

Wade Allen
Lead Pastor

David McEuen
Pastor of Family & Worship

John O'Connor
Pastor of Community Engagement

Ron Fields
Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

A Long TIME Coming

Wade Allen
Lead Pastor

As most of you know, our family moved here to Northwest Arkansas after serving for twelve years as missionaries in the Republic of the Philippines.

Our time in that country was blessed with many deep friendships! The individuals in this picture are a few of my dear friends. I'd like to take a moment to tell you more about them.

On the far right is Dr. Edna Oli who has been serving as the Academic Dean of the BMA Bible College in the Philippines for many years. I had the privilege to serve alongside her from 2009-2014.

The other four gentlemen (left to right: Joemel Samson, Ricardo Gicana, Steve Abalos, and Monico Gomez) are some of our BMAP pastors and teachers at BMABC. More than that, these men are my friends and brothers—men with whom I have walked through difficult times and

never had to doubt their love, friendship and loyalty—godly men of integrity.

In developing countries, fully accredited colleges and universities are more of an anomaly rather than the norm. These men were convicted of their need for an accredited degree, so they commuted back and forth from Bacolod City to



Cebu City for several years in order to earn their bachelor's degree. This was no small feat, because the trip (one-way) included 3-4 hours by bus, then 2 hours by boat, followed by 3-4 more hours by bus! This required a special level of commitment!

Thankful for the education they had received but aware that they needed to continue their education, these men were offered a chance to earn their Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology from the BMA Theological Seminary in Texas. Back in 2009, long before the proliferation of Zoom meetings, we transformed a portion of my office space in Bacolod City into an interactive

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My Limited TIME on Earth

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

I am turning 40 this year. It's kind of a cool age for me. For young people, I am old and over the hill. For more seasoned people, I am still just a young pup. I really do feel like I am in the middle of life.

With that revelation for me has come some evaluation of what I have done with this life. What's the good, what's the bad. And one of things I have found myself thinking about most is this: Was I a good friend? Did I improve the community that God put me?

I want to encourage you to read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, but focus specifically on verse 11. It says "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

This section talks about the limited time we have left on this earth, and that the Day of the Lord is not that far off. We are not to be people full of wrath, but rather we are to be kind and encouraging to one another. None of us knows the amount of time we have left on this earth—nor do we know how much time the people around us have left.

Encourage one another, build each other up, and share the gospel. That is what being a good friend looks like.

Daily TIME in the Word

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

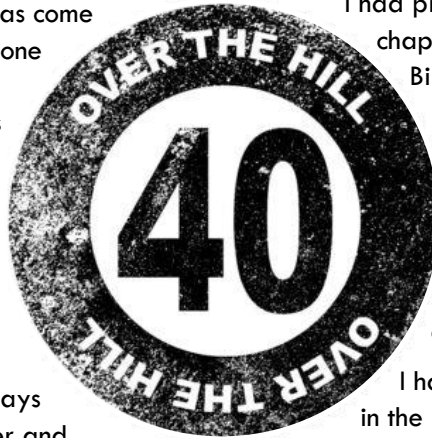
I have always had a love of reading. As a child I read everything in our school library. About once a month I would check out a dozen or so books from a traveling bookmobile. Favorites were Zane Grey Westerns!

I had probably not read more than a chapter or two, here and there, in the Bible until I was in my 20's. For the past several decades I have read the Bible through each year. I begin my day with four chapters every morning. Later in the day, the Scripture is compared with other Scriptures and devotional commentaries are also examined.

I have discovered that what is written in the Bible never grows old, that every reading brings fresh insight and exciting discoveries. Scripture became questions answered, problems solved, and messages delivered.

Currently our pastor is digging deep into the Book of Luke, seeking the theme and letting the words and actions of our Lord inform, challenge, inspire and encourage. I hope you are allowing the Word to transform as you give attention to it.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)



Waiting for the TIME to Come Is Hard

David McEuen

Pastor of Family and Worship

In a few short weeks, summer break will begin and students and teachers alike will be sleeping in, eating snacks, swimming, and having all manner of adventures. All they have to do is make it to the break—but that can be a tough because waiting is hard.

This is a lesson that I've been working through with my son lately. If you think waiting is hard for adults, I can assure you it's downright unbearable for an almost three-year-old. Especially when it comes to wanting to see his favorite person—Mommy.

The other night he desperately wanted to see Mommy but couldn't for one reason or another. I was doing my best to try and help him calm down but nothing seemed to help. Finally, I looked at him and calmly said, "I'm sorry, buddy. I know waiting is really hard. I know you want to see Mommy but we can't right now. We have to wait.



But she will come. Did I say she would NOT come? No, I didn't. You WILL see her. She is coming...we just have to trust and wait for a minute."

In that moment, I believe the Spirit of God not only calmed my son but reminded me of a beautiful truth. Yes, waiting is hard but it is not without purpose and it does not negate God's promises. God uses seasons of waiting to build our trust in Him. And in our waiting and our longing, He does not leave us alone but comes alongside us to comfort our hearts and remind us of the Truth of His Word.

So, the next time you find yourself in a season of waiting, remember that God always has a purpose for the waiting. It might not be clear at first but if you will seek Him and trust Him, it might just make waiting a little easier...even if you are waiting for the summer to arrive.

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video classroom for the seminary. I had the privilege of serving these brothers as a Teaching Assistant (proctoring exams, answering questions, etc.). These men persevered in this effort and they received the reward for their labors this past month! Now, I not only call them friends and brothers, but they are also fellow alums!

I want to thank the faculty and staff at BMA Theological Seminary for their willingness to think

outside the box to provide this vital training to men who will multiply it among their countrymen!

And as a result of their commitment to continuing their education and a great deal of work on the part of the administration of the school, CHED (Philippine's Commission for Higher Education) granted full accreditation to BMABC for a BA in Bible and BA in Religious Education—fulfilling a long-term goal of all of us who were teachers in this school. Praise the Lord for His blessings!

Mark Your Calendars
UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 30** **CBC Singers—Morning Worship**
 Fifth Sunday Fellowship
 12:00 PM
- May 1** **Ladies Bible Study**
 6:30 PM
- May 4** **Christian Seniors**
 12:00 PM
- May 13** **Reddin Studios Piano Recital**
 10:00 AM
 Allen Studios Piano Recital
 3:00 PM
- May 14** **Mother's Day**
 Community Group Meetings Dismissed
- May 15** **Ladies Bible Study**
 6:30 PM
- May 21** **2023 Graduate Recognition**
 Morning Worship Service
- May 21** **Singing Men of Arkansas Concert**
 3:00 PM—Bella Vista Presbyterian Church
- May 29** **Singing Men Memorial Day Concert**
 Fayetteville National Cemetery
- June 1** **Christian Seniors**
 12:00 PM
- June 4-8** **Vacation Bible School**
 6:00 PM—Sunday thru Thursday
 Community Group Meetings Dismissed
- June 18** **Father's Day**
 Community Group Meetings Dismissed
- July 2-5** **SOAR—National Student Conference**
 Gaylord Texan—Grapevine, Texas
- July 9** **TSM—Chef's Auction**
 6:00 PM
- July 31—** **Ozarks Baptist Encampment**
August 4 Camp Siloam—Siloam Springs, Arkansas



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