

SNAPSHOT OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSIONS

The Great Commission and the Acts 1:8 missions model inform much of what Elkin Valley Baptist Church (EVBC) does and decides. EVBC has been a mission-minded church for many years now. In 2014 the church made a conscious decision to highlight and expand their mission emphasis. After careful prayer and consideration, EVBC put together a job description for their first ever pastoral position that had a major emphasis on missions and discipleship. While this was new territory for the church, it was consistent with their leading from the Lord.

The position of Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Missions provided an avenue for the church to invest in two key aspects of the church's calling and role in the community and in the world. In 2015 the church called Stephen Robbins to fill this role. Upon his arrival, Stephen found that the church had not waited to begin focusing on discipleship and missions, they were already engaged on both fronts in meaningful ways!

Concerning the trajectory of missions expansion, EVBC has truly blossomed and born consistent fruit. As of 2015, the church was concluding a 3-year partnership with a church plant in Washington state as well as taking annual trips to work with a NC Baptist partnership in Guatemala. Domestically, EVBC also took trips to work alongside churches in areas within a reasonable driving distance. These foundations for missions were the early building blocks for an expanding missions impact.

From 2015-2024 EVBC invested in staff, volunteers, and mission agencies in order to help "hold the rope" for missions. Over the past 10 years, Elkin Valley has partnered with church plants in Baltimore (since 2016), along the Texas/Mexico border (2016-2022), and Pittsburgh (since 2023). In the last decade, EVBC has sent teams to Guatemala (2014, 2015, 2016), Costa Rica (2022), Cuba (2023), The Dominican Republic (2023), and Belize (2024) in order to share the gospel with those who are in need of help and hope. The church has adopted an unreached people group in the Middle East affectionately known as "The Mountain People." In trying to reach the unreached, EVBC has sent teams 7 times (2017-Current) to the Middle East as well as continue to partner with missionaries and agencies trying to reach the unreached.

All of this travel has inspired our members to focus on the world "out there" as well as focus on local outreach and evangelism right where we are. We have a vibrant local outreach ministry that focuses on proclaiming the Gospel through a variety of avenues including: door-to-door visitation, a prayer tent at Walmart, food drives, evangelistic events, etc. The Great Commission starts at home and we don't want to neglect our own mission field. Our church members are serious about giving to missions (Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, NC Baptist, Cooperative Program, special emphases, etc.) and praying for missions. Every member is challenged to plug in through praying, giving, and going. Many of our members have taken up this challenge!

In addition to missions, discipleship has grown and developed at EVBC. Nothing advances personal spiritual growth more than sharing your faith! Evangelism is a core discipline for our

discipleship ministry. As listed above, evangelism is a key component of every mission partnership and outreach event that our church puts together.

Other areas of spiritual growth remain important at Elkin Valley. These include an intentional youth and children's ministry that prioritizes the Word of God and solid biblical teaching. Our young people have opportunities to interact with the Scripture every time they gather together. Additionally, every adult that participates in our Sunday morning Bible studies walks through particular books of the Bible on a regular rotation. On Wednesday evenings, we offer a list of classes available in both a fall and spring "semester."

On a personal level, discipleship takes place person to person. At EVBC we have multiple forums in which people can come together and grow in their own walk with the Lord while also being accountable to fellow believers. This takes place in our women's ministry, men's ministry, youth ministry, discipleship groups, etc.

Elkin Valley desires to see expansion in every meaningful category of discipleship and missions. We don't see this as a "ministry" of the church, we see it as our primary work of making disciples who make disciples.