



WOMEN'S RETREAT

A BETTER WORLD

We all want a better world.

We know things need to change. We worry about what kind of world, country, city, our kids will be growing up in. This is a concern I have often heard voiced by people of faith. And this is a real concern. I pray that my grandkids will have peace and blessings in their time on this earth.

Yet, as I read Scripture, it appears to be silent on this matter. In fact, it reveals that the condition of the world and the nations will continue to worsen as mankind embraces its idols. Idols fashioned, for the most part, by love of self.

There is one thing that Scripture is not silent on, and that is the condition of God's people. The condition of our minds and hearts. God is most interested in the things going on inside us, not the things going on outside us. As a matter of fact, he delights in using the things going on outside to change our insides.

God is telling us that we build a better future for our children by changing ourselves. The world is not ours to change, we are. The Apostle Paul puts it this way:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Romans 8:28-29 NIV)

If we want to build a better world for our kids, we start by building better selves. Our children do not face an uncertain future, there is certainty in Christ. But this certainty begins with us. Will we demonstrate this by being people who love unconditionally, and are filled with joy? Will we be a family of peace and contentment, caring for others more than ourselves? Will our speech build up and not break down? Will we be a people of hope and not fear? Will we trust God?

Our children do not need a better world. They need a better us.

~ Pastor Tom

"Putting the Pieces Together" was the theme for our 2024 Women's Retreat — an intentional time of reminding women who attended that, as we live out our lives, every piece of our life has to have Jesus as the centerpiece. When we work to follow Jesus, we realize we can't accomplish this alone. We need one another, the church, to help us to grow in love and knowledge of our Savior, Jesus.

We learned through four women's testimonies to empathize. By hearing of a pivotal time in their lives when following Jesus changed their responses, we were reminded of Jesus' active role in our own lives. We grew in the desire to love and help one another through the mountains and valleys of life.

Not every lesson during the retreat was given in words. We also spent time being challenged to use our minds in new exciting ways. An "escape room" culminated in the reminder that God's Word is our most precious treasure. Solving the escape room required working as a team and using each other's skills to accomplish the challenging task.

We also got to know each other by putting personalized information on puzzle pieces that each contained a photo of one attendee. On Sunday morning, we got our own puzzle piece back and fit it with all the others around one puzzle piece with the name Jesus in the center. It was a powerful visual to demonstrate that each of us fits into the beautiful puzzle that is our church. The puzzle did not have a border to remind us that our influence and lives go well beyond the church, into a world that needs Jesus.

We worshipped in both English and Spanish. Beautiful songs of faithfulness to our Lord. Loving prayers for each other and in gratitude that we are daughters of a King. We also had activities and demonstrations that helped us "put pieces together."

The weekend went by so quickly! We ran out of time to discuss everything we wanted. In response, we are planning a follow-up event on Friday, November 8, 6-8pm. We invite all women to join the fun! If you attended the Retreat, you will add to your experience. If you weren't able to attend the Retreat, you will see photos and videos, and capture some of what was experienced. We think it will be a valuable use of your time (and we'll feed you free pizza)!

~ Jennifer Miles



TRUNK OR TREAT

Despite the weather forecast of rain, we had none! Just some while setting up! Praise Jesus for answering prayers. We had over 100 kids even with a such a rainy afternoon prior. We had many volunteers who poured so much time and effort in planning and creating. Thank you to everyone!!! ~ Vera Hallman



NEW BABY



OWEN SAMOIL BEJAN

Born 10.25.24
8lbs, 13 oz
20.5"

Parents: Danny & Bethany Bejan
Grandparents: Tom & Jennifer Miles

NEW MEMBERS



TIM & BREE WATT
Welcomed 9.29.24

Free fresh salmon was given away by Outgrowing Hunger in our parking lot on October 22 & 30. WVBC is often asked to help with these types of events, due to our reputation as a church that values community.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

A beautiful October sunrise greeted our morning of fellowship at the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, October 19. Thirty-two men joined for an excellent protein-filled breakfast, Spirit-filled testimonials of personal response to last month's Men's Retreat at Camp Jonah, and the sharing of gratitude to God for His good gifts and presence with us in this past year. We also emphasized upcoming opportunities to serve at the Camp Jonah Service Project on November 9, the Fall Service Day on November 23, and in the kitchen at the Silent Auction on December 7. Contact Craig Crandall for information. Our time together closed lifting up prayer for one another and the church as we shared life with those at our respective tables. Much thanks to our cooking team and those who remained for cleanup! We look forward to our next breakfast in early February!

~ Craig Crandall

November
BIRTHDAYS

BLOCKED FOR
PRIVACY

ANNIVERSARIES