

PAISANO NEWS

PAISANO BAPTIST ENCAMPMENT

www.paisanoencampment.org

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

When L.R. Millican felt he could no longer circuit ride to take the Gospel to ranching communities, wise Paisano founders told Millican they would come to him. So they carefully set apart almost 1,000 acres to continue spreading the good news of salvation through Christ. In the Bible, setting apart something deemed it holy. Paisano is "holy." Paisano is set apart by God.

A pilgrim is defined as a person who travels to a holy place as a devotee, a believer, a follower, a supporter. We in the Paisano Family carve out the last full week of July for an annual pilgrimage to this "set- apart" place to be fed and nourished by the Lord and by communion with each other.

For all the details of our lives to fall into place so that we can attend camp takes great effort and some sacrifice. And yet, year after year, we do so because we know the blessings of seeing family and long-time friends and breaking bread, worshipping, and praying together.

As you prepare your schedule and your heart for July, pray for our encampment staff, pray for those who will lead, and pray God's blessings on the region through much needed rain.

We look forward to seeing you soon,
Bill and Phyllis Collins



Ritchie's Ramblings

Thank you! Thank you, year-round staff! Thank you, Paisano, for 12 years of blessings! I had no idea what God had in store when my journey began working for some of the best people ever.

This year, weather challenges with high winds and little rain have kept Coach Whiting working extra hard keeping the camp green and inviting. He continually battles gophers, and this year feral hogs joined the contest. They just love the tasty tabernacle grass roots.

Wrestling with loved ones' health issues has created obstacles for Larmer Lethco. But with the support of co-workers, friends, and Paisano, he has taken time away when needed and worked double time when at the encampment.

The talented, hard-working Dib Hampton has had a full plate, too, taking on more than normal. Usually the first to start work and the last to leave, Dib has led several projects, including the two new cabins. His wife Pam helps as needed, especially in the garden to provide colorful, welcoming flower arrangements during camp.

Where would Paisano be

without Sandra Whiting's countless phone calls, emails, text messages, paperwork, and more? She makes things run smoothly and happen, even when there seems no way. She's special not only to camp but to my family as well.

As for our family, SENIOR daughter Tannin has kept us busy with high school and college classes, an internship with our veterinarian along with sports and livestock shows. Tannin will attend Texas Tech with the goal of entering their new veterinary program. John and Ty make days crazy navigating livestock shows, soccer, football, basketball, track, and baseball.

A special thank you to my wife Micaela for her unmatched support and unwavering love that blesses me, our children, and the Paisano family. She accepts every challenge without hesitation or complaint. From paid projects to volunteering at Paisano, she fills voids, often at the last minute, not to mention the many buildings she cleans every year.

We're excited to get Paisano ready for you in July!

Bryan Ritchie



Missionary Moments

For 13 years, Milana and Jacob Brown have worked on campuses with Student Mobilization (StuMo), a ministry focused on evangelism, disciple-making, and missions mobilization among the most strategic demographic in the US—college students. Both have a passion for engaging the lost with the Gospel, seeing students follow Jesus, helping them mature in their faith, and equipping them to multiply their new-found faith in their spheres of influence. God has allowed them to help countless students at TCU and the University of Texas explore and begin relationships with Jesus in addition to mobilizing graduates in teams across Texas campuses and throughout southeast Asia. The Browns are excited to share their story at Paisano where Jacob grew up as part of the Kokernot/Lacy family.



Money Matters

The camp is in a strong financial position. The cash balance is over \$270,000 including cash from the Foundation for 2 projects so over \$140,000 net of the Foundation receipts. Year to date, revenue exceeds expenses by a generous amount. Unfortunately, last year we finished up the year with giving around 13% less than the budget and around 11.5% less than the previous year's giving. As a result we are monitoring our expenses very carefully to live within our means.

Obviously, the last couple of years have been very tough for a number of families. I'd like to ask everyone to thoughtfully consider their giving for this year. We sure don't want lower giving to impact our programming and camp experience.

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. High Ground, formerly Baptist Foundation of Texas, holds the funds. The Paisano Foundation funds improvements to infrastructure such as roads and water and meets extraordinary needs like damage caused by ice storms or helping cover a major shortfall such as when general encampment was cancelled due to COVID and the Foundation's gift allowed Paisano to make payroll and pay expenses.

Consider leaving the Foundation a bequest 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 are tax deductible. For further information contact Rick Gray at 512-482-0061.



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.

Stupendous Preschool, Children & Youth

Elsie Morales and her staff will once again be responsible for all preschoolers.

Holly Hillman Smith will lead Children's Church. Boys and girls should arrive at the Edwards Building not earlier than 7:15 pm. The children's choir will rehearse during that time on Sunday-Tuesday with Rachel Lane. PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/GUARDIANS should accompany children the first night for registration.

John Elliott will again direct day camp for children going into 1st through 6th grades complete with critter races, fun songs, Bible stories and sno cones. PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/GUARDIANS must accompany children the first day for registration.

Bracken Bean, music and youth minster at FBC Ballinger, will guide the youth.



PAISANO PASTORS...The year of the Matts

Matt Homeyer, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio since January 2023, is excited to preach at Paisano this summer! Matt has heard stories of Paisano throughout his ministry and is thrilled for the opportunity to join in worship and fellowship.

A life-long Texan, Matt grew up in First Baptist, Kenedy. He earned a BA from Baylor in 2003 and his MDiv in 2007 and DMin in 2016 from Truett Seminary. Following seminary, he pastored Fellowship Baptist Church in Marble Falls and later was Assistant Dean of External Affairs and Director of the Truett Seminary Church Network.

Matt met his wife Kelley, a speech therapist, at Baylor. The two have been married 19 years and are the proud parents of Brooks, age 15, and Addison, age 12. Matt likes to say his hobbies are hunting and fishing, but he mostly reads and attends Brooks' and Addison's various activities! To get to know him better, catch one of his video podcasts "Tacos al Pastor" on YouTube or through Facebook.



Matt Snowden, pastor of FBC Waco, is excited about returning to Paisano this year with the entire family. They will all make the journey and are grateful for the opportunity to spend a week together at camp.

Meredith continues to teach kindergarten and enjoys volunteering at the church with youth ministry. Molly Katherine graduates from Live Oak Classical School in May where she played on the district championship soccer team. She plans to attend the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in the Fall. Named All-District Second Team, Wes played on the Live Oak basketball team that went 30-6 and made the regional finals. A senior next year, he enjoys music, recently singing the National Anthem a capella to open a Falcon baseball game.

Matt plans to preach on God's grace in the face of grief. The series emerged from Bible studies he recently wrote for the Smyth and Helwys Formations curriculum.

Family Time

When Queen Elizabeth II spoke after 9/11, she said, "Grief is the price we pay for love." If you've experienced the death of a loved one, you know grief and perhaps you've journeyed successfully through your experience. Others encounter challenges that keep them stuck feeling lonely and depressed. Paisano's Family Hour will focus on grief, including what is normal, challenges of grief that get us stuck, self-care, how to ask for and receive help, feelings of anger and guilt, and heaven. Kelly Barnett issues an invitation to "join us if you are grieving or if you want to better understand and support those who grieve."

Gifts Galore

Scott and Monica Gill will operate the gift shop in memory of Don and AnnaLee Bennett. If you have items to contribute, bring them. Remember, 100% of all proceeds go to Paisano. Volunteers are also welcome, so plan to work a shift or two. It's fun. Questions? Contact Monica at maker.mon.g@gmail.com

You keep coming back . . .
to Paisano!

Future General Encampments

July 21-26, 2024

July 20-25, 2025

July 19-24, 2026

July 18-23, 2027



Paisano counts as special blessings a great staff and volunteers: Pam and Dib Hampton, Bryan Ritchie, Sandra and Coach Whiting, Larmer Lethco, and Micaela Ritchie. They have worked hard keeping the grounds looking good. They've been in communication about pavement on the north side of camp, and some culverts were delivered. Bryan is trying to get Paisano's maintainer repaired at no cost to use building the road. The slabs have been poured, and framing will begin soon on the two new cabins the Paisano Foundation is funding. Those will be sold and the proceeds used to build more.

Pray for the entire staff and hug them when you see them in July.

TEACHING GOD'S WORD

Brad Creed looks forward to returning as Paisano's Bible study teacher and to reuniting with friends and experience the camp's special worship and renewal. He has chosen the book of Philippians for the morning sessions. A Jacksonville, Texas, native, Brad received his BA in Religion from Baylor and earned MDiv and PhD degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In 2015, Brad became Campbell University's fifth President. He and his wife Kathy, also a Jacksonville native and a former public school teacher and principal, live on the campus in Buies Creek, North Carolina. Previously, Brad was Provost and Executive Vice President and Professor of Religion at Samford University in Birmingham. Prior to joining Samford in 2001, he held several positions, including Dean, at Baylor's Truett Seminary. Early in his career, Brad served as a pastor in Texas and Louisiana and an interim pastor in Texas, Oklahoma, Virginia, Alabama, and Florida.

The Creed family includes two adult children, their spouses and two grandsons with another on the way. Kathy plans to enjoy Paisano this summer unless the baby makes an early appearance.



Museum Musings

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Our hearts are filled with thankfulness for all the ways Paisano has provided a place where children come to love the Lord and Learn to know Him better. Join us in the museum as we celebrate children at Paisano. Reminisce about your childhood at Paisano. What are your favorite memories—Day Camp, youth Bible studies and activities, recreation, helping serve food, singing? Do you have a treasured friendship that began on the grounds? Did you accept Christ as your Savior or answer a particular call from the Lord? We rejoice in all the ways that Paisano has impacted us and our children and will continue to shape the lives of girls and boys for years to come.



Afternoon Activities

Sign-Up Sunday evening in the gym

Monday... 2:00 – 5:30 Volleyball Tournament

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

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

Exciting Time Change for Music and Family Worship

As I look toward to July, anticipation grows for Paisano week. You'll want to note an exciting change in the schedule. The evening service will begin at 7:30 pm. The choir will gather at 5:00 pm to prepare music for worship. Supper follows at 6:00 pm, and choir singers may go to the front of the line to enjoy the meal before heading to the Tabernacle early for worship. Everyone will have more daylight for fellowship with family and friends.

During a period when church choirs are growing scarcer, the blessings of Paisano's Choir have become more powerful and even more meaningful to me personally and to all who attend. I'm planning some great new songs, along with long-time favorites. I encourage every young person and adult, even if you have never sung before, to give choir a try. We have a sweet time preparing together and presenting choral leadership.

Worship will again include Gospel Night on Tuesday and Family Night on Wednesday when everyone meets together and the Children's Choir, led by Rachel Lane, sings. Paisano week closes with the meaningful Communion time on Thursday, and the Memorial recognition on Friday morning. We might even have some surprise musical guests this year!

Paul Bright, Nancy Russell, and I look forward to seeing you soon! As always, I am interested in hearing from possible soloists and other musicians ahead of camp to assist planning. Just contact me at jrcleveland@yahoo.com or 702-748-1789.

Isn't it wonderful to know that even in these tumultuous times, we have a God who is in control and remains "Our Fortress, our Bulwark never failing!"

Blessings to you!

Jim Cleveland.