mission Stitchers

All are invited on Sat, July 20, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.



Bring a lunch or about \$10 for lunch. Bring your machine and tools or fabric scissors to cut out the patterns to the Goshen Ministry Center (587 Mica Road, Mineral).

**Needs:** Flannel by the yard (new), flannel bed sheets and pillowcases (new or gently used), 100% cotton quilt batting or 80% cotton/20% polyester quilt batting, cotton pillowcases (new or used-no stains, no microfiber), cotton fabric by the yard (new), girls underwear sizes 14, 16 & 18 (new), modern white wedding dresses (gently used). For more information on this ministry contact Terry Graham, 540.661.6268 or email [mrsjrg@aol.com](mailto:mrsjrg@aol.com).

# "A word with Dee"

Chip Heath and Dan Heath wrote an excellent book entitled "The Power of Moments." The sub-title says: "Why Certain Experiences Have Extraordinary Impact."

This is a very fascinating book...and it begins by providing a powerful story about a young man named Chris Barbic. Back in the late 1990s Chris was teaching elementary school in a low income, Hispanic neighborhood in Houston. However, he was very frustrated because the students in his school were dealing with drugs, gangs, pregnancies, and all types of inner-city issues. So, Chris ended up quitting his teaching job and starting a new charter school called YES Prep in that neighborhood.

One night in the spring of 2000, Chris and one of his teachers, Donald Kamantz, were sitting in a bar watching the NFL Draft on TV. Of course, this occasion is when the various NFL football teams announce the college players that they are drafting...and it is a really big deal! The NFL draft choices are a surprise to the college players, their families, and to the general public. So, the NFL teams make a huge deal out of their choices, and the players' families are there to observe the signing of the multi-million dollar deals.

Chris and Donald were both very inspired by this draft process...and they openly wondered why the students who graduate from their high school don't have a similar experience when they are accepted to attend a major university. So, they decided to see what they could do about that with their next graduating class.

Already, one of the requirements for graduating from YES

Prep was for each student to apply to a major university and to be accepted by that university (they didn't have to attend). So, on April 30, 2001, YES Prep held its first Senior Signing Day. They had 17 graduating seniors, and over 450 family members and friends crammed into a community center near the school building for the announcements by the students concerning which university had granted "acceptance" to them and that they would be attending. The students had kept this information as a total secret. So, during the graduation ceremony, they made their announcement and were given a jersey from the chosen university. There was enthusiastic cheering and applauding...and the family gathered around for the actual signing of their acceptance. For most of the families this was the first family member to attend a major university.

Senior Signing Day became the most exciting event on the calendar for this new school. Within nine years, the senior class had grown to 126 students...and over 5000 family members and friends gathered at Rice University basketball arena for the signing event. It was a tremendous event for the entire school and community.

Maybe our churches need to develop special "moments" similar to this for the occasions of baptism or the birth of a baby or senior high graduation...and the list goes on. We need to make sure that we celebrate the powerful "moments" in the lives of our folks. ~ Dee



Dee Whitten

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## CHURCH NEWS

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**Elk Creek's** lakefront service location is now in full swing with the 8:30 Sunday service looking out over Lake Anna. They see fish jumping and geese flying but, more importantly, visitors flocking to worship. Elk Creek welcomed two new members in May making a total of 15 new members this year.

**Louisa** has welcomed 5 new members by statement of faith and 2 new members by baptism in the last two months plus 3 additional baptisms on Father's Day. Fourteen youth and several adults (including two crew chiefs) participated in Impact VA! In Mecklenburg. Louisa will hold VBS July 8-12 beginning at 5:30 p.m. (dinner will be served to the children during VBS) for children 3 years through 5th graders. The theme is "Scuba-diving into friendship with God." [www.louisabaptistva.org](http://www.louisabaptistva.org)

**Mechanicsville's** VBS is July 15-19 (dinner 5:30; VBS 6-8:30 p.m.) with the theme, "Breaker Rock Beach." register at [www.mechbaptist.org/vbs-reg-2024](http://www.mechbaptist.org/vbs-reg-2024) [www.mechbaptist.org](http://www.mechbaptist.org)

**Mineral** has welcomed 11 new members since March. Registration is now open for Upward Flag Football (for ages 5-14) and Upward Cheer (for ages 4-10) through August 5. [www.mineralbaptistchurch.org](http://www.mineralbaptistchurch.org)

**Mount Gilead** is organizing a family mission trip to Nickelsville July 15-19. If interested in participating, call 804.457.2938. Christmas in July will be held at the church on July 31 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. to collect school supplies for those in need in the community.

**North Pamunkey** celebrates its 250th anniversary with special services September 13-15: 13th—Concert with The Crestmen; 14th- History Day Program, Hymn Sing, Dinner on the Grounds under tent at 2 p.m.; and 15th—Homecoming (RSVP catered dinner after worship service).

**Oakland** has called Rev. Mark Davis and his wife Diane, from Highland, VA as pastor. He will begin his ministry at Oakland in July.

**Orange** welcomes a new member. VBS will be held from 6:00-8:30 p.m. on July 7-11 with the theme, "Scuba—diving into friendship with God." Register @ <https://vbspro.events/p/9c9493>

**Waller's** collected \$526 during VBS for the VBS in Armenia. Revival has been scheduled for September 12-15. Waller's is continuing the Free Community Dinners on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. [www.wallersbaptist.com](http://www.wallersbaptist.com)

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**Christ In Action** ~ Following their time of responding to the crisis of deadly tornadoes in Nebraska, Christ In Action workers went straight to work in Iowa. The workers and volunteers are now traveling home. Please pray for all those effected by the disasters.

# Some Go ~ Some Give ~ Some Pray

## 2024 Mission Team Update

Currently the 2024 Mission Team to Armenia has 7 members: Kris Hutchinson (team leader) Mineral; Kim Rosson (VBS leader) Oakland; Lesley Alford, Oakland; Josué Luckunchang, Louisa; Donnie McKinney, Mountain View; John Bevard, Mineral; and Nikisha Diggs, Mineral.

*2024 Mission Trip Dates:*

**Thursday, August 15 through Monday, August 26**

**Everyone Come Join Together for the 2024 Mission Team's**

## Commissioning Service

**Sunday, August 4 ~ 2 p.m.**

**At Louisa Baptist Church**

All are invited and encouraged to attend. Please keep the mission team, their families, the church planter pastors, and the Armenians in your prayers!

*Please continue to pray for our Church Planters in Armenia... they depend on our prayers and support!*

We are looking for Goshen individuals who feel led of the Lord, to commit to donating \$200 per year for the next three years to help supplement the income of our three church planter pastors working in Armenia. We only need **SIX** more commitments to reach our goal.

The previous three year commitments (made by generous churches and individuals) were completed in 2023. If you would like to make a commitment to help support the bi-vocational pastors (pictured below) by sending in your commitment in 2024, 2025, and 2026 please let the Goshen Ministry Center know by calling 540.894.8440 or emailing [goshenassociation@hughes.net](mailto:goshenassociation@hughes.net)



*Pastor Vardan*



*Pastor Svin*



*Pastor Avo*

*Working together to accomplish His will!*



*During the August 2023 Mission Trip to Armenia, the children show off their wrist bands along with Kris Hutchinson, team leader. The wrist bands say "Jesus Loves Me" in English and Armenian.*

vice president of the company! In her email, she tells me that they (the company) love this idea, and “let’s make it happen.”

In my super strong faith... I still doubted. My first thought was: “Oh they just want the business. They are pretty much shut down as well and are just trying to make every dollar they can.

I responded, thanked her for her quick response and enthusiasm, then shared my concern: I had a pretty good idea of what this vision should cost a normal consumer to pull off. I knew we were in uncharted territory of a pandemic with work places shutting down, attenders not attending... we didn’t know what tithing and church income would look like.

I typed out what God had showed me in my mind that morning. I shared what it would take to pull it off: time driving the car, a professional driver, a spotter/instructor, footage from all over the track, in-car footage, in-car audio... and asked what it would cost to make it happen???

In 45 minutes I had a response from the vice-president again. She totally understood the financial concerns of the church and the uncertainty of tithing in that uncertain time... her brother pastors a small church and was walking through the same concerns. She assured me that the company was behind this vision and really wanted to make it happen. She said they would provide the use of Myrtle Beach Speedway for a day, access to the entire place to film including the flag stand and other normally off-limits areas, all in-car audio and video, a professional driver/instructor/spotter, all necessary drive and ride-along time in the car, everything... she just needed to cover the cost of fuel and two employees’ time. Would our church be able to handle, \$75?

I immediately agreed and told her I would be in contact with a day that we could get down there to film. I dropped my head in embarrassment at my doubting and lack of faith... just call me Thomas. I said, “God, I am sorry for doubting You.” I paid the cost out of pocket and did not submit one cent for reimbursement.

As we drove to Myrtle Beach to film towards the end of March, just two minutes after crossing into North Carolina, the announcement came over the radio that the governor was shutting down the borders to all unnecessary interstate travel. Myself and the two other staff members that were going to film looked at each other, shrugged, and said, well, we’ve already crossed the state line... too late now, let’s keep going. God had been so faithful to this point, there was no need to doubt Him now.

We filmed and all seemed to go well. The VP emailed to see how it went and said that they were anxious to see the video when we were done. After editing, I sent it to her and the company was thrilled! I told them that we intended to use it for what would have been the weekend of the Richmond NASCAR race, had it not been cancelled.

She wanted to know when our church service ended. They wanted to share the video across all of their social media platforms, but would wait until we used it. So catch that... a sermon from a modest little church in central VA was broadcast across the country on NRE social media, a secular organization... there is nothing that our God cannot do, amen?!

I stayed in touch with the VP. She would pray for the church. I would pray for the company. Both our moms have major health struggles. We prayed for one another. Like most companies, as they resumed public business operations, they had trouble getting employees to come back to work. As she asked me to pray about this, it was laid on my heart that I could be a small part of the answer to this prayer.

I offered that as much as they had done to help the church, I would

be willing to volunteer to work a couple dates in our area if that would help. She was stunned at the offer, but took me up on it. My first day volunteering went really well.

They were so grateful for competent help that I was invited back to help again. As a thank you, they asked if I would like to drive a car at the end of the day... WHY YES I WOULD!!!

I ended up volunteering many times through the rest of 2020. Each time I drove a car at the end of the day as a thank you. Funny thing was happening though... almost every time that I was on the track, as I talked with customers, I found myself in a conversation with someone looking for answers to hopelessness or fears/anxiety/depression with the pandemic... someone was struggling with the loss of a loved one, someone was doing the experience as a bucket list after a terminal diagnosis... almost every time!

I was just a volunteer, so I didn’t see how they could get too upset with me, and I knew at least the VP was a Christian, sooo... I began sharing Jesus with these people and/or praying with them while they were there. It struck me that if this is happening just by chance (which we know was God’s orchestration); then imagine how much more it could happen if people could identify me as a person of ministry?!

I shared this idea with the VP in December of 2020 (it’s Christmas time, people are more generous, so I went for it). She was onboard. We decided to have branded polos made with the title “chaplain” embroidered on it. This way, when I was volunteering at tracks, employees and customers would know they could gravitate toward me when struggling, looking for prayer, or a person with a familiar faith for encouragement.

In January of 2021, NRE debuted their first ever chaplain... this is what it started to look like:



This guy was 10 years old at the time. His parents shared with me that he had just recently been diagnosed with brain cancer. It was a pretty dire diagnosis, so they were trying to do as much fun stuff as fast as they could. We prayed through tears that day. Another Christian employee of the company just happened to grab this picture when he saw what was happening. He shared it with the VP, who shared it with me. She celebrated what God was beginning to do.

In Daytona, a lady did a ride along for her husband who was in late stages of terminal cancer. The video didn’t work, so she had reached out to corporate. They expedited repeating the experience for him with a good video. They also put her in touch with me as company chaplain. He passed three weeks later. However, three years later, she is still in contact, still tunes in to our services online, has trusted Jesus for salvation, just a couple weeks ago, she had me pray with her before surgery... from Florida.

I was teaching a class of student drivers in Dover. I introduced myself to the class in the usual way: I'm Josh. I have the privilege of serving as chaplain. That means two things. One, if you are nervous, we can pray. Two, if you cannot follow instructions, there will be a come to Jesus meeting. That almost always gets a laugh. Occasionally, one or two will want to pray. This time, hands shot up. The entire class of 19 wanted to pray. Right there in Victory Lane at Dover, 19 strangers circled up arms around shoulders and prayed. Some in the next class saw it and wanted to do the same in their class... you want to talk about a witness to a watching world?!

I could go on, but just a few samples of what God has done. Towards the end of 2021, some of the managers approached me and said look, you drive almost every time you are helping out. You clearly know what you are doing. We don't even instruct you anymore. Would you be interested in going through the training and evaluation process to be a ride driver? We usually only do this for those with race experience, but you know what you are doing (I don't). This way when we have bucket list customers, special needs customers, or make a wish situations... you and Tammy can take care of the entire family and see their experience through from start to finish, including their ride along.

You can imagine I had stop and pray and think on this one for like a whopping 10 seconds before saying yes, LOL. Once cleared, I realized that my ministry would no longer be identifiable when in the car in a firesuit. So, I purchased my own helmet and had it customized.

The ministry continues in different ways.

Now I ask people if they have heard the phrase Godspeed.

When they say yes, with a big grin, I say, "Well I'm about to show you what that means!" Then take off.

It is fun to watch people, especially those without a strong understanding of what a Christian is, to watch them wrestle to understand and make sense of pastor-type person who also drives race cars. After all, Christians are all old and boring and usually mean people, right? I mean to be a Christian means to give up fun... at least that is the line of the world right now. A lot of this ministry for me is helping to plant seeds to normalize our faith again.

We actually get a lot of special needs individuals: autism, downs, handicap, etc.; people who just need the time and space to slow down and set their own pace to be able to not just complete the experience, but also enjoy it. For my wife Tammy, who also happens to be a counselor and gifted in this, and I to be able to walk the special needs individual and their family through the experience, let them move at their pace, with extra assurance and extra support... it is probably our favorite part of the ministry. One of our fondest was a 37 year old with some very special needs issues. He had the time of his life... even though we only went around the apron of the track, never got on the banking, and never got over 60mph... in his mind, he did it. His family was grateful... not every driver could pull that off.



But do you see what has happened? God has done what seemed impossible. God has made a way where I never would have imagined a way possible. He has taken my childhood dream of being a NASCAR driver; He has taken my adult dream of being in full time ministry; and He made a way to combine the two... And it has grown to include many from our church. We also now work with the Dale Jr Foundation... Dale Earnhardt Jr's charitable venture, where Tammy and I work with Dale and other drivers.

There is a verse that I have always accepted as true, but I used to try to explain down into easier terms. 4) "Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desires. 5) Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him, and He will help you." – Psalm 37:4-5

I used to think that meant that as long as our heart's desire was to grow the Kingdom and help God, then it would happen. Well, that's true. But I also am growing to trust that when we are willing to throw ourselves all in, God will make a way for the fun desires to be a part of His plan and His desires as well. I guess that is what I want to encourage you with today. Answering God's call to be ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to go and be a part of the Great Commission, making disciples... doesn't have to mean that we stop or give up on doing what we love.

God's love for us and appreciation for a heart that is after His own heart is so great, that He wants to make ways for our passions to be a part of our missions and ministry.

We can take our gifts and talents and make a ministry. We can use what we enjoy to reach those who might not consider darkening the door of a church. If they won't come to church, then our passions and fun activities can become the vehicle that takes the church to the people.

Rick Warren of Saddleback Church out in California, author of the Purpose Driven Life says that God has SHAPED us for His purposes. What does he mean by that? We have a SHAPE as God's working in our creation and life for the good plans He has for our lives:

- S – Spiritual Gifts
- H – Heart (Passions)
- A – Abilities (and Talents)
- P – Personality
- E – Experiences (good or bad)

So put this together for my experience, a VERY brief version: My dad died when I was young and in a desperate child-like attempt to get the attention of his brother, my uncle who watched racing religiously, I threw myself watching NASCAR. This resulted in a go-kart for Christmas... the need for speed was cemented. With a personality to stay calm under adrenaline and a desire to listen to hurting people, learning to be outgoing. An unrealized ability to wheel a car at high speeds matched with a previous career as a mechanic with a good understanding of vehicles, a passion for speed, and spiritual gifting in shepherding... God has SHAPED me for this ministry.

What is your spiritual gifting? What are you excited and passionate about? What talents and abilities do you have that could be leveraged for Kingdom work? What is your personality? What are the experiences you have gone through in life, good and bad? How you answer these questions will help you begin to discover how God has shaped you for ministry.

God has a plan for you to live out the Great Commission for Him... will you seek it and live it out?



See [www.wmuv.org](http://www.wmuv.org) for all the following:

### 150th Anniversary Celebration

September 7, 2024  
10 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Crossroads Camp and Conference Center  
*Registration is required. There is no fee.*

### WMUV Executive Director/Treasurer Search Team accepting applications

### Standing Rock Meal Sponsorship

### Crossroads Camp summer missionary through Peru Missions Partnership

For info on various camp weeks and the Peru Partnership Missions Trip this fall to Cajamarca

## July Calendar

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

|    |                   |         |
|----|-------------------|---------|
| 18 | Lowell Wright     | Retired |
| 24 | Phylliss Nelson   | Smyrna  |
| 25 | Gerald Chancellor | Retired |
| 29 | Mabel Holmberg    | Retired |
| 31 | Sarah Reid        | Retired |
| 31 | Janey Barton      | Retired |

### Events

|    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | Board of Directors Meeting GMC 7 p.m. |
| 4  | Independence Day ~ Office Closed      |
| 6  | RuraLove Yardsale 8-12:30             |
| 11 | Minister's Breakfast GMC 8:30 a.m.    |
| 15 | Advisory Council Meeting GMC 7 p.m.   |
| 20 | Mission Stitchers GMC 9 a.m.-2 p.m.   |

**GoshenAssociation@hughes.net**

## The Journey Home

### Annual Banquet

*"Taking the Next Step"*

Saturday, August 24, 2024

Mineral Baptist Family Life Center

(Doors open at 5 p.m. and Dinner is at 6 p.m.)

*Silent Auction ~ TJH Merchandise ~ Testimony ~ TJH Updates ~ BBQ Dinner ~ Capital Campaign Update*

**Tickets cost:** \$40 per person or \$200 table of six.  
Tickets must be purchased by August 10.

To purchase see: [www.journeyhomemineral.org](http://www.journeyhomemineral.org)

Or email: [Debby@journeyhomemineral.org](mailto:Debby@journeyhomemineral.org)

Or call: 540.259.3627

### GriefShare Support Groups

If you need help in dealing with the loss of a loved one, you may want to join a GriefShare support group near you.

For information on GriefShare and where a group is meeting near you, see [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org)

### Notice to Churches

Please include: [GoshenAssociation@hughes.net](mailto:GoshenAssociation@hughes.net) in your church's email list for your newsletter, prayer concerns, and event news blasts.

## Goshen News

### Goshen Baptist Association

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Joy Dickens, Ministry Assistant

Rev. Keith Wollenberg & Rev. Kris Hutchinson  
RuraLove Co-Coordinators

Tammy Wood, Editor

Newsletter deadline is noon the 15th of each month.