

FEBRUARY 2025

HORIZON

Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong March 2nd-9th, 2025

Nothingness. When most people drive any direction out of Bar Nunn, Wyoming, that's what they see. "There are no stores, no houses," says Tyler Martin. "If you have half a tank, you better fill up because there's not a gas station for a while."

Bar Nunn, Wyoming, population 2,986 has zero stoplights, one convenience store, and not nearly the infrastructure that would, at first glance, seem to attract missionaries who have been called to reach as many people as possible with the gospel. And yet, several years ago, Tyler and Ashley Martin left their home in Texas and moved to Bar Nunn to plant a church. "We didn't even know where Wyoming was on a map," Tyler says. "But when we told God we'd go anywhere, He made it clear this is where He wanted us to come. Ninety percent of the people in the state of Wyoming don't know the Lord as their Savior. Seeing how many communities here didn't have a church of any kind just broke our hearts."

Tyler and Ashley's plant, Outfitter Church, started small but soon began holding regular Sunday services at The Hangar Bar and Grill in Bar Nunn. As a location for a new church, The Hangar was both extremely unconventional and unexpectedly perfect. "Yes, it's a bar. But it was the only meeting place in town," Tyler says. "And it's unique because a wall of windows divides the space. So, when we started, we were singing and praying and preaching on one side while people on the other side of the building were watching from the bar. And we thought, 'How perfect is that? We get to worship in front of a watching world.'"

Two sides of the Bar

Trent Fetherston, who had long been one of The Hangar's most frequent customers, was part of that watching world. Trent had a reputation- the kind of reputation a man will get in an everybody-knows-everybody kind of town like Bar Nunn. It's the reputation a man gets when he spends what seems like thousands of consecutive happy hours with a drink in his hand and a chip on his shoulder. "People here had a term for somebody who got really drunk," Trent says. "They'd say they were 'Trent-faced'. So yeah, that's what I was known for-getting very drunk and getting in bar fights. As a matter of fact, you can name any bar around here, and I've been kicked out of it."

One Sunday, Trent decided to walk over to the other side of The Hangar. "I didn't like myself," he says. "That first Sunday, I heard Tyler preaching the gospel and it was crazy- I just couldn't take the conviction. Then I went several more Sundays all in a row and heard the gospel every time. And then, finally, one night, I broke down and said, 'Jesus, I'm so lost. I know I need You.' That's the moment I was born again and my life changed. Now and everything is different. I sit in church and look across to the bar side and remember all those times when I lost, and I love it because it reminds me of what Jesus did for me."

Trent, one of more than 60 new believers who have been baptized at Outfitter Church, still has a reputation in Bar Nunn. But today, he's known for better things. "Now when people see Trent," Tyler says, "they know this is what it looks like to know and follow Christ."



Taking the Gospel to New Places

Outfitter is step number one in a bodily creative plan to take the gospel to tiny towns all over the state. “Wyoming is remarkably unchurched and unreached,” Tyler says. “Here, there are 203 cities and towns you can have as a mailing address. And over 60 of those don’t have a church of any kind. And we realized when we started Outfitter in Bar Nunn that if we really wanted to see churches planted in all these other small towns, the planters are going to have to come from congregations right here in Wyoming. These places are so hard to get to and so expensive to do ministry in, that’s just the way it is. If we want to get the gospel to these places, it’s going to be up to local churches like ours.”

Tyler is training men in Outfitter Church to do to all those small, out-of-the-way places. Trent is one of those men. “If Tyler hadn’t answered God’s call to plant a church, I don’t know where I’d be,” Trent says. “That’s why now I want to do the same thing and show other people that Jesus is real.”

“We say, ‘our future church planters are getting drunk at the bar,’” Tyler says. “We’ve got to lead them to Christ, disciple them, and then let the Lord call them to ministry. That’s what happened with Trent and so many other men here. They have a growing passion and desire to preach and teach God’s word. And Lord willing, church planters will come from this group who’ll take the gospel to small towns all over Wyoming.”

[\[OM\] Volume 27 | number 1](#)



**NORTHEAST REGION
CELEBRATIONS**

Daniel (and Cece) Wright is the new pastor at Bar Nunn Baptist Church. Daniel is a graduate of Gateway Seminary through our Wyoming Southern Baptist Center for Leadership Development.



The Open Door Fellowship, a new church plant in Yoder, WY, held a special service on February 2, to license their pastor Rich (and Shannon) Osmotherly.



**SOUTH REGION
CELEBRATIONS**



Emmanuel Baptist in Rock Springs has called a new pastor. Damon Poole and his wife Heather will be moving to Rock Springs in March, and are expecting their first daughter in April.



Uplift Church in Rock Springs has begun meeting on Sunday mornings. Uplift Church is a new church plant in Rock Springs, pastored by Andy Reeves.



Please be in prayer for WindCity, Medicine Bow as they seek a new Pastor.

**WEST REGION
CLELBATIONS**

First Southern Baptist Church in Powell is now Victory Baptist Church. They held a special service on January 26. The church celebrated 68 years as First Southern Baptist Church. After a long process of looking at things in the past, considering the unique qualities of Powell, and praying and seeking God’s guidance, the church has made several changes looking to the future among them was changing the name to Victory Baptist Church. Bill Harvison is pastor.



Warm Valley Baptist Church in Pavillion has started a women’s fellowship meeting one Saturday a month. So far in 2025 the attendance has been good with seventeen women attending. Several women coming are not affiliated with the church. Terrel O’Brien is pastor.

United Baptist Church of Riverton held a Leadership Conference on January 31 and February 1. Twenty-two leaders and potential leaders attended. They were challenged to come up with some long-term goals for the church and some short-term items to get the church there. The decision was made to start a distribution center for personal hygiene items. Clark Grogan is pastor.



GIVE THANKS BY RONDIE TAYLOR

One of my favorite passages of Scripture has always been Hebrews 12:1-3. My initial love of this passage comes from my grandfather who worked for the Northwest Baptist Convention. As a child I would travel with my Granddad on occasion as he travelled the Northwest preaching in different churches each weekend. Those are cherished memories. Meeting incredible people of faith, seeing church in contexts different from my own, and most, of all the hours in the truck and good food with one of my heroes of the faith. Nearly every time I would travel with my Granddad, I would beg for him to preach his “Running Sermon” on Hebrews 12. Initially, that’s where my love for the passage came from, but as I have gotten older, and I have seen many of my heroes of faith pass to glory, that affection for this passage has only grown.

Hebrews 12 comes on the heels of the hall of faith passage in Chapter 11 and it begins with the word “Therefore” which connects the two chapters or the two passages together.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

I love this passage of Scripture, and I am so thankful for the faithful Saints and Servants who have gone before me. I am thankful for the examples laid out in the Bible in Hebrews 11. I am thankful for the truths and lessons of their lives that we often teach from Sunday mornings. And I am so thankful for the men and women whose names aren’t in Hebrews 11, whose names aren’t in headlines and who will never be known outside of the local churches I went to, the town I grew up in or outside my family tree that so faithfully brought to life the Gospel message. People whose impact in this world likely won’t be remembered but whose impact and influence will echo in eternity. I am thankful for those who loved me as a child unconditionally, who modeled forgiveness, who served sacrificially, who faithfully proclaimed Jesus, who modeled integrity, who worked hard in all that they did, who gave sacrificially behind the scenes, who modeled discipline and who cared for others when it cost them greatly. Parents, grandparents, Sunday School teachers, youth workers, pastors, coaches, public school teachers, construction workers, professors, friends that I saw live out their faith behind the scenes and who made an eternal difference in my life and so many others. These are the faces of people who come to mind when I read Hebrews 12, and I cherish them, and I am challenged to press on in the faith that they have shared and modeled so well for me.

In a few weeks my family and I will travel back to Oregon to celebrate the life of one of those faithful servants who lives in my hall of faith. Her name isn’t well known. She didn’t write any books. She’s not a part of my immediate family, but her impact on our family has been immense. She was a retired schoolteacher, a pastor’s wife, a mom, a grandma, an aunt, a great aunt, a friend, a mentor, a Sunday School teacher and a VBS worker. She loved her family and those she deemed family unconditionally. She was the most faithful prayer warrior and the greatest encourager I knew. She never failed to respond to a ministry update or missed a Facetime call and a card on a birthday. She believed in people and the restorative power of the Gospel. She faithfully served her local church. She celebrated and encouraged the next generation, and she was filled with joy even amid sorrow. She will be missed but her impact is eternal for we as Christians don’t live our lives for the temporal where moth and vermin destroy, and thieves break in and steal, but we live our lives in light of eternity. So, as we travel back to Oregon in a few weeks, we do so with some sadness knowing that the Facetime calls, texts, emails and birthday cards won’t come again. But we do go with great joy and thanksgiving for the life she lived, the impact she made, and the hope that we will one day meet again.

So, my encouragement to you today friends is this: fix your eyes, your life, your influence not on what is seen but on what is unseen and what is eternal. Give thanks this week for those that have modeled the Christian faith in your life, that have shared, loved and cared for you. If they are still alive, would you give them a call and just tell them thank you this week. And in your life and in your ministry strive to be the type of person who walks in love, grace and humility, modeling the Christian faith for those around you. Don’t live your life for your glory, the praises of man, titles or crowd sizes. Instead, live your life for the glory of God, showing His goodness to even the least of these whom God puts in your life. May God use you and use us as a Network to change the lives of many for eternity.

Blessings.



Leadership from the Leader's View Point.

By Johannes Slabbert

Growing up I always heard people say that leaders are placed there by God. While the Bible says much about leaders and how to lead, it does not say that all leaders are placed there by God. Now we can go on a rabbit trail to say that God is sovereign and that is why He allows the leaders to lead and so on, but I look at the first king for example, Saul. Although the Lord handpicked Saul, the reason they had a king to begin with was because the people wanted a human leader in place of God. This was not what God wanted, but the people made that choice. We can look through history and see how people chose godly leaders and God was with them, and also on the flip side see how they chose ungodly leaders and God was not with them. So, to come back to the saying "God placed leaders in their position", I beg to differ. Regardless of how a leader came about, we have leaders in all aspects of life. We have international, national, state, county, town, business, church and even leaders in our home. Recently I read in the Bible about David, the king of Israel. I noticed three things in part of his reign that I believe applies to all leaders and also their followers. With this being an election year in America, I felt it fitting to share these points with you. But this does not only apply to the government, it applies to anyone in a leadership role.

1. Sometimes Leaders Get Things They Did Not Ask For:

In the text I read David was challenged to war by his own son. This transpired from other events that he had nothing to do with and I know he wished it did not happen. His other son slept with his half-sister then ended up getting killed by his half-brother, and now that brother is making war against his dad. What a mess!! David never had to deal with anything like it, nor was there a manual on what to do in this type of situation. The same happens to all leaders no matter how big or small. Stuff comes up that is a mess, and they wish it was not that way. Just take 9/11 for example. The world never saw anything like it. Some praised the American leaders at that time for how they led, some did not. As leaders, they were faced with a new territory and no easy answers. As followers, I encourage you to stop and think about this next time before you criticize a leader. Keep reading. There is a part you can play positively in this.

2. Undealt sin/problems lead to a bigger mess/problem:

David did not correct his son who took advantage of his sister at all. Six years later he was faced with leaving his home and making war against his own son. This ended in the death of this son Absalom and a nation in turmoil.

If you are a leader, learn from the mistakes of David. You are in the position that you are in to lead, so do just that. This does not mean it is easy. It does not mean that you will be popular for doing so. It does not mean that some decisions you have to make will not hurt or grieve you personally. But you, my friend, are the leader and if you don't lead in a proper manner and don't deal with those hard things they will multiply. Undealt problems affect more than just those that are directly involved.

3. Take what you can't handle to God:

I know that many reading this might disagree with my religious affiliation. But as I normally tell others. I am not saying this to make you do anything, but this is what I do or see from God's word.

What if David, instead of putting all the weight of his situation on his shoulders, turned it over to God from the get-go and trusted Him with the outcome? I can tell you the times I have done this or watched others do this. It provides peace and confidence in someone way more powerful and wise than what I am. The Lord knows and sees what we don't. I wonder what David's situation could have looked like. I wonder what the outcome of yours and mine situations would look like if we take it to the Lord in prayer from the get-go.

Now follower, this is where you can make a difference. When you see or know that a leader on any level is faced with hard situations, instead of throwing in your two cents and adding to his load, how about saying a prayer for them?

I hope this helped you see leadership from a different angle; and leaders, that you are encouraged.

OTHER NEWS FROM WATER OF LIFE, COWLEY

Water of Life Church in Cowley had a celebration on January 19, having paid their mortgage off in full. The church had previously celebrated the dedication of their new building on July 28, 2024. It's an amazing testimony of God's faithfulness to see that the church has paid off it's debt in six months. The church is also involved in a unique ministry. Since they are about 50 miles away from the nearest Walmart, they provide a grocery pickup service for those who cannot make the drive to Cody. Their community has recently suffered a terrible tragedy with a family in Byron dying violent deaths. Water of Life Church is holding a community prayer vigil for the survivors of the shooting. Johannes Slabbert in pastor.



**2025 STATE VBS
CLINIC**
APRIL 4-5
**Mountain View Baptist
Church – Mills, WY**

FRIDAY EVENING		SATURDAY MORNING	
5 pm	Registration	8:45	Worship
5:30	Dinner		Age-level Conferences
6:15	Worship & Breakout		Noon Dismissal

**EARLY
REGISTRATION ENDS
MARCH 29TH**

MAGNIFIED!

Upcoming events

Keep an eye out for the registration packets coming in the mail.

More information can be found on our website

wyomingsbc.org

Issue April 2025

**GOOD NEWS
FOR TODAY**

The Great Commission, found in Matthew 28:18-20, has been the catalyst of evangelism for the last two thousand years. While many have obeyed the call of the Great Commission in the past, the time has come for this generation to answer the call.

YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

YEC
WYOMING

APRIL 11-12, 2025
COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
1927 WALNUT ST CASPER, WY

\$10 DUE BY MARCH 24, 2025



“ Freedom From Failure”

Don Whalen

“I can’t believe I did that.... Again! That’s how I felt recently after I’d blown it... again. Can you relate to that overwhelming sense of defeat when you’ve failed... again! In our fallen condition, it seems that failure is an all too frequent reality. So much so, that many have simply given in and given up. They accept failure!

Peter had a much different view of life in a fallen world, populated with sin sick people. Speaking of Jesus Christ, Peter reminds us that “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3). In Christ we have, not “some,” not “more than most,” but “everything” we need!

The verb, “has given,” is in the greek perfect tense, which indicates an action in the past that has continuing results into the future. It affirms for us that Jesus has deposited into our lives everything that we need. You might ask, “everything we need, to do what?” Peter’s answer: “Everything we need for life and godliness.” We have been given not only everything we need for eternal life, but everything that we need to live a godly, victorious life here and now. A life filled with spiritual power from the moment we are saved until that moment when we enter eternity!

Failure is a reality, but so is the power of God. Let that truth sink in. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, the power of God to do and be all that God calls us to do and be, is ours through Him.

In Ephesians 1:19, Paul prays asking that we might grasp the Savior’s “incomparably great power for us who believe.” Through our connection to the Savior, we enjoy the power to win the battles that fuel the struggles of daily life.

Through the indwelling presence of God in our lives, our powerlessness and inability give way to the power of God. In Ephesians 3:20 Paul shares a shout of victory, “Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think—according to the power that works in you.”

God hasn’t handed down a series of grand and lofty commands only to set back and watch us inevitably fail. No! He knows that our sin will leave us disconnected from our power source, which leaves us spiritually weak. But, through His mercy and grace access to spiritual power is available to us through His indwelling presence. Through His powerful presence in us, the impossible becomes possible, the war becomes winnable, and the seemingly unattainable can become our reality.

The devil’s strategy is to bring us to the place where we in failure say, “I’m hopeless.” But the gospel brings us to a place of hope when we understand our human inability and begin to rest in His ability. Jesus comes to fill us with His power precisely because we are weak. The glorious truth is, that those who could not stand, now stand able, “according to the power that works in you.”

The truth is, God has given us His Spirit, not in spite of, but because of our limitations. He empowers us to do the will of God and be the people of God in a sinful world. His Spirit enables us to face past failures and still overcome!

Our weakness doesn’t need to hinder what God wants to do in us and through us. However, our misguided delusions of strength will. The power of God is for those that recognize their weakness. The grace of God is for the unable. The promises of God are for the faint. The wisdom of God is for the foolish.

We don’t have to run from Him in our weakness, instead, because of His grace we are free to run to Him to experience His power!

We need not be afraid to admit our weakness. Instead, we can embrace our weakness and run to the One who is our strength!

“For His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.”

**DONT MISS
THIS
OPPORTUNITY!!**



PREACHER SCHOOL

Free Preaching Workshop
And
Worship Leader Workshop

For Bi-vocational Pastors,
Lay-Preachers, Church Planters and
Worship Leaders

April 25-26, 2025

Training: **Mountain View Baptist Church**, 4250 Poison Spider Rd, WY
Lodging: **Best Western**, 651 Granite Peak Dr., Casper, WY

For more info or to register contact
Don Whalen
At 307 251-3758 or whalen@wvomingsbc.org

5:00pm Friday – Supper
3:00pm Saturday - Conclude



JOY BY MATT MAESTAS

My half birthday is coming up. In the Maestas house on your half birthday, you get to pick a special treat for breakfast, and what movie we watch that weekend. While the kids typically pick donuts and something animated, I usually opt for a MASSIVE chunk of protein and a something from a selection of 90's to early 00's comedies (Vote for Pedro).

As you can imagine, with 9 people in our house we celebrate A LOT! Birthday's, Half Birthday's, Holiday's, both the traditional, and non-traditional (Jolabokaflokkur anyone?). These celebrations have been a welcome tradition for our family, and a much needed warming presence for my often cold heart. While I grew up in a family that loved each other fiercely, celebration wasn't often high on our list of family priorities. It felt like much of the time we were happy to just be getting by, and while times of celebration did occur, it seemed that another hardship or crisis was soon to come, so best not to get too excited.

In light of this, it took me over a decade of our marriage to allow the joy of celebration to not get clouded by the thought that a bad time as sure to follow. Life, and especially Pastoral ministry can feel like that sometimes. It can become easy to not take full joy in a situation, a friendship, a project well completed for fear of what is coming next. Similarly, when things are going well, we can forget to praise and take joy, expecting something to be wrong if we are happy for too long of a time.

One of my favorite sections in all of Scripture are the Psalms of Ascent, of which my mind often drifts to Psalm 126-127. Psalm 126 reads:

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Our mouths were filled with laughter then and our tongues with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, 'the LORD has done great things for them. The LORD has done great things for us; we were joyful. Restore our fortunes, LORD, like watercourses in the Negev. Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy. Though one goes along weeping, carrying the bag of seed, he will surely come back rejoicing, carrying his sheaves. (CSB)

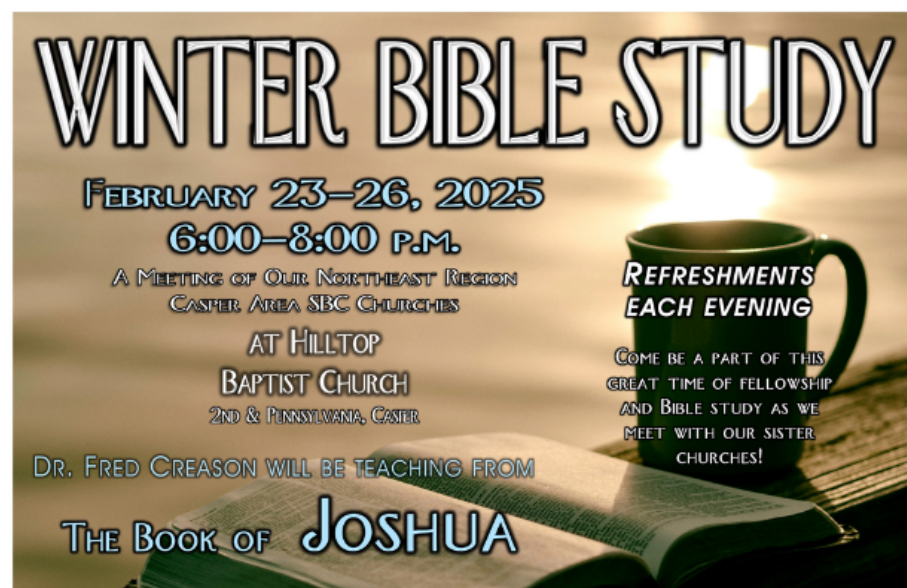
One translation of 126:3 reads, "God was wonderful to us; we were one happy people." I share these words with you brothers and sisters to encourage you to remember to take full, unashamed, and unmitigated joy in the GOOD things and GOOD gifts of God. Why? I think there are two primary reasons.

First, Good things in life are proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy. Coffee, Baseball, Kansas City BBQ, Avocados, The laughter of your children, the Love of your spouse, all stand as a glorious apologetic of the goodness of God. We error when we don't enjoy the GOOD God gives us.

Secondly, our failure to enjoy the "good" wont keep the "bad" from happening. We will still have the "bad" but with less enjoyment of the "good."

One way I'm learning to take more joy is through recording and rejoicing in the good. At least once a week I make a list of what I am taking joy in, and pray a prayer of thankfulness. If it feels like a week where the joy was hard to come by, I flip back to last week, and ask God to do it again. Remember to take joy this week friends.

I'm rooting for you!



Annie Armstrong material is in the mail



WSBMN GIVING		
	CP	SMO
NOVEMBER	\$29,881.68	\$12,352.27
DECEMBER	\$29,438.14	\$8,193.98
JANUARY	\$56,694.71	\$11,932.30



WSBMN CHURCHES THAT NEED A PASTOR

- CROSSROADS BAPTIST, DOUGLAS
- WRIGHT BAPTIST, WRIGHT
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BIG PINEY
- LANDER VALLEY BAPTIST CHAPEL, LANDER
- WINDCITY, MEDICINE BOW