

AN URGENT MISSION

BY ERIN DRODDY



Everyone looks forward to summer break when the responsibilities of school can be forgotten, and one is free to fill his time without pressure or expectation. And while it is true that school can be overlooked for the three months of summer break (unless of course you are going to summer school), we as Christians have another, far more important responsibility: an urgent mission.

Respected leaders often give their followers a final command, the pinnacle of their teachings. Right before Jesus ascended, Matthew recorded Jesus' final command to his followers:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Matthew 28:18-20

This summer, I went on a mission trip to Northern Ireland. In groups of two or three, we talked to people in their doorways, on the street, in coffee shops, and even the occasional pub. Thankfully, we did not talk about the weather or the state of the economy (I am awful at making small talk). Instead, we asked if we could tell them a two-minute "story of hope."

These were stories that Jesus told his followers to help them understand the Gospel, such as the parable of the lost sheep. Then, if they were receptive, we would explain the concept of sin and the remedy for it.

Our first day of ministry, the team leaders warned us that it would not be easy. The people of Northern Ireland have been deeply hurt by twisted religious teachings in the Catholic and Protestant churches, both of which have very deep roots in the country. But the wonderful thing about the Gospel is that it is not about religion; Jesus even said that religion is not conducive to the Gospel (Mark 7:5-9). We were able to tell people about the love of God that is far above what any religion can offer, as well as a love that can heal the deepest brokenness.

I loved the experience of sharing the Gospel in a foreign country; getting to know the people and the culture are invaluable memories. I recommend that you, too, take an opportunity to go on a mission trip somewhere outside your country. However, "all nations" also includes our home, our neighborhood, our community. We have the greatest hope anyone could ever have, and there are people close to us that need to hear that message. So let's start right now, during this school year. Sharing our faith can be intimidating, but we don't have to be well-spoken or know all the answers; all we are called to is to go. God will take care of the rest.

NEW AT BJA



New Eating Space



New SBO Officers and Room



New Spirit Rock

TRIANGLE WELCOME, NEW FACULTY!



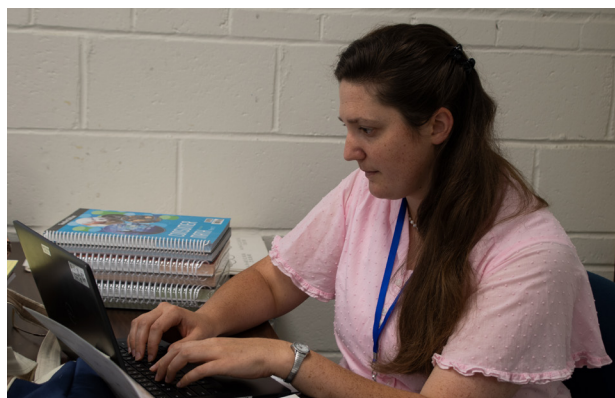
Mrs. Hagans, Family & Consumer Science

What is a lesson God has been teaching you that you would like to share?

The most important lesson that I am growing a deeper understanding of is that I can trust God because He is Who He says He is, and He is worthy of honor and praise and glory. I am humbled and filled with thankfulness that He would be gracious to me. I can trust Him when life meets my expectations and when it's hard. He is so good.

Are there any random facts about yourself you would like to share?

One random fact about me is that I enjoy reading but really prefer audio books especially when they are read by the author.



Miss Crawford, Math

How did God lead you to BJA?

Even though I obtained a teaching license from South Carolina, teaching in a classroom was not my intent. I planned to tutor so I could maintain a flexible schedule while I completed a master's degree in Biblical Counseling. But God had another plan. Two of my professors, aware of the need for teachers at BJA, asked me to consider the position. At first, I said no. But God kept the suggestion in my mind, and I started to consider the possibility. After much prayer and talking with family, I decided to apply. While teaching was not part of my plan, God made it abundantly clear this is what He has for me at this time. I am very excited to see what He does both in my life and the lives of those around me this year.

Are there any random facts about yourself you would like to share?

I grew up on an organic produce farm in Lancaster, PA, so one of my missions since moving to S.C. is to find and explore the agriculture in the state.

Mrs. Snyder, US History

What was an exciting adventure you had this summer?

Our family, along with my parents and my sister, traveled to England, Scotland and Wales this summer. We rented a large passenger van and traveled all over - covering almost 1800 miles.

Are there any random facts about yourself you would like to share?

As a teen, I lived in both Daegu, South Korea, and Okinawa, Japan.





Miss Brazeal, Math

What is a lesson God has been teaching you that you would like to share?

Especially as a result of camp, God has been showing me that I need to be “all in” serving other people. As a fallen human being, my natural tendency is to selfishly focus on my own needs, but God wants me to joyfully give of myself for other people, out of my love for Christ.

Are there any random facts about yourself you would like to share?

-I have six siblings.
 -Last year, my family and I were the unhappy possessors of 16 cats/kittens(don't ask!)
 -I love chai tea.
 -My favorite number is definitely 9. As a math teacher, I felt I really needed one; although I only officially decided a short time ago, I realized it has been a special favorite for some time.

Mrs. Sedivy, Math

What is a lesson God has been teaching you that you would like to share?

The past two weeks while I was in Europe, I interacted with several tour guides and other tourists who had a profound knowledge of Scripture that related to famous artwork and sites we were visiting; yet, they treated it all with an academic knowledge of historical accounts rather than from an appreciation of a personal relationship with Christ. This experience grew my burden for those around me who know about God but have not yet experienced faith in Christ.

Are there any random facts about yourself you would like to share?

I had to postpone my wedding for a day due to an unexpected blizzard.
 I have a cat named Pumpkin.
 I have taught for at least one year in every building of BJA except the Collins Building, unless you count holding a few special classes in the AAUD.



Mrs. Hamilton, Choir

How long have you lived in Greenville?
 Since 2010 (12 years)

How did God lead you to BJA?

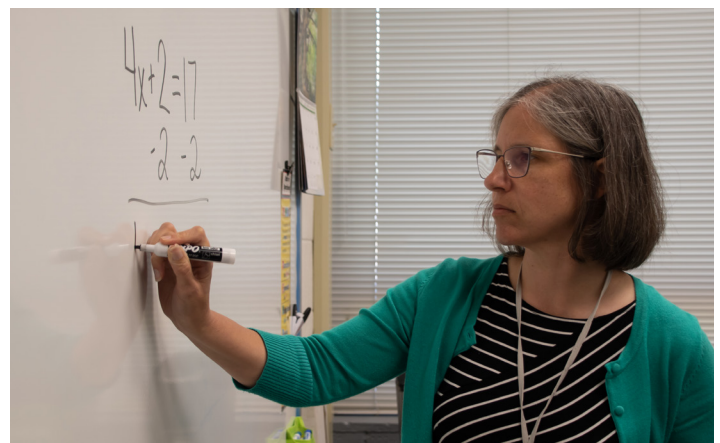
Because I am a new mom and owner of a small business in town, I did not imagine that the Lord would bring this beautiful opportunity to me. After interviewing for the job, I thought I had done what the Lord wanted me to do as far as this job was concerned. Imagine my surprise when the process began to move forward! As I prayed and talked with my family and counselors, it was becoming clear that the Lord was calling me to this position, so after being officially offered the job, I accepted, knowing that only God could have worked things out in my family and in my business for me to be able to serve at BJA in this way.

What was an exciting adventure you had this summer?

My husband and I took our (at the time) 5-month-old daughter on a cross-country road trip! We had no idea what to expect, but she did wonderfully. We all survived!

Are there any random facts about yourself you would like to share?

I sang the National Anthem for former president Donald Trump at a rally here in Greenville.
 I LOVE antiques and brunch.



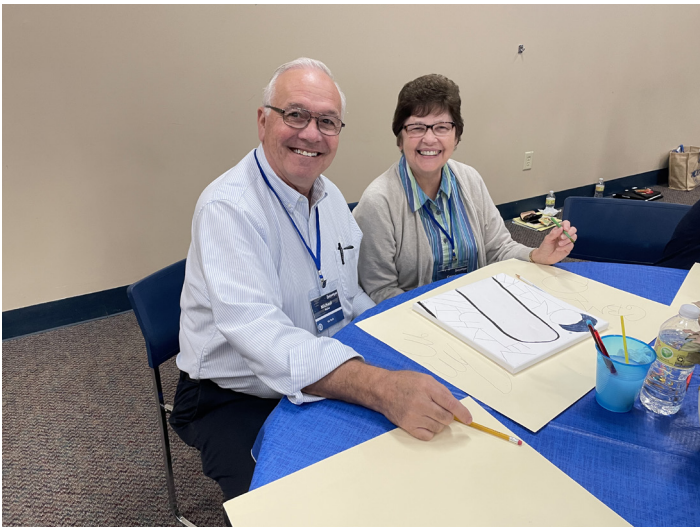
SPORTS TRYOUTS

A week before school started, scores of students from all grade levels turned out in this August heat to try out for their favorite sports: volleyball, soccer and cross country. After several days of showing off skills and drills, teams were selected for both junior varsity and varsity levels. Stay tuned for game and meet schedules; then come out to cheer on your BJA Lions!



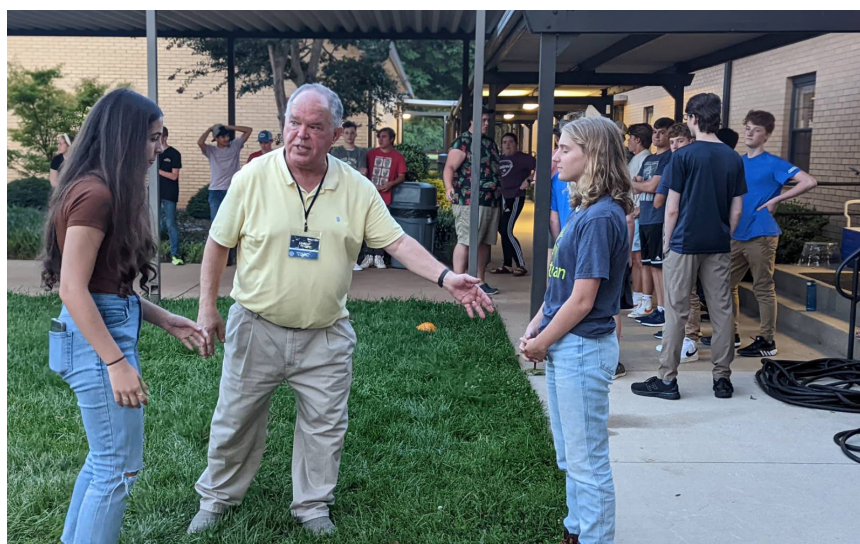
FACULTY FUN

In the midst of meetings and classroom preparation, faculty and staff took time to laugh and enjoy one another's company with a collaborative art project and a hilarious administrators' skit along with getting to know you games and multiple giveaways (not to mention great food!).



SPEECH & DEBATE CAMP

More than 30 current and recruited new members showed up for three nights of speech and debate camp. The team welcomed an unprecedented number of new Academy students! The camp included team building games, speaking opportunities and tournament preparation. If you missed this event and want to compete this year, come to the speech and debate meeting on Tuesday, August 16, at 3:30 pm in B107.



“MY SUMMER IN SIX WORDS”

BY THE TRIANGLE STAFF

- Sean O’Connor: No jobs? I’ll create my own!
- Jonathan Rose: Try sleeping in Iceland and hospitals!
- Jonathan Lovegrove: Teaching robotics and creating cool stuff!
- Susannah Farr: Europe, the beach, violin, and...procrastination.
- Laura Weaver: Coffee, custodial, more coffee, sleep, repeat
- Micah Schaffner: I can finally sleep! Never mind.
- Jack Lilly: Smoky Mountains, wisdom teeth, and boredom
- Erin Droddy: The hurricane’s eye mistaken for liberation
- Grace Trotter: Yay summer! Oh no, sick summer...
- Kate Cropsey: Couch-Beach-Pool-Camp-Good Times
- Josh McKenney: Summer School, work, and more work...





April showers may bring May flowers, but August showers cause them to leave. On this day nearly 600 years ago, the Mayflower set sail from Southampton, England. The Mayflower was supposed to be accompanied by another ship called the Speedwell, but this second ship had to be left behind due to the hull constantly springing leaks.



Many students and faculty worked in Vacation Bible School this summer. VBS is a fun way to get involved with kids at your church or a church nearby. You can ask to help with snacks, crafts, games, or being a group leader for kids. During lesson time, you have the opportunity to talk to kids in your group about the Lord. Some churches hold backyard Bible clubs or Good News Clubs all year long. So as we start a new school year, check out your local church for ways to spread the Gospel to the children in your community. Overall, it's a great experience for the kids and for the volunteers!



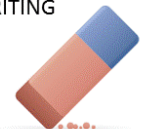
Back to School

Z	G	N	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	L	V	Q
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Y	E	T	E	L	X	A	O	Y	G	L	U	E
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BOOKS
DESK
ERASER
GLUE
LUNCHBOX
MATH

NOTEBOOK
PAPER
PENCIL
PLAYGROUND
READING
RECESS

RULER
STUDENT
TEACHER
WRITING



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