

telling our stories.

Speak Out!



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GOD'S GRACE
CED JAGGARD**

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TO AMERICA
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When I traveled to the Middle East and the Horn of Africa in November, none of us knew that serious global instability would reach new levels with events in Paris, Beirut, and more. Sitting in the airport in Doha, Qatar, watching the local news reports on the Paris attacks while messaging with people in the United States reminded me of just how globally connected our world is today.

When Jesus called us as witnesses to Him who make followers of Him wherever we go (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20), He placed before us both a privilege and a challenge. It is the privilege of joining God in His mission to rescue those lost in the meaninglessness of sin and evil, but it is also the challenge of standing for God in a world counter to His ways. The tension of this privilege and challenge is exactly where we find ourselves, as Peter so helpfully instructs us in his first letter, "to God's elect, exiles scattered through the provinces" (1 Peter 1:1). We are exiles for God.

The only way to live fruitfully for God in this tension is to become like the tree mentioned in Psalm 1 that goes deep with God, reaches wide for others, and multiplies the fruit of God's kingdom. That is why throughout this year we return again and again to the theme "deep - wide - multiplied." In a world that groans under the stress, cries out with the pain, and longs for hope, the people of God have good news of great joy for all people through Jesus the Messiah (Luke 2:10).

As we close one calendar year and open the page on a new one, let's all go deep, wide, and multiplied with God right where He's planted us and wherever He calls us, so that all might know real life found in Jesus Christ.

Matt Erickson
Senior Pastor



running

WINTER 15/16



This issue marks one year of telling our stories in this magazine so we thought it was time for a fresh new look. We want to extend special thanks to Eastbrookers near and far for compiling the images and stories found in this issue of Speak Out!

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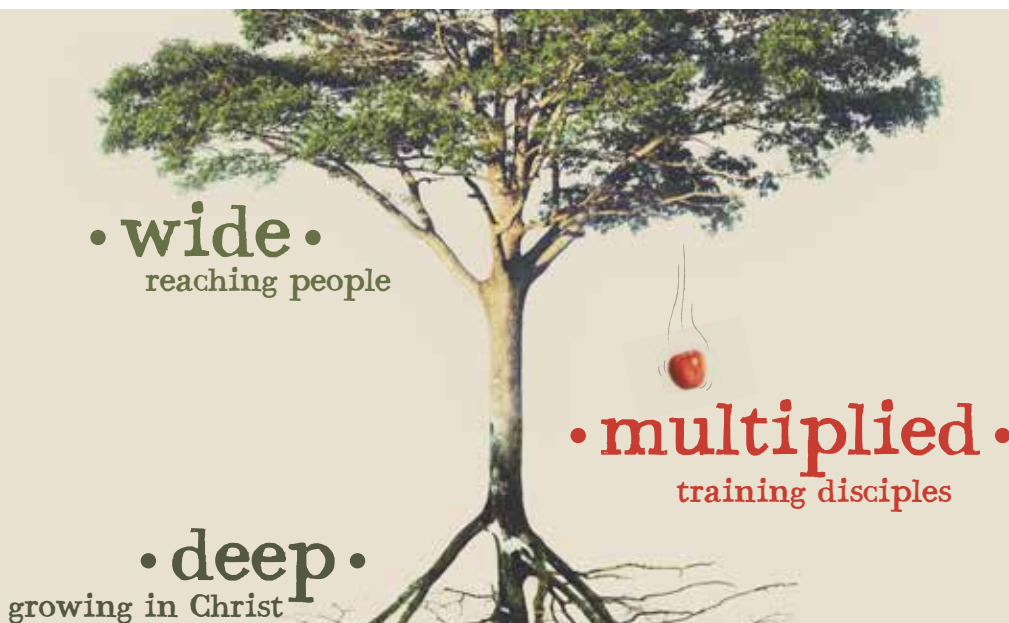
SPEAK OUT!

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STORY 100 Years of God's Grace: CED JAGGARD TURNS 100

by Sherri Teale

November 25, 2015 marked the 100th birthday of one of Eastbrook Church's original members, Cedric Jaggard. While Ced is no longer able to attend services at Eastbrook on the weekends, he and his wife Jean Dale are an important part of our church family. Sherri Teale recently wrote Ced's story:

Cedric Holman Jaggard was born on Thanksgiving Day 1915 in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, the first of two sons. His family later moved to Montclair, NJ where he would eventually meet his future wife.

Ced was homeschooled by his mother until he began kindergarten. His mother's education was mostly in the Quaker (Society of Friends) tradition, prominent in the Philadelphia area where she had grown up. Some of the Quaker emphases—simplicity, stewardship and others—filtered down to him through her. She went on to attend college in Massachusetts for the equivalent of the first two years of college today—not at all a common experience for women of her time. She impressed on him the importance of education, thus his love of it to this day.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting or knowing Ced, the following will let you in on a bit about his notable academic life:

- He received his BA from Dartmouth College, with a major in Greek
- He went on to attend Haverford College for a Master's Degree in Philosophy
- He studied abroad at the University of Basel, Switzerland for one year under the renowned theologian Dr. Karl Barth

- He attended Union Theological Seminary (NY) studying under Reinhold Niebuhr, Paul Tillich, and Cyril Richardson, and received his Masters of Divinity
- Ced went on to doctoral studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. He studied under Josef Hromadka, Otto Piper, Howard Kuist, John Mackay and Hugh T. Kerr, Jr. (to name a few)
- He received his Th.D from Princeton in 1950

One important thing not yet mentioned is Ced's 72+-year love affair with his wife, Jean Dale McGiffert Jaggard. They still live out their love of the Lord and their love for one another every day! They have three wonderful children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The following is an excerpt from Ced's memoirs:

"Both Jean Dale and I bear witness to our desire that Jesus Christ and his will be the supreme goal of our lives, individually and together. We have received many blessings from the people in our ministry at Valley Stream Presbyterian Church, New York; Westminster Presbyterian at Phillipsburg, NJ; Carroll College in Waukesha, WI; at First Presbyterian in Cedar Grove, WI as well as the First Presbyterian Church of Richfield, WI where I supplied the pulpit and did pastoral work for twenty-three years.

Along with my wife, I participated in two short-term team missions to Novosibirsk, Siberia. I also served as an Army Reserve chaplain for twenty-one years. In addition, I taught Bible in two of the colleges of my

denomination. Together these several strands of ministry have enabled me to participate and see the gospel at work in a wide variety of communities and other settings. Finally, I must mention also the richness of experience that I enjoyed in social ministry as administrator and teaming with Kim's husband, Marc, at Oakton Manor, Milwaukee—the final fifteen active years of formal responsibility. Throughout this time, the people I was sent to serve also served me in ways I cannot offer due gratitude.

Wherever one is, there are joys and challenges when Christ is in the picture."

Ced was actively involved in Eastbrook Church's Sunday Adult Bible Studies for many years, teaching several classes. About ten years ago, he was involved in the founding of the Theological Confab. This group of theologians and other believers (many from Eastbrook) still meet monthly to discuss and debate various topics of interest regarding their faith and the world today. While Ced no longer attends the meetings, he participates via conference technology and is able to impart his commentary thus.

At this time, Ced is busy putting the finishing touches on his book. He encourages lay Christians and theologians alike to find new ways of looking at the gospel and growing their faith. ■



Ced, his parents & brother Kenneth (1920s)



Ced & Jean Dale (1980s)



The Jaggard Family (2000)



Ced's 100th (2015)



This past summer, Eastbrook field workers returned home from all over the world! Whether home from East Africa, China, Asia or the Middle East, coming home means refreshment, reconnection and recharge. It was in this spirit that Gregg and Rawda Doolittle gathered for dessert with friends at Adam and Lisa Shidler's home on the evening of July 18. The Doolittles have been ministry partners with Eastbrook for over thirty years, serving the Lord by running Christian schools in the Palestinian West Bank cities of Hebron and Bethlehem.



Nancy teaching in Bethlehem

The Doolittles were only going to be in town for about 48 hours, but turned to Eastbrook to share a burden on their hearts. The Bethlehem school was in the midst of expanding the grade levels it would provide, but several of the English-speaking teachers they thought would serve at the school in the fall had suddenly pulled out. The school was in danger of having to offer classes not taught in English, a cornerstone of the education the schools provide, or worse having to turn families away! Even the Israeli government was on board to facilitate meeting the Doolittles' need with visas for teachers! Would Eastbrook, their faithful praying partner lift up this need and help spread the word?

The answer was a resounding "Yes!"...and then some. The Holy Spirit moved dramatically in people's hearts and within three days of their visit, Haley Quinn and her grandparents Marc and Nancy Erickson (Senior Pastor Emeritus of Eastbrook Church) had made the decision to join them in Bethlehem. Eastbrookers Jennifer Klukas, Rae Green, and Julie Dresser joined in the weeks to follow. ■

Now that **the "Bethlehem Six"** have been living, serving, and working overseas for a few months, we wanted to take this time to hear more about how these six individuals felt God's prompting to leave their lives here in Wisconsin, and serve.

marc & nancy

What made you decide to "go" to Bethlehem?

When I [Nancy] try to answer this question I think of Isaiah 6:8: *Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."* When Isaiah saw the Lord, he was unraveled. But when the Lord asked, Isaiah answered, *"Here I am, send me"*—that is my heart. I have seen the Lord and what He has done for me, I am so grateful, I just want to serve Him. Eastbrook has partnered with the Doolittles for 35 years, and when they came to share their urgent need for teachers for this year, I just felt God say, *why not you?* I had no good reason to say no, and a heart full of love to say, "Yes, here I am, send me." Within 3 weeks we had cleared our calendars, packed and were on our way!

Here we are, pinching ourselves. **Who saw this coming? Only God. It is like all of life. We can look at God's plan and provision and be thankful, or we can look at difficulties and grumble.** The school is prepared, furnished housing is available, students are eager to be taught and we are excited that God will still use us. To top it off,

we have the privilege of living and serving with one of our granddaughters. This is such joy to see God at work through her!

What has been most rewarding so far?

I am teaching 2nd grade. I have 9 eager students! 5 spoke almost no English and so had no reading or comprehension. That has been challenging both for them and for me. My daily prayer is that these children would experience the love and hope of Jesus in me every day, that they might not become discouraged. I think it is happening! Marc serves as chaplain to the staff. He shares the Word every morning before class starts. He has also been doing some writing, and making friends for Jesus around us. On top of all this we have had the privilege of Saturday night dates with [longtime field workers] the Plants! We feel rich in love!



haley

What made you decide to "go"?

I decided to go to because it sounded like an exciting opportunity to work in another country and see first-hand how God is working through Bethlehem Evangelical Academy.

What are you teaching?

I teach 4th grade and physical education for elementary students.

What has been most challenging so far?

Teaching! I just graduated, so I had no experience teaching elementary school before I decided to come. It has been a challenge to figure out how to be efficient in lesson planning, patient with classroom management, and calm in the midst of chaos.

What is the most rewarding part so far?

The most rewarding part of this experience so far has been developing relationships with the students, parents, and other teachers. It has been so fun to learn about and from all of them! They are all such sweet people. I have learned so much about others and myself while living here.



julie

What made you decide to "go"?

I felt like God was calling me to go.

The timing worked out, I had peace about raising support, I didn't have any plans set for this year and BEA was able to be flexible about my arrival. I am working as a Teachers Aide in a K5 classroom with another American teacher. I assist her throughout the whole day and I also lead the Bible lessons that the kids have twice a week. In the afternoons I help with the after school program.

What has been most challenging so far?

Teaching has been the most challenging part for me. I am not a trained teacher and in many ways I do not feel like it is a strong suit for me. However, I am very thankful that I am able to be in a more secondary role as a teachers aide to another American teacher.

What is the most rewarding part so far?

Gaining the love of the twenty 5-year-olds in my class and watching them learn and grow has been very rewarding. I also love living here, walking around the town. Getting to know my neighbors and enjoying Arab hospitality is a wonderful blessing.



jennifer

What made you decide to "go" to Bethlehem?

I decided to go to Bethlehem after asking for God to make it abundantly clear where He wanted me to go. I knew I wasn't going to stay in Milwaukee forever. I chose Bethlehem after I "accidentally" ended up at a missions meeting at Adam's house that I thought was a party!

What has been most challenging?

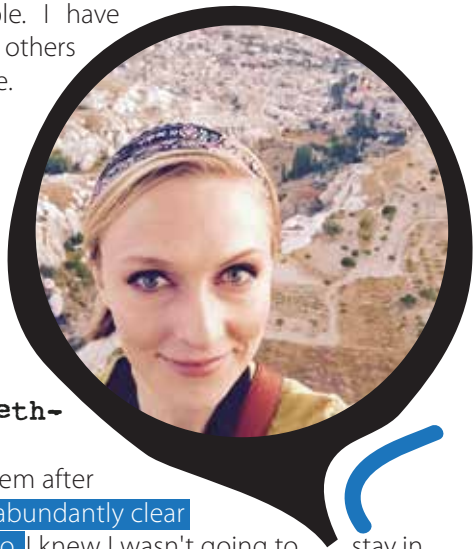
The most challenging part has been gaining control over a class of 26 six-year-olds. In a different culture.

What are your responsibilities

I teach first grade. It's great! Challenging, but great!

What is the most rewarding part so far?

The most rewarding part, for sure, is teaching a concept, and having a student understand that idea. Especially the student who is struggling with English.



rae

What made you decide to "go"?

I came to Bethlehem following God's lead, there's really no other way to describe it. It happened in less than three weeks from beginning to end and I never thought of [what a big deal it was until] getting off the plane in Tel Aviv.

What has been most challenging?

Not understanding what people are saying and the fact that I can't just walk out my house and go where I want.

What are your responsibilities

I am responsible for teaching 5th grade English, Reading, and Writing, U.S. History and Geography, Religion and Character Training and I co-teach Math, 4th grade Reading, and 4th and 5th grade Phy Ed. Wow, now that I've said it, that why I'm tired!

What is the most rewarding part so far?

Most rewarding is what God is working in me. My students, their parents, my colleagues, neighbors, and even cab drivers recognize and honor the God in me.



turning points

by Sameh Atef

I grew up in a Christian family in Minia, in upper Egypt. I am the second of four brothers. My parents raised us, all the time telling us that there is a place called heaven, and place called hell. They encouraged us to go to church and told me to be a good man in order to be with Jesus in eternal life.

TURNING POINT: FINDING JESUS

When I was 13, my older brother changed. Suddenly I found him taking his Bible to his room, closing the door, reading, and praying. I asked him what changed and he told me he started to attend a youth meeting in an evangelical church.

Around this time, in October 1992, there was a 5.9 magnitude earthquake in Egypt. Many people died, and I was very scared of dying. One night, I had a vivid dream that Jesus came back. I woke up at 4 am and I thought that Jesus had left me. I told myself that if I found my grandfather, everything would be okay because he was a strong believer. So I walked very slowly to his room and I opened the door and he was there and I felt relieved—*thank you Jesus, you gave me a chance to follow you!*

I went with my brother to the youth meeting with all of these fears and thoughts about death. After the meeting, I met someone who would become one of my good friends, and he shared a new thing with me. He shared with me how to receive Jesus as savior in my life. He taught me how to pray, about salvation and how to be a child of God. He asked me to pray with him, to confess my sins and ask Jesus to be in my heart. After that prayer, my life changed. Totally changed.

TURNING POINT: WIDENING THE HARVEST

For the next few years, I was all the time for Jesus. I led worship at my church and I finished my studies in the university. I wasn't thinking about anything except Jesus, just studying and serving God, visiting my friends, visiting other villages, telling everyone about Jesus.

During this time, God talked to me about missions and how to be missional. After leaving my town to work in Cairo, God started to teach me how to be a missionary. He planted in my heart how to serve Him and take His gospel to all the nations. My vision became wider. It had been just in my city, and after going to Cairo, God started to open my eyes about the wide harvest.

In August 2008, I was working as a mechanical engineer in a very good company and I had a second turning point in my life. I felt God calling me to leave my work, my family, and my comfort zone to be a missionary. I traveled to Lebanon to go to a discipleship training school and then do outreach in Syria. There, I met my friend Chris Bryan. After some time, I came back to Egypt with a very passionate

heart towards lost people. I wanted to reach them for Jesus. I came back to Egypt and gave all of my time to Jesus as a full-time missionary.

But when I came back to Egypt, I heard Jesus tell me that I had to go back to work—that He wanted to use me while I'm working. So, I worked in Cairo again and this time I found my second half, my wife Rania. We were married in October 2011.

TURNING POINT: A VISION OF AMERICA

While I was attending a Missions conference with Kasr El Doubara Church, I had a dream that I was in America, visiting my friends. In my dream, I was in Nashville with my friend Amir. I told him that God sent me especially to pray for him and for America. In my dream we traveled to see another friend, Emad, in California, to pray for him.

The next day in the conference, I ran into Emad! He had come from America. The same day, the leader of the conference led us in a prayer to ask God where He wanted to send us. As I closed my eyes and I remembered my dream, I was laughing to myself, *America is so far—America, how can I get a visa—it's impossible!* But I said "Amin" (Amen in Arabic). I don't know how, but Amen, I will pray for that.

I applied for a visa and I got it! I went to Nashville, just as I saw in my dream. I came with expectation that God would use me in America. It was hard to leave my family—I was married and my daughter Lulu was only 6 months old—but I had a very clear vision that God wanted me to come to America. When I came, I saw the same roads that I saw in my dream. It was exactly the same!

I started to settle in to the hardest season of my life. I applied for asylum because I had a lot of troubles with Muslim extremists in Egypt. I asked about becoming licensed to be an engineer but I was told to forget it. I was told I would never be an engineer in America, that I would be lucky to work in retail. So, I started to work in a restaurant cleaning floors. It was so hard for me to accept that—I came to be a missionary and an engineer but it seemed impossible to be an engineer or to serve God as a missionary by cleaning floors.

I was talking to God. *Why did you call me and invite me to come to America? To put me in this troubled place? This hard life? I can't accept that.* And God was silent. It was a hard time. He was testing me. He wanted to teach me something I would only understand later. I only worked for 3 weeks and the restaurant was sold to a new owner who let me go. I tried to find work but couldn't find anything. My asylum case didn't get called up, as I was expecting.

At this time, I doubted, thinking I heard something wrong. I moved from Nashville to Virginia to Clarksville, Tennessee, finally finding a job working in a convenience store. I was struggling. I cried out to God, *You told me that I would be missionary and that I would tell Americans about your love and encourage their faith, and how am I doing that by selling tobacco and beer to people?*

TURNING POINT: GOD'S TIMING

After 8 months, at the end of 2013, I decided to leave my job in the convenience store to fast and pray. For 2 weeks, I ate nothing. Then I had a call from Chris Bryan, my old friend from Lebanon, who was at home in Milwaukee. He told me, "I can't believe you've been here for 8 months and I haven't called yet to invite you to come to Milwaukee." But I knew why he hadn't called until then—because of God's timing. The timing of God may look like it's very late, but it is always exactly right. For us, sometimes we feel impatient, but He wants us to be patient and He wants us to keep trusting Him even in the most difficult times. This is the exam for our faith.

Chris told me about Pastor Adam Shidler and Eastbrook's work with the International Language Center and Tutoring (ILCT). When he told me that, I thought maybe the ILCT was my last chance to stay in America because if I could not find work, I needed to return to Egypt.

I arrived in Milwaukee and thanked God! For the first time since coming to the States, I met Christian believers who were American. When I came and saw the church, I felt peace—*finally, God!* I knew that this would be my place. I started to work with Adam in the ILCT. So many Eastbrookers helped me with prayers, with how to build my resume in an American format, in so many ways! But after 3 months of searching for work, I still hadn't found anything. I was volunteering at the ILCT, trying to find work.

After two more months, I felt like I couldn't continue. I missed my wife and daughter (who at this point was three years old), I felt like my engineering degree was useless here, and I decided to go back to Egypt for good. I knew that God wanted me to continue in America but I couldn't do it. I was weary, I was empty, my power was limited and I was out of energy. So I found a very good job as an engineer in Egypt. I told my Milwaukee friends that God wanted me to continue here in America and they prayed with me, but we were not able to find any work or practical help to help me to continue living here.

TURNING POINT: THE POWER OF PRAYER

I booked a ticket to go to Egypt in July 2014, and I spent the week before I left buying gifts to take back to my friends and family. I told Adam that I was leaving and he prayed with me. I said goodbye to my friends, and prayed with many of them—they didn't want me to leave. At this time I felt the power of prayer like I've never felt it before—how prayer can change reality. My ticket was booked for a Monday and the Thursday before, I had a call from a recruiting company. They called me and told me the owner of an engineering company in the Milwaukee area would call the next day. As promised, on Friday, this man called me. I told him I was from Egypt and

I was in Milwaukee because God sent me here. He asked what I was doing here and I told him I was getting ready to go back to Egypt but I had been serving God with Eastbrook Church, leading worship and working at the ILCT. He was surprised and asked me if I was a Christian? I told him, "Yes." "Wow," he said. "That's very interesting. Can you come to meet me today in my office?" I hadn't sold my car yet, and I had nothing else to do so I told him I could. We



finished the professional interview quickly. He turned to me and said, "Sameh, I am a Christian too. My family and some co-workers and I have been praying for 6 months for God to bring us a Christian engineer to work here." I was stunned. I had been in Milwaukee for exactly 6 months, searching for work. I was hired, and for the last 15 months, I have been working in his company as an engineer. God redeemed all of the time I lost and He has blessed me with very good things.

FAMILY PORTRAIT

A family, soon to be reunited after years apart. Clockwise: Sameh and Rania, Sameh with Lulu in 2012, Lulu now.

"THIS IS THE TIMING OF GOD: JUST WHEN I HAD TRIED EVERYTHING AND FAILED, GOD INTERVENED IN MY STORY."

It's like when Jesus went to His disciples and they had been fishing all night without catching anything. Then Jesus told them go to into the depth, and they would find fish, which they did. He did that with me—the same thing.

Praise God, my asylum case is closed and my family has filled out the proper paperwork with the embassy. Now, we are just waiting for their visas to come and then they will be here, and we will finally be reunited after almost 3 years apart.

I am still praying for the American people. I see myself as a missionary first, engineer second. I'm here in America, and here in Milwaukee, because God wants me to be here. I'm not searching for possessions, not searching for comfort, I'm just here to be in His will. ■

GET TO KNOW AN eastbrooker

JOHN SICZKA has been at Eastbrook since 1996, leading and serving in a variety of ministries throughout the years. Let's help make our big church feel smaller as we get to know John.

When did you accept Christ as your Savior?

I received Christ as Savior as a freshman at Virginia Tech. I heard about a student ministry called Campus Crusade for Christ and I was struck by the 300 students worshipping and praising a God I did not know. These students had a relationship with God. Their faith was alive, and I wanted that. The God I knew was good, powerful, and protecting but not personal. After the gathering, a student shared how I could have a relationship with God, and the Gospel finally made sense. My parents' faithfulness in having our family attend Sunday School and church in my youth laid the foundation for my conversion. But I needed to see people my age who had a relationship with Christ and were alive. I saw that at the meeting. My reliance on God grows more and more as I realize I can't fix or do things under my own power.

How did you first get involved at Eastbrook?

I moved to Milwaukee in August 1996. I didn't know anyone and had no family

here, and God led me to Eastbrook Church. I started attending the Friday night College and Early Career Age ministry weekly gatherings on the UWM campus.

I began leading one of the Bible studies soon after I started attending. I started teaching Sunday School and Youth Group after I had kids, and I have been serving on the parking team [now called the Safety Team: see sidebar] since Fall 1996.

What are the most challenging and most rewarding parts of serving?

The most challenging part of serving for me is extending myself too much. That is, serving in too many roles and not doing a role well due to being over-extended. I've gotten better at that over the years.

The most rewarding parts of serving for me are serving God, helping people, meeting people, and developing relationships with people.

I find that as I bless others, I am richly blessed in return. God fills my heart with a joy that only He can provide. God forces me to rely on Him because life is messy.

Tell us a little about your work & family...

Annalisa and I (at right) met at Eastbrook through the College and Early Career Age ministry and have been married for

17 years. We have three children, Jacob (14), Kellen (11), and Molly (9). They are a joy for us, and we thoroughly enjoy raising them together. My wife serves as the nurse at Eastbrook Academy, and all three kids attend Eastbrook Academy.

I'm an environmental engineer for CH2M which is an international engineering consulting firm. I primarily work on municipal wastewater treatment projects that include studies, planning, and design. It's fulfilling meeting a basic need for people: clean water.

What is your Life Verse?

I have three! Philippians 2:3-11, Leviticus 11:45 & John 14:1.

Anything else you want us to know?

I really appreciate the diversity at Eastbrook Church. It is the secret sauce that makes Eastbrook special and sets it apart from many other churches. It gives us a glimpse of how heaven will be with people from every tribe and nation. ■



ABOUT THE NEW SAFETY TEAM

Watch any news broadcast and it will become clear that safety is more important than ever. Unfortunately, churches are not immune from these issues. Even though our Safety Team (formerly the Parking Team) and Safety Officers help monitor our buildings and parking lot during the weekend worship services, when it comes to safety on the Eastbrook campus, everyone plays a role. The good news is you don't have to be a safety expert to play a role, just apply common sense. Remember:

- If you see something, say something
- Please don't leave valuables in plain sight in your car

Know that we are working behind the scenes to ensure that Eastbrook Church is a safe place 24/7. If you have any questions regarding this update or would like to serve on the Safety Team, contact Executive Pastor Michael Ford, mford@eastbrook.org.

