



"...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1-2

# RACERUNNER REVIEW

VOL 9 SPRING 2023

FAITH BIBLE COLLEGE, NORFOLK, VA



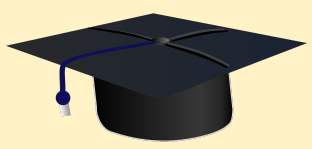
## Save the Dates!

**Shoe Drive**  
now thru April 15  
FBC drop-off

**Graduation**  
May 6 @ 11am  
Indian River  
Baptist Church

**Summer Course**  
starting May 16  
Preaching the Word/  
Foundations in Homiletics

**7th Annual Hap Cup**  
May 19 @ 8am  
Sewells Point Golf  
Course



## Faith Bible College

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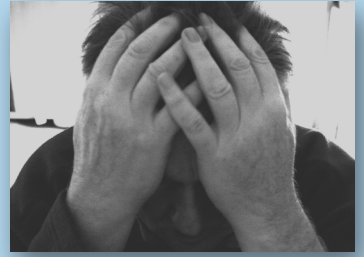
**Grounded in the Word, Growing in Christ, Giving Back to the Church**



# Eternal Encouragement

by Pastor Bryan Breland, Academic Dean

Our life on earth and with Christ is occasionally filled with loss, sorrow, suffering, trials, and tribulations. In seasons such as these, it is so easy to allow our circumstances to drive our emotional state. In fact, prolonged periods of depression and sorrow are part of the human experience. But what if there was another, better way? What if we could still experience joy and peace in the midst of our darkest hours? How can we experience joy and peace in seasons such as these?



## **Thankfully, as Christ followers, we don't have to be overcome or overwhelmed by the circumstances of life.**

We have the promises of God, secured by Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit to guide our response to difficult times. While the Scriptures are filled with encouraging passages for difficult times, the words of Christ in John 10:10 stand out as a singular point of encouragement. Following His statement that those who enter the "sheepfold" by Him will be saved (eternal life), Jesus makes an incredible proclamation of reality and life altering truth. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life (eternal & temporal) and have it more abundantly.**"

How do these simple yet profound words affect our response to difficult life circumstances? The "abundant life" Christ promises is not found in the things of temporal life which come and go. The life Christ promises is found in a complete satisfaction in Him which, when it comes never leaves. That satisfaction grows when we understand that the Father has granted us full rights as His child and, therefore, we are joint heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17). We are, therefore, heirs of God's eternal kingdom of which we will take full possession when we enter eternity. Our inheritance cannot be stolen or destroyed by the thief, and it cannot be lost.

**So, the next time we find ourselves in a season of loss, let us be reminded of what cannot be lost.** When we find ourselves in a season of depression over difficult circumstances, let us be reminded of the joy of our eternal life circumstances. When we find ourselves in a season of lacking, let us be reminded of the Abundant Life we have in Christ Jesus!

### **Prayer is vital to Faith Bible College**

*Our staff prays together every week. We pray for the College. We pray for our students and FBC community. We pray for our donors and those who faithfully pray for us. We pray for our families and friends. This is God's ministry.*

*We can only do our best if we have and follow His direction.*

*If you have prayer requests, specific or general, let us know. We would be honored to take you before His Throne of Grace.*

***I want to support FBC students to be Grounded in the Word, Grow in Christ, and Give Back to the Church***

*I have enclosed:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$1,000  \$2,000  \$5,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other*

*I give online at [www.faithbiblecollege.com](http://www.faithbiblecollege.com). If you regularly give online, thank you!*

*Would you like your gift to recur monthly? Check that option the next time you give online.*

*I would like to know more about Legacy giving. Please get in touch with me about details.*

*Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_*

*Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ I have a new address: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Please pray for me \_\_\_\_\_*

***You will receive a tax-deductible receipt for your gift. Thank you!***

# A World of Possibilities

Matt and Lydia Hall ended 2022 in Indianapolis by attending the Urbana Student Missions Conference, along with 5,500 other participants! For decades, young people seeking God's guidance for "all things missions" have been flocking to these Intervarsity-led conferences. Lydia, our Director of Student Life, and her husband Matt, both students at Faith Bible College, share their Urbana experience:



## ***What expectation/purpose did you have going into the conference? Were you able to fulfill that purpose?***

**(Lydia)** I did not have many expectations, though I had seen videos of Elizabeth Elliot speaking at Urbana, so I was hoping to hear from some missionaries like her. That expectation was met! We heard some wonderful testimonies of faith and of the strength and protection of the Lord! As for the purpose, Matt and I are continuing to seek wisdom in three areas of our life, so we tried to choose sessions that spoke to those areas. A session that was hosted by a wonderful missionary couple spoke directly into one of those topics and I was greatly encouraged by what they had to say... even the challenging statements. **(Matt)** I don't think I had many expectations going into the conference. This was my first time attending, but I had heard from others who had gone in the past, and they had nothing but great things to say about the conference. I can attest that the good things they had to say were more than true.

## ***What was the most fun about the conference?***

**(Lydia)** We both really enjoyed talking to the people running the various booths in the connection hall. There were so many creative ministries out there! **(Matt)** I most enjoyed being able to take a break from work, life, and school, and really focus on the content of the conference. It was also quite fun to go through all the sessions and lectures that were offered and plan out a schedule based on what we were interested in learning. Getting to see so many cultures represented throughout the entire week was also a blast.

## ***What did you appreciate the most?***

**(Lydia)** I appreciated the vulnerability of some of the missionaries who presented. There were some who wore red lanyards, indication that they work in high-risk areas so we were not to take any photos of them whatsoever. Those people could have easily chosen not to share at Urbana because of the possible risk, but they were bold in Christ and came anyway. **(Matt)** I appreciated all the people who had their own exhibits and booths, and how encouraging they all were. We were able to share our story and testimonies, and we received nothing but encouragement and support from everyone we talked to. Some of them were even able to relate their own experiences with ours.

## ***What was the biggest challenge of the conference?***

**(Lydia)** There was so much to choose from, and because we were sent by our church, I wanted to be sure to get the most out of the money that was graciously provided for us to be there. **(Matt)** The conference contained a lot of information, and we were only there for a certain amount of time. The challenge was deciding on what lectures and sessions to attend. Some of the speakers even compared the conference to an all-you-can-eat buffet and you had to choose what to put on your plate.

## ***What surprised you the most?***

**(Lydia)** I was surprised by our interactions with some of the people hosting a few of the booths. First, I enjoyed the people who told us what their ministries did and then got to know us as individuals. One man was so personable that after he heard our story, he referred us to a whole other ministry. Second, it was encouraging for me to hear that Matt and I's story was an encouragement to others! As we talked with the people from the booths, the reactions shared with Matt and I made me grateful to God for the way He brought us together! It gave me confidence that we will make an impact for the Kingdom of God on the mission field one day. **(Matt)** I was surprised to see how many different cultures were represented in the conference. They had worship songs from other cultures in different languages, as well as missionaries from all over the world giving their accounts and testimonies.

## ***What were your biggest takeaways?***

**(Lydia)** "If God calls the parents, He is calling their children as well." **(Matt)** There was so much information that I was able to absorb during the week, and to this day I am still reflecting on it all. I can confidently say that my eyes were opened to a much wider lens of the world of missions. I got to see how all types of people were able to contribute to the mission of God's kingdom.





# Show us your shoes!

We are so excited and appreciative to have 7 churches throughout Hampton Roads and the Peninsula, as well as a homeschool store, who have agreed to be drop-off locations for our shoe drive!

We are working with Funds2Orgs to raise money for FBC while supplying shoes to shop owners in nations in need. A win-win!

**You can drop off your shoes at our Faith Bible College office Mondays - Thursday from 9-4 through April 15.**

If you'd like to know which churches are involved or to see if your church can become involved, give us a call. 757-423-2095

(This could be a great kids or youth group competition or activity!)



## WHAT TYPES OF GENTLY WORN, USED, & NEW SHOES?

All types! For example...

Baby shoes

Kids Shoes

Work Shoes

Sport Shoes (including cleats)

Fancy Shoes

Winter Shoes

Summer Shoes

(Please no ski boots or skates)

## SHOE CONDITION?

JUST ASK YOURSELF, 'WOULD I BE COMFORTABLE PASSING THESE ON TO A FAMILY MEMBER OR WEARING THEM OUT IN PUBLIC?'

IF SO, THEY WILL HAVE ENOUGH LIFE LEFT IN THEM TO BLESS THE STORES OF THE MICRO-BUSINESS OWNERS RECEIVING THEM & PROVIDE MONEY FOR OUR COLLEGE!

THANK YOU!!!

## WHO ARE YOU SUPPORTING BY DONATING YOUR SHOES?

- Your shoes will provide funds for Faith Bible College to offer tuition discounts. This will directly impact our nontraditional students, including veterans, by aiding them in their pursuit for training in God's Word!
- Your shoes will be given a second life by providing a "hand-up" (not a hand-out) to micro-business owners in developing nations where shoes are the primary mode of transportation. They will use the shoes to stock their small stores & provide for their families!

HOW BEAUTIFUL ON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET OF THE MESSENGER WHO BRINGS GOOD NEWS, THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE AND SALVATION, THE NEWS THAT THE GOD OF ISRAEL REIGNS! -ISAIAH 52:7

## Summer already?

Yes! Faith Bible College is gearing up for summer with some new opportunities for you to join us!

~ We will be starting a **podcast** this summer featuring some of our FBC staff. Stay tuned for details!

~ Our on-campus/Zoom summer course, **Preaching the Word/Foundations in Homiletics** is designed to help with those who are interested in preaching. We will focus on the 'what' of developing expository sermons and the 'how' of clearly delivering messages in a way that captures and keeps people's attention. This 6-week course is offered for audit or 2 credits starting May 16.

~ Dr. Kevin Newman is developing a new online course covering the basics of **Christian Philosophy**. This will be a full 3-credit, 15-week course.

*More to come on these summer events!*

## Before the Throne of Grace

*We praise God for His faithfulness as He continues to help our students develop their relationships in the Lord and share Him in their wide variety of ministries!*

Over the next few months, please join our staff as we pray for...

... our students as they balance their home, work, and course loads, including our dual enrollment students as they handle college-level classes.

... faculty and staff to stay healthy as they balance their responsibilities and represent the Lord well in their work.

... scholarship funds for our veterans as we are no longer receiving GI Bill tuition assistance.

... terrific results for our shoe drive and praise for our host churches and businesses.

... new students to desire a solid biblical foundation through FBC discipleship and teaching.