

Amazing grace! Join Dr. Michael C. Blackwell along with BCH leaders Keith Henry and Brenda Gray as they share ministry updates and needs. Visit www.bchblog.org/podcast.

Charity & Children

And now abides faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina



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June 2020

Issue 5

Volume 133

Essential worker family thankful for BCH program

By Jim Edminson, Editor

Two-year-old Ella is the center of her parents' world. They would do anything for her. So, like other parents during the coronavirus pandemic, their attention turned to doing what was best for her — protecting her and meeting her day-to-day needs. The twist is, both parents are essential workers.

Luke Alexander is a first responder with the Rowan County Emergency Services. "I knew what I would be doing after the coronavirus hit North Carolina."

Alexander is a paramedic with Rowan's Emergency Medical Services. It is his job to provide first-aid treatment and life support care to sick and injured people, often entering homes to provide help. His service is essential and places him on the frontline during the pandemic. The county is one of the state's hardest hit.

Jessica Hall is the administrative assistant at Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) Fleshman-Pratt Weekday Education Center in Thomasville.

On April 1, BCH's two premier weekday education centers, Fleshman-Pratt and Robert Idol Child Development Center, began offering childcare to essential workers designated as an Emergency Childcare Provider. Only licensed childcare programs that have met additional health and safety protocols and satisfied other requirements specified by North Carolina's Division of Child Development and Early Education are authorized as emergency providers.

"We knew Luke was an essential worker," Hall remembers. "When we received our status as an Emergency Childcare Provider, I knew I would



Two-year-old Ella's world is as normal as it can be during the coronavirus pandemic. She attends BCH's Fleshman-Pratt Education Center in Thomasville. Her parents Jessica and Luke are essential workers. As of April 1, the Center was designated an Emergency Childcare Provider serving essential worker families.

be working, too. All of us at the Centers became essential workers."

The couple's daughter Ella one of the first children, birth to 12 years old, to attend BCH's weekday education program under the coronavirus emergency status.

"There was never going to be an option for us not to be at work," Alexander asserts, "so without BCH caring for Ella, we would have needed to look for alternative arrangements — on top of all that we are doing on our jobs and all that was happening with COVID-19."

BCH childcare centers were prepared with many of the necessary protocols in place. Leaders ramped up what they were already doing, enhancing protocols that only allowed center staff to enter the buildings, increasing frequency of taking temperatures, and performing health checks daily.

Staff members are well trained in dealing with everything from viruses to blood borne pathogens to abiding by routines that prevent children from spreading infections.

Ella's parents' lives have changed drastically. They are constantly aware of possible exposure to COVID-19. But while at work, both abide by rigid protocols as they do their jobs. Because of their world, the couple needed their daughter's world to be less topsy turvy.

"It has been important for us to keep Ella's schedule as close to normal as possible," Hall says. "In fact, Ella's life has changed very little and that has helped us so much as parents. Things are less stressful because we know she is safe and in good hands. Because of BCH, Luke and I are less fearful as we serve the people who need us. It has meant everything — we are so thankful."

Transmitting values to children: Five tips for building relationship

By Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO

One of the deepest desires of a parent is to give a legacy of heartfelt values to his or her child. To pass along convictions and principles which have become a part of us through our experience is not only our responsibility but demonstrates deep love for our offspring.

How do we transmit our values?

Taking a few common-sense steps will go a long way toward imparting an understanding of what values are important to you, why they are important, and why you want your child to embrace those values which have meaning to you.

1. First, treat your child with respect in every situation, especially when sharing your beliefs.

Much of what you wish to convey to your child will be accepted or rejected based merely on its presentation. If you treat your child fairly and with dignity, you're creating an open environment in which the child will feel free to listen and speak. If a child feels you're talking down to him, he may block the message. Sometimes adults forget children need to feel respected and that their fragile feelings need protecting. Children crave value, worth and dignity.

2. Second, listen to your child.

Truly hear what your child is saying or asking as related to the values you are sharing. Many times, we as adults assume our words are crystal clear to children and the way we say things has the same meaning to our child as it does to us.

Avoid "pat" answers. Your first response may be easiest, but bite your tongue and think more deeply about the question. Your child will know if you are simply repeating platitudes to her without concern for really hearing her.

Children who ask "Why?" aren't just trying to drive us crazy. They really want to know what makes things work and why we hold the values we do and why it is important that they hold them, too. It takes time and effort to truly listen, but the results are worth it.

3. Third, be aware that you are an example.

There is no question that you are an example: the question is what kind of example are you? If your actions are not consistent with your words, there is slim chance your "lecture" will mean anything to its audience.

Your life-conduct, speech, actions — form the basis for your witness to your child. The old saying is true: "If a child lives with criticism, he will criticize." What your child observes in you is what he internalizes, far sooner and more permanently than anything you say to him.

Make sure your life speaks the values you want to impart to your children. Be an authentic model for your child to emulate. Your values will begin to be reflected in the actions of your child.

4. Fourth, encourage and affirm.

When your child makes progress in behavior and demonstrates your values, praise him lavishly, but sincerely. Encouragement helps your child embrace your values, and gives him vital messages about esteem, confidence and courage. The way he feels about himself is determined in great measure by his perception of how you feel about him. Success begets success. Encouraging and supporting your child does wonders in moving him along toward an acceptance of those values which will have great meaning in his life.

5. Fifth, love your child unconditionally and make sure she knows it.

This is the most important ingredient in building a lasting relationship of trust and acceptance. Children are remarkably intuitive. They can sense and feel if you're authentic. They know if things aren't the way you say they are. Mistakes may be made but love forgives all. You won't always like your child's actions, but you can always love your child.

Children may not always remember the gifts you give

them but they will remember the fact that you've loved them.

Respect your child.

Listen to your child.

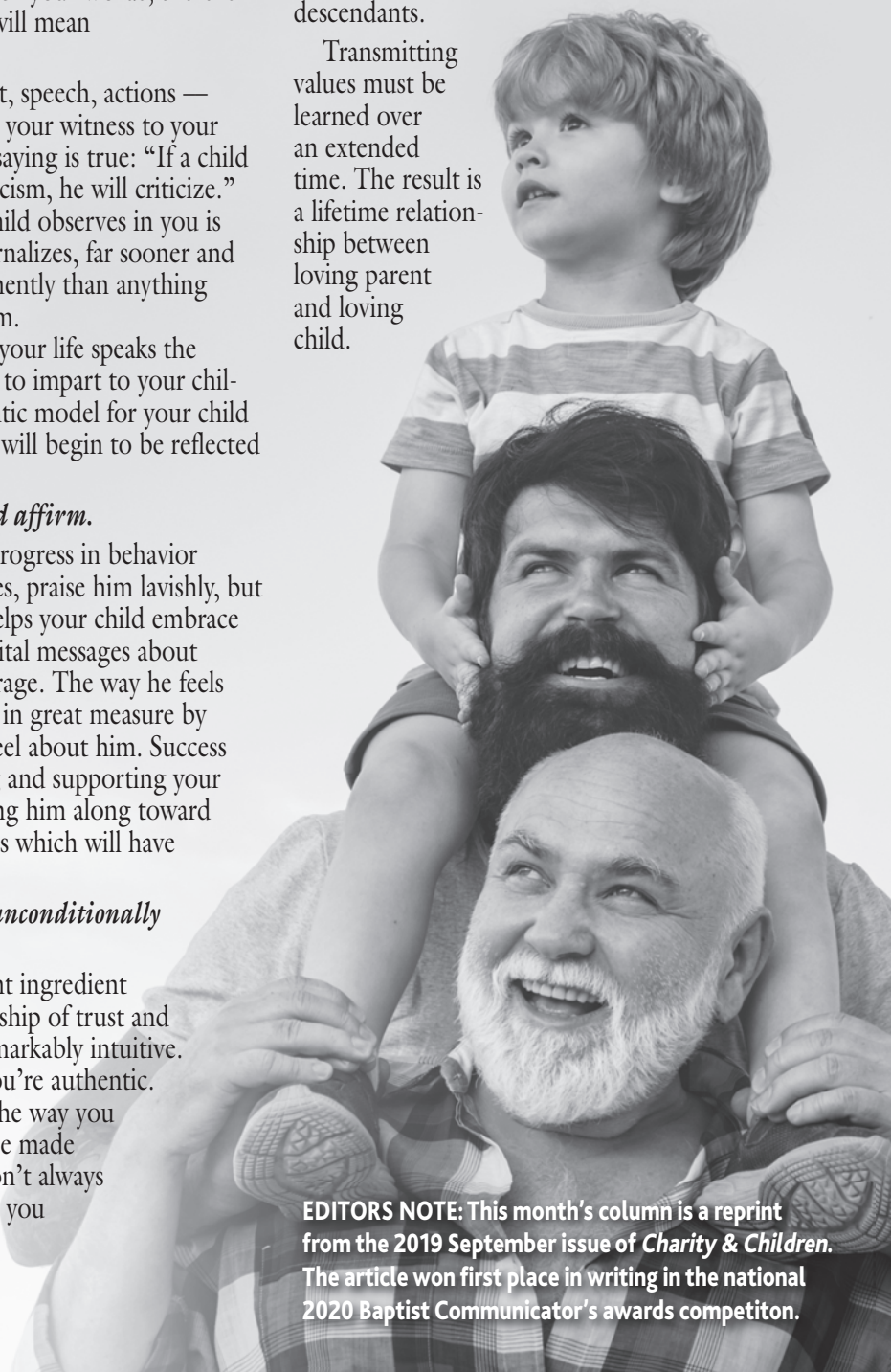
Be an example for your child.

Encourage and affirm your child.

Love your child.

If you follow these common-sense guidelines, not only will you find that you are building a loving, strong relationship but you are building a foundation for your values to outlive you in the lives of your descendants.

Transmitting values must be learned over an extended time. The result is a lifetime relationship between loving parent and loving child.



EDITORS NOTE: This month's column is a reprint from the 2019 September issue of *Charity & Children*. The article won first place in writing in the national 2020 Baptist Communicator's awards competition.

Mission: sharing hope . . . changing lives

Vision: To provide the highest quality

of Christian services to children, adults

and families in a caring culture of

measurable excellence

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Edminson's service reveals passion for families

By Michael C. Blackwell, Publisher, *Charity & Children*

Charity & Children (C&C) holds a special place in the hearts of many North Carolina Baptists (and others). Whether they grew up reading about the transformed lives of children, or whether they more recently have connected with the multifaceted ministries of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH), the stories in C&C always touch the heart and remind us that when God's people share His hope, lives are changed.

In its 133-year history, the 14 editors of *Charity & Children* have had three things in common: They've all been wordsmiths with depth of experience, professional training, and a whole-some calling to Christian ministry. As a member of this esteemed group, Editor Jim Edminson is currently celebrating his 20th anniversary — a milestone surpassed only by Archibald Johnson who served as editor for 40 years from 1895 until 1935.

Unlike most of C&C's editors, Edminson didn't grow up in North Carolina. He moved his wife, Kathy, and their three youngest children from Louisiana in 2000. In addition to their oldest child who was about to enter college, Jim and Kathy left both of their extended families in Louisiana to follow the Lord's direction to serve other families in a state where they had neither family nor friends.

Edminson's ensuing 20 years as editor of C&C have revealed his genuine passion for children and families. Anyone who knows him for more than a few minutes, or who is a faithful reader of his "Homeward" column, is aware of his deep commitment to family — a passion that fuels his desire to serve other families in need of God's grace.

In addition to being a polished "wordsmith," Edminson has brought quite the collection

of other creative strengths to his work at BCH. His striking photographs paint a thousand words for C&C readers. His graphic designs have transitioned C&C and other BCH ministries into the digital age.

Edminson also speaks and preaches frequently, plans internal and external ministry events, and serves as assistant to BCH's president. There are few places within BCH where Edminson's creative influence has not been felt.

In celebration of C&C's 125th anniversary in 2012, I wrote, "I love

this little paper with all my heart. I cannot recall a time when I haven't read it. My warm childhood feelings for BCH were based primarily on *Charity & Children*. That's the same feeling I want our thousands of readers to continue

to experience."

With *W. James Edminson* at the wheel, those warm feelings will continue as this historic publication connects readers with BCH's 135-year-old life-changing ministry. And note to Jim, just 20 more years and you will tie

Archibald Johnson's record — *I plan to be here to congratulate you then, too!*



Archibald Johnson



Left, Edminson and his three daughters in 2001. Above, program leaders pray prior to BCH's 125th anniversary worship service at Mills Home Baptist Church. Edminson served as the Anniversary's director.



In addition to his skillful and focused work on behalf of children and families, there is another side to Jim Edminson that only BCH staff members typically get to see — the inner kid. Here, Edminson entertains as "Slugger the Clown" at a 2017 internal event to celebrate BCH staff — the "Greatest People on Earth."



Love creates a ripple effect for generations to come

By Brenda B. Gray, Executive Vice President, Development & Communications

It was a beautiful day. My grandmother decided it was a great day to visit West Pond. Our family gathered fishing poles, bait and lunch, and we embarked on an adventure. There was always a contest to see who could catch the “biggest” or the “most” fish. When we arrived, I rushed for my cane pole ready to catch the big one. I tossed the line, the bobber hit the water and, from the splash, a beautiful ripple was created that seemed to go outward forever.

It did not take long before I was bored. I knew there were more adventures waiting. So, I walked around the water’s edge being careful to watch for snakes (which terrify me) since the grass was particularly high. In my path, I found some great skipping rocks. Have you ever noticed the ripple effect when you toss a rock to skip on a pond’s surface? It causes small waves and the small waves expand from the point where the rock touches the water rippling across the pond.

When you touch our ministry with your prayerful support you create a “ripple” effect. You make things happen for those in need. You touch lives that touch other lives that to this day continue touching others.

A letter came across my desk this week, it was from a BCH friend and faithful supporter, David Clark, who lives in Elizabethtown. Mr. Clark sent a gift to celebrate the birthday of his 80-year-old friend Paul Gibson Butler, Jr. In the envelope, Mr. Clark also enclosed the letter he had received from his friend Mr. Butler.

Mr. Butler wrote: “I will be 80 years old this coming Friday, May 1, 2020. I am sending this letter to 80 of my friends, both near and far, to ask that you help celebrate my birthday.”

He shared his disappointment at not being able to gather to celebrate his birthday in person due to the COVID-19 crisis. But was determined to turn this hardship into a positive. He decided to create a ripple effect that would touch lives that touch other lives.

To celebrate his birthday in a very unique and special way, he challenged 80 of his friends to commemorate his milestone by doing good for others in a compelling and memorable way. Mr. Butler mailed 80 of his friends \$80 each,

one dollar for each year of his life. He asked them to spend their \$80 in a manner that eases the burden or despair of someone impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Hopefully, in a few months, as our lives and work return to ‘normal,’ we can gather or talk by phone about how you leveraged this modest amount of money in a meaningful way.”

Mr. Clark received his May issue of *Charity & Children* and upon opening his friend’s letter, decided to send his \$80 to help our children. The ripple effect that both of these men created with their lives is a ripple effect you create each time you reach out and touch the lives of others with acts of kindness.

Happy 80th Birthday Mr. Butler!
I will be interested to hear about the ripple effect of each of these gifts sent to your 80 friends.

To each of you, thank you for sustaining our ministry at this time. Our hearts are filled with gratitude! For food, food cards, protective masks, encouraging cards, for lifting us up through your prayers, for each and every gift of support.
THANK YOU!

You make it possible for us to be here with arms open as each hurting person walks through our doors. The ripple effect of your investment in their lives will make a difference for generations to come!

And our children thank you!



Brenda Gray serves BCH as the executive vice president, development & communications and directs fund-raising/friend-raising activities for the ministry.

Summer is going to look different this year.

Our cottage parents are navigating this unprecedented time like champions. School assignments are being completed and children are turning their thoughts to summer. Instead of going on summer outings off Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) property, children will be playing more basketball in the cottage driveways. They'll take turns on the swings or play games in the yard. Cottage parents will teach them how to garden and cooking lessons will result in tasty cupcakes and cookies. *Yes, summer is going to look different, but no matter the changes or challenges, BCH remains a haven of hope where the love of Jesus abounds.*

There is something else that hasn't changed: the need for your help. *Your gift is needed more than ever.* While many other organizations are struggling to remain open, BCH continues to meet the needs of hurting children. Because other organizations are unable to help, more boys and girls are being referred to us. The Food Roundup was postponed. The April food drive brings in \$750,000 in non-perishable food, supplies and gift cards. Without it, there is a huge shortfall.

Summer may look different this year, but the needs of North Carolina children do not. Will you help during this crucial...and unusual season? *Please give.*



I want to give children a summer filled with *Joy & Love!*

☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$ _____ *Any size gift!*

To make a gift by check, please print your information below and mail this form with your check.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

To make a gift by credit card: 1) Go online at www.bchfamily.org/summer 2) Or make your gift by calling Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312

☐ Yes, I would like to receive email updates from Baptist Children's Homes.

☐ Contact me with information on how to prepare a Christian Will. ☐ I have included Baptist Children's Homes in my estate plans.

Graduates hit marks despite quarantine

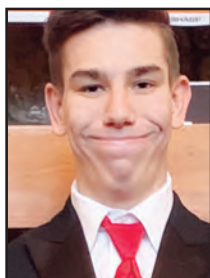
BCH RESIDENTS

Teryn Ball, a resident at Mills Home in Thomasville, graduates from Thomasville High School. She has been accepted to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she will attend this fall.



Ball

Noah Andrew Bryson graduate from Tuscola High School in Waynesville. The res-



Bryson

ident at Broyhill Home in Clyde plans to pursue a career in auto mechanics.

Damaka Ervin, a Mills Home resident, graduates in June from Thomasville High School. He plans to attend North Carolina Central Uni-



Ervin

versity in Durham to study graphic design.

Emile Kennedy, a resident at Broyhill Home, graduates from Tuscola High School in Waynesville. She is currently a part of the CNA program at Haywood Community College and plans to enroll in the nursing program at Isothermal Community College in Rutherford-



Kennedy

ton. Cruzito "Cruz" Sanchez graduates from Tuscola High School in Waynesville. A resident at Broyhill Home, he has been accepted to the School of Music at Western



Sanchez

Carolina University in Cullowhee.

Cheyenne Tucker, a resident at Mills Home, graduates from The Get Real Program at Davidson County Community College in Lexington this fall.



Tucker

Raymonda Carver graduates from Haywood Community Learning Center in Waynesville. She is a resident at Broyhill Home and plans to attend college to pursue



Pope

STAFF MEMBERS

Rae Francis, Case Manager at Mills Home in Thomasville where she works with girls from John-son Cottage, graduated in May from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She received her Master of Social Work degree.



Blankinship

Deborah Pope received her Master of Pastoral Counseling degree from Liberty University in May. She serves at Kennedy Home in Kinston as a family care worker with single mothers and their children.

Emily Chaisson graduated from the University of Mount Olive in Mount Olive in May. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Mathematics. Chaisson received a scholarship to pursue a PHD in Chemistry at the



Stackhouse



Francis



Brown

University of Tennessee beginning in August. She is the daughter of Bill Chaisson who serves as BCH Treasurer.

Luke Dalke graduates in July from Southwestern Randolph High School in Asheboro. He is the grandson of Bobby and



Dalke

Sonya Dalke who serve at Broyhill Home as Senior Child Care Workers. Dalke will attend Randolph Community College in the fall.

Luke Hartman is the son of Dana Hartman, Case Manager at Mills Home in Thomasville. He graduates in June from New Hope Christian Academy in Thomasville. He plans to pursue an Associate Degree in Fire Science at Davidson County Community College in Lexington starting this fall.



Henry

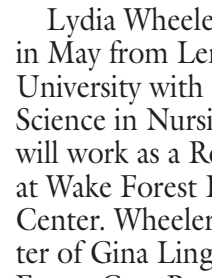
Joseph Henry graduated from High Point Christian Academy in High Point in May. This fall, he will attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to study computer science/cyber security. Henry is the son of BCH Chief Operating Officer Keith Henry.

Zoe Hoover graduates from East Davidson High School in Thomasville. She is the daughter of Wendy Hoover who serves at Fleshman-Pratt Education Center as a part of BCH's Weekday Education program in Thomasville. Hoover will attend Davidson County Community College in Lexington to pursue a career as a Pharmacy Technician or in Emergency Medical Services.



Porter

Lydia Wheeler graduated in May from Lenoir-Rhyne University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She will work as a Registered Nurse at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Wheeler is the daughter of Gina Lingle, Family Foster Care Recruiter-Trainer-Licenser in Lenoir.



Wheeler



Chaisson



Hartman



Hoover

Comforted by His righteous hand

By Keith Henry, Chief Operating Officer

We are bombarded every day with information that may cause fear, anger and disillusionment. We may even have feelings of “what’s the use?” Recently listening to the radio while driving home, I heard that by 2050 all human civilization would collapse. If not by changes in the world’s climate, then by depression and famine caused by economic collapse. I’m told my only hope is to do exactly what they tell me. I’m offered a life-saving product and urged to subscribe to their newsletter,...*or else.*

Doomsday predictions are not new. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us in chapter one, verses nine through ten: “*What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, ‘Look! This is something new?’ It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.*”

A scan of history reveals many predictions of destruction and the end times. One such prediction was painted by famed Florentine artist Sandro Botticelli in 1500. It hangs at the National Gallery in London.

Botticelli believed himself to be living during what is known as the “Great Tribulation” and in his painting “The Mystical Nativity” he was predicting the millenium of Christ on earth as read about in the Book of Revelation. His beautiful painting depicts the joy and delight of angels dancing in the heavens. Near the bottom of the painting, three angels embrace three men as if to raise them from their graves while seven devils scurry to the underworld, some impaled on their own weapons. Botticelli died in 1510 and obviously did not experience the Tribulation or live to see Christ’s 1,000-year earthly reign.

Modern history has its predictions, too. I remember the hundreds of “Y2K” predic-

tions. Computers would crash and malfunctions would lead to catastrophes worldwide resulting in society’s collapse. We waited. We held our breath watching the clock tick past midnight on December 31, 1999.

We are now living during the COVID-19 pandemic. To say during these months that people have experienced anxieties and hardship is an understatement. The *not knowing* produced fear. For some, their path was to be informed, to take precautions, and to be responsible. For others, fear drove them down a path of selfishness, even hoarding while others went without — in some cases denying access to life-saving necessities.

But the most recent information about the virus is hopeful and I believe we are coming out on the other side. While remaining cautious, fears are subsiding.

During these past weeks, Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) experienced a great display of love and caring from our partners in ministry who have given sacrificially of their time and resources. I witnessed our BCH’s staff members go above and beyond on a daily basis taking extra duties and responsibilities while standing shoulder to shoulder to make sure our children, families and intellectual and developmentally disabled adults were cared for and protected. We thank those who stand with us daily and we salute our “frontline” staff who are truly super heroes in action.



The American novelist James Lane Allen wrote: “Adversity does not build character, it reveals it.” We have seen great character during this time by those who have stood

with BCH. From across our great state, you have placed fear on the backburner and demonstrated great love for the children. Thank you for what you have done and continue to do for those most vulnerable — for those who are often the most impacted at times like these. It is through your efforts that BCH is able to go forward serving with love and compassion the next weary soul that comes through our doors.

Isaiah 41:10 reads: “*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand.*”

During ancient times, during Y2K, during COVID-19, and during whatever is to come as the days unfold before us, God says, “Do not be afraid.” Let us commit to not letting fear dictate behavior and cause us to take and withhold instead of give. Grab His “righteous” hand and be comforted, then pass that comfort to the neighbor beside you.



Remember Mom and Dad

Make your honor or memorial gift and yours and your parent's name(s) will be published in a commemorative section of the August **Charity & Children** that celebrates moms and dads. Use the coupon below or enclosed envelope:

Check the appropriate box: ☐ Honor ☐ Memorial In honor or memory of _____

Send Notice of Gift to _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

To give by check, please print your information below and mail this form with your check.

To: BCH, PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361 Attn: Mothers/Fathers Day Gift. You can use the enclosed, postage-paid envelope.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Give by credit card online at www.bchfamily.org/momanddad or call Faith Frazier at 336-474-1312.

Hurry! Deadline is July 1.

COVID survivor able to come home because of ramp

By Carol Layton, Director of Communications and Administration - NCBAM

The first morning of May began with a steady rain as the ramp-building team arrived at Mary Scudillo's home in Rockwell. "I offered them a big umbrella. But they were so dedicated; they just started working in the rain!" Mary was excited to see work begin on the ramp, but her voice still had an edge of unease to it—unease she has been living with for months.

Her mother, Barbara Thomas, who needs the ramp, is 77 years old and currently a resident at



Citadel Salisbury, home to the state's worst nursing home cluster of COVID - 19 cases according to the Charlotte Observer (April 27). "I've been trying for more than a year to bring her home. Her condition had finally improved enough to be released, but

then like so many others there, she tested positive for COVID. She has recovered now and they told me she can be released May 14 if she has a wheelchair ramp in place."

Mary completed paperwork with North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) in mid-February, which allowed the ministry to start looking for volunteer ramp builders. "The Call Center overcame several challenges to meet this need, including funding for materials, the number of needs in the area, and then the pandemic," says Melanie Beeson, Call Center Director for NCBAM. "Many volunteers are at

an at-risk age group and are self-isolating. We are careful not to ask individuals to put themselves or those they are serving at an increased risk"

Robert Leonard, south central regional director for NCBAM, heard of Barbara's need, and felt he could safely and strategically put a building team together so that she could finally come home. Volunteers from Parkwood Baptist, Glorieta Baptist, and Hopewell Baptist stepped up to help meet the need.

Though they started their work in the rain, the day soon gave way to blue skies and bright sunshine. As the ramp began to take shape, Mary's voice began to sound more hopeful. "It's so exciting to hear the saws and the hammering and to know it's actually happening." Then she adds, "Well, the cats don't like it, but I certainly do!"

Mary says that May 14 "can't come soon enough" for her or her mother. "When the pandemic began, visitors were not allowed and the past month has been terrible not being able



Wheelchair ramp builders used safe practices to build a quality ramp to welcome Barbara Thomas home. Left to right are Robert Leonard (NCBAM south central regional director and Glorieta BC); David Tate (Parkwood BC); Austin Arnder (Hopewell BC); Ralph Belk and Jim Sherrill (Parkwood BC). Pictured left, Thomas is all smiles about her COVID-19 recovery and coming home.

to see each other. We are able to talk on the phone three or four times a day, but it's not the same."

With the ramp completed and the sun out, Mary's spirits lifted even more. "Oh, I am just so thankful for the people who do this and for the volunteers who made it possible for my mom to be able to leave the nursing home and to be at home. I know she'll enjoy being out in the sunshine."

Pandemic resources are available through NCBAM

By Dr. Sandy Gregory, Ministry Director - NCBAM

With older adults in the crosshairs of the coronavirus pandemic, I've never been prouder to work alongside the mission-minded team members at North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM). We are all working vigorously to create, adapt, and improve services that provide "help for the journey" to North Carolina's seniors.

The following resources are available from NCBAM. Please use or share with seniors in your church and community.

The NCBAM *Hope Line* was established last June as a "warm-line" to connect with seniors experiencing social isolation and loneliness. The coronavirus pandemic thrust tens of thousands of older North Carolinians into isolation. Since the pandemic began, we've added two lines and daily service to meet the demand. Currently, the *Hope Line* receives approximately 100 calls

each week. If you are 65+ and need someone to talk to, give us a call at 866-578-4673 (9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m).

Hope Line volunteer "communicators" are needed. For more information, call 877-506-2226.

The NCBAM Call Center offers information and referrals as well as connections to Baptists on Mission volunteers who may be available for meal delivery or other essential services. The Call Center can be reached at 877-506-2226, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. During March and April, the Call Center logged 3,227 contacts related to the pandemic.

Team members from NCBAM have created "Sixty Second Soul Stretch" videos that offer movement, mindfulness, and God's word to help calm the mind, relax the body, and stretch the soul! The videos feature movements from the evidence-based Arthritis Foundation Exer-

cise Program, Matter of Balance, and Tai Chi for Fall Prevention. Look for the "Sixty Second Soul Stretch" playlist on NCBAM's YouTube channel.

Team members are also making calls to our "Servant Care" participants to encourage them. Call us at 877.506.2226 to enroll in Servant Care. It's open to Baptist ministers (65+), their spouses, or widows.

NCBAM continues to work closely with state agencies such as the North Carolina Coalition on Aging, AARP-NC, and numerous Area Agencies on Aging — sharing timely information and resources. To help the state better understand the needs of senior adults during the pandemic, we've also conferred with North Carolina's Lieutenant Governor's office.

Please give NCBAM a call at 877.506.2226. We'd love to partner with you in your ministry or outreaches to senior adults.

Homecoming remains set for July 31-August 2 — Tooth casualty of kitchen antics, Alum remembers

By Lib Smathers Johnson (336) 299-7412 libsjohnson@triad.rr.com

Homecoming dates are July 31-August 2 — if COVID-19 allows. The Alumni Council asks that you keep a special eye open for announcements regarding the event. See the monthly *Charity & Children*, Facebook, and our 2020 letter.

We were pleased to hear that **Dan Lambeth** is recuperating very nicely from his hip surgery on March 11. He plans to get back to his job around June 1. Friends can send get well cards to Dan at 134 Englewood St., Archdale, NC 27263.

Sandra Stallings Lentz sent the sad news of the April 12 death of **Regina Passmore Quinn**. Regina came to Mills Home (MH) in 1943 with siblings **Shirley and Larry**. She graduated in 1955. As a student at MH, Regina was active in choir and church activities such as training union and GA's. In the summers, she was a daily visitor to the swimming pool and, in the winter, she was a frequent attendee of sports events on campus. Until the last two or three years, she always attended Homecoming. She is survived by her husband **Lewis**, two daughters, two sons, 13 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son **Kenneth Montgomery** and sister **Shirley**. The family will hold a Celebration of Life service at a later date. Friends can send condolences to her husband **Lewis Quinn** at 9807 Withers Rd., Charlotte, NC 28278.

On April 5, we received a note from **Susie Steelman Parsad** requesting prayers for her son **Edward** and his family. Edward's son, Brent, was in a tragic auto accident on March 29. He was in critical condition for three days and taken off life support on April 1. Though in deep mourning, the family takes comfort knowing that the medical experts were able to pass on the gift of life to several other people through his organ donation. Friends may send condolences to **Susie** at susieparsad@charter.net or 21526 N. Tangle Creek Lane, Spring, TX 77388.

We received sad news from **Haley Garner O'Neal** that her mother **Lynn**

Garner died on May 4. Formerly the West Central Region Director for Baptist Children's Homes (BCH), **Lynn** was serving BCH in the Family Care program. Friends may send condolences **Lynn's** husband and family at: **Zane Garner**, PO Box 203, Denton, NC 27239.

So many MH alumni take advantage of "Mills Home Orphanage Memories," a Facebook page set up by **Harry Walls** nearly 10 years ago. It is a very entertaining page on which Harry posts photos of people and scenes from life at MH. He also posts "literary" pieces he has composed, chiefly bits of information and short stories from his life experiences. Occasionally, he posts photos from Kennedy Home and newspaper articles. People have the privilege of commenting on any of those and that makes for many hours of entertainment. Alumni are good to respond with opinions or additional information to clarify puzzlement or questions. It is a great place to learn details about the history of BCH and Mills Home, personal history of those willing to share, happy current details of people's lives, and news of sad events such as illness and death. If you have never checked it out, you should. It is a delightful adventure!

Jim Hamby recently treated the Mills Home Orphanage Memories Facebook users to a story from his days at the Chowan cottage. He writes: "The year was 1961. **Mrs. Werner** was our house mother and we knew she was the boss. Consequently, we usually had good behavior in that cottage. But yes, we also had plenty of mischievous behavior — especially in the kitchen. **Doug Tolbert** and I had kitchen duty which meant we washed the dishes and did all the other cleaning. We loved it when one of the gallon sized syrup cans became empty. We would wash the can, then fill it full of soapy water and put the lid on tight. Next, we would shake it really hard and wait for the results. In about 5 seconds, the lid would blow off spewing hot soapy water everywhere. It was hilarious fun for us. One evening as we were playing around during our

clean-up time, Doug and I decided to trade blows to the belly to see which of us was tougher. I was first and hit Doug as hard as I could. He just laughed and said, "Now, I'll show you how to do it." He hit me so hard I doubled up in pain. When I did, I hit the table with my front tooth and broke it off clean! With such a hurting belly, I did not realize the damage to my tooth. Doug saw the damage very quickly and started to panic. We both knew that if Mrs. Warner knew what had happened, we would be in trouble. After a little thinking, we calmed down with what we thought was a good idea. I went to the sink and got a pan of soapy water and poured it on the floor and told Doug to go get Mrs. Werner. Before she got there, I sat down in the water. When she arrived, we did not try to explain. She drew her own conclusion (just as we intended) and did not punish us. I got my tooth fixed with no questions asked.

"After we left MH, I went back to my hometown and Doug moved with his family to California. I joined the Army in 1965 and got my orders for Vietnam in October 1966. Since I had to report to Oakland Air Force base in California, I called Doug. He and his family picked me up at the San Jose bus station and I spent three wonderful days visiting. Later the family took me to Oakland AFB to see me off. Many years passed before I saw Doug again. We had a wonderful reunion around 2015 when he came as a fantastic magician to entertain at Homecoming. It was memorable because of a reunion with a special childhood friend."

Around 2002, before Harry Walls set up the Facebook page, **Sally Beck Ferguson** set up the MH Website which gave us the same kind of social connection. On the website, fast and furious posting for several years helped us to learn about so many alumni from other generations and to reconnect to alumni families we knew. One such family was one of the Price families of the late 1940s. **Hansel (Doc) and Dawn Price** entered MH in 1944 from the town of Brookford followed by **Dave and**

Phillip in 1945. Though they lived at MH only until 1951 when their dad returned from service and moved them to Norfolk, VA, Dave has many fond memories of MH life. He loved it when **Mother Grace** at Simmons Cottage loaded her station wagon with her little boys and drove them "uptown" to buy ice cream at the "Morning Glory." Loving to swim, he recalls the mad rush those same little boys made running barefooted over to the old swimming pool which was across from the Little Cottage. After finishing high school in Norfolk, Dave joined the Marines and found a home in Grants Pass, OR. There, he was involved with the Marine Corps, entered Bible College, and worked in camps and vacation Bible schools. Eventually, and happily, it was there he met and married his wife **Linda**. They have four offspring, several grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Dave is still out in the work force, managing two jobs. He runs a successful insurance business and has been pastoring a small church since 2003. He says he is thankful for the life with which the Lord has blessed him. Friends can contact Dave at cdav-price@yahoo.com or 541-479-7188.

Standing in the Alumni Council spotlight for June is **Rusty Bunker**. You've been hearing that name for 18 years now because he is the "guy from the Mills Home staff" who spends so much time on Homecoming helping the alumni accomplish the many feats in preparing for the weekend. It seems every waking moment he is either doing a job for us or he is rounding up somebody on campus to help us. No wonder he bears the title Support Services Manager. He is a tall slim man, with a head full of hair and a beard and mustache. When setting up is done and the fun begins, Rusty is in the middle of the games, dances and other activities. He is honored to be called "HO" — *Honorary Orphan*.



Lib Johnson was a resident of Mills Home from 1946 to 1957. Johnson began writing the Mills Home alumni column in 1992.



Making News Every Day Around the State



Cameron Boys Camp Education takes flight

For boys at Cameron Boys Camp, school happens all around them. The licensed experiential learning program gives them an opportunity to know more about nature firsthand as a part of their studies.



Friend of Children Supporter brings donations

Jeremy Canipe, a Broyhill Home supporter, recently brought a supply of towels, comforters, sheets, and detergent. Canipe received the Friends of Children Award at the 2019 Western Area Conference.



Community Support Local company gives back

As a part of efforts to give back to the community, Harcros Chemicals in Thomasville made a \$2,500 donation to Mills Home. Dwight Riggs of Harcros presents a check to Regina Keener of Mills Home.



Mills Home in Thomasville Food truck gives funnel cakes

Children at Mills Home were treated to a food truck on campus giving them a fun option for lunch. Boys and girls not only chose their meal but the vendor provided free funnel cakes.



Broyhill Home in Clyde Company donates golf cart

Appalachian Golf Carts in Sapphire donated a golf cart for Broyhill Home to use on its campus. The company learned of Broyhill Home through BCH supporter Jeremy Canipe.



Community Support Pallets of apples given to BCH

If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, the boys and girls at BCH are in great shape. Deal Orchards based in Taylorsville donated three pallets of apples to Mills Home in Thomasville.



Education During Stay-at-home Staff members step up

Cottage parents, case managers and other BCH staff members have filled in the gaps when schools shifted learning to online only. They are making sure boys and girls have the education support needed.



Kennedy Home in Kinston Fishing provides fun activity

A benefit to living near Falling Creek and the Neuse River is that it is convenient to go fishing. The boys at Kennedy Home in Kinston spent a recent afternoon seeing what they could catch.



Church Support Three churches unite to help

Coweeta, Black Mountain and Newman Chapel Baptist held drive-in services collecting food and offerings for BCH at multiple services. Above, pastors Keith Ashe, Cale Stancill and Dennis Ledford.

Can we help? Many ministries beating with one heart.

1. Western Area Family Services
Linda Morgan, Lead Dir., 828-627-9254
2. Central Area Family Services
Regina Keener, Dir., 336-474-1200
3. Eastern Area Family Services
Christopher Allabaugh, Dir., 252-522-0811
www.kennedyhome.org
4. Odum Home
Kathy Locklear, Res. Mgr., 910-521-3433
www.odumhome.org
5. Oak Ranch/Family Care

6. Cameron Boys Camp
Drew Scott, Dir., 910-245-4034
www.cameronboyscamp.org
7. Camp Duncan for Girls
Brad Gearhart, Dir., 910-944-3077
www.campduncanNC.org
8. Weekday Education
Brooke Child, Dir., 336-474-1201
9. Tucker Greater Vision Ministry
Sara Becker, Mgr., 336-687.6384
10. Family Foster Care
Bob McCleary, 828-627-9254
www.bchfostercare.org

11. HOMEBASE at W. Carolina University
Jim Dean, Dir., 828-293-4660
12. Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
Tara Sessoms, Dir., 336-474-1259
www.hereismyhome.org
13. NC Baptist Aging Ministry
Sandy Gregory, Dir., 336-474-1221
www.ncbam.org
14. Good Shepherd Children's Home in Guatemala
Keith Henry, COO, 336-474-1215



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Two alum reach the tops of their professions — “Life was good at the orphanage,” remembers one.

By **John Thompson**, 110 Lee K. Allen Drive, Havelock, NC 28532 (252)671-3515 jthompson117@ec.rr.com

Worship is good where ever it might happen to be. I hope you read **Editor Jim Edminson's** last “Homeword.” He wrote that he loves to go and just sit in a sanctuary alone and worship during this time when we haven’t been able to use our church sanctuaries during the pandemic. It reminded me that we are choosing other ways to worship. At Cherry Point Baptist Church, our pastor Steve Epperson, began a “drive-in” worship in the church parking lot. There have been an average of 75 trucks and cars each Sunday morning. In April, there was three additions, a baptism, exceeded the Annie Armstrong goal, and took in more tithes and offerings than was received in March. It was amazing!

Larry R. Gilliam (1957-1971) recently wrote: “With the problems caused by the virus, it has put a halt to our normal way of life. On Easter Sunday, we had a great sunrise service at our church in Ayden. We all stayed in our vehicles with our pastor using a PA system and standing in the bed of his truck at 6:15 am. I’m sure the neighbor didn’t care too much for it. But I know that the Lord Jesus Christ was happy with the music and preaching. We still open the doors of our church on Sunday mornings, night, and Wednesday night for people to go in and pray at the altar alone. Of course, we follow the regulations and limit only 10 people at a time and require people to keep their distance. At a time like this...what better place to be but at the altar on your knees praying.”

I think about my time at Kennedy Home (KH) a lot. All the memories of those I knew and loved. I remember the times of playing tennis or volley ball, playing basketball in the old wooden gym which had no air condition in the summer or heat in the winter. There were times in the winter when it was so cold in the gym that we had to warm the balls before we played. There was poor lighting in the gym, but there were many good

times.

We all have a history — events, gains or losses, victories and defeats, high points, low points, excitement, and some deep sadness. They make up our memories. I sometimes wish I could go back in time, I would change some things, but time stands still for no one. Changing our pasts is not possible. Our past is gone forever. Learn from it and try not to repeat it.

Remember, God is in control. He remains sovereign over all. Scriptures tells us that the blessings of heaven and eternity far outweigh the past and present frustrations and sufferings (2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:4; John 16:33).

In the last issue of *Charity & Children*, I started writing about **Johnny Justice, Jr.** who came to KH in 1945 and stayed until 1953. I called and asked one of our KH alumnus **Dan Medlin** to share something about Johnny. He was a youngin at KH when Johnny and his sisters came. Johnny’s sister Kathleen was the same age as Dan.

Dan writes: “Now remember, I am 85 years old and sometimes I don’t remember the right dates, etc. After he and his sisters left KH, I didn’t see Johnny again for some time. One day while I was working at Duke University for Dupont, he came in to sell a photomicrographic system. I was in this type of business with Dupont and achieved degrees in microscopy, photoinstrumentation, hi-speed photography, and image analysis. I attended 23 anniversaries during my 37-year-Dupont career and then went to work for Vashaw Scientific as an instrument development engineer. I worked about 20 hours a week for 14 years. Much of my work involved micro image analyses systems that I developed while with Dupont Worldwide. I also opened and operated MMS - Medlin Microscopic Service.

“I didn’t see Johnny again after Duke, but we did call and talk to each other a few times. I remember he came to a KH breakfast in the

late 60s. Johnny started his own company and, I believe, ended up working with his twin to develop the company. It was very successful. His business was listed on Dun & Bradstreet for many years. We can be proud of Johnny’s success as a KH brother.

“It saddens me that we are unable to meet at Homecoming this year, But I am already looking forward to Homecoming next year — I will be the happiest orphan there.”

So many of the children who lived at KH grew up and became successful. Not just in business and scholastics, but they became successful husbands and wives, moms and dads, great citizens in their communities. I’m so proud of each and every one.

Now, let’s return and read some more that Johnny shared about living at KH. He writes: “In the spring, we planted seeds and young plants by hand to grow crops of corn, potatoes, tomatoes, okra, squash, water melons, cantaloupes, and more. We frequently had contests to see who was the fastest when we hand-picked the vegetables. Being very competitive, I was always among the fastest. We had three square meals a day with plenty to be had by all. The fresh foods we ate were nutritious and well prepared by the cooks — and the fresh-frozen and canned vegetables prepared by the older girls were surprisingly good.

“We also participated in raising and slaughtering our own poultry and hogs. And yes, we hand-milked the cows at our dairy until those amazing milking machines were installed — way before most of the dairy farmers in the area could afford them.

“We attended elementary, junior high and senior high schools in LaGrange. The children at the orphanage were lucky because we had electricity, steam heat and modern plumbing in our dormitories — along with indoor showers and toilets. Life was good at the orphanage and at school. Sure there were the

occasional ups and downs, including arguments, and sometimes fist fights, but all in all most of the kids were friendly with each other. These friendships are still evident when many of us get together every year for Homecoming.

“In the spring of 1953, I was very shocked to be asked if I would like to go live with my mother in Pennsylvania. I had not seen my mother in ten years. After several years, I graduated and moved to Durham and began a job as a dark-room technician trainee at Duke University Hospital. I worked one month to begin with as interim without pay — this landed the job for me. I made a \$170 a month.

“I met a lovely girl and we married in 1958 and have now been married 60 years.”

Johnny went on to become a professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and was the founding force of the Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society.

Jerry Troyer went to be with the Lord in Heaven on Tuesday morning, May 5. Jerry was a “staff” child at KH when Becky and I served in the 1970s. His father was the “barber-shop” man on campus and his mother was the nurse. Jerry, his parents and brothers Larry and Stan were loved by all and were friends with everyone. Often times I would take some of the staff youngins back on the farm to the “Skeeter Hut” to camp out on a Friday night. I remember, Jerry loved it. **Robert Maready, Dan Russ, Mel Walker, Jerry** and I were great camping buddies. Remember his family in your prayers.

I wish for all of you a healthy and great summer. Hang in there! And always remember, Becky and I are here for you. We pray for you. You are in our hearts forever. Give us a call or email me.



Love to all my youngins! — jt

John Thompson served at Kennedy Home from 1972-1977. Today, he enjoys a very active retirement.

Begin by excelling at the small things

By **Jim Edminson**, Editor

In his book *Tough Mercy*, Mills Home alum Ted Chandler writes, “In January 1934, my brothers and I rode all day in a cold drizzle wedged together with our belongings in parcels. John was ten years old, Cal eight, and I was six.” The boys arrived at their new home unsure about the days ahead, but as “a light snow” began to fall, the brothers stepped into a bright future. Chandler spent the next 11 years growing up at the Baptist Orphanage in Thomasville.

The 92-year-old says he was known as “the laziest orphan ever.” But he also says his life in Thomasville was transformational. “My days were alive with hope.” His musing of being lazy leaves out that a fire was ignited in his belly in those days. He remembers General Superintendent I.G. Greer encouraging the children, telling everyone they must excel — “even if only at shooting marbles...”

Playing marbles at recess in the schoolyard was more exciting for me than sitting in the classroom on a late spring morning. I was a good student, but math and science couldn’t compete with games of “keepsies.” Steelies, cat’s eyes, bumblebees, black eyed peas, and watermelons were prized marbles and among the many that filled the long red-denim pouch with a black shoestring tie that Mom sewed to keep me from losing any.

Mom was a marble player, too. I own an antique Mason jar, shaded blue with a zinc lid, filled to the top with her childhood marbles. She told me tales of drawing a circle in the dirt outside her grandparents’ home and playing marbles with her male cousins. Bobbed brown hair, wearing shorts and scuffed Buster Browns, her cotton ribbed socks bunched around her ankles, she held court as she played “knuckles down” and “bombsies” as well as any boy. When I showed interest in playing marbles, she was eager to show the best marble

holds. She loaned me a couple of her best marbles to get started. She taught me how to excel at marbles.

Greer understood the key to a child learning anything. It is to begin by teaching the child to excel at small things.

Jesus was patient with His disciples. He needed to be. They made mistakes, but He continued to push them to reach outside of themselves and excel. The three years Jesus spent with them was a crash course teaching and preparing them to launch a world-wide Kingdom effort — “much would be expected.” At the right time, He commanded them “therefore go and make disciples of all nations” and achieve something big!

Ted, Cal and John learned how to excel at the Orphanage. Ted went on to attend Wake Forest College and medical school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where he was granted a place in the first class of Morehead Scholars. A long career as a medical doctor culminated with becoming Professor Emeritus at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Cal had a fulfilling career as a hospital administrator, while John received a Ph.D. from Duke University and distinguished himself by serving as president of two lauded east coast colleges.

No matter where one is in life, it’s not too late to excel. It is good to push oneself to be really good at something. It is good to reach beyond your comfort and achieve something never thought possible.

Stuck at coming up with what to try first? Allow me to suggest a game of marbles.



Edminson encourages others through the Good News of Jesus. Invite him to preach or speak at your church. Contact him by email at wjedminson@bchfamily.org.



We lift our hands in praise for your incredible friendship! We are grateful for your generosity during this unusual time.

If you would like to help Baptist Children’s Homes’ boys and girls, contact Brenda Gray at 336-689-4442. You can also give online at bchfamily.org/givenow.



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