



## Ritchie's Ramblings

The staff and I are grateful to all the Paisano family for your continued support of us here at camp. We have had more snow this year than rain—over 15 inches of snow at one time. We have continued to stay busy with improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure which includes new water and sewer mains to new valveboxes and manholes. With the impact of the drought, we also found it important to give the beautiful oak trees extra attention. We have had one new private cabin built with two more in progress.

The staff has worked hard on several large projects, beginning with new wood floors in the

gym dorm as well as new tile in the gym dorm bathrooms. After completing the gym projects, we quickly moved to the cooks' cabin for a complete remodel. Last year, we added four private bathroom stalls. This year, we put in four new showers which look great. We are completing a new roof on the administration building. With numerous smaller projects, we've stayed busy keeping Paisano in top notch condition. I thank the good Lord for our amazing team. We all especially look forward to camp this year because we have really missed our Paisano family.

Bryan Ritchie  
Superintendent



## President's Passage

Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." Genesis 31:3

It's that time when we begin planning and looking ahead to our favorite week of the year—the last full week in July! We eagerly anticipate being with you all for a very special reunion.

Brian and the staff are busy working on the grounds, and no doubt Paisano will be ready for us! Our program personalities this year will be prepared as well with two veterans in Duane Brooks (Tallowood, Houston) and Matt Snowden (FBC, Waco) in the pulpit and newcomer Collin Bullard (FBC, Longview) leading the Bible Study.

I especially look forward to drinking early morning coffee, eating a biscuit with bacon and catching up with my Paisano family. I can hardly wait to drive that winding road up to my cabin. As cabin owners, we should all check on our properties in advance to ensure they're ready to go so we can spend less time during Paisano week involved in maintenance and more time in fellowship with each other.

So circle July 25-30 on your calendars, and plan to gather once again as we have for over 100 years.

See you soon,  
Bill and Phyllis Collins



### Future Encampment Dates

July 25-30, 2021  
July 24-29, 2022  
July 23-28, 2023  
July 21-26, 2024



### Gifts Galore

As we assemble the gift shop inventory, we have exciting designs and other great additions planned. If you have items to contribute, bring them and we will put them in the store. Remember, 100% of all proceeds go back to Paisano. See you soon!

### The Paisano Foundation

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the IRS Code, the Paisano Foundation has one purpose: to provide financial support for Paisano Baptist Assembly and to ensure its long-term stability. The Foundation has no operational involvement, but Board policy is to donate half of the annual earnings to the encampment to address specific needs while reinvesting the other half. High Ground, formerly the Baptist Foundation of Texas, holds the funds.

Consider leaving the Foundation a bequest in your will or making a current gift, but please don't contribute what you would otherwise give to the camp, especially in this challenging year. Donations to Paisano finance the annual operating budget while Foundation funds improve infrastructure, such as roads and water, and meet special needs or cover extraordinary expenses such as damage caused by ice storms or high winds. The Foundation Board's goal is to significantly increase the endowment to meet infrastructure needs, including rebuilding in case of a fire. Contributions to either Paisano or the Foundation are tax deductible.

For further information, contact Rick Gray at (512) 482-0061.

### Missionary Moments

With decades of experience in the pastorate and 21 years as missionaries with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Asia, Grace and Ying Kai currently serve as Executive Directors of T4T Global Missions. In T4T (Training for Trainers), the Kais have developed one of the most fruitful methods for church planting and disciple



training in the world. Every year more than 20,000 believers across the globe receive their T4T training and with it experience life transformation as disciples of Jesus Christ. Come learn how these "retired" missionaries witness to the lost, train the saved, and multiply the Biblical, reproducible pattern.

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations." Matthew 24:14



The Properties Committee has worked closely with Bryan and his staff to maintain the Paisano grounds. Multiple private cabins have been scraped, painted and in some cases, new siding added and doors and windows replaced. Additional improvements include: a culvert created to prevent erosion, trees removed for safety reasons, and other trees removed and replanted to accommodate new cabin construction. In a few cases, cabins have changed ownership. We are thankful for Bryan and his staff and so pleased with their work.

J.L. Davis



### Money Matters

As you would guess, the fiscal year ending 8/31/2020 was financially challenging for Paisano due to the loss of approximately \$200,000 in contributions. While most of the camp's annual revenue is in gifts that are pledged or received during Paisano week, the majority of Paisano's expenses occur year-around, including payroll, vehicles, maintenance, insurance, utilities, repairs, office expenses, internet/phone, etc. Of Paisano's approximately \$427,000 budget, only about \$80,000 is actually spent on general encampment. Even without general encampment in 2020 and with major projects

and all non-essential repairs and expenses put on hold, the encampment finished the year with a net loss of \$30,518.

We anticipate that this year will be much more positive as we gather again at our beloved Paisano and open our generous hearts. In the meantime, remember that we can give anytime year round online at [www.paisanoencampment.org](http://www.paisanoencampment.org) OR by mailing a check to Paisano Baptist Assembly, P.O. Box 973, Alpine, TX 79831.

See you in July. It'll be here before we know it.

## PAISANO PASTORS

### Snowdens in the Snow



Matt Snowden, pastor of First Baptist Church of Waco since 2010, returns to Paisano after a three-year absence. Born in Meridian,



Katherine (15) and Wes (14). Meredith teaches youth Sunday School and Mission Friends at FBC as well as kindergarten at Live Oak Classical School. Molly Katherine excels in art, choir and tutoring students at J.H. Hines

Mississippi, Matt was educated at William Carey University, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor.

Matt and his wife Meredith have two teen-agers Molly

Elementary while Wes enjoys playing the guitar and all sports, especially basketball at Live Oak. The Snowdens have all fallen in love with Paisano and look forward to a week of worship, fellowship, and family time.

### Duane Brooks: Looking Forward Together



Baby Nory

The Paisano family looks forward to Duane Brooks joining us to once again preach after teaching Bible study in 2019. Dr. Brooks has served as pastor of Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston for 23 years.

Born in Amarillo into an Air Force family, Duane spent his early years across the world, including Alaska during the great Anchorage earthquake. At age seven, his family moved to Germany for a four-year tour and returned again for four more years after a brief time in Washington. He was baptized

at Faith Baptist Church in Einsiedlerhof, West Germany, and graduated from high school in Great Falls, Montana, where Highland Baptist Church licensed him to preach at age 16 and ordained him at age 18. He twice graduated from Baylor (BA 1985; PhD 1991) and once from Southwestern Seminary (M.Div. 1987). Prior to Tallowood, he pastored in Mart, Rosebud, and Cedar Park.

Duane and Melanie Jo Freeman married in 1984. Their oldest son Graham and his wife Abigail reside in Houston with “Mimi” and “Doc’s” first grandchild Josie. Their son Chase and his wife Brooke live in Katy with newest granddaughter Nory while daughter Casey is a senior at Baylor University.



Photo Left to Right—all have the last name Brooks—yes even Brooke Brooks! Abigail with Josie, Graham, Casey, Melanie, Duane, Brooke, Chase

### Paisano: Faith, Family and Fellowship

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”  
Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

Since COVID-19 became reality, expectations we’ve held for generations have moved to uncertainty, and we find ourselves reviewing what was, what is, what should be, and what will be in all areas of our lives. A wise minister recently challenged his congregation’s missions committee, “Let’s take this opportunity to look at what we have been doing, what should and shouldn’t continue, what can be done better, and what new things God would have us pursue.”

After cancelling General Encampment in 2020—except virtually—for the first time in more than a century, we’re making the space to review and revise scheduling and programming to meet today’s needs for today’s people while being true to Paisano’s history and heritage of faith, family and fellowship. Please prayerfully join us in the journey and watch for details closer to July.



No cabins are available for General Encampment. Paisano will honor 2020 reservations for RV sites for 2021. The rental fee is \$95. However, 2020 reservations must be re-confirmed for 2021 and payment made by June 1, 2021. For questions and to reconfirm, contact Sandra Whiting at 214-769-6426 or swpaisano@gmail.com.

## TEACHING GOD'S WORD

pastored from 2014-2019. An Oklahoma native, Collin earned his bachelor's in biblical languages from Oklahoma Baptist University, a Master of Divinity from Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor, and a doctorate in New Testament from the University of Cambridge.

Collin is "thrilled to be a part of a fantastic teaching team with Duane Brooks and Matt Snowden." Although he's never been to Paisano, he has heard great things, especially from church members Judy and Bill Rice. Candice, his wife of 18 years, earned her Master of Education at Baylor and eagerly anticipates a week of family time and getting to know Paisano people. Their four children—Asher (9), Burke (6), Annie (4) and Jack (2) are happy to take a road trip to a brand new place!



Leading Paisano Bible study this summer is first-timer Dr. Collin Bullard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Longview since Easter Sunday, 2019. He was ordained at First Baptist Church, Woodville, Texas, where he



### Music and Family Worship

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:23-25

Hebrews 10:23-25 beautifully summarizes this past year. We endured hardship and heartache, adjusted our lifestyles, and last July relinquished our beloved Paisano. But we have not lost hope, interrupted our mission call, or failed to offer encouragement. But we have missed that meeting-together thing.

I look forward to Paisano 2021 with even greater anticipation. I can't wait to see the camp family's smiling faces, to learn from great teachers, and to experience worship in the Tabernacle. I know you do, too.

We will again be blessed with the instrumental music of Nancy Russell and Russell Gunstream, wonderful choral music from the choir, beautiful offerings from individuals, songs from the children, and possibly special guests. Tuesday evening is Gospel Night, Wednesday is the Family Celebration, and Thursday is Communion.

If you like to sing, join us in the choir loft at 7:00 pm for preparation before 8:00 pm worship—it's a no-pressure, blessed experience, and you get to go to the front of the supper line! Soloists, let me know of your interest as well. [jrcleveland@yahoo.com](mailto:jrcleveland@yahoo.com), 702-748-1789.

I'll see you—"Soon and Very Soon" as Andrae Crouch would sing!

Jim Cleveland

## Museum Musings

There is no better place than Paisano to be reminded of how from generation to generation we have experienced God's faithfulness! Come visit the museum and reflect on how God has so richly blessed our families, our friendships, and our worship through gathering together at Paisano. Help us carry forward the faith and traditions we hold dear. Share with us the year you and/or your family first came to Paisano.

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations." Psalm 89:1

## Fuzzy Friends

With the exception of necessary service animals, Paisano discourages individuals from bringing pets to the encampment. Under 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.

