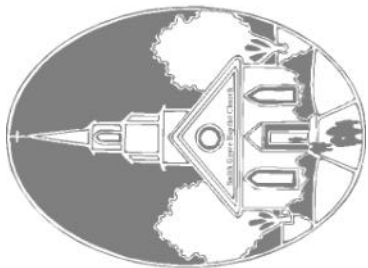


Must have  
First Class  
Stamp



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**VOLUME 42**  
**July 2025**  
**ISSUE 496**

**THE MESSENGER**  
Smith Grove Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 57  
Colfax, NC 27235

**PROVERBS 25:13**

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .

Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Children's Church 11:15 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
Bible Clubs 7:00 PM  
Thursday Visitation 7:00 PM

~ **NURSERY PROVIDED** ~  
2707 Sandy Ridge Road  
Colfax, NC 27235

**Rev. Bruce Freeman, Pastor**  
Home (336) 996-1501  
Cell (336) 816-2473

# The Messenger



July  
2025



**Smith Grove Baptist Church**  
2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235  
[www.smithgrove.org](http://www.smithgrove.org)

**Rev. Bruce Freeman, Pastor**  
H (336) 996-1501 C (336) 816-2473



Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Children's Church 11:15 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
Bible Clubs 6:45-8:15 PM

**Streaming Live:** Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>  
YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi39\\_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ)

**PROVERBS 25:13** *As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .*

*Happy Independence Day!*

**REMINDER: Sun., June 29 ~ Patriotic 4th of July Service ~ followed by hot dogs & hamburgers in the Fellowship Building. (Hot dogs, hamburgers & dessert will be provided by the church). NO EVENING SERVICE.**

**Sat., July 5, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission**

**Sun., July 20 ~ BEAMS Sunday**

**Robinwood Retirement Ctr. ~ Wednesdays at 3:00 pm**

**Sunday Sundaes ~ July 13; Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Statement of Faith:**

We are an Independent Baptist Church (*established in 1921*) preaching the old time Gospel and still believing that the King James Version of the Bible constitutes the preserved, inerrant, and inspired Word of God for the English speaking people of the earth.



## Way to Go, Smith Grove Graduates!

*We are very proud of you all!*

### Abi Jones

Phoenix Academy

### Marshall Moore

Triad Baptist Christian Academy

### Bailey Matthews

North Carolina  
Leadership Academy

### Jaol Matthews

Graduated from early college and has recently moved to UNC-Charlotte, continuing his major in Nano Science and Technology as well as Business



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**SHUT-INS:** Betty Byrd Iris Farrington

### IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

PVT Adam Brittain, Army, Stateside (Sam Crater's nephew)

CW4 Jonathan Harless (Ft. Bragg) } (Hal & Martha

COL Robert Harless (Savannah, GA) } Harless' sons)

E5 Noah Johnson, US Coast Guard, Portsmouth, VA  
(Henry & Geraldine Johnson's grandson)

CCWO5 Michael Maine, US Army; Fort Rucker, AL  
(Nephew of Clarence Redmon)

SSgt Trevor Westmoreland, Army, Fort Benning, GA  
(Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)

1stSgt Gregory Reynolds, Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA.  
(Jan Reynolds' son.)

SSgt. Josh Robertson, Marines, Naples, Italy (From Clyde Gray)

The Country of Israel - families of those killed, and the hostages taken.

*May God's chosen people prevail.*



## BEAMS' Report for June 2025

# of Pledges: 6; # of Contributions: 6;

Total Contributors: 12

Total Contributed: \$ 446.00 =

55 Bibles in June (plus some postage)

*Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 210.00 in June!*

You can also get the BEAMS' report online at our website:

<https://www.smithgrove.org/beams-report/>

**You can honor that someone special by purchasing Bibles.** Supply us with the name and address of the person you are honoring as well as your name and one Bible will be sent to a missionary for every \$8 you contribute. BEAMS will mail a card to them letting them know that the Bibles have been sent out in their name. **You can also purchase Bibles in memory** of a loved one who has passed away. Supply us with the name of the person the Bibles are being sent in memory of, the name and address of the person you want to receive the acknowledgement card as well as your name and address and one Bible will be sent to a missionary for every \$8 you contribute. BEAMS will mail a card to the person you designate letting them know that the Bibles have been sent out in their loved one's memory. <https://www.beamsbibles.com/bibles-in-memory-of>

Services will be streaming Live every Wednesday at 7 p.m. & Sunday at 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) — (You do not need a



facebook account to watch the video on fb!)

<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39\\_zpMzkkCXdFYv1NKndQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYv1NKndQ)

To listen & download mp3:

Audio Archive Online ~ <https://www.smithgrove.org/audio-archive/>

## The Road to Everlasting Life

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

**Romans 5:12** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

**Romans 5:8** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

**Romans 10:9-10** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

**Romans 10:13** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."



**Smith Grove's ministry to our widows, widowers, & senior singles**  
*"Honour widows that are widows indeed."*  
*(1 Timothy 5:3)*

This is a continuing churchwide ministry to remember *widows, widowers, and senior singles* of the church in a meaningful way. Join us as we highlight our special "Honour Roll Gang Members" who are having birthdays in July and August. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

**Betty Byrd**

Trinity Glen Senior Care  
 849 Waterworks Road  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
 336-595-2166 ~ July 01

**Patsy Pendry**

8054 Clinard Farms Rd  
 High Point, NC 27265  
 336-617-0590 ~ August 19

**Becky Redmon**

8421 Endicott Road  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-310-4657 (Home)  
 336-482-1926 (Cell) ~ July 09

**Doris Nuckles**

8324 Tyner Loop Road  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-668-2332 ~ August 28



*Are you or a family member turning 90 this year?  
 Please let Pastor Bruce Freeman know if you would like to be  
 recognized on your special birthday! (336-816-2473)*

*July Anniversaries*

- 2 Gale and Charlene Tester
- 7 Gary and Helen Hendrix
- 11 Chuck and Carol Peters
- 16 Steve and Stephanie Dillon
- 23 Wade and Nora Smith
- 25 Pam and Glen Blackburn
- 27 Bruce and Darla Freeman
- 30 Andy and Marsha Evans



*Anniversaries are reminders of the promises that couples have fulfilled in the past, the ones they are making in the present, and those that are in store for the future. Cherish this special day and make yet another beautiful promise as you celebrate your wedding anniversary.*



*In recognition of Independence Day, July 4, 2025.*

General Douglas MacArthur challenged the cadets at West Point to never forsake obedience to these three words. These words were to translate into marching orders and also regulate pure character for those who wear the uniform of the American fighting man.

Who has demonstrated "Duty, Honor, and Country" any more than the defender of freedom? These ethics are certainly not observed in the character of those who out of political expediency forfeit our cherished freedom! Yet "duty, honor, and Country," still remain the creed of the soldier.

Today we celebrate our freedom. Our celebration includes tears of patriotic pride, for it understands the price of freedom. We emotionally sing the American Anthem and still proudly wave "Old Glory". We rejoice in the history of the God-given victories that brought our freedom. We also solemnly honor the memories of the thousands who died that we might be free.

This 4th of July finds us safely at home with our families. We attend the parades, roast our hot dogs, and enjoy our holiday. This celebration especially involves a prayer and a salute to that lonely "Guardian of Freedom" away from home on a Military deployment. They remain faithful in modeling, "duty, honor, and Country"! This 4th of July finds them highlighting the very definition of this holiday!

"I do not know the dignity of their birth, but I do know the glory of their death. They died unquestioning, uncomplaining, with faith in their hearts, and on their lips the hope that we would go on to victory. Always for them – Duty – Honor – Country; always their blood and sweat and tears as we sought the way and the light and the truth." – General Douglas MacArthur, West Point, May 12, 1962 **Chuck Peters – July, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**



## Be Strong ~ Youth

On Wednesday nights, the Bible Club continues our study, "Talking With God". The "Clue Basket" is still offering up unusual items to trigger our memories when we find ourselves pondering the privilege of prayer. In recent weeks, we've learned that "Prayer is conversation with God"... a telephone reminds us that this exchange is not one-sided. Though we talk to the Lord as we pray, we must also pause to *listen* for His answer. In His model prayer, Jesus Himself shows us the perfect balance of "talking and listening".

We have also begun to ask, "How do we pray?" So far, we have found that "We pray to know God's will"... a small bag of stones serves as a reminder of the altar Elijah built as he prayed down the fire to light the soggy sacrifice in the showdown at Mount Carmel. We have also discovered that "We pray with faith"... an empty medicine bottle brings to mind the devoted centurion who trusted so deeply in the power of Jesus that he sent messengers to bid Him come and heal his dying servant. As Jesus approached the house, the Roman called out to Him, humbly declaring that he was not worthy of His visit, and that if Jesus would only speak the word, the servant would be healed from a distance. Jesus remarked that, in all Israel, He had "not found so great faith", and the centurion's servant was made whole. Imagine having our Savior pay our faith such a compliment as that! Even though the centurion was the powerful master of 100 Roman soldiers, he understood that he was powerless to help his sick servant... but he knew where to turn! Just as the centurion came to Jesus in faith, we can come to Him in faith-filled prayer, knowing that His healing touch reaches beyond treatments or pills, and understanding that He is able to accomplish more than we can imagine!

What a blessing to bring the gift of prayer to life for our young people, based on the truths of the Scriptures! We appreciate your prayers for this series as we strive to help our children develop a habit of praying that will follow them all their days.

With Our Love and Prayers,  
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

# Power of Prayer



Titus Beth Kevin Taylor

**Final Training:** The last few months coming up on our furlough, we have purposefully focused on spending extra time with both the pastors and people that we work with here in the ministry. Both Beth and I have had multiple meetings each week giving counsel and making preparations for our absence. Each Thursday for the last few weeks I have been meeting with the men here to have a special time of training to try and help them be as prepared as possible. Although in the past, we have been reading ministry books, the last few weeks I spent sharing a few things that I thought would be helpful as they do the ministry on their own. The first week I shared with them about the importance of character in the ministry and that if we are not careful that we can outwardly begin doing what we should but be empty inside. I also shared with them about the importance of preaching the Word correctly to see its full power. Then in our last meeting, I shared with them how to work as a team with its challenges and advantages that come from working together; challenging them to stay faithful and focused on serving the Lord and trusting Him to do a greater work than ever before. Please pray for the work in Bolivia that the Lord will protect and prosper during this time.

**Final Service:** Our last service before traveling was a very special one with several activities. We celebrated Mother's Day because in Bolivia the date is a little later than in the US; we had a special day planned for that last Sunday with a gift for the mothers and a meal with everyone at church. I gave examples from I Samuel where Ana cried out to the Lord to have a child and then promised to dedicate him (Samuel) to the Lord before he was born. We had a great group with close to fifty adults, 20 children, and 17 mothers that we were able to celebrate. At the end of the service we had our first baptism at the church. Mike, the guy that I was able to lead to the Lord a few weeks ago, was excited about taking the next step in his Christian life. Please pray for the church and for Mike as he continues to grow in the Lord.

**Final Meetings:** I have always noticed that the Bolivian culture puts a lot of emphasis on family, friendships, and being close. Each time that we have traveled for our furlough the last few weeks are filled with special meals, get-togethers, going away services, and people coming by to say goodbye. It ends up being a busy time but also means a lot to see everyone's love for us. With each one, we try and encourage them to continue faithful, not to get sidetracked in their spiritual lives and to keep growing in the Lord.

**Prayer Requests:** 1. Pray for Dennis and Jonathan as they take over at our new church in Chiquicollo. 2. Pray for new believers like Mike and for their spiritual growth. 3. Pray for Gary that is taking over the ministry in Quillacollo at the new church property. 4. Pray for Pastor Pablo as he will now be heading up our first church since they have been without a pastor.

(No. 2866) *Excerpts from A Sermon* published on Thursday, Jan. 14, 1904. Delivered by C. H. Spurgeon, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, on Thursday evening, Jan. 6, 1876.

***“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”***

Proverbs 25:25.

THIS is a text for summertime rather than for a winter's evening. It is only on one of our hottest summer days that we could fully appreciate the illustration here employed. We need to be parched with thirst to be able to feel the value of cold waters to quench our thirst. At the same time, I think that we can, without any very great stretch of imagination, put ourselves into the position of some to whom cold waters have been almost like life from the dead. Look at Hagar in the wilderness with her child, whom she has cast under one of the shrubs that she may not see him die. The water in the bottle is spent and she longs for a cooling draught that might save the young lad's life. Then the Lord opened her eyes so that she saw a well of water in the desert and, as she filled her bottle from it, she understood what cold waters are to a thirsty soul. Think also of the whole nation of Israel in the wilderness crying out in agony because there was no water for them to drink. Then they began to murmur against the Lord and against Moses – but how joyful they were when the smitten Rock poured forth its cooling stream and they rushed to it and drank to the full.

If you want another personal example of the blessing of cold water to a thirsty soul, think of Samson. Heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of an ass he has slain a thousand men! But the dust of the conflict, the heat and the exhaustion had caused such an intense thirst to come upon him that he is ready to die. Then he lifts up his voice to the Lord and the same God who had made the jawbone to be so mighty a weapon against the Philistines, opens for him a spring of water in that very jawbone – and he drinks and is refreshed—and magnifies the name of the Lord. So, you see, there are occasions when cold waters are inexpressibly precious to thirsty souls. And Solomon, who seems to have known something of their value, says that good news from a far country is equally pleasant, refreshing and reviving.

This proverb is true in its most literal interpretation. When we are in a far country, separate from those we love, there is no greater pleasure than that of receiving letters with tidings of their welfare from them. Even the little details about household affairs – the minor events which we would scarcely have noticed if we had been there – become exceedingly interesting to us and the longer we have been away from home, the more dear everything becomes to us when we hear of it in the far country where, for a while, our lot has been cast. I suppose that merchants who have costly ventures in distant parts, also long for good news from the far country which is still their home wherever they may be. Solomon had sent his ships to various foreign countries and when the news came from Joppa that the vessels were in sight which had come back from India, or from the Pillars of Hercules, bringing all manner of precious things, the merchant prince was highly pleased and felt that, “as cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.” And this, which is a literal fact, may become an illustration of the spiritual Truth of God – and I am going to use it in that way as God, the Holy Spirit, may guide me.

*Cont. on next page*

**First, good news from God for sinners is like cold waters to a thirsty soul.**

Sin has led the sinner into a far country. That part of the description of the prodigal son who gathered all and went into a far country aptly describes the condition of the whole human race. Man, before the Fall, was near to God. He communed with Him. But when Adam and Eve “heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,” after they had disobeyed Him, they “hid themselves from the Presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” Practically, by his sin, Adam set out on a long journey away from his happy home and, soon, he was so far off that when God came where He had formerly communed with him, He had to cry to him, “Adam, where are you?” In like manner, we are alienated from God by wicked works, far off from Him in character, for He is Light and we are darkness. He is Truth and we are falsehood. He is Love and we are just the opposite. We are also far off from God in our aims and objectives, for we aim not at the good of others, nor at His Glory, but we seek earthly things. We are, by nature, far off from God in the whole bent and current of our life which no longer runs in a parallel line with the life of God as first imparted to man, but runs rather according to the fashion of the life of Satan – so that we yield ourselves up to the evil influence of that foul spirit who works in the children of disobedience.

When a sinner is awakened by the Holy Spirit, he becomes conscious of this distance and he feels, in a measure, like the lost spirits in Hell who realize that there is a great gulf fixed between them and God. At first the convicted sinner fancies that gulf can never be passed and the longer he looks into its awful depths – the longer his eyes try to gaze across it to the other side—the more he discovers that he is far off from his God and that there is, indeed, a vast, yawning chasm between him and his Maker. If any of you, dear Friends, are conscious of being thus at a distance from God, I have come as a messenger from Him bringing to you His words of mercy and Grace which should be to you as good news from a far country!

And the first piece of good news that I have to give you is that God has not forgotten you. You are a lost sheep and you have almost forgotten your Shepherd. Perhaps you have altogether forgotten Him – but your Shepherd has been counting over the number of His sheep and He finds that there is one missing, for there are only 99 where there should be a hundred and He is deeply concerned about the one that has gone astray!

So has Jesus Christ demolished the barrier which stood between a justly angry God and a guilty but repenting sinner – and now there is a way of approach for the very worst of men and women –right up to the Throne of the Most High! By the blood of Jesus, once shed for many for the remission of sins, the guiltiest foot of man may come. Yes, by that blood-besprinkled way, the most condemned sinner may come without fear of being repulsed! The chasm has been filled, the gulf bridged over and if you truly believe in Jesus Christ, you may, in His name, and for His sake, come back to your Heavenly Father! That wise resolve within your heart which says, “I will arise and go to my Father,” should be at once carried into effect, for your Father has prepared the way by which you may come back to Him and, to encourage you, He has sprinkled it with the blood of His dear Son – the surest sign and token of His love to sinners that even God, Himself, could give.

# The Prayer of Jabez

The Prayer of Jabez is a brief but profound petition found in the Old Testament of the Bible, specifically in 1 Chronicles 4:10. It is named after Jabez, who is mentioned in a genealogical record in Chronicles. Despite the brief mention of his life, Jabez's prayer stands out for its heartfelt plea to God for blessing and guidance.

Scripture has many examples of prayers that teach us to depend on God and call upon Him. The prayer of Jabez is very inspiring and challenging for how we approach God with our requests. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”*

Jabez was not using prayer as a formula to get something from God; instead, He was calling upon God to help him accomplish the promises of God! Let's dive in and see how this Old Testament prayer can be applied today as we seek God's provision and leadership in our lives.

**The Prayer of Jabez**, 1 Chronicles 4:10

*“And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.”*

**“That you would bless me.”** Jabez not only recognizes God as the one and only true God, he also acknowledges that blessings come from God alone. Are you chasing broken promises and blessings the world tries to entice you with? Are you striving toward being blessed and being a blessing on your own strength? When you pray, do it with a heart fully invested in the blessings of God.

**“That you would enlarge my coast.”** – Many think Jabez refers to physical land when asking to to enlarge his coast (or multiply territory). However, if we look at Jabez's lineage, we can understand that he is not merely speaking in terms of wealth and prosperity but in terms of impacting the kingdom of God. He wanted his spiritual territory to increase, to claim generations for the Lord of Israel. Do you need to claim or reclaim some of the land Satan has taken from you? When you pray, ask God to multiply your territory and to do more through you!



**“Your hand be with me”** – Jabez wanted God to be in every moment of his day. He understood the power of God's hand to protect and lead in the right direction. Blessings can become curses if God's hand is not providing and guiding them. When you pray, request more than blessings and provision but that God's hand will lead you through any circumstances and trials that come your way. That is the greatest blessing.

**“Keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me.”** The name Jabez literally means “born with pain”. His own mother named him this because of the pain she endured in labor! When Jabez prays, he speaks against the testimony of his name and lets go of the shame it covered him in. When you pray, come to God vulnerable and ready for Him to turn your weakness into His glory.

**The Prayer Of Jabez**  
And Jabez called on the God Of Israel, saying,  
Oh that thou would bless me indeed, and enlarge my  
coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that  
thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!  
And God granted him that which he requested.  
1 Chronicles 4:10