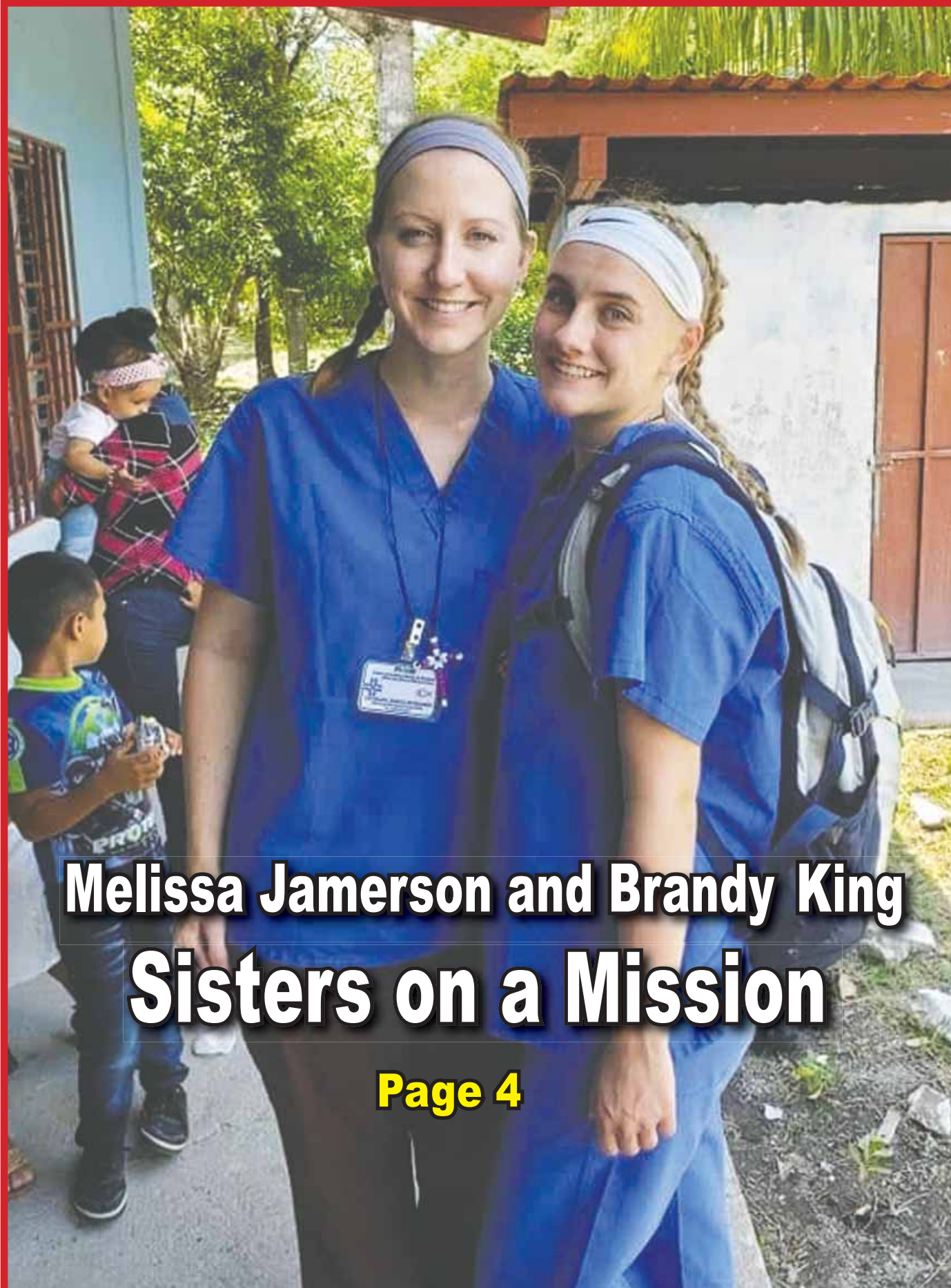


# Buckingham

## Beacon

February 14–March 12, 2020

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Sisters on a Mission**

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Melissa Jamerson and Brandy King were a great sister team as they supported each other throughout the nine day mission trip to Honduras. Submitted photo

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

## Buckingham Beacon

A monthly publication

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**General:** *Buckingham Beacon* is published monthly by Valley Publishing Corp. It is the only paper that covers Buckingham County exclusively. 5,000 copies are circulated throughout the county per issue. One copy is free, additional copies are \$1 each payable in advance to the publisher.

**Display ad rates:** For information including rates and deadlines call Judi Price at 434-207-0223.

**Subscriptions:** Copies will be mailed for the subscription price of \$40 per year. Please mail a check and a note with your name and address to: *Buckingham Beacon* Subscriptions Dept., P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA 22963.

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# Bailey Gentry Wins the Spelling Bee

By Sue A. Miles  
Correspondent

Imagine standing on stage in front of your peers, parents, family, and teachers and being asked to spell the word diaphoresis. That was the winning word that fourth grader Bailey Gentry spelled correctly at the annual Buckingham County Public Schools Spelling Bee in January to earn first place for the school division. Held at the Buckingham Middle School, students in grades three through eight competed for the honor of representing Buckingham in Richmond at the state level Scripps National Spelling Bee. We wish Bailey the best in her next level of competition when she competes in May. Shown with Bailey is Dr. Daisy Hicks, superintendent of Buckingham Public Schools.

### • Central Va Gold Prospectors Meetings:

Meeting on Feb 15 10:00am at VFW Hall  
Meeting on March 21 10:00 am at VFW Hall

• **The Buckingham Triad meets second Thursday of every month at 1:30pm at the Buckingham VFW building off of Route 60.** "Triad is based upon the partnership between the Office of the Attorney General, police chiefs, sheriffs, older Virginians, and senior service providers. Triad provides a forum to exchange information and forge community solutions that combat crime through education and prevention. " In a nutshell, "reducing crime against the elderly"

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## BUCKINGHAM FOOD PANTRY CALENDAR

### BLUE RIDGE FOOD TRUCK

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February: Friday Feb. 14 and  
Friday, Feb. 28

Weather permitting  
(2nd and 4th Friday's)

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1ST and 3rd Saturday of  
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# Chamber Honors Community Servants & Businesses

## Kemps, McRae-Jones, Agee and Windy Hill Pet Care receive accolades from community

### Press release

The Buckingham Chamber of Commerce honored four community leaders and one business during its Annual Awards Banquet for Chamber Year 2019.

Bill and Judy Kemp received the Lifetime Achievement Award, while Donna McRae-Jones was named Volunteer of the Year. Trevor Agee received the Youth Achievement Award and Windy Hill Pet Care owners Jon and Kristen Ober received the Business of the Year Award.

The event was held Tuesday, Jan. 21 at the Buckingham VFW Hall. The annual event celebrates businesses, Chamber accomplishments, new members, year-long activities, among the award winners.

"It is with great pleasure that I nominate Bill and Judy Kemp for the Buckingham Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award," wrote Sue Miles, who nominated the couple. The letter was read by Piedmont Area Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Jayne Johnson. "The story of Bill and Judy Kemp is one that is guaranteed to inspire others. Their drive and determination to serve their fellow men and women is obvious as you hear about their life journey and volunteer work. Whether it's here in Buckingham County or literally across the United States, they have a story to tell," Miles wrote.

While the Kemps moved to Virginia in 1974 and Buckingham in 2008, their service to their communities has spanned many decades.

"In 1988, after learning about the national Habitat for Humanity program, through a Reader's Digest article, both Judy and Bill agreed that this program and its principles worked for them. Working with Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Greg Gregory, in Ashland...they began laying the groundwork for Hanover Habitat for Humanity. They also became involved with volunteer work in Appalachia, with an ecumenical organization called Christian Appalachian Project. This project brought volunteers into Appalachian communities for home repair and reconstruction," Miles wrote.

Miles said the couple became involved in Habitat 'builds' and started caravanning with others who were known as Habitat Care-a-Vanners. "A bit like gypsies, they traveled from coast to coast. South in the winter, north in the summer; building Habitat houses in 29 states. "When the Kemps decided they needed a home base, lucky for us, it was Dillwyn. Along with continuing their volunteer work in Appalachia, the Kemps now are working with the Piedmont Area Habitat for Humanity (formerly known as Farmville Area Habitat for Humanity) and specifically



Pictured are 2019 Chamber Award winners Donna McRae Jones, Trevor Agee, Judy and Bill Kemp, and Kristen and Jon Ober, owners of Windy Hill Pet Care. Photo courtesy of Jordan Thomas Miles III

the Buckingham County affiliate."

"The Kemps are a great example of what caring people can do to make our community a better place," Miles wrote. "Simply put, there are well over 100 families throughout the United States that are now living in decent homes because of the Kemps."

McRae Jones was nominated by Thomas Jordan Miles III for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

"Donna's selflessness, her dedication to her fellow man, and her willingness to donate her time for the betterment of the lives of others, serves to meet the measure, as President John Kennedy stated, when we sought to put a man on the moon," said Miles, who serves on the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors representing District 4/Maysville District and serves as Chamber Vice President. "Kennedy said, this nation chose this goal and many others, "not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills." And the community engagement and involvement of Donna McRae Jones embodies this call."

McRae Jones has volunteered with and belongs to more than 10 local organizations, churches and civic groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, Relay for Life, Salem and Sharon Baptist Churches, Friends of the Buckingham Public Library, the former Ruritan Club of Buckingham, Central Virginia Regional Library, Piedmont

Area Habitat for Humanity, 4-H, Central Virginia Arts, and Historic Buckingham Inc.

"She's played an integral role in her 10 years in helping restore the Buckingham Chapter of Relay for Life," Jordan said. "During the time of the Buckingham Ruritan Club, and even after it's folding, Donna has continued to keep the Buckingham Memorial Day Ceremony going, organizing and collaborating with other groups to make this annual event happen, including Buckingham JROTC, the American Legion Post, and the VFW Post. She's worked alongside many great men and

women to keep this great tradition alive."

As leader and Chairman of the Habitat for Humanity Buckingham Build, Donna has assisted with and overseen the fundraising and public relations for the construction of five new homes and one home rehabilitation, literally helping put vulnerable people in secure and safe homes, helping our neighbors in Dillwyn and across Buckingham succeed, Miles said. "And, this month marks her initial term in the office of President of the Board of Directors for the Piedmont Area Habitat

**See Chamber page 7**

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# Cover Story



Although 15 years apart, Melissa Jamerson and Brandy King, are very connected in their involvement in nursing and mission work. Photo by Sue Miles

## Sisters on a Mission

By Sue A. Miles  
Correspondent

Because they are 15 years apart in age, siblings Melissa Jamerson and Brandy King could very well also be generations apart in their outlook on life. But that generational difference has never prevented them from having the same purpose in life. What has made their connection even stronger is a mission trip that they took together to Honduras this past fall. One, that for Brandy, was life changing.

Melissa, who graduated from Buckingham High School in 2005, is a registered nurse at Centra Health in Farmville. Her specialty is labor and delivery. "I was in the delivery room when Brandy was born, sixteen years ago," said Melissa. "I was the first to hold her. That's when I knew that I wanted to be a labor and delivery nurse."

While working at Centra, Melissa has taken advantage of opportunities to go on medical mission trips. "I have volunteered with the Farmville Medical Mission Team," said Melissa. "Sharon Chandler, a local nurse practitioner and one of the mission team's leaders, has always been a huge inspiration to me." Melissa's first trip was through VCOM (The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine) in Blacksburg. The last two have been through Friends of Barnabas.

The premise is simple but powerful. "We set up clinics in the hills of Honduras," said Melissa. "Our goal is to treat any medical issues that people may have. Patients walk for hours to get to us and wait in line for hours more. The clinics also work with the village residents to teach health promotion." That goal requires the communities to participate in health-related training and educational workshops on nutrition, reproductive health, hygiene,



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and malaria prevention. A health committee is established in each village to promote the program, and a health volunteer is identified, trained, and equipped to act in this role.

Melissa's third mission trip involved her 17-year-old sister, Brandy. "I was sitting in my history class one day and Melissa texted me and said, 'do you want to go to Honduras?'," said Brandy. "I said yeah!". The nine-day trip took place in late August through early September, 2019.

That initial decision may have been simple but in order to go, participants must raise the \$1,900 required for the trip. "My church, Concord Baptist, supported me quite a bit," said Brandy. "I also had a big yard sale and did some other fundraising." "Brandy was the only teen who went on the trip," said Melissa, "and she raised all the money she needed ahead of the others."

Brandy, who will graduate in May, was very inspired by the good works of her sister. Currently taking college level courses in nursing at the Career and Technical Center at Buckingham High School, that medical knowledge and her older sister's dedication was the inspiration she needed as she began a journey that few teens take.

The Farmville medical mission team landed in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, in August 2019 for their nine-day service. Then there were two hours of travel time to Alfredo House, a guarded compound that was the staging center of the mission trip.

"When we got there, we had to pack pills, vitamins, Tums (a source of calcium), and over the counter meds to get ready for the next five days," said Melissa. "We prepare at the compound to go to the villages. The basic services to the people in the village include deworming, dispensing vitamins, fluoride treatment, dental and eye exams, and general medical services."

That's when the reality of being out of her comfort zone hit Brandy. She began to have second thoughts about her decision to come to Honduras. "I had a little bit of a breakdown the first night," said Brandy. "I was having a hard time adjusting at first and was getting frustrated." However, having Melissa with her made all the difference. "I couldn't explain exactly what she was going to experience," said Melissa. "I got through it," said Brandy. "I was fine. I was overwhelmed so that I did not know what to do. My brain was scattered in a million places. After the first day, I got into the swing of things."

The team went to a different village every day. The journey to those remote villages was a cultural experience in itself with curvy roads teaming with people, goats, and cows walking on the roads. And going up in the high hills, above the clouds.

Because local village leaders coordinate with the mission trip, when the mission team arrives people are already waiting. "The amazing part is going up to these villages and seeing all of these people with smiles waiting," said Melissa. "They come up to you, wanting to give you hugs. They say we are a gift from God."

With the community leader's help the people help unload the medical truck so that the mission group can set up their stations and go to work.

"I wanted to be involved in every single part of it," said Brandy. "I worked with eye care and helped people pick out glasses. I helped out with dental which was a bit goopy and helped with dispensing fluoride. I saw things that I'd never seen before. Some four-year olds were getting their teeth pulled with minimum pain meds."

The mission group prayed and had devotions every night. The group members were given a cross at the beginning of the week with the purpose of giving it away to someone who touched his or her life. "I gave my cross to a little boy in the dental clinic," said Brandy. "He was screaming and crying. I gave him my cross and had the translator tell him why I had given it to him. He got in the chair and held the cross and didn't cry anymore."

Melissa's cross was given to a father who had lost his wife in the previous year. "He was taking care of three small children by himself," said Melissa. "It touched me as he not only took over the mother's role, but also had walked miles with his children to get to the clinic. He asked me to give the kids shoes and would not take any for himself."

Although the sisters mission trip together is now only a memory there are lasting impressions for both. "Part of my heart is still in Honduras," said Melissa. "I plan to continue to be involved with Friends of Barbarus and also would like to go to other countries to volunteer. It's amazing to see the difference in villages that have been in the program for two years. To see the difference in the people due to health promotion is amazing."

See Sisters Page 6



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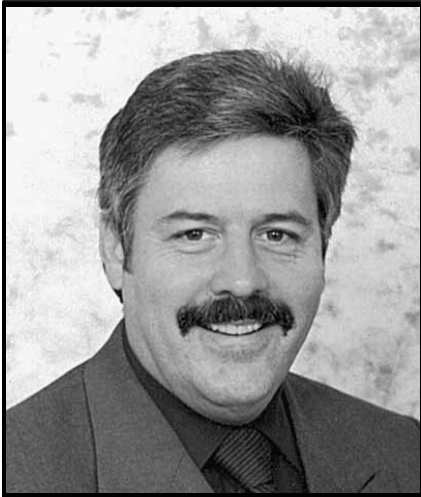
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Included in the photo are District Two Supervisor Donnie Bryan, the Midkiffs, Dale Midkiff, Miles, Dillwyn Mayor Linda Paige, Chamber President Krishna Jo Melendez, Chamber Directors Eddie Slagle, Jewel Harris, Faye Shumaker, and employees and supporters of the new business. Photo courtesy of Jordan Miles

## Corner Coffee Junction in Dillwyn Opens



CORNER  
COFFEE JCT.

The Buckingham Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Corner Coffee Junction in Dillwyn, held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new business on Main Street in Dillwyn.

"The Chamber is proud to assist and advocate for small business growth and creation," said Chamber Vice President Thomas Jordan Miles III, who also serves as the representative for the Maysville District on the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors. "Small business is the backbone of our economy, and we're so glad Dick and Radha Midkiff have invested in our community. We encourage support of their great and growing business."

### Sisters from page 5

And Brandy? "I would love to do it again," she said. "If someone comes up and asks me if I would like to go, I'd say yes. But, of course, I'd prefer that Melissa go with me." As a teen and a first-time mission volunteer, Brandy's experience was obviously more intense. "I feel that I went to Honduras not really appreciating what I had," she said. "I feel like I came back much more open-minded. I used to judge people for their looks, how they do things. I don't do that anymore. It's all about the heart."

Melissa also noted a change in her younger sister after the trip. "The person that she was when we left the United States is a different person than when we came back," said Melissa. "You can see a difference. She was a scared teen. After a few days in the village you'd see her talking and interacting with the local people. You can tell someone about the experience, but they won't get it until they experience it for themselves."

Both sisters also volunteer in their own communities. Melissa volunteers with the Woman's Health Center and Brandy has been going on mission trips with her church to the Northeast since she was 12. Brandy also volunteers at Centra in the labor and delivery department where she gets to shadow her sister. Brandy plans to graduate with her CNA license, receive her RN degree from Southside Virginia Community College, and then transfer to Longwood's nursing school. "I also want to work in the Woman's Health Department," said Brandy.

Although this may be the end of this story, it is obvious that because of the two sisters love for each other and for volunteer work, there will be more stories ahead for them.



## Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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# HONORING OUR VETERANS : VIETNAM

By Sue A. Miles  
Correspondent

In our effort to complete our recognition of Buckingham's veterans who served in either the Korean or Vietnam wars, we would like to add this newly discovered veteran.



**Gary Cline**  
Vietnam  
1968-1969

Army/101st Airborne Division/MP

Chamber from page 3

for Humanity, one of few Buckingham residents to hold this leadership position."

Betty Shapiro nominated Windy Hill Pet Care as the Business of the Year.

"Windy Hill opened in early 2017 and I must say they keep growing and growing," she said, noting "word of mouth has been letting people know the super place, great service, and comfortable feelings you get when you board your dog at their facility. Jon and Kristen Ober, the owners, are the keepers of the troops. I have used their services several times a year and can truly say my dachshund is always sad to go home."

She said their kennels are state of the art and the play yards are separated by who can play "with who seniors who just mill around and need extra attention or the jet set who need lots of running space and exercise time. If you come at anytime you are apt to see Jon or Kristen or both out there playing catch, sitting and holding, petting, rubbing, and giving love and snacks to their boarders."

Shapiro concluded by noting that "Buckingham was lucky when the Obers decided to move here and open Windy Hill Pet Care (and) their facility and their care of the animals make it the place to be."

Agricultural teacher Casey Dunkum Davis nominated Agee for the Youth Achievement Award.

She said she has seen Agee, a Glenmore resident, "grow into a leader and respected friend among his peers" when he was in the Buckingham FFA.

"Trevor is a young man who has worked hard academically and outside of the classroom. Trevor graduated from Buckingham County High School as an honor graduate in 2019 with a 3.8 GPA. Trevor is also an active member of the Glenmore Fire Department following in his grandfather and father's footsteps. Trevor was Glenmore's first junior firefighter to join the department in November of 2018. Trevor continues to improve his firefighter knowledge by



Jon and Kristen Ober's Windy Hill Pet Care was named the Business of the Year.

taking EMT classes. Trevor aspires to grow in the firefighter profession throughout his life."

Davis noted Agee was an active member of the Buckingham FFA, holding several officer positions with the highest being president his senior year, accumulating several accolades.

"When Trevor was in middle school when he started working after school and summers at his family's business, Dillwyn Repair Service. Trevor is currently employed there where he works alongside his father. Trevor and his father also operate a firewood business in the fall and winter and lawn care in the spring and summer. He has grown in his knowledge of the business and has taken on greater roles and responsibilities as he has gotten older," Davis said.

Davis said she has told (Agee) several times that he "is the type of young man that I want my son to be like when he gets older. Trevor is humble, has a servant's heart and does not do things for recognition."

## THIRD THURSDAY

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

February is Black History Month



Exhibit at Leesylvania State Park

Buckingham artist Martha Pennington Louis contributed to an exhibit at Leesylvania State Park Underground Railroad Exhibit for Black History Month. Martha did a series of 12 portraits which were created just from newspaper ads seeking the capture and return of these 12 runaway slaves. In several cases the only descriptions were minimal, such as the runaway was missing a front tooth or was very dark skinned. Photo by Martha Pennington Louis

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**Buckingham Preschool Registration**

Help give your child a jumpstart to success in Kindergarten!

*Applicants must reside in Buckingham County and be four years old by September 30, 2020*

**Registration Location:** Buckingham Preschool  
**Dates:** Friday, March 13, 2020 ~ 9:00-2:00 & 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
 Friday, March 20, 2020 ~ 9:00-2:00

**Bring the following to registration:**

- **CHILD**- we need child present for registration as there will be a brief screening during registration
- Birth certificate
- Two (2) proofs of residency (ex: utility bill, driver's license, etc.)  
 -with matching addresses -must be physical address (No P.O. Boxes)
- Legal guardianship paperwork (if applicable)
- Proof of income (W2 or IRS form 1040)
- Physical Examination Report -Must be dated within 12 months of the first day of school
- Immunization Records -Immunizations must be up-to-date  
 -Same immunization requirements as for Kindergarten

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# A Tribute to Sallie Atkinson Mowbray

By Martha Louis  
Correspondent

“How can I help you?” It is these words that will be part of the legacy of 58 year old Sallie Atkinson Mowbray. Whether it was to play at a wedding or funeral (too many to count) or to sit with a family who just lost a loved one, Sallie would just appear to help any way she could.

Sallie received the Chamber of Commerce “Volunteer of the Year” award and the reason was obvious. Sallie volunteered to help with Relay for Life, Ladies Auxiliary of Arvon Fire Dept., the Anti-Litter Task Force, Kyanite Mining Corp. annual “trash pick up day”, After Prom Committee, and served on the Historic Buckingham Board of Directors as Vice President. Sallie could be seen smiling and welcoming the public to most of the events held at The Historic Village. She served as Poll Chief of the New Canton Precinct and she also wrote for the Buckingham Beacon. The list goes on.

The many stories that are coming to light with Sallie’s passing make us smile through the tears and remember how she lived with enthusiasm as she served her beloved Buckingham County and her fellow human beings with love, humor, and kindness. Fly high, Sallie.



# Fluvanna County Arts Council



Presents the 2019-2020 Season  
at Carysbrook Performing Arts Center



**Big Ray and the Kool Kats**  
Friday, March 6th at 7:30pm

From their very first note, you will know that this group is going to knock your socks off!! We welcome back with great anticipation the Big Band sounds of Big Ray and the Kool Kats with Sinatra-crooning guest soloist, Danny Barrale. This exciting and professional group plays everything from Sinatra to Bruno Mars and has performed at the last four Presidential Inaugural Balls as well as at the Bellagio in Las Vegas and the Kennedy Center in DC. Their music is guaranteed to chase away any leftover winter blues! Don't be surprised to see some dancing in the aisles!!



## Next Performance:



**Moon Over Buffalo**

**April 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26**  
Friday & Saturday at 7:30  
Sunday at 3:00pm

It's the summer of 1953, and former Broadway stars Charlotte and George Hay have taken their run-down



touring company to Buffalo when they receive word that they might just have one last shot at stardom: Frank Capra is coming to town to see their matinee. Will their performance convince Capra to cast them in his movie remake of The Scarlet Pimpernel? Or will the plethora of pratfalls, slamming doors, and backstage shenanigans ruin their chance of success? This fast-paced, hilarious, screwball comedy is a valentine to the stage and the larger-than-life personalities that inhabit the world

**Unless otherwise specified, Admission is: \$12 Advance, \$15 Day of Performance, \$10 Student/Military/Veterans, Family Package \$5/person (2 Adults max, + 3 or more children)**  
• To purchase online: <http://www.Carysbrook.org>  
**Please note: No reserved seating.**

Carysbrook Performing Arts Center • 8880 James Madison Highway (Hwy 15)  
Fork Union, VA 23055

# CVCS Holiday Tea

By Sue A. Miles  
Correspondent

Most holiday gatherings between friends close with a gift exchange. The sixth grade girls at Central Virginia Christian School (CVCS) decided to make the giving season more special by supporting a local cause instead of exchanging gifts. At their annual holiday tea at Hawksley Plantation, the girls agreed to donate over 80 pairs of fuzzy socks to the Children's Hospital at UVA. The girls were inspired by Rachel Bardon, a Buckingham High School student who is involved in a UVA affiliated program called Owen's Angels.



Front, L/R: Skylar Price, Lillie Palmore, Piper Scialdo, Addy Auten. Middle row: Jamisen Crawford, Ellie Grace McLemore, Karla Huezo, Emma Ranson, Larken Watson. Back: Anna Snoddy, Malia Charles, Caitlin Whaley, Micah Clark-Reed.



Buckingham Raider/Drill Team traveled to Fishburne Military School, in Waynesboro, Va, on February 1, 2020 to compete in their second and final Drill Meet for the 2019-2020 school year. The Team finished 2nd overall for the meet. The Color Guard, commanded by Ian Martin would place 1st place, Armed Platoon, commanded by Tyler Moore, would place 1st, Armed Individual would place 3rd, Unarmed Squad, commanded by Devin Corral, would place 2nd, Armed Squad, commanded by Devin Corral, would place 3rd and Tyler Moore would place 3rd overall in Drill Knockout. Nice finish Drill Team. Special guest was SFC DaQuan Tindall, 82nd Airborne Division.

## Buckingham JROTC Drill Results from the Harrisonburg and Fishburne Drill Meets

By Bruce Grazier  
Contributor



Pictured L/R: James Moneymaker, Carlitoes Gaines, Walker Smith, Hakim Edmonds, Devon Maynard, Parker Knight, Tyler Moore, Adrea True, Aiden Houchins, Hayden Talbott, JaQaun Chambers, Isabel Martinez, Chris Opie, Citlali Vea-Lineas, Jon Gowans, Leah Stowe, Tyler Moree, Minnie Wallace, Devin Corral and Ian Martin.

Buckingham Raider/Drill Team traveled to Harrisonburg High School, Harrisonburg, Va. on January 25, 2020 to compete in their first Drill Meet for the 2019-2020 school year. The Team finished 2nd overall in Armed Squad, commanded by Devin Corral and 3rd in Platoon Inspection, commanded by Tyler Moree. James Moneymaker finished 3rd in Unarmed Knockout and Devin Corral finished 1st in Unarmed Knockout for the Invitational Drill Meet. The Drill Team was at Fishburne Military School, Waynesboro, Va on February 1, 2020 and competed in their final Drill Meet for the season.

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# Slate River Ramblings

Joanne Yeck has been fascinated with Buckingham County for over twenty years and shares her collection of Buckingham facts and photos on her blog, "Slate River Ramblings" (slateriverramblings.com).

On The Move  
With Joanne Yeck



Hatton Ferry (c. 1910), Courtesy Historic Buckingham.

## Hatton Ferry

Occasionally at Slate River Ramblings, an old post gets a new comment, shedding light on its content. In the June 22, 2013 post concerning Hatton Ferry, I wrote: "I have a special fondness for the Hatton Ferry and for the photo above. My ancestor's brother-in-law, Matt Layne, is sitting in one of the buggies. He married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Lavity Harris on July 7, 1886 in Buckingham County."

Janet B. Goode, commented, "I just wanted to say this is one of my favorites also. The lady in the middle of the picture is my Grandmother Sarah Frances Ripley/Brown. The boys behind her are her grandsons."

In 1900, a woman named Sarah F. Ripley, age thirty-three, was enumerated in Buckingham County, living with her husband and five children, ages twenty-one to four. Surely, she is our ferry rider.

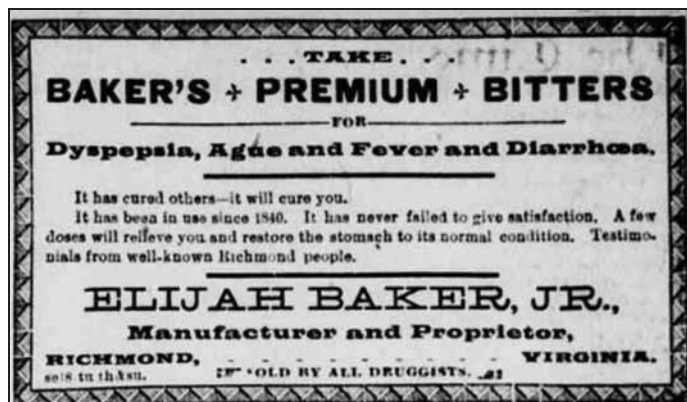
## Buckingham County: 1855 Runaway Slave

Advertisements for runaway slaves were a common thing in mid-nineteenth century Virginia newspapers. Few were as persistent in finding their property as Robert H. Johnson of Buckingham County.

On January 3, 1855, his "Negro boy," named Harrison, commonly called Dick, absconded from New Canton, Buckingham County, Virginia. Dick was described as twenty years of age, very black, and 5 feet 1 or 2 inches tall. Initially, Johnson offered a reward of twenty dollars if the slave would be delivered to him at his house in New Canton.

Late in summer, Johnson continued to advertise, elaborating, "He may have passed himself off as a free boy, and be in the company of some white person. He has heretofore been advertised, with a reward of \$50.00 if taken out of the State and \$20 if taken in the State and delivered to me."

Did Harrison, known as Dick, have a white friend who was an accomplice in his escape? In October, Johnson advertised again, determined that Dick be returned to him, this time under a headline \$100 Reward. We will likely never know Dick's fate.



Advertisement c. 1894. Courtesy Peachridge Glass.

## Healing Waters: "Premium Bitters"

In 1855, "going to the springs" or "taking the waters" was part of standard medical practice for restoring health and curing specific disorders. In May of 1855, a testimonial from J.

W. A. Saunders of Buckingham County sent to Elisha Baker, singing the praises of a bottled water called "Premium Bitter," was printed in the *Richmond Enquirer*:  
COTTAGE, May 17th, 1855,  
Near Curdsville, Buckingham Co., Va.

Mr. Elisha Baker:

Dear Sir: My wife having been for many years affected with Liver Complaint and Nervous Debility, hearing of your "Premium Bitters," she was induced to give them a trial. After trying a half dozen bottles, she found her health much improved, and her digestive organs greatly strengthened; and as a tonic she finds it is indispensable in her case, and continues to use it to her improvement. —It is a very popular medicine with many of my neighbors, and it is becoming almost in general use as a tonic in this section.

With my best wishes,

I am yours, truly,

J. W. A. Saunders

N. B. —Several influential gentlemen in this County will send you certificates of most important cures affected by your Premium Bitters and their families. We all concur in its being the most valuable medicine ever introduced to the section of the country.

Yours,

J. W. A. Saunders.

The manufacturer, E. Baker of Richmond, responded to Saunders, providing a long list of druggists who carried the product, including Walter H. Middleton in near-by Farmville.

Learn much more about E. Baker and Premium Bitters at "E. Baker's Premium Bitters - Richmond," <https://www.peachridgeglass.com/2012/04/e-bakers-premium-bitters-richmond-virginia-bitters-series/>

For more about healing waters, consult my essay, "'Going to the Springs' in Buckingham County," in *"At a Place Called Buckingham," Volume Two.*

## Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Throws in
- 5 Rhombus, e.g.
- 10 Yellowstone, for one
- 14 Guitar part
- 15 December ditty
- 16 Medicinal herb
- 17 More than suggestive
- 18 Under construction
- 20 Washington Monument, e.g.
- 22 "The Thorn Birds" novelist McCullough
- 23 Telescope part
- 24 Tapping sound
- 25 Big club?
- 27 Shredded
- 29 Text alternative
- 32 Old what's- name

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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### Built-out window

- 35 North Pole workers
- 37 Sparkle
- 39 Sub detector
- 41 Hot rock
- 42 Taxi ticker
- 44 Be silent, in music
- 46 URL ending
- 47 Humdinger
- 49 Clock part
- 50 Barley brew
- 51 Nonpoetic writing
- 53 Splinter group
- 55 Create a stir
- 58 Kids' racers
- 61 High spirits
- 63 Medical remedy
- 64 Desertlike

- 65 Ill-gotten gains
- 66 Prayer's end
- 67 Anagram for "user"
- 68 Floor it
- 69 Pundit's piece

- 10 R.J. Reynolds brand
- 11 Direction at sea
- 12 Memorization method
- 13 Peachy follower
- 19 Feather in one's cap

- 38 Ocean current
- 40 Thought out
- 43 Like the boondocks
- 45 Arduous journey
- 48 Bottom-line figures
- 52 Sting operation
- 54 Tree for chocolate
- 55 A bit cracked
- 56 Wise one
- 57 Sacred bird of the Nile
- 58 Former V.P.
- 59 Sloth's home
- 60 Sam Cooke song, "You \_\_\_ Me"
- 62 NHL surface

### DOWN

- 1 Bushy do
- 2 Cheerless
- 3 Slow down
- 4 Fashion sense
- 5 Tailor's tool
- 6 Ketcham of the comics
- 7 Fly ball's path
- 8 Four-legged friend
- 9 "Freaky Deaky" author Leonard
- 21 Quite fond of
- 24 Like The Who's wasteland
- 25 "Excuse me..."
- 26 Paparazzi target
- 28 Barrel of laughs
- 30 Donald's first wife
- 31 Carpenter's device
- 34 Fancy edging
- 36 Fill to the gills



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Former 5th District Congressman Tom Garrett was instrumental in getting Hassan released from prison. Hassan and his wife, Awadia (left) visited the capitol with Diana Shores and her husband Chris, who worked with Garrett to make sure the family would have a place to live once they left Sudan. On the right is Abdulmonem Abdumawla, who was also brought over to the U.S. by Garrett. Photo submitted

# The story of a Jailed Sudanese Pastor

By Sue A. Miles  
Correspondent

**W**hen a person says that the best time in his life is being held in prison then there has to be a story behind that statement. There is a story, indeed. That of Pastor Hassan Abdelrahim Tawor, who was charged with espionage against the government in his native country of Sudan and sentenced to 12 years in prison, for simply being a Christian. That was in December of 2015. Much has happened since Hassan was put in prison and now, in the year 2020, the story takes a completely different turn.

And, that is because of the good works of people all over the world, especially people in the Central Virginia area and a Virginia congressman. Because, instead of being in prison, Hassan is now living with his family, in Buckingham County.

The story began when the wife of former 5th Congressional District Congressman Tom Garrett, saw a

Facebook story posted about Pastor Hassan's situation in Sudan. Garrett, who was then serving on the House Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations foreign affairs subcommittee, went into action, actually going directly to the Sudanese ambassador about the situation -- the first time a U.S. congressional member had been to the Sudanese embassy in Washington in over ten years. (Garrett did not seek re-election in 2018.)

Diana Shores, a Cumberland resident and a friend of Garrett's and who was part of the effort to help Hassan and his family, shared the story of Hassan's release.

"Hassan had converted to Christianity when he was ten years old and was a Christian pastor in a predominately Muslim country," said Shores. "At that time Sudan was being ruled by a dictator, Omar Al-bashir." Al-bashir's

**See Family page 14**

## Happy Valentine's Day



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Hassan and his family are shown on the front porch of the residence that was offered by Bob Johnansen, the pastor of Tar Wallet Church. Left to right: Joshua (rear), Joyce, Awadia (holding a twin), Hassan, Samia Abdulla, Abari, Fibi (holding second twin), and Philamon (bottom front). Photo by Sue A. Miles

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#### EVENT

**CHARLOTTESVILLE DOGWOOD FESTIVAL PAGEANT:** "2020 Junior Court Selection," 5 Age divisions: 3 to 15 . Application deadline is Saturday, March 19th. Application website: <http://www.cvilledogwood.com/>. Pageant held Saturday, March 28, 2020. Start at 10:00 a.m. at Double Tree Hotel, Charlottesville. \$5 admission at door, children 5 and under free.

**FLUVANNA HABITAT for HUMANITY GOLF TOURNAMENT:** to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at Lake Monticello Golf Course. Currently we are looking for sponsorships. Join us as a Corporate Sponsor Team, or Individual Player for a day of friendly competition, delicious food, and great prizes. Sponsorship registration deadline is March 25, 2020. Questions about tournament and/or sponsorship opportunities, call Fluvanna Habitat office at 434 589-3752 or email: [fluvannahabitat@live.com](mailto:fluvannahabitat@live.com)

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See Classifieds page 15



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30-year dictatorship was marked by oppression, genocide, and human rights abuses, especially against Christians.

Hussan, being the pastor of the Sudan Church of Christ, located in the capital of Khartoum, was an obvious target. A second target was Petr Jasek, a Czech Republic citizen, who had come to Sudan to work with Christian churches. The men became friends. When they were attempting to seek medical supplies for a pastor who had been badly burned because his church had been torched, they were arrested for espionage and put in jail. Also arrested was Abdulmonem Abdumawla, a fellow Christian, who was also trying to help.

A jail cell that was designed for one person was now filled to the brim with both Christian and Muslims. Ever since South Sudan (with majority Christian) seceded in 2011 there has been an escalation of religious persecution in Sudan, which is majority Islam. Hassan was beaten the first day in jail.

Jasek had managed to sneak a smartphone into the jail, allowing him to reach out to the world through social media. And, that world reached back, in particular the Voice of the Martyrs and various Christian Facebook sites. And, Congressman Garrett.

"By that time Hassan and Abdumawla had been in jail for about a year and a half," said Shores. "Jasek was given a life sentence." Garrett, who over time had established a relationship with the Sudanese ambassador, continued his efforts to get the three men released. And, while doing so, with Shores help, began to prepare to bring Hassan and his family to the United States.

"Tom put in an application for Hassan's humanitarian asylum, which is a three-year process, and in the meantime we began our efforts to welcome the family here," said Shores. That 'we' turned out to be a variety of churches, organizations, and individuals; the main churches being Faith Bible Fellowship (in Farmville) and Tar Wallet (in Cumberland). "We were preparing for Hassan, his wife, mother, and five children to come here," said Shores. "We put out the word about the family to area various churches, businesses, and organizations and it spread like wildfire."



Brothers Abari (holding one of the twins) and Philamon display Sudanese money, called the Sudanese pound, that was brought with them when they came to the United States. The children are adjusting well and love school.

Photo by Sue A. Miles

The community began donating furniture, conducting food drives, raising money, making donations, and praying.

Bob Johnansen, pastor of Tar Wallet, offered to let the family live in an unoccupied house on his Buckingham farm. Church volunteers worked on the house for months in anticipation of the family's arrival.

Meanwhile, Garrett was continuing his efforts to work with the Sudanese ambassador who finally told him that he would have to go to Sudan to meet with officials. Garrett flew to Sudan as a private citizen, as this issue was not part of an official government activity. He went assuming that both Jasek, Hassen and Abdulmonem would be released. While traveling to Sudan, the official clearance was granted from the U.S. for Hassen, based on religious persecution. Abdulmonem was also granted asylum and currently lives and works in Richmond.

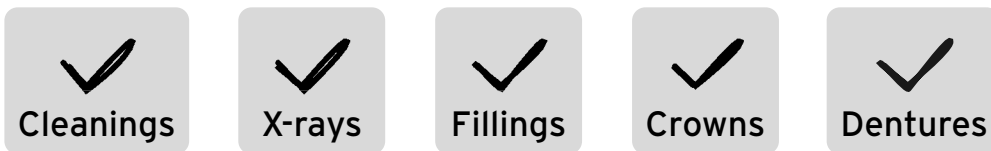
When Garrett arrived in Sudan he was told Hassan's family could leave the country but that Hassan would still not be released from jail. Jasek was released and sent out of the country. Hassan and his family had agreed that they would leave as the pastor wanted his family to live in freedom; that being his wife, Awadia Ismail, their children, and his mother, Samia Abdulla. The family arrived at Dulles Airport in October, 2017. Bob and his wife, Lillian, picked them up, and took them out for a fast food treat before heading to Buckingham.

Two weeks later, Hassan arrived. "It was completely God's work," said Hassan. "A government official came to me and said 'I'm taking you to do your paperwork.' It was the same official who had arrested me. No one has an idea what prompted this."

As part of the U.S. government clearance, the family can receive no federal assistance (i.e. Medicaid or food stamps) and is completely under the financial umbrella of Faith Baptist. In order to make all of this happen, Faith Baptist had to be the official sponsors of the family under a humanitarian parole process that allows someone to enter the country for a short period of time. The church put up a \$140,000

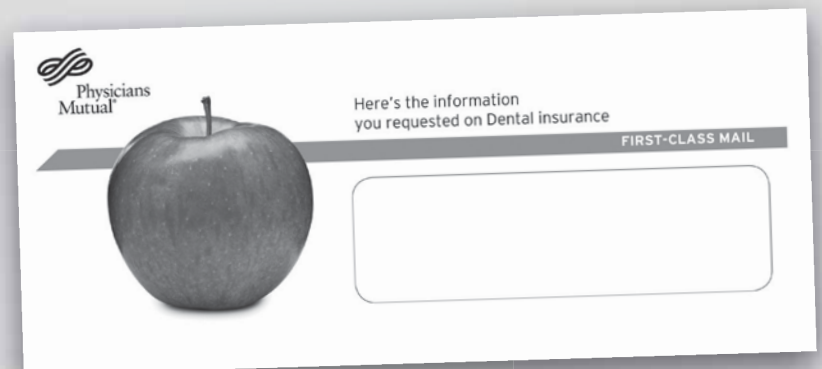
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While being held in jail, under a 12 year sentence, Hassan found comfort in reading his Bible, written in Arabic. He converted to Christianity when he was ten years old and hopes to be able to continue pastoring in the United States.

Photo by Sue A. Miles

bond. The church community raised money for the family to have a car and medical issues are taken care of, as needed. Money has also been raised through Go Fund Me. Voice of the Martyrs also gave the church a significant donation to help the family.

After arriving in October, the children were enrolled in Buckingham schools in December. "We knew that the family needed to settle in a bit in their home before they started school," said Shores. "While in Sudan the family was told three times that their father had died in jail, so everyone has gone through a lot."

The strain of the situation is now over for Hassan and his family. But the wait to hear about asylum is also difficult. "We are trying to settle," said Hassan, "but even now we don't feel settled. Something is missing until we know if we will be allowed to stay in the United States. Getting asylum will open up more opportunities. Especially for our children" The asylum hearing took place March 2019 and the family is waiting to hear the results.

The children, which now includes twin baby boys born just over a year ago, are faring well. The oldest, Fibi, is working part-time and attending GED classes. Nineteen-year-old Joshua happily obtained his high school diploma this past December and is working full-time. Abari and Philemon are in middle school and Joyce is in elementary. The family's native language is Arabic but all of the children speak English and are doing fine. Hassan's mother speaks a Nubian language and, along with his wife, is slowly learning English. All miss their country, their friends, and their food (goat, asida, and kiswa) but agree that they know they're in a better place.

Hassan is working full time and also seeking ways to continue pastoring. "As a pastor, I have a calling," he said. "As God directs me, I would welcome the opportunity to pastor a church. If the calling came." Hassan sees his time in prison as important. "Reading the Bible is different in inside of prison," he said. "It really was a privilege to be persecuted. It brought me closer to God."

In the meantime, Pastor Hassan and his family continue to adjust to living in the United States, far from their original home. They all agree that they miss Sudan but also know that they are in a better place. A place where people are friendly, where they can live in peace, and where they can practice their faith without further persecution.

For information on how to help the Hassan family contact Diana Shores at Gopdiana@yahoo.com.

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Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

A	D	D	S	S	H	A	P	E	P	A	R	K	
F	R	E	T	C	A	R	O	L	A	L	O	E	
R	A	C	Y	I	N	C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E
O	B	E	L	I	S	K	C	O	L	L	E	E	N
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H	E	R	O	R	I	E	L	E	L	V	E	S	
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M	E	T	E	R	T	A	C	E	T	N	E	T	
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J	U	B	I	L	A	T	I	O	N	C	U	R	E
A	R	I	D	L	U	C	R	E	A	M	E	N	
R	U	S	E	S	P	E	E	D	O	P	E	D	



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