



The mission of Riviera Baptist Church is to bring God glory through loving Him, loving one another, and sharing God's love with our world both locally and globally.

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COURAGE UNDER FIRE

It's hard to believe we are more than halfway through 2017. Hopefully you're enjoying the summer with family and friends. It's been a rewarding but difficult year so far. There have been major victories and difficult trials along the way. I want to remind you of the RBC Vision that God laid on my heart in February. The key passage I referred to was Joshua 1:6-9.

- I believed God was leading Riviera into a new season of fruitfulness.
- We must be strong and courageous.
- We must keep God's Word front and center in our lives and be obedient to God's will.
- When God brings us glory, we must be willing to cast our crowns at Jesus' feet and direct the glory and honor back to Him.

We've seen God bring fruitfulness to RBC in the first 7 months of this year – not a bumper crop, but a steady increase. Our events have been well attended. We had more kids come to VBA, to Youth Camp, and more men at the June campout than any other year since I've been here. Ten women attended the women's retreat back in April, which was the first one in many years. This summer, we've had awesome fellowship events eating hamburgers, playing sports, and being with our Japanese brothers and sisters. We made a decision to combine our services for the summer, and we have seen our attendance grow. A steady flow of visitors have come, mostly in late spring and summer, and some already made Riviera their home.

We have also been tested on the challenge to be strong and courageous. It hasn't been easy. Several of our loved ones have been promoted to heaven so far, and I believe Satan is attacking our church in the area of faith. Brothers and sisters who were at one time strong have begun to weaken under the pressure. But that said, I've seen us rise up to support our struggling friends, knowing we can't run this race alone. In the midst of all this, we have tried to keep God's Word front and center in our minds and hearts. We persevere in believing that God's Word is the light that guides us in the darkness.

As I look to the end of the summer, I'm really excited. We'll worship the Lord in the park, celebrate new births through baptism, and reach out to our community through the Block Party and Project Hope. God is working at Riviera and we must heed the call. We can expect attack from Satan, but remember the words of I John 4:4: "Greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world." As we draw from His strength and remain faithful to Him, at the end of the year, we will give God glory for everything He accomplishes here.

Through His grace,

Pastor Toby Gallego

LEADERSHIP

Senior Pastor

Toby Gallego

Director of Youth & Discipleship

Cody Aucoin

Worship & Media Director

Annie Pasquinelli

Children's Ministry Director

Michelle Goetzinger

Office Assistant

Tina Averill

Treasurer

Barb Dopkus



OUT OF THIS WORLD!



Photos by Jim Dopkus



VBA 2017 IN REVIEW

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This year's Vacation Bible Adventure was out of this world – literally! Our theme of Galactic Starveyors, focused on exploring the wonders of space while discovering that the God of the universe is “over the moon” about every one of us.

We transformed the church building into a backyard stargazer's paradise, complete with cardboard trees, maps of the stars, and telescopes galore. Our volunteers went above and beyond with decorations, themed snacks and refreshments, crafts, games, and more. Their enthusiasm was infectious!

Our daily attendance was also off the charts, with close to 50 kids throughout the week. They showed their appreciation for our missionaries, Elizabeth and Godfrey Mosobase, who attended our Missions rotation on Monday, by bringing in buckets of change for the Penny Wars competition. This was the first year we had all negative point values by the end of the week, but it produced incredible results: The kids contributed more than \$125.00 to the Mosobases!

We had quite a few parents attend our Family Day Friday. Families were invited to attend our Closing Worship Rally, and after a photo slideshow of the week's events, they ate hot dogs and hung out in the Fellowship Hall.

VBA would never have been possible without the overwhelming support of the church, both through time and prayer contributions. You're all superstars!



SUMMER WORK



Photos by Gavin and Julia Rice

FIELD NOTES FROM LESOTHO

Special Message from Elizabeth Mosobase

Godfrey, our daughter Sophie, and I are serving in the village of Nkoeng near the town of Butha-Buthe in Lesotho, Africa. The organization we serve through is called The Leadership Experience Lesotho, commonly referred to as LXP Lesotho. It was founded in South Africa in 2006 with the vision of discipling a generation of genuine servant leaders who are able to dream, initiate and participate in a fresh wave of community transformation, with a genuine heart of compassion for people, and with a motivation greater than the acquisition of profit, fame, position or power. Godfrey was a student of this training program in 2007 and joined the staff the following year. In January of 2009 he founded the Lesotho branch of LXP.

Beginning in February of 2009, I participated in a six-month discipleship training program in Cape Town, South Africa with LXP's partner organization, All Nations. For the outreach phase of this program, my team served with Godfrey and LXP Lesotho for six weeks. I returned to serve long term with LXP in October of 2009. We were married in 2011 and Sophie was born in 2015.

Since 2009, we have served as a family with a small number of dedicated staff members from our village and nearby communities in Lesotho.

LXP Lesotho takes a three-fold approach to ministry: 1. Discipling Youth, which involves weekly gatherings and Bible studies, camps, skills development, and skills development; 2. Serving the Community through door-to-door ministry and discipleship, and community events; and 3. Reaching Out, both locally and into mountain villages. We also have an initiative to promote abstinence and share the truth about HIV to students using a curriculum based on the Hollywood film *Beat the Drum*.

We would appreciate prayer for our family this year as Godfrey is currently in Africa to continue the ministry work and run our small business in town, and Sophie and I are in Arkansas awaiting the arrival of our son in November. We will be together again in the U.S. from October until we fly back home to Lesotho in January. We are trusting the Lord for an increase in financial support and profitability in the business to cover regular ministry and personal expenses, as well as \$6,000.00 to purchase a used pick up truck for ministry needs. With ministry, we need wisdom and passion to continue to lead well and faithfully pursue the vision God has placed in our hearts for our village and the country of Lesotho.



SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE: ANNA BUETTNER

Our current Youth intern, Anna Buettner, has been going to church for as long as she can remember, and her heart for the Lord is clear.

While she grew up in Portland surrounded by the church, she didn't enter into a true relationship with Jesus until she was 16. It was then that she realized she couldn't do life on her own. "Nor did I want to," she adds. Ever since, she has been seeking after her Savior and looking to Him to lead the way.

She's been involved in various short-term ministries in Portland. She interned at Sunrise Church's children's ministry, where she also started a student-led high school girls' group. This experience was particularly formative in her life, and she realized she had a ministry calling in the area of women's ministries, particularly for young ladies.

This is part of what led her to serve here at Riviera Baptist Church. She is currently attending New Hope Christian College here in the Eugene area, where she plays volleyball and is studying Christian counseling. When she's not serving up spikes on the court, she helps out with all the various Youth Group activities here at RBC. She is particularly focused on girls, of which we have many, and she hopes to teach them by example, in words, and through love "how to follow Christ and develop a growing relationship with Him."

Because of her close connection with the teens in our church, Anna would like to see these kids grow and become leaders in their own ministries. Her favorite memory so far has been attending the summer youth camp, where she was able to get to know some of them on "a whole new level and help them learn what it means to live a life with Christ as the focus."

While Anna's internship with RBC is only temporary, her future in church ministry in both her personal and professional life is clearly directed by God. She hopes to pursue her Masters in Counseling. She's unsure exactly how she will use her degree, but perhaps will start her own practice someday. "However," she clarifies, "regardless of my plans, I am open to whatever God calls me to."

Anna has been a blessing to our youth ministry department, and we're so glad she's here!



**"I would love to see some of the youth at Riviera become leaders in their church."
-Anna**



STARTING THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH HOPE

Project Hope is an annual outreach event designed to serve schools and families before the school year begins throughout the Willamette Valley. Sponsored by the One Hope network, the two-day event takes place on August 26th and 27th.

On Saturday, we will be joining several other churches to help Awbrey Park Elementary School prepare their facility for incoming students arriving in September. On Sunday, at 5 different locations, there will be back-to-school giveaways and fairs to provide a fun environment where students receive new shoes, backpacks, school supplies, and more. We'll be helping with the North Eugene High School location, which will provide services for the kids in that area who need help.

We've been involved in this ministry for several years, and it's always a positive experience for everyone involved. If you're interested in serving on these days, check out the Events Board in the foyer.



3071 River Road
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AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Riviera at the Park	7	8	9	10	11	12 Block Party!
13	14	15	16	17	18 24-Hour Prayer	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Project Hope
27 Project Hope	28	29	30 5 th Wednesday	31	1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8 Men's Roundup	9