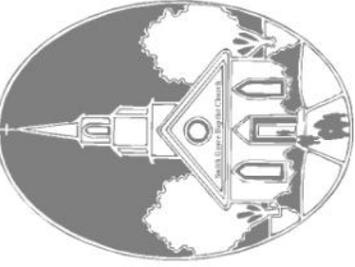


Must have  
First Class  
Stamp



[www.smithgrove.org](http://www.smithgrove.org)

**VOLUME 43**  
**March 2026**  
**ISSUE 504**

**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



# March 2026



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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



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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 . . .*

**Sat., March. 7, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission**  
**Sun., March 8 ~ Daylight Saving Time Begins -**  
 Spring Forward - *Set clocks ahead.*  
**Sun., March. 15 ~ BEAMS Sunday**  
**Fri., March 20 ~ First day of SPRING!**  
**Robinwood Retirement Ctr. ~ Every Tuesday at 6:00 pm.**

**Statement of Faith:** We are an Independent Baptist Church (established in 1921) that still preaches the old time Gospel, and we believe 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.

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

## IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

**PVT Adam Brittain**, Army, Texas (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)

**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)

**Gregory Turner**, National Guard, Kuwait (son of a CVS  
pharmacist in Kernersville)



**Song of Solomon 2:11-13 (KJV):** "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

## I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth



I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had  
brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.



## BEAMS' Report for February 2026

# of Pledges: 7; # of Contributions: 6;  
Total Contributors: 13  
Total Contributed: \$ 474.00 =  
59 Bibles in February (plus some postage)

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

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

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

**Isaiah 61:11** - *For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.* Spring serves as a powerful, living metaphor for the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life, mirroring the transition from winter's dormancy to new, vibrant life. It invites believers to shed the "coldness" of sin and embrace the warmth of Christ's love, symbolizing spiritual renewal, transformation, and God's faithfulness.

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)

Since we have no Honour Roll members for March or April, take a moment to be extra kind to our senior saints, whether or not they are widowed. There are many challenges for our seniors, and a kind word of encouragement is uplifting and welcome.

### Cherishing our widows, widowers & senior saints

Honoring our widows, widowers, and senior saints – our "Honour Roll," is a vital, biblical practice that enriches the entire body of Christ. These precious individuals are valuable contributors to the church's spiritual life, offering profound wisdom, a legacy of faithfulness, and a model of perseverance. These saints of God offer a testimony of His faithfulness, proving that the same God who saves, also sustains us throughout our life.



**Interesting March fact:** Completed in March, 1889, The Eiffel Tower (1,033 feet tall) was named after Gustave Eiffel. His engineering company, Eiffel & Cie, designed and built the structure for the 1889 World's Fair. While his engineers Maurice Koechlin and Émile Nougier conceived the initial design, Eiffel bought the patent rights, championed the project, and funded it, leading to it being named after him. Only its value as a military antenna prevented it from being dismantled after 20 years.



### March Anniversaries

18 Sam & Sherrill Crater  
 27 Donnie & Mary Campbell



~ Thoughts for the New Year (Part 3) ~  
 Where is Your Help in Time of Trouble?  
 (Final excerpt from a lesson by Brother Calvin Vaughn)

### What happens when you are faced with a Life Changing Storm, problem or simply a Closed Door?

Storms and closed doors have similar characteristics! **We find adversity in in both of these situations!** How do we respond to closed doors or lost opportunities! When the Lord allows trouble or adversity in your life, do you accept it as **something designed for your good? Or do you try to bend God to your will?**

Adversities come with a **multitude of names**—accidents, afflictions, bereavement, calamities, difficulties, disappointments, disasters, failures, hard times, hurts, miseries, misfortunes, misunderstandings, reversals, ruin, sufferings, tragedies, trials, tribulations, troubles or woes. **They can come unexpectedly or after repeated warnings. So how do we react or respond to such adversities, misfortunes or Closed Doors?**

Maybe it is a loss of a job or a tragic turn of events, perhaps a long-awaited opportunity passes you by. Whatever the reason, **our lives often bump up against unexpected hurdles that leave us feeling saddened or frustrated.**

Adversity literally means “**something acting against you.**” Nowhere is this concept more clearly presented than in the Bible, which makes it clear that **God himself sometimes sends adversity** either as a **punishment for sin or simply as a way to test and strengthen our character.** Avoiding sin helps you avoid a great deal of adversity.

**Gal 6:8** - For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Other times **Satan sends adversity to tempt us to sin.** And God allows it. And sometimes we **bring adversity on ourselves by acting foolishly or sinfully.**

~ **BUT NOT ALWAYS** ~

Being faithful to God **may actually bring adversity.** Satan is our enemy, and he will try to stop us from following God. There are also people who oppose what is good and right. **Adversity may be a sign that you are being faithful to God.** 2Cor. 4:8 -

**We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Avoiding adversity may not be best for you. Though it may bruise you, adversity builds you up and strengthens your faith.**

And finally, there is the **adversity that comes out of nowhere** through no fault of our own. **The one thing you can count on about adversity is that it will come.** We all will have troubles, so it is not a matter of will we or won't we—the **issue is what we will do with adversity when it comes.** What happens when you face a closed door, lost opportunity or other adversity? 1Peter 4:12 - **Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 1Peter 4:13** - *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*



## Who was St. Patrick?

No, St. Patrick was not a leprechaun, and he's certainly not a myth or simply a legend. He was a real man who was born in 386 A.D. in Great Britain along the west coast, which was then a part of the Roman Empire. As his father was a deacon, Patrick grew up with a Christian heritage.

When Patrick was only 16 years old, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates who enslaved him aboard the ship of a pagan king and sold him into slavery in Ireland. He then became a shepherd in Ireland, where his faith in the power of prayer grew tremendously.

According to his autobiography Patrick had an angelic encounter in a dream that led him to escape slavery and return to his home in Great Britain. After being kidnapped and enslaved – and then returning to his home – Patrick willingly chose to go back to Ireland with a mission in mind: to bring Christianity to the pagan nation. He didn't choose safety or comfort, but chose to suffer hardship, ridicule, and rejection for the sake of Christ. You can bet that pagan chieftains and Druid priests weren't an easy target for the Gospel, but Patrick persevered in his mission and reportedly saw the conversion of 10,000 people.

### St. Patrick's Ministry in Ireland

In Ireland, Patrick's ministry flourished, though it was not without its challenges. He's credited largely with the evangelism of powerful leaders across Ireland, many of whom were Druid—a pagan religion that places specific emphasis on worship of nature.

Part of Patrick's effectiveness was his ability to explain the gospel to people in a way that they could understand; for example, he used a three-leaf clover (or shamrock) to explain the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is also sometimes credited with driving out all snakes from Ireland, though many believe this is more symbolic than literal; snakes represent evil and the demonic, and Patrick helped bring light and truth to this nation.

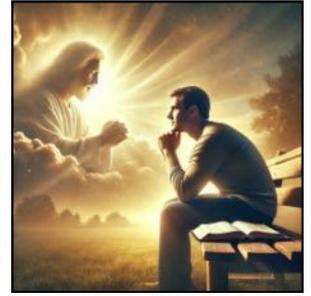
Though there were certainly others who helped bring Christianity to Ireland, St. Patrick is perhaps the most famous of all these missionaries and evangelists. Ireland eventually developed a rich legacy of prayer and missionary work, and even helped preserve Scripture through the Middle Ages.

Today, Ireland remains a largely Christian nation.



Dear Reader, if you had time to read February's *Be Strong Youth Article*, you got the opportunity to think about prayer, and not just prayer in general, prayer on a personal level.

How do we feel about prayer throughout our day? Is it part of our lives continually, or do we put it off until we "have time"? That article which outlined the youth study on prayer, was in itself a lesson for all of us. As Pastor Bruce would put it, "Our challenge today..." is to take a moment and read that article from the February Messenger. Let the message of prayer as a ubiquitous part of our lives truly sink in. God is more than someone we



can talk with in a formal setting, or a time set aside from our daily routine. He is there throughout the day, always ready to hear when we call out to Him.

The following article is one which appeared in the October 2025 *Call to Glory* study guide, and also addresses the matter of prayer. The writer is Pastor Mike Rose from Sunset Hills Missionary Baptist Church in Coal City, West Virginia. His perspective is a bit different, yet I feel that the message core is pertinent to a range of generations. As you read Pastor Rose's article, consider social media, and the impact (or lack of impact) it truly has on sincere prayer in our lives. (*Note the special emphasis on prayer in this issue, also.*)

**PRAY OR PLAY? Acts 1:14** *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

The Church had grown from 12 to 120. And they were all in accord; and they all continued in prayer.

Most of today's believers don't know that prayer is the heart and the life of their church. It impresses me that many who believe in the power of Christian prayer do not bother to attend the prayer meetings of their local assembly. Wednesday night church services are comprised of a faithful few, while a majority of church members find other attractions (or distractions) to while away the 60 minutes that is set aside for corporate prayer.

And yet, all the while, social media is blanketed with requests for prayer from most of those same people. You can now intercede for a friend's expressed need by giving a passive 'thumbs up' beneath their request. Thereby signifying that you are somehow a faithful, praying Christian, and you are in communication by supplication with the Living Lord God Almighty who somehow pauses in His omnipotence and in His fierceness and power, He will acknowledge your thumbs-up as a sincere prayer. That's baloney, any way you slice it. If God's people would ever get off their lazy behinds and pull up their bootstraps and endeavor to make a sincere effort to be real, there would be a noticeable change in our homes, in our communities, in our country, and in our lives. 2 Chronicles 7:14, "*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*"

**Missing church is a MISDEMEANOR:** The more you miss, DE MEANER you get!



# THE ABENOJA FAMILY

Missionary to the Philippines



Email: riolaarni27@gmail.com  
Cellphone: 011639186654021

Greetings in Christ's most precious name! I would like to praise God for His Goodness and Faithfulness to us and to His ministry!

Last November 9, 2025, we held our second church anniversary and praise God for 10 people who received the Lord Jesus Christ and we had 255 in attendance. "What a faithful God" - this was our theme and He proved it to us once again!! We had 1,355 professions of faith in Christ in that whole year.



We had 9 believers who followed in water baptism last December. God is faithful. We prayed for 50 to be baptized last year, but God gave us 52. Glory to God!



God gave us 50 soul winners on our Soul Winning Action Team (SWAT). As a pastor, I know that my job is to teach and train them in winning souls. We have another batch of soul winners undergoing soul winning training and our goal is to reach 100 soul winners. Glory to God!

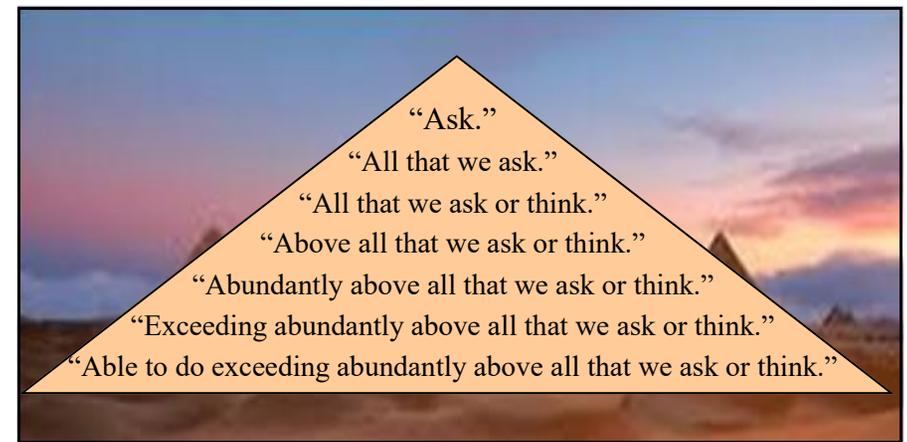
Please do pray for us because we are starting another church and this will be the 3rd church in this town. We already had a piece of land and we are praying for \$20,000 to put up a church building. Thank you for the partnership in the ministry!

**In Christ, Bro. Riogen D. Abenoja**



## "The Pyramid of Prayer"

**"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," - Ephesians 3:20**



Prayer is far more than a mere religious mechanical exercise. Prayer is a personal love communication with the Heavenly Father. Prayer is offered in the Name of Jesus. Prayer is offered by the child of God with a heartfelt love for the One who loved us before we first loved Him. Prayer is offered with praise and thanksgiving on account of the provision of Christ upon the cross. Prayer is addressed to the Heavenly Father. "At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." – John 16:26-27 Prayer incorporates all three Members of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit prompts us to pray, The Son of God intercedes for us when we pray, and the Father loves us while we pray because we love Jesus!

Prayer is likened to a pyramid resting upon the super foundation of God's ability to do well beyond our asking and our thoughts. Prayer is as simple as "asking" and so simple that the youngest child can understand. Prayer does not rest upon a flimsy foundation of uncertainty. Prayer is in the Name of the One Whose Name is above every other name. The Name of "Jesus" holds good to the "bank of Heaven" and His "signature" assures that the check of our petition clears! The pyramid of prayer has the topping of a single three lettered word but the base of the pyramid has the foundation of 12 words. Those 12 words combined remind us that God's ability far exceeds our inabilities and God's provisions far exceed our needs! - **Chuck Peters**

# Poetry by Maudean Nuckles

Thank God for Calvary ~ Easter - April 5, 2026

## BUT FOR CALVARY

My life would be lived in vain  
Nothing good could I render  
Evil and death remain  
My destiny  
But for the one who came to earth  
of a lowly stable birth  
All that I am would be no worth  
But for Calvary  
There's nothing to mar my joy  
Since my sins are forgiven  
Nothing that can destroy  
My victory  
But for the one who paid the cost  
On a cruel rugged cross  
My soul forever would be lost  
But for Calvary  
But for Jesus  
But for the blood He shed  
Suffering in my stead  
Dying for me  
But for Jesus  
but for His empty tomb  
My end would be but doom  
*But for Calvary*



*In the Gospels the scripture records the last prayer that Jesus prayed to the Father before He went to the cross. Whether or not it records His entire prayer, we have no way of knowing. Do you suppose His prayer could have gone something like this? . . .*

## DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME

I'll go to Calvary.  
A crown of thorns I'll wear.  
I'll shed each drop of blood.  
Your love for them I share.  
I'll gladly bear the shame.  
For all the world to see.  
One thing I ask, O God,  
Don't turn your back on me.

I'll make the sacrifice  
On that old rugged tree.  
I'll suffer all the pain  
To set the captive free.  
I'll let them mock my name.  
A gentle lamb I'll be.  
One thing I ask, O God,  
Don't turn your back on me.

I'll fight the force of hell.  
I'll win the victory.  
I'll take the keys of death,  
And I'll bring them back with me.  
On that third day I'll be  
From death forever free.  
Still, one thing I ask, O God,  
Don't turn your back on me.

Don't turn your back on me.  
I've never walked alone.  
We've never been apart.  
For you and I are one.  
Don't hide your face from me.  
This bitter cup I shun.  
But if there's no other way,  
Thy will be done.