



Goshen News

Goshen Baptist Association

WWW.GOSHENASSOCIATION.COM

November 2025

Volume XXXXI Number 11

New email address: gba587m@gmail.com

"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."

Tales from Armenia: The Girl With The Sunglasses

Memories of Rev. Kris Hutchinson ~ Goshen Mission Team Leader 2023, 2024 & 2025

This past July, I ventured out on my third mission trip to Armenia. I cannot explain it, but it feels like going home. I have grown to love this place, my experiences there, and the people.

Over the past three summers, I have been on nine mission trips to six different places, and Armenia was the one I could not wait to return to.

I spent time looking back at old pictures and watching videos, replaying memories as I counted down the days to return.

Growing up, I was exposed to missions and missionaries my entire life, and I inherited a travel bug from my mother. I've always wanted to go somewhere new.

So I admit that over the years I hesitated at long-term partnerships, maybe even dismissing them as boring or repetitive. I heard stories of people growing weary of going to the same place year after year, though others raved about returning. Until now, I had never understood why.

I had always bounced from one ministry location to another, wanting to give students and adults a variety of experiences. Then Armenia showed up.

Vardan and Lusine showed up.

Martin, Hamest, and Astxik showed up.

Suzi and Marcella, our translators, showed up.

Miriam and Anna showed up.

Anahit, Nare, Nare, Silvi, Yva, Ina, and many others showed up.

And NANE showed up.

This is the story I want to tell. Nane is a young girl I first encountered in 2024. It all started over my sunglasses.

For some reason, she was obsessed with my sunglasses. Toward the end of the week (in 2024), she began taking them from me and putting them on. There is even a video of her mimicking me taking my sunglasses off while leaning against a tree. (picture on left)



Kris and Nane in 2024

Sunglasses continued on Page 5



Also See:

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Attention! Goshen has a **NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:**
gba587m@gmail.com



RuraLove Ministry

587 Mica Road,
Mineral

Have you ever considered being a driver or helper on one of the RuraLove vehicles? Are you strong and able to help around the warehouse? Do you have a heart to pray for those who are struggling?

RuraLove could use more volunteers. If you are interested in serving in the name of Christ, please call 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:

From September 16 - October 15

29 Families with financial needs (\$8,321.50)

(Rent, Mortgage, Utilities)

- 5 Families with household items
- 1 Family with a whole household of items
- 2 Families with a medical equipment loan
- 1 Family with clothing
- 1 Family with a project

Total Thrift Store sales: **\$9,322.00**

During the month noted, the RuraLove Thrift Store had:

417 sales with clothing and 978 sales with household items.

- ◆ 1012.5 volunteer hours were donated in September with the average of 10-12 volunteers on Mondays (sorting); 18-22 volunteers each Wednesday (sale day); and volunteers taking applications
- ◆ 7 pick ups of donations
- ◆ 2 deliveries of purchased items
- ◆ Packed boxes of summer clothing for Honduras

RuraLove is in need of:

Metal bed frames (twin, full & queen), microwaves, electric stoves, refrigerators, washers & dryers, chest of drawers, can openers. Medical equipment to loan out such as: rollators, grab bars, wheelchairs, lift chairs, toilet risers, 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

RuraLove Recognized

The Louisa County Chamber of Commerce Impact Award was presented to RuraLove in recognition of their dedication and contribution to Louisa County during their meeting on Friday, October 17, 2025. RuraLove was nominated for this award by The Journey Home in Mineral.



Goshen's Fall Missions Celebration

The Goshen Fall Mission Celebration was inspirational and the speakers passionate about their mission to aid those who are suffering in the name of Christ. For Special Music, **flutist Melissa Doverspike** (a student at LCHS and member of Louisa), blessed us with two beautiful hymns. We thank Melissa for graciously filling in with only a day's notice.

Speaker Tammy Starkey shared how **Restoration Ministries** (based in Louisa) is making a big difference in the very small town of Matoka, West Virginia in which most of the population is living in extreme poverty. Teams go and help with repairs, work in the clothing closet, and more. In November, they will be preparing Thanksgiving meals. Restoration Ministries is collecting all sized blankets, all sizes of children's coats, and small and medium adult coats. Deadline to deliver coats/blankets to her home is November 15th for their next mission trip. For more info, or to schedule a drop off, call Tammy at 540.748.0232.

Dwight and Susan Boston, missionaries with **Christ in Action** (a Christ-centered disaster response organization headquartered in Culpeper) shared some of their recent experiences in Florida and North Carolina. Testimonies of people helped were shared through videos. Volunteers who can operate heavy equipment, CDL drivers, diesel mechanics, and untrained willing hands are needed. Call Susan to schedule a tour at 540.222.7374 or visit www.ChristinAction.com/Boston for more information.

Ramps and Firewood

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

gba587m@gmail.com

Mission Opportunities

Projects for November:

1. Chaplain Support for GraceInside to supplement the hours Chaplain Fox is able to minister at the Goochland Woman's Correctional Center.

2. Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

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**Paul Stefan Home** (Pro-Life Maternity Housing & Educational Center) ~ 120 Caroline St., Orange. 540.854.2300 For current needs see [www.paulstefanhome.org](http://www.paulstefanhome.org)

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

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

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

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

**Southwest Virginia Partnership Inc.** based in Nickelsville, VA and ministering in Clinch Valley, Powell River and Wise Counties. For more info or to register see [www.swvpartnership.org](http://www.swvpartnership.org)

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

**Christ In Action (Disaster Response Org)** in the Culpeper Air Park, 21465 Business Court, Elkwood, VA 22718. 703.368.6286 [www.ChristinAction.com](http://www.ChristinAction.com)

**Construction Outreach:** If your Goshen church is working on an outreach construction project it may be possible to check out a **GOSHEN TRAILER** and/or **TOOLS:** for tools, call 540.894.8440 and a member of Goshen's Tool Team will contact you. For requirements to check out one of the trailers email: [gba587m@gmail.com](mailto:gba587m@gmail.com)



## International Mission Opportunities

**Romania: Ministry to Roma People at Ruth School** 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://facebook.com/doorofhopeSA)



## Collecting

Old prescription eye glasses and reading glasses (found in stores) for a missionary in Guatemala. Bring to the Goshen Ministry Center during office hours.

## NOT Collecting

Please **do not** bring prescription, medicine, or vitamin bottles to Goshen. Goshen is **NOT** accepting these items anymore. Thank you!



## Mission Stitchers

**Mission Stitchers will NOT meet in October or November. Next sew dates at Goshen are Fri. & Sat., December 12 & 13**



**Ongoing 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 micro-fiber), cotton fabric by the yard (new), girls underwear sizes 14, 16 & 18 (new). For more information on this ministry contact Terry Graham, 540.661.6268 or email [mrsjrg@aol.com](mailto:mrsjrg@aol.com).

## Ministry Action Budget 2024-2025

### End of Year Report

(Even though we did not make budget, neither did we spend all of the allotted amounts allocated in the budget for the year.)

| <u>Church</u>        | <u>Oct.-Sept.</u> | <u>GMO</u>       |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Antioch              | 4,217.24          | 380.00           |
| Berea                | 5,679.86          |                  |
| Blue Ridge Shores    | 2,313.02          |                  |
| Craigs               |                   |                  |
| Crossroads CC        | 1,000.00          |                  |
| Dogwood              | 3,543.00          |                  |
| Elk Creek            | 4,583.35          |                  |
| FBC, Louisa          |                   |                  |
| Gordonsville         | 13,539.79         | 600.00           |
| Louisa               | 13,197.50         | 2,060.00         |
| Mechanicsville       | 11,052.52         | 2,115.00         |
| Memorial of Columbia |                   |                  |
| Mine Road            | 3,850.00          |                  |
| Mineral              | 9,996.00          | 1,649.50         |
| Mount Gilead         | 4,580.56          |                  |
| Mount Hermon         | 2,000.00          | 200.00           |
| Mountain View        | 1,930.00          | 125.00           |
| North Pamunkey       | 8,880.72          | 1,915.00         |
| Oakland              | 8,404.00          | 1,480.00         |
| Orange               | 6,003.67          | 430.00           |
| Perkins              | 5,400.00          |                  |
| Rhoadesville         | 7,500.00          |                  |
| Shady Grove          | 1,000.00          |                  |
| Smyrna               | 3,050.00          | 350.00           |
| South Anna           | 1,952.00          |                  |
| St. Mark             | 250.00            |                  |
| Trinity              | 1,200.00          |                  |
| Waldrops             | 655.00            |                  |
| Walters              | 6,655.99          | 2,040.00         |
| Zoar                 | 2,521.97          | 25.00            |
| Others               | 38,918.31         |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>174,029.50</b> | <b>13,970.00</b> |

### 2024-2025 Annual Budget

|                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Budget for 2024-2025            | \$186,562.00         |
| <b>Budget Expended Oct-Sept</b> | <b>\$155,969.00</b>  |
| Monthly Needs                   | \$15,547.00          |
| Received Oct-Sept               | \$174,030.00         |
| <b>Budget</b>                   | <b>- \$12,532.00</b> |

Totals as of 9-30-2025

# "A word with Dee"



Dee Whitten

One of the most riveting events in recent world history took place recently as twenty Israeli hostages were released from more than 730 days in captivity by Hamas and were allowed to return home to their families. For instance, Matan Angrest was serving with the Israeli Defense forces when he was captured. During his captivity, Matan was reportedly lynched while unconscious and was repeatedly starved and severely tortured. Gali Berman and his twin brother, Ziv, were both kidnapped by Hamas on October 7 and were both released to their family on Monday, October 13. The dramatic stories from the hostages are beginning to surface as the hostages share their personal accounts with their families.

An example is Rom Braslavski who was working as a security guard on October 7. He was taken into hiding by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. They released a film of Rom in tears as he said that he had run out of food and water. In the video, He said that he was unable to stand or walk and is at "death's door."

Certainly, the families of these hostages are thrilled to have their family members back home after two long years of cruel captivity. We can only imagine the joy and the excitement that is taking place within these families and their community of friends. These families and the entire country of Israel had been praying for these hostages every day for two years, and finally their prayers were answered, at least for these twenty survivors.

What are some specific spiritual lesions that we can learn from this horrific hostage situation?

1. First of all, we can learn that the world is filled with evil. Of course, this hostage situation is an example of brazen evil of the worst sort. However, we see cases of blatant evil in our own country on a daily basis (cold blooded murder, rape and sexual assault, drug trafficking, etc.)
2. God does not want us to live in constant fear of these evil forces within our world. God said to Joshua, "This is my com-

mand – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1: 9). We can make it through any circumstance in life if we know that God is with us!

3. Regardless of the evil in the world, God promises to provide us with eternal life. In fact, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." (John 11:25-26)

4. In the midst of the evil within the world, our mandate is to spread the Good News of Jesus and make disciples. The Risen Lord says to each one of us, "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19-20)

Again, we see that the most important promise that we have (in the midst of an evil world) is that Jesus will be with us every step of the way. However, in the meantime, we have a critical mission to carry out! ~ *Dee*



## Pastors Christmas Lunch

The Pastors Christmas Lunch at Tim's on the Lake will be on Thursday, December 11 at noon. RSVP to Jodi Faig at the BGAV by text at 804.921.5177 or email [jody.faig@bgav.org](mailto:jody.faig@bgav.org)

Also, if any pastors could not attend the recent gathering with William Attaway (at Mineral Baptist Sept. 25), and would like his book, contact Jodi and she will send you a book on behalf of the BGAV.

## CHURCH NEWS

**Crossroads Community** meets one Sunday a month at Zion's Firehouse next door. In October, 8 fire and EMS personnel were in attendance. Over the last month, attendance has grown.

**Gordonsville's** annual Fall Brunswick Stew will be Nov. 8th.

**Louisa's** Fall Festival & Chili Cook Off will be Sat., Nov. 8 from 1-4 p.m. You may participate in the Chili Cook Off—just show up with your warm chili in a crock pot at 1 p.m. along with a list of ingredients (for those with allergies —no specifics necessary).

**Mechanicsville** ~ Two new deacons were ordained. On Nov, 23, they observe NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR—a canned food drive for LRC. Dec. 21 at 9:30 a.m., the children and youth will present a Christmas Play with refreshments following. They are grateful to Sheriff Donnie Lowe for meeting with them to begin plans for safety and security. [www.mechbaptist.org](http://www.mechbaptist.org)

**Mineral** celebrated 4 baptisms in Oct. Please pray for fall outreaches: Light Up The Night—our take on Trunk-or-Treat (Nov. 1, 6-8 p.m.); and Upward Basketball & Cheer (registration closes in Nov). They are packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

this month to share Jesus with children around the world. Learn more at [www.mineralbaptistchurch.org](http://www.mineralbaptistchurch.org)

**Mount Gilead** will host its next Dinner Church event on Wednesday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to this free community meal and fellowship. There will be a Hunter's Lunch served on Saturday, November 15 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. All are invited.

**Oakland** is looking for a full-time pianist. See page 6 for info. Visit [www.Oakland-Baptist.com](http://www.Oakland-Baptist.com) for service information.

**Orange** will have a Cider Pressing on November 2 at 3 p.m. on the Rt. 15 North Property. Bring a chair. The 41st Annual Singing Christmas Tree will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 (5 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.) & Sunday, Dec. 14 (5 p.m.)

**Wallers** will resume free community meal on Nov. 19. And plan to distribute 4 full Thanksgiving food boxes to needy families. Wallers will have a Pastor Installation Service for Pastor Patrick Allen on Sunday, Nov. 30. In October, they had 3 baby dedications, one baptism, and sadly, two members passed away.

## Sunglasses continued from page 1

That is when we connected!

I went home and constantly thought about getting back to Armenia the next year. I couldn't wait to see Nane again. She had become like a little sister (or maybe daughter) to me.

Finally, it was time to return to Armenia this year, and we arrived to a homecoming party. Vardan and Lusine had decorated the outside of the church, and even our team members on their first trip said, "This feels like a family reunion." For me, it was.

There is something truly amazing about Vardan and Lusine in Sisian. But it is not just them. It is their entire community. Their children Martin and Hamest, Vardan's sister-in-law Astghik, and many others who chipped in to make us feel comfortable and cared for.

But there was one "family" member I was anxiously waiting to see again. VBS is not like it is here where people register ahead of time and you know who is coming. Would Nane be there? Would she remember me? As we were preparing for the first day, I heard some footsteps coming up the stairs and there she was!

Our eyes locked. For a split second, we both froze. Then her face broke into the biggest grin I'd ever seen, and we were running toward each other before either of us could think.

That led to an entire week of constant laughter, pictures, high fives, and dancing during the music time. We spent all week together. And she took my sunglasses every day as she continued her obsession with them.

I made the decision at the end of the week to give the sunglasses to her. Leaving this time was the hardest it has ever been!

I wrote about this experience in more depth on my personal ministry site: <https://www.krishutchinson.net/post/the-joy-of-giving-sunglasses-generosity-and-god-s-greatest-gift>

Nane captures what partnership missions is all about. Missions is not about projects. Missions is about people. And the partnership is bearing fruit. Since we left in July, two refugees have joined Vardan's church in Sisian. And this impact is what we are inviting you to be a part of.

In 2026, we'll return to Armenia not only to Sisian, but also to Armavir to reconnect with Hrach, our brother and church planter there.

Recently, the Goshen Missions Committee voted unanimously to extend our partnership with Armenia through 2029. I plan to go every year. My prayer is that God will let me watch Nane grow up, see her put her faith in Jesus, and continue walking alongside our Armenian brothers and sisters in the gospel.

Next summer (2026), we plan to send two teams to Armenia, traveling as one group. Once we arrive, one team will serve in Armavir with Hrach through

VBS and construction, while the other will return to Sisian for VBS, construction, and refugee ministry. Dates are still being finalized, but the trips will take place around July and August 2026.

**Here's how you can be part of this story:**

Join us in 2026

Stay tuned for more details about our next trip and the upcoming round of financial support for Hrach and Vardan. Partnership missions don't just change the lives of those we serve. They change us too. There's a community in Armenia waiting to welcome you home.

Will you be part of the next trip? Who knows, maybe you'll meet your own Nane, the one God has placed in front of you to love and share Jesus with.

To learn more about joining the 2026 Armenia mission team, contact me at [pastorkris@mineralbaptistchurch.org](mailto:pastorkris@mineralbaptistchurch.org).

To request a speaker or learn how to support our Armenian church planters, reach out to the Goshen office at [gba587m@gmail.com](mailto:gba587m@gmail.com).



## Help Wanted

Oakland is looking for a **full-time pianist**. The position includes playing for Sunday morning worship services, choir practices, annual revival services, and other special services. Playing for weddings or funerals will be at the discretion of the pianist, as well as the pianist's fee.

The pianist will first serve on an interim basis. Pay is \$150 per Sunday, or \$675 monthly, equal to \$8,100 annually. If the church and the pianist determine that he/she is a good fit, he/she will become permanent. We expect our permanent pianist to become a member of the church and Sunday School, and to become a valuable part of our church body. If interested, please call Lesley Alford at **804.512.3854** or Rev. Mark Davis at **540.292.4668**.

## Notice to Churches

Please include: [gba587m@gmail.com](mailto:gba587m@gmail.com) in your church's email list for your newsletter, prayer concerns, and event news blasts.



## November

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

|    |                    |               |
|----|--------------------|---------------|
| 01 | Toni Miller        | Retired       |
| 03 | Tammy Bowen        | Mountain View |
| 04 | Moore Anniversary  | Shady Grove   |
| 11 | Lisa Wollenberg    | Mine Road     |
| 11 | Don Campbell       | Retired       |
| 16 | Tina Collis        | Retired       |
| 17 | Hubert Hart        | Waldrops      |
| 19 | Bowen Anniversary  | Mountain View |
| 21 | Graham Anniversary | Mount Hermon  |
| 22 | John Miller        | Retired       |
| 22 | Collis Anniversary | Retired       |
| 24 | Cathy Gray         | Elk Creek     |

### Events

|         |                                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1       | RuraLove Yardsale 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.       |
| 3       | Baptist Women World Day of Prayer         |
| 6       | Minister's Breakfast GMC 8:30 a.m.        |
| 6-9     | Women's Get-Away—EE                       |
| 8       | WMU Annual Meeting—EE                     |
| 10-12   | BGAV Annual Meeting—Abingdon              |
| 13      | Deadline for cards & composition books    |
| 27      | Thanksgiving ~ Office closed              |
| 30-12/7 | Week of Prayer for International Missions |

## Help Wanted

Mineral Christian School is hiring a **full-time Administrative Assistant**. This work does include physical aspects and working with children. They are looking for someone who loves the Lord, is flexible, organized, and comfortable with Google applications.

The Administrative Assistant must be able to prioritize time as a problem solver with multiple adventures throughout the day. They must be willing to learn about Classical Christian Education and be a member in good standing of a church.

Please send resumes to [mineralchristianschool@gmail.com](mailto:mineralchristianschool@gmail.com)

**Please continue to pray for our Church Planters in Armenia...**



Pastor Vardan



Pastor Hrach

**Pastor Vardan and Pastor Hrach depend on our prayers and support!**

## Goshen News

### Goshen Baptist Association

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Collins Beasley, RuraLove Coordinator  
Tammy Wood, Editor

**Newsletter deadline is noon the 15th of each month.**

**[gba587m@gmail.com](mailto:gba587m@gmail.com)**

