



PRESIDENT'S PASSAGE

By Bill Collins

Several years ago on a spring morning, the air was cool and crisp (a rarity here in Louisiana). As we headed out of the house to take the boys to school, we smelled a faint aroma of cedar in the air. Catching just a whiff of the cedar, one of my boys stopped and said with a smile, "This is a Paisano morning!" With the exception of school, I think it made his day; it certainly made mine!

That smell of cedar or of a good oak wood fire and the call of doves in the morning are just some of the things that jar my memory and immediately take me on a mental vacation to the highlands of Texas. From there, thoughts turn to family and friends and the gathering of the larger Paisano family. But these good memories are tempered by recollections of those who have gone on ahead of us to our ultimate destination in Christ. In my heart and mind, my mom and dad remain forever healthy and young here at Paisano, and I know that they are



now complete in His presence in heaven.

This past year, we have seen many in our Paisano family leave their earthly homes, but they are very much alive and well in the presence of Jesus. We are grateful for their lives, for their influence, and for leading us to this place called Paisano.

Returning to the encampment this July, a moment of sadness may grip us. But the thoughts and memories of our folks' enthusiasm, their love and support for the Lord and for this place and the Paisano family encourage us to live as they did—in joy and expectation of the blessings to be received during the week of Paisano Baptist Encampment.

Looking forward to seeing the Family!

"Then the Lord said to him, 'Go back to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.'"

Genesis 31:3



Rooted in Holy Ground

By Jana Bevill and Jim Cleaveland

During the 2016 Paisano encampment, we commemorated our founding and celebrated being "Deeply Rooted in Holy Ground" (Colossians 2:7).

Paisano faithful, young and old, shared memories and history during the services. Families and friends gathered Tuesday afternoon for a celebration party. Games, food, and fellowship flowed in abundance.

One time Paisano pianist and composer Dr. Benjamin "Benji" Harlan arranged meaningful hymns into an anthem. Children joined youth and adults to perform the piece in a multi-aged choir. The museum emphasized celebrations and faithfulness which made Paisano's history and legacy come alive. The Cookbook



Committee launched their commemorative volume to rave reviews and a near sell-out. Bill Collins and his Baptist student group prepared P-cross branded wood slices as remembrances. Families and individuals of all ages participated and helped make the Centennial Celebration a wonderful week, and we eagerly anticipate viewing Tom Lott's panoramic photograph of the entire congregation.

Thank you to all who had a part in this special celebration.

The Centennial Cookbook *Served with Love* was an overwhelming success! Thanks to everyone who participated. Very few are left, and those have been transferred to the Gift Shop where they will be available for purchase during the July Encampment. The small profit from cookbook sales is being donated to fund all-camp fellowships, formerly WMU Missionary Tea.--Lee McClurg, Chair

FROST BYTES

Superintendent John Frost brings greetings from Paisano “where the awesomeness of God can be seen in the beauty that surrounds this place.” He states that “the 2016 encampment was wonderful, and we look forward to you returning for the 2017 camp. It is always a blessed week of spiritual renewal and family reunions.

Over the past 5 years, we have focused on maintenance and repair that occurs between camps. Oh, how I wish we could walk away from some of these projects and not come back for 20 plus years, but this simply isn't the case. We must handle termite and water damage, falling trees, electrical problems, equipment breaking, and road maintenance to make Paisano a safe environment for you and your loved ones.

Please bring safety issues or concerns to our attention by emailing jfpaisano@gmail.com or calling 432-837-3074 so we can address these issues as soon as possible. Thank you for your contributions that allow us to fix these problems instead of just putting temporary patches on them.

Our motivation in caring for these grounds is rooted in the Justification for the Sinner, Spiritual Growth of the Believer, and



Money Matters

By Buddy Baldrige

A big THANK YOU, Paisano Family, for your generous financial support. We were concerned at the beginning of camp last summer that our funds were running short. On Wednesday night, what a relief when the collection met the budget! Our Lord continues to provide for Paisano through your faithful gifts.

The big event at Paisano is the annual General Encampment in July when all the Paisano family gathers. Great preaching,

Glorification for the Saint. God continually works in the lives of our staff year round through studying the Word, performing acts of service in preparing the grounds, and working with and learning one another's strengths and weaknesses. We encourage each other and all those who enter the Paisano grounds because the world can be a hostile and dark place. Please continue praying for us as we go about our daily tasks.

If you or your family have special skills, or if you simply want to help prepare the grounds for summer events, please feel free to contact me. We especially could use the assistance of those experienced as painters, builders, mechanics, fence builders, or HVAC technicians. Others can help through cleaning and general tasks.

Unfortunately, we have more projects to do than we have staff to do them, but fortunately, this gives you an opportunity to serve and invest your time and talents in Paisano. Together we continue to make Paisano the great place our founders envisioned.”

Paisano's GPS coordinates are 30.29234, -103.7975. The physical address only works for 911 purposes: 91872 US Hwy 90 Alpine, TX 79830. The mailing address is P.O. Box 973 Alpine, TX 79831. Check out our website www.paisanoencampment.org

MISSION INSPIRATION

God is drawing people to Himself as time is drawing nearer to Christ's return. Where is He at work? What is He doing? How is He moving? How can we be involved?

This year, during Paisano's missionary hour, multiple speakers will be featured. Each day, different individuals with unique mission experiences will offer inspiring insights into how God is engaging his followers around the world. The specific schedule of days and presenters will be available in the Paisano program.

As the world shrinks, mission work has become more varied and abundant, even as political and societal opposition increases. Many of our own Paisano family are on mission with the Lord locally and globally. Make sure you don't miss this Christ-exalting time of mission inspiration!--Nate Sprinkle



Children's Church

Individuals or families are needed to assist with Children's Church from 7:30 pm until after worship Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. Six persons are needed each evening, and volunteers may serve more than once. A family or several families could take a night. For details or to volunteer, contact Holly Hillman Smith at hillmansmith@gmail.com.

Special Note: Girls and boys participating in Children's Church should be going into the 1st through 6th grades. Those who attend youth activities in the morning are not eligible for children's activities in the evening.



Recreation

Organized recreational activities will be in the Edwards Activities Building from 2-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Volleyball will be on Monday, so sign-ups will be on Sunday. Family games and the 3K Run (foot or bicycle) will be part of the All Camp Fellowship on Tuesday. Basketball will be Wednesday and dodgeball Thursday. Day camp counselors will organize outside games for younger children at the same times.--Charlie Elliott

PAISANO PASTORS



Steve Wells, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, earned his BA, MDiv and DMin at Baylor University, and along the way married Homecoming Queen and pastor's daughter Missy Yearly. This summer, he returns for the second year of a second preaching term at Paisano. As he thinks about coming back, Dr. Wells offers this reflection:

Missy and I have a deep sense of God's great blessing.

This fall, we begin a new chapter in our lives as empty nesters. Josh graduates from Houston's Lamar High School this spring and will follow his brother to

Baylor in the fall. Ben will be a junior where he works for the football team on the equipment staff. Our daughter Rachel and her husband Blake Lawrence live in Dallas. Both are Baylor graduates and are active at Park Cities Baptist Church.

We have been at South Main in Houston for 14 years and continue to find it to be the place for which God has fitted us. South Main is gracious, committed to missions, and home to glorious worship. If you're ever Houston way, we hope you'll join us on a Sunday.

Grace and peace,
Steve Wells

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Matt Snowden, pastor of First Baptist Church of Waco, will preach for his third year at Paisano. Matt and his wife Meredith have two children Molly Katherine (11) and Wes (10). The Snowdens moved to Waco in 2010 and have fallen in love with Texas. Paisano has become a treasured place for their family.

First Baptist Waco is located on 5th and Webster in Waco's bustling downtown. The Snowdens have witnessed the transformation of this

part of the city as school children now study in once vacant buildings and tourists flock to next door neighbor Magnolia Market.

FBC Waco recently completed a significant renovation project this year and anticipate a fruitful year. The Snowdens have enjoyed all the noise and dust but are craving a week of worship and refreshing in the beautiful Davis Mountains. They look forward to July 2017, and the Paisano family looks forward to new Matt Snowden stories.



Kelly Barnett will share insights during family ministry time using Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21, he will discuss relationships with God and others from the perspective of attachment needs, injuries and God's design for healing and strengthening relationships.

A licensed marriage and family therapist/supervisor, Dr. Barnett holds 5 degrees, has taught on the college level and is a retired

FAMILY HOUR

United States Army chaplain (Colonel).

The Mississippi native learned of Paisano in 1990 while pastoring First Baptist Fort Davis. He currently pastors The Worship Place in Sun City. Kelly and his wife Coletti have 2 children, Kyle and Katelyn. Katelyn and husband Paul Michael are parents of the Barnett's grandchildren Luke and Ellie.

Properties: Pride, Progress and Priorites

We are proud of our year-round staff and grateful for their dedication. John Frost, Coach David and Sandra Whiting, and Bryan Ritchie work hard caring for and loving our camp. The Properties Committee has regular meetings to discuss various issues including progress and priorites. We are especially focused on the future and considerations for the Paisano Family. Chuck Bridge and I met with John and Sandra last fall to discuss progress and priorities as we look forward to 2017 General Encampment. Keep staff and us in your prayers!
--J.L. Davis, Chair

RA Outdoor Retreat*
Boys Completing Grades 1-6, Dads & Leaders
July 6-8, 2017, \$60
Registration: July 6 at 10:30 a.m.
Program: Camping, survival skills, and fun

Worship Leader: Dale Pond, Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler
*Bring your own tent
Contact: John Elliott jelliott@fbc-midland.org

Paisano Girls Retreat 2017
June 13-15, \$85
Contact: Karen McGuire
432-386-3071

Museum Musings

By Brandee Lacy

Paisano reminds us how God helps us. Services, events, tangible objects and intangible items stir feelings of encouragement, belonging and communion with God.

1 Samuel 7:12 reads, "Samuel took a single rock and set it upright between Mizpah and Shen. He named it 'Ebenezer' (Rock of Help), saying, 'This marks the place where GOD helped us'" What "Ebenezer" does your family hold at Paisano? What draws you together?

Tom Lott says, "The wood bridges bring fond memories as I recall my Dad's love to take pictures there. That always made us late, so we heard great singing from the Tabernacle. To this day, I want to 'dawdle' so I can remember hearing 'Glorious Is Thy Name' entering worship."

Brandee answers, "When I reflect on Paisano, I think of everyone visiting on the porch seated in folding chairs. Paisano just wouldn't be the same without those chairs."

Share your own Paisano memories and symbols with the Museum by emailing Brandee at brandee@gvtc.com or Tom at singalott@suddenlink.net

Program Highlights

Detailed program available in the camp office

Sunday, July 23

10:30 a.m. Informal Worship Led by the Mark McBride Family (Tabernacle)

6:00 p.m. First Meal Served

7:00 Adult/Youth Choir Rehearsal (nightly)

7:45 Children's Activities (nightly except Wednesday)

8:00 Evening Worship Service

Tuesday, July 25, 2-4 p.m.

All Camp Fellowship

Paisano 3K Run (foot or bicycle)

Family Games and Surprises

Museum and Gift Shop Open

Wednesday, July 26

8:00 p.m. All-Paisano Family Worship with Children's Choir (nursery provided)

Friday, July 28

11:00 Memorial Service and Morning Worship

Lunch Last Meal Served

Future Encampment Dates:

July 23-28, 2017

July 22-27, 2018

July 21-26, 2019

July 26-31, 2020

TEACHING GOD'S WORD

Larry McGraw returns for the 11th time as Bible teacher as he and Sandy celebrate 43 years of marriage. McGraw earned degrees from Oklahoma Baptist and Southwestern Seminary, including a PhD in New Testament. Dr. McGraw serves as Associate Dean of Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons where he has taught 35 years but also stays busy announcing HSU's sports events, teaching Sunday School at First Baptist Abilene, and writing for the *Biblical Illustrator* and BGCT's Baptist Way Press.

Sandy and Larry's family includes 2 sons, daughters-in-law and 3 grandchildren. Matthew and Elizabeth parent 2-year-old Ainsley while Jonathan and Julie have Braylen and Reed, ages 4 and 1.

McGraw writes, "At whatever stage of life or in whatever set of circumstances you find yourself, God's word is as powerful and

as fresh as it was when it was first written. Application of scripture elevates words on the page to truths in one's relationship with the Lord. Life can be lived at its fullness when we learn how the Lord wants us to walk with him—at Paisano, at home, and around our world."



Music, Service, and Family Worship

Music leader Jim Cleaveland writes, "I am excited about another week of worship at camp! Unfortunately, Paul Bright cannot join us, but Steve Noelle, pianist at First Baptist El Paso who played some in 2015, will be at the piano. Steve, organist Nancy Russell, and I are planning meaningful gatherings when the saints lift up the name of the Lord together.

We had a wonderful centennial celebration, and I invite you to help provide worship leadership in this new century. If you love to sing, join the choir each evening at 7 pm in the Tabernacle. We also want to use instruments, so let me know if you would like to play. To sing a solo or in an ensemble, contact me.

On Wednesday, we'll join together for family worship that includes all ages. The children will prepare music during Children's Church Sunday through Tuesday.

We are blessed that Paisano offers unique opportunities for worship and renewal. I look forward to sharing them with you!" --Jim Cleaveland (Jrcleaveland@yahoo.com or 702-748-1789)

Gifts Galore

Thank you for your support of Paisano through the gift shop. Every dollar of profit goes directly to the encampment. We have been blessed by our relationships, but this year we'll pass the baton to Krista Powell who brings fresh new ideas. Krista lives in Alpine where her husband Chris pastors First Baptist Church. Please drop by the shop, and if you have ideas, contact Krista at kpowellfnp@gmail.com or me at gistjean@yahoo.com. As always, the Gist Family looks forward to seeing you in the cook shed.--Jean Gist

Fuzzy Friends

With the exception of necessary service animals, Paisano discourages individuals from bringing pets to the encampment. Under the Paisano Policies adopted in 2014, pets must be under physical control while on the grounds and should only be in personally owned cabins. They should not be brought into Paisano-owned facilities such as the dining shed, tabernacle, nursery, museum, gymnasium, etc. Thank you for helping us by adhering to our Board-adopted policies. --Bill Collins, President



No cabins are available for General Encampment, but RV sites are \$95 for the week. Oak Grove and Cottonwood have new electrical work and plumbing. For reservations contact Sandra Whiting 214-769-6426 or gdwhiting@bigbend.net