



# BRIDGES

*A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - March 2018*

## Knowing the WORD

A few years ago, the National Geographic published an article about the disappearance of various languages (Rymer, Russ. *“Vanishing Languages.”* National Geographic, July 2012). According to the article *“One language dies every 14 days. By the next century nearly half of the roughly 7,000 languages spoken on Earth will likely disappear, as communities abandon native tongues in favor of English, Mandarin, or Spanish. What is lost when a language goes silent?”* The article goes on to describe how languages are repositories of knowledge, traditions, values, wisdom and important ways to see and understand the world. There are various stages of death for a language that tend to correlate to external pressures and the failure of that language to be passed onto younger generations.

I share this article with you because it came to mind while I was reading a book called *“The Old Testament is Dying”* by Brent Strawn. The book sees the knowledge of scripture (both Old and New Testament) as a type of language. The Bible is filled with stories, themes, narratives that act as a language upon a religious community. And like spoken languages, knowledge of the Bible carries with it tradition, values, wisdom, and most importantly God’s revealed ways to see this world and to see Him. Yet, like vanishing languages, fewer and fewer people actually know the Bible. Strawn reports that according to some very broad surveys only about 40% of the respondents are able to get the most basic religious questions all correct. Questions like “What is the first book of the Bible? (Genesis), What are the four gospels? (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), Is the Golden rule a part of the Ten Commandments? (NO), and Where was Jesus Born? (Bethlehem). Only 40% of people (Christians and non-Christians) asked were able to get these questions correct. Thus, the title of Strawn’s book, *The Old Testament is Dying*. We

(the church, our world, our nation, our society) are losing the most important language that we have – the knowledge of God’s Word.

The Bible is the repository of God’s own self-revelation to us. It is the giver of wisdom; the holder of values and tradition; the instructor of life; and the guide to real-everlasting-abundant life. The Bible is the mirror that reveals who we are and what is our nature (sinful, in bondage, broken and hurting).

The Bible proclaims God’s nature and character (good, full of steadfast love, faithful to all generations), as well as His saving action towards us (Jesus).

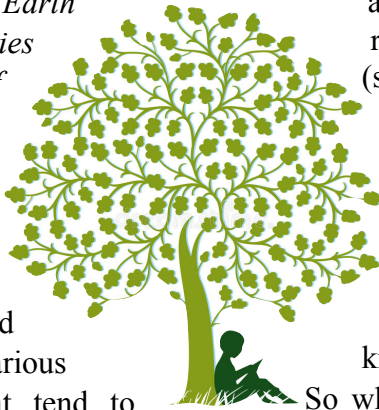
It is beyond my capacity to imagine how poor our world would be if the

knowledge of God’s word vanishes.

So what can you do to stop the death of the Old Testament? You can speak it, become a native speaker of God’s word. Incorporate His Word into your life. You can teach it, pass on God’s word to the next generation by both word and deed, and you can live it. Learning a language is hard. It is more than just memorizing words and verb endings. True fluency involves seeing the world through that language. This is what God’s word is meant to do for you and me. Becoming fluent is more than just memorizing phrases or themes. It is more than just knowing many of the stories. It is about seeing the world as God sees it and living our lives in accordance to the Word itself.

*“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:5-8.*

Grace and Peace  
Pastor Trent Eastman



**March Birthdays**

- 1 – Kevin Skaggs
- 2 – D.W. Walker
- 3 – Jennifer Adams  
Joe Collins  
Tommie Templeton
- 4 – Bob Blankenship  
Lee Boso  
Kenneth Fetty  
Sharon Flowers  
Lydia Jordan  
Bill Snoddy
- 5 – Chuck Adams
- 6 – Randall Hatfield
- 7 – Evan Willis
- 8 – Anderson Frye  
Brittany Kinch
- 9 – Carey Roland
- 10 – Rebekah Coster  
Will Morgan  
Sara Simpson
- 11 – Sheri Tadlock
- 12 – Carly Henson-Kendall
- 13 – Harry Estep  
Cade Lewis
- 15 – Marjorie Northeimer
- 16 – Josh Bishop  
John Hovey  
Alan Meek
- 20 – Teresa Foster  
Linda Harris  
Brenda Jameson  
Dallas Nibert  
Carol Sumpter
- 21 – Sheila Chapman  
Rachel Sierson  
Charles Stephens
- 22 – Donna Dunn  
Abigail Willis
- 23 – Angie Blake
- 24 – Andrew Schaffer
- 25 – Parker Campbell  
Raymond Spurlock  
Tracy Waugh
- 26 – Lee Adams  
Trey Stapleton
- 27 – Genevieve Bishop  
Chris Edmonds  
Rebekah Perry
- 29 – Virginia Benson  
Laura Bishop
- 30 – Dale Garrison  
Trey Wilson
- 31 – Kerry Fizer  
Sharon Hodges



THANK YOU WV BAPTIST FAMILY for your PRAYERS and FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

Our Prayers are being answered! And although the winter weather has definitely increased the cost of the project, we have a wonderful construction crew working together to make our new **Weirton Christian Center Building** a reality for our kids! The expertise that we have - and the heart of the contractors - is making a huge difference! We have received over \$215,000 of IN-KIND support - in services and equipment! It is wonderful to have all the support we have had since the beginning! WV BAPTISTS CHURCHES, AB WOMEN AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE RAISED OVER \$111,126 FOR THIS BUILDING! We have raised a total of \$1,062,629 - but the new Project Estimate is \$1,388,867. We are still accepting donations. The changes have included the addition of an elevator and extra 1,760 Square Feet of Program space and Storage area.

**OPEN MIC  
COFFEHOUSE NITE**



FREE FRESH ROASTED COFFEE AND SNACKS

**New Baptist Church**

610 28th Street

Turn right at Speedway on 5th Ave

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH**

**6PM - 9PM**



- 1 – *Larry & Carol Sumpter*
- 17 – *Randall & Judy Hatfield*
- 20 – *Travis & Kara Smith*
- 26 – *John & Linda Hovey*



After taking a winter break, **Judy's Shawls** will meet on Monday, March 5, at 6:30pm in the Bykota room.

Anyone who knits or crochets or who would like to learn how is welcome come and join us.



Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the church office.

Many in our church are facing incredible storms in their lives. For some these storms are medical, upcoming surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and rehabilitation. For others it is the being unemployed or under employed because of the economic conditions in our state. These storms make the days ahead uncertain and filled with anxiety. I ran across the following and thought I would share it with you.

**Eagles in a Storm**

An eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks. The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm. When the storms of life come upon us - and all of us will experience them - we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them. God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives. We can soar above the storm. Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them. The Bible says, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31a



The power of the Risen Savior in our lives makes this soaring possible. As we approach Easter this year, will you experience that power? It is available to you by faith and trust in Jesus Christ. That seems to be such an elementary statement but all too often we forget. The Holy Spirit lives in each believer and His power is unleashed in us by faith. Our task is to learn to live by faith daily.

As Baptists we do not observe Lent like our more liturgical Christian sisters and brothers do. Lent is to be a time of preparation for celebrating Resurrection Day and focusing on what the Lord has done and wants to do in our lives. Our Ash Wednesday Service was a great beginning of the Lenten season for me as we prayed for each one and recognized God's creative work He is speaking into our lives. Take some time each day with the Lord to reflect and prepare your heart and life for the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Easter is the most exciting time of the year for the Christian and there is no better time to invite your friends to come with you to worship and just maybe they too will experience the power of the resurrection in their lives and soar above the storms.



It is exalting to be a part of New Baptist Church and to be a part of our adult choir family! What a remarkable time we have in our rehearsals not only singing praises to our Lord and Savior but also making connections as we fellowship together. You might be considering joining us and if so, please feel free and be encouraged to do so! It is a blessed journey we are enjoying together each week.



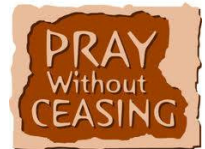
Childcare is now available to those that need it during our rehearsal time. It is just necessary to let Karen Dailey or Vivian Adkins know by Sunday morning each week that you are going to be bringing your child(ren) to ensure the appropriate number of childcare workers will be on-hand.



Currently we are working on Love Took His Breath Away to be presented on March 25<sup>th</sup> in celebration of our Lord's resurrection. The rehearsals will continue on Sunday evenings at 4:45 each week. We will also rehearse on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Prayer Concerns**

(Please let the church office know if there are any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer concern list.)



**Church Family and Friends:** Coralie Adkins, Susan Arthur, Philip Scott Burt, Jim & Dorothy Castleberry, Chris & Jessica Chaney, Mary Clifton, Jack Cook, Brittany Crockett, Lisa Daniels, Marion Davis, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Bob & Sally Flanders, Tracy Foster, Phyllis Gould, Patty Green, Doug Hager, Doris Halcombe, John Hall, Minnie Harris, Bill Herrold, Scott Jackson, Allison Sheils Kays, Virginia Lawrence, Betty Maynor, Joe Midkiff, Linda Miller, Marlin Oldaker, Barbara Pauley, Jack Rickman, Dale Riley, Charlie Shorey, Major & Lynnette Simms, Jim Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, David Stevenson, Judy Swann, Sandy Taylor, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Sharon Wimmer

Pray also for our pastors and our church; the community around us; unsaved loved ones; our military personnel; our government leaders; our country

**Deaths in the Church Family**



**Wilbert Darrell Spurlock**, 84, of Barboursville, passed away on Monday, January 29, 2018. Darrell was a retired dispatcher with the CSX Railroad and also prepared income taxes for many people for over 50 years. He attended New Baptist Church until his illness. Darrell is survived by his wife, Jean, six children, 19 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



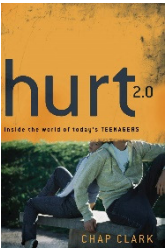
**John S. Meadows**, 92, of Clearwater, FL, formerly of Huntington, passed away on Monday, January 29, 2018. John was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Ruth Ann Meadows. Survivors include his children, Stan Meadows (Kathy), Jeffrey Meadows (Mary Jo Lewis) and Rebecca Anthony (Bill); seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. John served in the Navy during WWII and also the Korean War. He retired from the U.S. Postal Office. John was a lifelong member of the former 20<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church and a charter member of New Baptist.



Thursday, March 1, 6:30pm  
at the home of  
Chuck Adams  
2118 Cherry Avenue  
Huntington



I don't know about you, but there are times in life that I feel like I'm in information overload. In light of another school shooting this week, we are left with more questions than answers. As we adults are asking questions, we also need to remember that our children are trying to process this as well. In this short space I thought I'd offer some thoughts to help process and some resources that you could go to for follow up. During these times we hear about mental illness, bullying, gun control, and other causes and solutions, all of which are important, but I also think it is helpful for us to understand some of the background that plays into the whole of teenage culture. In his book *Hurt 2.0*, Chap Clark does extensive research into the world of teenagers. As a whole he comes to the conclusion that there is a feeling of systematic abandonment among teenagers. They feel as if relationships have been pushed to institutions and feel disconnected from the world of adults. In addition to this, the interactions between students and their peers with the pressure they feel and the struggle to find their identity, teenagers often feel pushed to the margins or feeling like an outcast. These (oversimplified) cause an overall sense of hurt.



When we understand that there is this feeling of divide, we can begin to make an effort to bridge that gap. We as adults need to make steps to understand our kids culture and help them to process the feelings and experiences they have in a way that leads them to the presence of God. Whoa! That's a big statement, but really there are some simple steps.

First, ask questions. When you see a news story or there are intense situations at school, ask questions that create a safe space for exploration like "tell me more about what you're experiencing" "I wonder how that person might feel"... Also, leave space for future questions with something like "let me know if you feel afraid or anxious at school". It's important to listen and use the response "I don't know, but..." In the face of tough questions the right answer isn't necessarily the most important thing, but bridging the gap to let your kids know they are heard and that their questions are important. You can explore answers together or just sit in the unknown together.

Next, it is important to know that questioning God or being sad is not bad. There are many Psalms that ask God why? Or when? Or just grieve. Psalms 88, 80, 61, 13, or 10 are some of these, in addition to the book of Lamentations and to even know that on the cross, Jesus cried to God "why have you forsaken me?" It is at times of hurt and struggle that we can cry out to God and seek his presence. These are difficult things to talk about, but creating the space for conversations and allowing your kids to be heard and to discover how to wrestle with tough situations in light of God's Word is a skill that they will use throughout their life. You don't have to have all the answers, but be present.

Finally, we as a community can come beside parents and children to support them. Clark talks about forming partnerships between parents and other adults, church members, coaches, teachers, neighbors, who share the load and seek to help teenagers find connections to the adult world that provides them support and helps them find a way forward. In a follow up book, Chap Clark and Kara Powell wrote *Sticky Faith*, which says it is important for every child to have 5 Christian adults in their life that knows them and cares about them. This web of community helps students explore their faith and struggles in safe spaces and propels them toward a healthy adult faith.

We don't have to answer every question, but as we process tragedies like the one in Florida, let's continue to find ways to create the space for our students to ask tough questions, explore their faith and struggle to find God in scary or anxious situations, and to support each other as we seek God's presence in our lives and the lives of our kids. For more resources on processing tragedy, check out this blog: <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/processing-the-tragedy-of-school-shootings>.



Taryn Elise Wilson  
2/5/2018

Parents: Trevor & Caitlin Wilson



For April Bridges Newsletter  
March 25, 2018



## New Baptist Church

610 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Huntington WV 25702

### Office Hours:

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Tuesday thru Friday

### Phone:

304-523-3355

### Fax:

304-523-3399

### E-mail:

[newbaptist2008@gmail.com](mailto:newbaptist2008@gmail.com)

### On the Web:

[www.newbaptistchurch.com](http://www.newbaptistchurch.com)

### Pastors:

Rev. Trent Eastman  
([trente@me.com](mailto:trente@me.com))

Rev. Lee Boso  
([leeboso@gmail.com](mailto:leeboso@gmail.com))

Rev. Robin Crouch  
([rlcrouch1948@gmail.com](mailto:rlcrouch1948@gmail.com))

### Service Hours:

#### Sunday

9:30 Radio Bible Class  
9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Morning Worship  
Kid's Church/Nursery  
5:00 Choir Practice  
6:00 Awana (Sept. – May)  
Youth  
6:30 Evening Service

#### Wednesday

9:30 Ladies' Bible Studies  
6:30 Ladies' Bible Studies  
Men's Bible Study  
Prayer Meeting/Bible  
Study  
Children's Choir  
Youth Pods

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH  
610 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
HUNTINGTON WV 25702

## WOMEN'S CAMP 2018

(for women 18 years and older)



### Baptist Camp at Cowen

**April 13-15**

\$45 for the weekend (includes all meals)

**BETTER TOGETHER**

Theme Scripture – Ephesians 4

Speakers: Rev. Jana Stoner & Jillene Narraway

This year there will be fun, fellowship and Bible study for all including a snack swap, special movie night, interest groups with offerings including crocheting, hand lettering, missions, and more.