

President's Passage

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

As I write, it's early March, and we're preparing for an annual journey to Paisano with our college students from Northwestern State University. For the past quarter century, Phyllis and I have had the privilege of bringing these young adults to our beloved encampment to assist in getting ready for summer camp and for spiritual retreat.

Excitement grows as returning trekkers build anticipation in our new students who have never made the journey. I tell you this because Phyllis and I are blessed by an additional week of Paisano and the opportunity to introduce these students to the Trans-Pecos area of Far West Texas.

While the last full week of July seems like a long way away, General Encampment will be here before we know it! So, mark your calendars and plan to return or come for the first time to join the Paisano Family.

See you in July!

Bill and Phyllis Collins



You keep coming back . . .
to Paisano!
Future General Encampments
(Dates Subject to Confirmation)

July 23-28, 2023

July 21-26, 2024

July 20-25, 2025

July 19-24, 2026



Ritchie's Ramblings

What a blessed year Paisano has had! The Paisano crew never ceases to amaze me-- from clearing large dead trees in tight spots above buildings to hundreds of small repairs and remodeling projects. We added two storage containers behind the cook shed for proper storage of supplies in a dust-animal-bug free environment.

After much-needed late rains, Coach found himself mowing and weed-eating the tall grass. Although this doesn't completely protect from fires, it does help protect buildings. Countless other jobs such as watering, fertilizing, tree trimming, bug and weed spraying and a gopher infestation keep Coach busy.

Larmer and Dib tackled numerous large and small projects. These two can do just about anything and undertook the new low water crossing near the tabernacle. They did an amazing job on what would normally take a 6 to 8 man crew. Making the crossing wider and a little longer allows for two lanes of traffic with a small, safer walking path. Installing solar

lighting will help illuminate the bridge at night and early morning. (See photo page 3)

Across the road, after years of flooding, Dib and Larmer leveled the ground around the missions pavilion and built a short retaining wall around the uphill sides to help move water around rather than through the structure. Inside, they closed in two doors and reworked two others to help them close tightly. They also replaced rotting pew legs. Then there's the amazing Sandra. Her behind-the-scenes efforts are unmatched. Always on top of everything, and months in advance if possible, she manages to keep me in line. There's simply no way to explain everything she does for all of us or how we would function without her.

With spring and summer around the corner, the staff's busily working, gearing up and excited for July. We look forward to being with you this summer, and when you see the Paisano staff, please thank them for their devotion and hard work. To quote Chris Lacy, "Camp will be ready!"

The Paisano Foundation

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the IRS code, the Paisano Foundation has only one purpose: to provide financial support for Paisano Baptist Assembly and ensure its long-term stability. The Foundation has no operational involvement in the encampment, but the Foundation Board's policy is to donate half of the annual earnings to the encampment to address specific needs while investing the other half. HighGround Advisors, formerly Baptist Foundation of Texas, holds the funds. The Paisano Foundation provides funds for improvements to infrastructure such as roads and water and meets extraordinary needs such as damage caused by ice storms or helping cover a major shortfall created by a worldwide pandemic. For example, when general encampment was cancelled due to COVID, the Foundation's gift allowed Paisano to make payroll and pay expenses.

Please 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 budget. The Foundation's goal is to significantly increase the endowment to meet infrastructure needs and provide for emergencies well into the future.

Contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. For further information contact Rick Gray at 512-482-0061.



Stupendous Youth, Children and Preschool

Evan Shannon will transition from directing day camp to leading youth worship and activities. Other young adults who grew up at Paisano will join him. Holly Hillman Smith will lead Children's Church, and Elsie Morales and her staff will once again be responsible for all preschoolers.



Money Matters

Thanks to you, Paisano had a strong financial year! Your faithful generosity keeps the camp in a healthy position. The Paisano Foundation continues their support in visible (bridge repair/re-build, kitchen storage, etc.) and less obvious ways.

Fiscal year 2022 (ended Aug. 2022) Report:

Total Receipts: \$431,377

Total Expenditures: \$431,709

Income vs. Expenditures: (\$332)

Paisano has approximately \$187,000 in the bank, which is higher than this time last year and will enable preparation for July when expenses rise substantially.

We're reviewing options for online giving and will share those ideas this Summer. We plan to make that process as easy as possible while providing sound accounting. Remember, we can give anytime online at <http://www.paisanoencampment.org/> OR mail a check to Paisano Baptist Assembly, P.O. Box 973, Alpine, TX 79831.

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.

Family Time



Ryan Fitch will lead Family Time this year. Ryan works as a Couples Counselor for the Central Texas Veteran's Health Care System (VA) in Temple. Ryan grew up in the DFW area, where he graduated from UT Arlington before enlisting in the Navy. After volunteering at Cook Children's with children and their families, Ryan earned his master's in counseling from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor with an emphasis in marriage and family. He is licensed as a LMFT-Associate and LPC-Associate. Ryan met his wife Erin through a local church while in the Navy. Married seven years, they have two sons, Luke (4) and Logan (2) and are members of Taylor's Valley Baptist Church in Temple.

Ryan explains that during family time, "I will walk through some of the evidence of not just why marriage is worth it but why it is worth fighting for and how to cultivate a secure attachment to your spouse." He also says, "Let's walk through some practical steps on how to connect with our kids and help them develop some of the skills necessary to succeed."

Day Camp

John Elliott and volunteers will lead day camp for children going into 1st through 6th grades. Day Camp's rich history began more than 50 years ago led by legendary Baptist Men like Bob Dixon and Charlie Elliott and continues to include critter races, hikes, fun songs, Bible stories and sno cones. PARENTS/GUARDIANS must accompany children the first day for registration.

PAISANO PASTORS

Howie Batson looks forward to preaching at Paisano this summer. He has served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo since 1995 and prior to that was at Meadowbrook in Waco. Although a proud native of Greenville, South Carolina, and a business graduate of Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina, he often says, “At least all of my children and grandchildren are Texans!” Having earned an MDiv from Southwestern and a PhD in Biblical Studies from Baylor, he enjoys preaching, teaching and writing to bring God’s Word to life.

Howie and his wife Lisa, whom he met in 10th grade, are the proud parents of adult daughters Ryan, Jordan, and Chandler. When not doting on grandchildren (three-year-old Rawlins, two-year-old Spencer, one-year-old Raines, and another on the way in late July...probably during Paisano!), the Amarillo pastor enjoys architecture, fitness training, nutrition, and—if not thinking about nutrition—cake decorating.



Collin Bullard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Longview, is excited to be back in the Paisano pulpit. Collin is an Oklahoma native and holds degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University (BA), Baylor’s Truett Seminary (MDiv), and Cambridge (PhD). He has pastored in East Texas for the past 9 years.

Since 2021, Paisano has become a very special place to the Bullard family. Collin and his wife Candice agree that “the time to disconnect from screens and cell service is good for our souls and our family. Paisano has been a place of retreat and refreshment in the Lord for us.” The kids—Asher (11), Burke (8), Annie (6) and Jack (4)—continue to grow. Annie has been practicing her bike riding so she can zoom around camp like her older brothers. And despite their tough defeat in the dodgeball tournament last year, the kids are ready to compete again!”

Missionary Moments

Herald and Sarah Singers* met and started their family in Fort Worth while studying at Southwestern Seminary. They served in youth and music ministry for several years until the Lord called them to the Horn of Africa. They have spent the last 10 years running a dairy farm among a people group called the Sparrows* who are 98% Muslim. Through humanitarian work, goat distributions and ladies hygiene clinics, the family also helps meet physical needs of these people living in underdeveloped and challenging areas. Their prayer and vision is for many Sparrows to turn to Jesus in faith and take the gospel to the nations. Through theological education and trainings, the Lord is using the Singers to help believers grow in their relationships with the Lord and be strategic as they seek to reach their own people with the Good News. They are helping Sparrows utilize digital content and radio listening groups to gather believers into Sparrow-speaking house churches. The Singers have three daughters and a son ranging in age from 7-14.

*Names changed for security purposes

Gifts Galore

As we assemble gift shop inventory, we have exciting designs and new ideas. If you have items to contribute, bring them and we’ll put them out. Remember, 100% of all proceeds go to Paisano. We also need volunteers, so plan to work a shift or two. It’s fun.



Afternoon Activities

John Elliott and Evan Shannon will organize afternoon recreation. John will handle Volleyball and Basketball Tournaments with Evan on Walk/Run/Bike Races and Dodgeball.

Sign-Up Sunday evening in the gym

Monday... 2:00 – 5:30 Volleyball Tournament Tuesday... 2:00 pm Brief Groundbreaking for the Elliott Pavilion, Day Camp Area;

Free Time with Family and Friends

Wednesday... 2:00 – 5:30 Basketball Tournament and 2:00 – 2:30 Walk/Run/Bike Races

Thursday... 2:00 – 5:30 Dodgeball Tournament

TEACHING GOD'S WORD

After a busy year, the Snowden family looks especially forward to Paisano. Matt says, "I am happy to be the Bible Study Leader and will be teaching through Ezra. I wrote a preaching commentary on Ezra for Preaching Today, a resource of *Christianity Today* which was published last year." Using some major themes he preached on at Paisano, Matt also published *Soul Culture: Stewarding the 5 Ingredients of Our Common Life* (Smith & Helwys). He teaches Living the Kingdom for Truett Seminary and will be teaching at the San Antonio campus in September. Meredith moved from teaching at Live Oak Classical School to Castleman Creek in Midway ISD. High school junior Molly Katherine played varsity soccer at Live Oak and enjoyed the Waco Symphony Belle program. As a sophomore, Wes made 1st Team All-District in basketball at Live Oak where they were co-district champs, area champs, and advanced to the TAPPS Elite 8. He continues playing guitar in the school's Chapel Worship Band and at First Baptist, Waco.



Museum Musings

Help Us Remember

The apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians declares "Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us, believing and proclaiming God's message, from the day you heard it right up to the present. There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears." (Philippians 1:3-6, The Message)

As Paul remembers the Philippians, so we too remember Paisano and the people who have come each year. Come to the Museum and help us REMEMBER the People, God's messengers and the "Ebenezer" like place itself that Paisano is!



Dib Hampton, Bryan Ritchie, Larmer Lethco, Sandra and Coach Whiting

Music and Family Worship

Back in the 70's, Fred Pratt Green wrote the hymn "When In Our Music God Is Glorified" set to a tune a century older. Although we rarely sang the song, I still remember the beautiful lyrics:

When in our music God is glorified and adoration leaves no room for pride, It is as tho' the whole creation cried Alleluia! Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,

As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia! Alleluia!

Corporate worship at Paisano creates that kind of awe and reverence. I look forward again to July when we join together in hymn singing, choral worship, special musical offerings, and instrumental blessings by Paul Bright and Nancy Russell, along with powerful messages from our preachers. I invite everyone, students and adults, to sing in the Paisano Choir. We meet in the Tabernacle each evening at 7pm to prepare for 8pm worship—and you can go first in the supper line.

We will again share special emphases—Tuesday Gospel Night, Wednesday Family Night with the entire camp together including praises from our Children's Choir led by Rachel Lane, Thursday Night Communion, and Friday morning Memorial Service honoring those saints who have been promoted to heaven in the last year.

If you have questions or are interested in providing special music during the week, contact me at jrcleveland@yahoo.com or 702-748-1789.

See you soon!

Jim Cleveland