



May - June 2019

## *5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the "Vista"*

It was five years ago this month that Dr. Paul Hoover, at the request of the Intermountain Baptist Fellowship, published the first "VISTA" paper. The paper has been used to inform and increase prayer among the churches. Many during these years have shared the blessings they have received by reading the "VISTA". Please continue to pray for the pastors and people of our fellowship of Bible-believing Baptist Churches.

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### NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - Lodge Grass, MT** The past year has been an incredibly exciting and trying time. This fall we celebrated 35 years of faithful ministry from Faith Baptist Church and the opening of our new auditorium. Praying that the faithfulness of His church will continue and grow in Lodge Grass and surrounding areas. Faith Baptist Church has seen some physical growth, both in numbers and in facilities. The new auditorium will continue to be a blessing as we move forward and finish it. Stage 2, the demolition and remodel of the old building, is nearing as Spring is upon us.

There have been many trials, delays, struggles as Satan tries to hinder our Lord's work at Faith Baptist. But do not lose heart. If we were not kicking his lair, Satan would not be bothered.

The trials started several years ago when we first entertained building a new auditorium. Delay after delay hindered our advance, but God continued to provide and lay the burden on my heart that, "Build" was something we must do. Looking back, I believe some of the delays were because, as a congregation, we just were not ready. God brought a new family to our congregation, through whom we met Roger Mullins of Craftsmen for Christ. Roger was used greatly by the Lord to build our auditorium. After seeing the tremendous amount of work done by "professionals," I believe we are all the more thankful for their help. God also continued to provide the finances, which five years ago we did not have. This congregation suffered a mighty attack which started the day that I took one of the volunteers to the hospital for a broken foot. That day, one of our faithful church families began a walk through a very dark valley which continues to this day. Please beg God for grace and wisdom for all involved as we trust in His divine purpose.

My mom was diagnosed with cancer somewhere in the midst of building teams and hurting families. I have made four trips to Michigan in the last six months. I thank the church family for standing in the gap as I was with her for her last month on this side of heaven. I feel privileged to be the pastor of Faith Baptist Church, and I look forward to seeing the Lord continue to work in our midst.

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH - Miles City MT** Greetings from Fellowship Baptist Church in Miles City Montana. The Lord continues to bless and pour out his goodness upon us. We had a wonderful Mother's Day celebration with a good number of mothers attending. After the service we gave out flowering plants to each of the mothers that came. It always amazes me how the Lord works things out. We always buy a few more plants than we think we need. This year we gave out every single plant. Now we are gearing up for our Kid's Club. This is our Vacation Bible School. Again the Lord blessed in allowing us to print up about 800 fliers to put in a take home packet for all the kids in the Elementary schools. Each year the Lord has opened this door of opportunity for us. Last year we had 52 different children attend with a high day of about 45. We are praying for at least 60 this year. Our Kid's Club is June 3-6. Please pray the Lord will bless in a great way.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – Cody, WY** Greetings from Cody, WY! May 22nd was the end of our 2019 school year and what a blessing it was to see our two kindergarten graduates. Our students memorized and recited 38 verses for the end of year program, and they sang a soul-stirring song about standing for truth. We look forward to the busy summer months in Cody, Wyoming as tourist season is in full swing. We will participate in our local 4th of July parade where we will create and ride in a float and, Lord willing, hand out many gospel tracks. That is only a small fraction of the many plans for the summer, but we are praising the Lord for the busy schedule and being able to do the Lord's work. We love you all and thank you for your prayers, and we continue to pray for you and your ministries. May the Lord bless you.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – Laurel, MT** Our annual Sportsmen Banquet was held on Friday evening April 5th. The meal contained the usual selection of wild and tame meats. Two men of the church presented talks that would interest sportsmen. Andy Jeffery spoke trapping opportunities in this area. J.D. Benson's subject was on the Taxidermy he does. They both honored Almighty God!! We were honored to have Pastor Dawson of Faith Baptist Church of Lodge Grass spoke and present a clear Gospel message of salvation! The Intermountain Baptist Fellowship Preaching Conference was held April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the efforts of IMBF Field Director, Paul Hoover, we had the best attendance in many years. There were Pastors & other full-time servants from Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, South Dakota and Idaho many who brought their families. The total pastors present was estimated at between 35 & 40. Pastor Richard Dion, who was pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Great Falls for 46 years and his wife and daughters were able to travel up from Colorado. He was honored by the IMBF with a Plaque in memorial of longest serving Pastor in the history of the Fellowship. Pastor Dion closed the conference reminiscing his years in the IMBF.

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH – Billings, MT** As we prepare for this coming Easter Sunday, I want to say what a privilege it is to serve our RISEN Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; and what an honor to do so with all of our Sister Churches within, as well as friends of, the Intermountain Baptist Fellowship. The work here at Grace Baptist Church in Billings (as many can relate I'm sure) is going slow, BUT steady. We are starting to see a fresh stirring in the hearts of some of our folks, including the Pastor, and I say praise God! If I can give just a quick word of encouragement; don't give up, don't give in, and don't give out as it will be worth it all!!!

**TRIUMPH BAPTIST CHURCH – Great Falls, MT** The Lord is Amazing. It is He that moves through us to achieve His Triumph. All For His Glory. At Triumph the Lord has led us to perform 85 baptisms in the 3 plus years we've been open. Several professions of faith through church services, food distribution, and most notably – 400 plus professions through the jail ministry. On Tuesday's our people meet to set up the food kitchen and feed between 30-40 people. We also have the food distribution going on right after the soup kitchen. Our food distribution provided food for over 3000 people in 2018. Master Club continues in full strength with 13 staff leaders and 30-40 kids attending every Wednesday night – our kitchen staff provides them with a hot meal before they go home. Our Bus Ministry brings in kids on Wednesdays and Sundays. Currently busy passing out tracts for 7 weeks ending April 20<sup>th</sup>, with our theme – "Go Ye Therefore" – reaching the Great Falls community. This last Summer we had a great time at camp with 60 kids attending and record number of staff workers with 22. We praise the Lord for 6 students that attend Mountain States Baptist College, which meets at our location. Our people get involved – 82% of our members are involved in a ministry. This month, our ladies are putting together our first annual ladies conference - titled – Extraordinary Ladies Conference. Lots of planning going on. God has brought several other blessings – we just stand in awe at what He is doing. "Jesus First"



for Independent Baptist Churches in the Mountain West United States

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Pastors of fellowship member churches can send news articles from their churches to Pastor Paul D. Hoover to be included in future issues of this newsletter. Contact Pastor Hoover: [pauldhoover@icloud.com](mailto:pauldhoover@icloud.com)