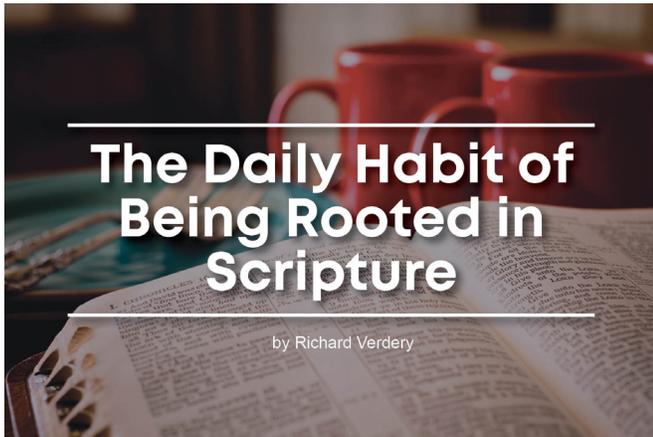




The theme of this Oak Leaf is “Rooted in Scripture”, one of East White Oak’s Vital Signs. Our Vital Signs are the DNA of who we are and support the Focus Statement, “Seeking to be Worshipers, Maturing in Christ.”



The Daily Habit of Being Rooted in Scripture

by Richard Verdery

by Richard Verdery

Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” – John 18:38a

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. – John 14:6

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. – John 17:17

One of the core truths at East White Oak Bible Church is that we, as growing and maturing disciples, would be Rooted in Scripture.

As a young believer, I developed a love for the Word of God that has, I believe, only grown deeper with each passing year. God’s Word has been an integral part of my discipleship from my earliest days and God has given me a deep faith in its truth, reliability and relevance.

I grew up in an age where there were accepted “truths” in many different areas of life, but those days seem to be a distant memory. We, as a society, have drifted to an era where each individual wants to determine what’s true for them. What’s true for you may or may not be something that’s true to me.

Imagine, if you will, what Pilate’s question to Jesus would be in our day. Can truth be found in our

One of the core truths at East White Oak Bible Church is that we, as growing and maturing disciples, would be Rooted in Scripture.

newspapers, network news, social media, educational systems or, in some of our churches?

Why is the search for truth important?

Each of us develops a worldview that influences the decisions and choices we make in virtually every facet of life. Many are trite or mundane, but some are much more monumental, and there are others that carry serious consequences for this lifetime or even for eternity. That being the case, why would I want to take a chance on living based on what others have determined is true for them but may not be true truth?

God’s Word, The Bible, provides the truth we need for successful living. I love Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (ESV) I love that there is light for my daily steps (the lamp to my feet) and there is light for my ongoing walk through each stage of my life down the road (a light to my path). Sadly, when I have neglected to go to God’s Word or, worse yet, rebelled against it, I have found another truth. Psalm 107:11-12 says, “for they rebelled against the words of God and spurned the counsel of the Most High. So He bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help.” (ESV)

In our core beliefs statement, I love the wording “being ROOTED in Scripture”! I’m no master gardener but I know that if I want to have my homegrown tomatoes this summer, I will not succeed by planting them, removing them, and replanting them, ad infinitum. To grow, my

tomatoes need to be planted in good soil (TRUTH) and allowed to become ROOTED. That is the secret to growing a homegrown tomato and it works even better for us when we plant ourselves daily in God's Word, making it a daily part of our life. It cannot be a hit or miss thing if we truly desire to become rooted. For me personally, it is my morning routine. I get my mug of coffee, settle down in my favorite chair and begin my quiet time. First of all, I seek to confess any unconfessed sin so that my fellowship with God and His Word is unhindered. I pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give me "eyes to see and ears to hear" and a will to obey what the Lord wants to reveal to me in His word. Like young Samuel, I like to say, "Speak Lord, for your servant hears" 1 Samuel 3:10 (ESV).

I am in my third year of using the Bible app to read through the Bible in a year, my second time going chronologically. I also use the Our Daily Bread app, Today in the Word app (from Moody Bible Institute), and the Solid Joys app by John Piper. At this point I go over my Scripture verses

I am memorizing with the Bible Memory app. This is a phenomenal tool for helping my pea-brain memorize God's Word! I then move on to devotional readings from *Experiencing God Day-by-Day* by Henry and Richard Blackaby (a favorite of my mother and handed down to me), *In God's Presence* by J.I. Packer and *Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by J.I. Packer. I then use a prayer from *The Valley of Vision* to transition to my prayer time.

I have been so richly blessed spending time and fellowshiping with God through His Word.

If becoming a disciple rooted in Scripture is something you aspire to do, take a first step! Make a commitment to spend some amount of time DAILY in God's Word. It may mean setting your alarm clock 10 or 15 minutes earlier or using the time before you go to bed but I can assure you that God will honor and bless your commitment!



About Richard Verdery...

Richard Verdery serves as the teacher in the Builders ABF. He is married to Beverly. They have three grown children and 6 grandchildren. He retired from the Illinois Farm Bureau where he was Advertising Sales Director of FarmWeek Newspaper. Richard is an avid cyclist and volunteer at Carle BroMenn Medical Center.



by Pastor Scott Boerckel

Being Rooted in Scripture is one of three vital signs that we have established as a church to measure how well we are **Seeking to be Worshipers, Maturing in Christ**. We'd like to share some resources which will help you on the journey to becoming Rooted in Scripture.

These resources will specifically help you in three areas: the study of the Bible on your own, learning about the basic overview of the Bible and its books, and discovering how to memorize scripture. Let's take a look at recommended resources for these three areas of becoming rooted in scripture.

1) Learning to study the Bible on your own. Knowing how to study the Bible on your own is something that your elders believe is important to becoming rooted in scripture. It is not enough to be taught well. A mature believer must be able to study the Bible themselves.

This is a link to teaching you the inductive Bible study method: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/tips/the-inductive-method-of-bible-study-the-basics-11628183.html>

Here are some books which you may find helpful in learning how to study the Bible:

Living by the Book; The Art and Science of Reading the Bible Howard Hendricks and William Hendricks. *If you want to know how Howard Hendricks taught generations of Dallas Seminary students how to study the Bible, he put it all here.*

How to Study the Bible for All Its Worth Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart. *This book is unusual in that it shows how to study the various styles of literature in the Bible.*

Unlocking the Scriptures Hans Finzel. *This is an easier version of the Hendricks' book above, written by a former student of Hendricks.*

These resources will help you on the journey to becoming Rooted in Scripture!

2) Learning about books of the Bible in an overview format. The ability to identify the sequence of major events, persons, and themes in Scripture is another area that our elders believe is important in order to be rooted in scripture.

The Bible Project: bibleproject.com
OverviewBible: overviewbible.com

3) Scripture memory. One of our keys to maturing in Christ by being Rooted in Scripture is the ability to recall, from memory, key verses of Scripture and explain why those verses are important. Here are the verses that your elders have identified as important to memorize, which we are memorizing this year as a church family:

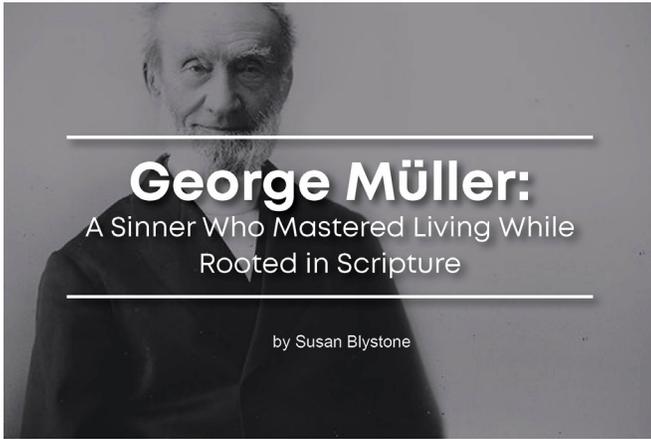
Romans 3:23	Romans 6:23
Romans 5:8	Ephesians 2:8-9
John 1:12	John 3:16
1 John 1:9	1 John 5:14-15
Psalms 119:9, 11	John 14:21
Joshua 1:8	Acts 1:8
Matthew 4:19	

The scripture memory app biblememory.com can help you stay on track in your scripture memory.

Go to eastwhiteoak.church/biblememory to find East White Oak's link to the Bible Memory app, as well as printable verse cards for each Verse of the Month.

The book "**How to Memorize Scripture Quickly and Easily**" by Jacob Friedman may be helpful, if you want to learn some techniques for memorizing scripture.

There is of course much more to becoming Rooted in Scripture. We will bring more resources to becoming Rooted in Scripture the next time that our Oak Leaf emphasizes this vital sign. For now, these resources should help you in becoming rooted in scripture by learning how to study the Bible on your own, by understanding the basic overview of the Bible and its key themes, and by learning to memorize scripture. May you find joy in the journey!



Müller's life story makes it clear there were many times his faith was tested. He embraced each heartache as an opportunity to grow closer to God.

by Susan Blystone

Reading the Bible and studying its message of salvation is a fundamental way an individual grows in Christ and becomes equipped to make disciples. It is not, however, necessarily equivalent to being rooted in scripture. To reach such a level of commitment to God's word requires daily application of Biblical truths that must be embraced with unwavering faith as they are put into action.

The question of what it looks like to live such a life was answered by George Müller. His work and writings stand as a powerful example of the blessings that come from relying completely on scripture for everything from creating a career path to acquiring each day's meals.

Müller became known as "the apostle of faith" despite the fact that he was a rebellious young person who was jailed as a result of his thievery. Born in Prussia in 1805, Müller described himself as "a light-hearted sinful youth who drank of worldly pleasures to satiation."

He excelled in his university studies but had no desire to learn Biblical truth. He made this clear in his autobiography, writing "I cared nothing about the Word of God. I had about three hundred books of my own, but no Bible."

Müller opened both his heart and mind to Christ and His teachings after a friend invited him to a meeting of believers in 1825. The prayers, singing, and scripture softened Müller and put him on a personal quest for Christ. His passion to know the Bible was so fervent that he read it through more than 200 times and, in the process, established an unwavering faith in scripture.

"I gave myself fully to the Lord. Honour, pleasure, money, my physical powers, my mental powers, all was laid down at the feet of Jesus, and I became a great lover of the Word of God. I found my all in God."

Müller demonstrated his belief that God can be trusted to provide by literally following the command of Matthew 19:21 to sell all possessions and give to the poor. That is exactly what he and his wife, Mary, did in 1831. In trusting God to provide everything for himself and his ministry, he vowed to never speak to anyone about what needs existed. Müller instead lived by the admonition of Philippians 4:6 and made his requests to the Lord through prayer and supplication.

He lived on the confidence of John 14:13, believing that whatever he asked in Christ's name would be provided. Müller consequently decided while pastoring the Ebenezer Chapel in Teignmouth, England, to decline his salary. He never asked anyone in the congregation or community to support the church.

Müller writes in his autobiography that there were many times he did not have a single shilling when the rent was due, nor was there food in the home. Without fail, money would arrive when needed and someone brought the family a meal. He kept scrupulous notes of God's intervention and recorded that over a three-year period, he would have earned \$900 had he taken a church salary. Instead, he received \$3,700 and was faithful in giving most of it to others.

Prayer was an equally strong pillar for Müller, who did nothing without conviction that he was following God's will. He kept a journal of his requests, which documented that 5,000 definite prayers were answered on the day of asking. He persisted with those left unanswered, praying daily for more than a decade for a friend's conversion.

It was through prayer that Müller felt compelled to form The Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and

Abroad to reach the unsaved. He did not seek funds, yet \$7.5 million was received for the work throughout his lifetime. The institution aided missionaries in 26 countries, distributed more than 280,000 Bibles in different languages, and established an orphanage.

Müller expanded the homes for children following the same principle of not making known the financial needs. "The greater the difficulty to overcome, the more it would be seen to the glory of God how much can be done by prayer and faith," he wrote. He eventually had five homes built to reach the goal of caring for 2,000 orphans.

At the age of 70, Müller began 17 missionary tours to 42 nations, traveling 200,000 miles and speaking to an estimated 3 million people. His work consequently became known internationally by the time of his death at age 93 in 1898. It was then that God's abundant blessings became apparent. Although Müller died with possessions valued at just \$850, it was found that he had given away more than \$400,000 throughout his lifetime.

Müller's life story makes it clear there were many times his faith was tested with sorrow through his own critical illnesses and the loss of an infant son and two wives. He embraced each heartache as an opportunity to grow closer to God.

"If we desire our faith to be strengthened, we should not shrink from opportunities where our faith may be tried, and therefore, through trial, be strengthened," he wrote as one rule for Christians to follow to build their faith. The others are to read the Bible and meditate on it, and seek to maintain an upright heart with a good conscience.

Müller realized that others would question their ability to lead such a life so rooted in scripture. He consequently offered these words of encouragement: "Let not Satan deceive you in making you think you could not have the same faith, but that it is only for persons situated as I am. In all my temporal and spiritual concerns, I pray to the Lord and expect an answer to my requests; and may not you do the same, dear believing reader?"

Learn more about George Müller by visiting the church library, which has several books about him, including his autobiography.



About Susan Blystone...

Susan and her husband, Chuck, arrived at East White Oak in 2000 with their daughter, Carly. Susan is a feature writer at Illinois State and editor of the university's alumni magazine. Her mantra is Forward in Faith, which is what has carried her through many challenges, including a heart transplant in 2016.



Students test me on my statement that ALL of what we do is based on God and his word... “What about when we play dodgeball? How is that Rooted in Scripture? What about the Oakie Videos? What about the Rake and Run in the fall?”

Pastor Walt Baertsch

Our vital sign for this Oak Leaf is “Rooted in Scripture” and I wanted to take some time to explain how East White Oak’s youth ministries have been, and continue to be just that.

As I tell students frequently, the whole reason that we do what we do is because of God and His Word. Each thing that we do is based on either drawing people to knowing God and his word or studying and experiencing God’s word. If it weren’t for God’s word, we would not exist as a ministry or as a church.

Our weekly programming exemplifies this commitment through some pretty obvious elements, such as Youth Bible Fellowships where we teach God’s word through straight forward Bible studies, or in our Junior High ministry where we complete a survey of the Bible every two years alternating between the Old and New Testament. This assures that all of our students have a foundational understanding of God’s actions and his love for each person throughout all of known history.

When students reach the Senior High Sunday Youth Bible Fellowships, we go more in-depth in studying individual books of the Bible and teach students how to study God’s word on their own to prepare them for continuing to grow in their knowledge of scripture beyond our doors.

Our Senior High Sunday Nights and Junior High Cross-trainers also teach God’s word through applying it to a wide variety of day-to-day applications in a Junior or Senior Higher’s life. In Small Groups we also teach God’s word as it fosters closer relationships with peers and care for one another.

Service projects and mission trips allow us to put hands, arms, and feet behind what we’ve learned from scripture to reach out to others through acts of service along with words of testimony.

Occasionally students have done their best to test me on my statement that ALL of what we do is based on God and his word and ask questions about various components of our youth ministries – “What about when we play dodgeball? How is that Rooted in Scripture?” “What about the Oakie Videos?” “What about the Rake and Run in the fall?”

I love it when these questions come up because it is a chance to go into more depth with the students and explain the reasons behind the things we do. I explain that Dodgeball is one of the many ways we have opportunities through fun games and events to draw students to experience God’s love and to hear scripture taught in a way that relates to their lives. The Oakies are a fun way to help students learn to tell a story to possibly a worldwide audience through technology, which they can also use to share scripture with that same audience worldwide. The Rake and Run is a way in which we live out what we learn in scripture and graciously serve people with no expectation of anything in return, and while doing so, we have opportunities to be witnesses for Christ through word and deed.

I am so glad that I serve and worship at East White Oak, where we so highly value and teach the Word of God. Just in the last couple of months I have received notes from former students who, after they have moved on to university or other endeavors, have come to realize the blessing of being raised in such a strong Bible believing and teaching church.

If you ever have any questions on why we do the things we do, just ask! It is incredibly important that we continue to be Rooted in Scripture!

Thank you for being that church!



The Simmons are being sent to Tanzania by East White Oak to work with Africa Inland Mission. Their work is designed to help the African church become more Rooted in Scripture.

Interview with Jim and Susan Simmons

Will you give an explanation of what you will be doing and where you will be living?

We have a passion for equipping, encouraging, and connecting the Church around the world through communicating God's word and His mission.

We're moving to Nassa Theological College (NTC) in Bulima, Tanzania. Find Lake Victoria on a map of Africa—we'll be on the southeastern shore. Many of you reading this have spent time in the Lake Region with partners like Tanzania Children's Rescue Center (TCRC), Africa Inland Church of Tanzania (AICT), and NTC to name a few. In 1957, our church sent Jim & Gloria Orner to East Africa, and we've been blessed to grow closer with the Tanzanian Church over the decades.

AICT (through AIM) has invited Jim to teach Bible, Theology, and Missions classes to pastoral leaders and missionaries. The Church in Tanzania is growing rapidly, and the need for trained leaders in local churches and in missions is great. Along with formal education, we will expose students to missionaries already working among Unreached People Groups (UPG's) bringing them to see the work of missions first hand. Many students are already working as pastors, so we will also seek opportunities to visit their local churches.

Can you describe how God has led you to this point in your journey of becoming missionaries?

Susan was born in Papua New Guinea, and we both grew up in families that loved missions—often hosting missionaries in our homes. In 1994, Susan moved to TZ for two years as the accountant for a seminary in Arusha. During 24 years of marriage, we've served on missions teams building relationships with missionaries and church leaders around the world. A major highlight of our life has been working in the missions efforts of East White Oak.

We've loved getting to know friends from other countries, visiting them in their homes, and supporting them in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On a 2015 trip to E. Africa, I (Jim) spent time with students, professors, and church leaders in various schools & ministries. Love for God's word was growing within me through Bible Study Fellowship and teaching ABF, so this engagement with many African leaders in biblical truth sparked an interest in pursuing theological education more formally. After a season of prayer and feedback from godly leaders (thank you Susan, Scott, Ron, and others), I attended Dallas Theological Seminary taking a Master of Arts Degree in Cross-cultural Ministries. As part of the program, we spent two months in 2018 working with the AICT Church in the Mara & Ukerewe Islands Region. Serving directly with Joel Simbitti (20 year friend of East White Oak), we took part in formal, non-formal, and informal theological education across the region teaching a block course on the Biblical Theology of Missions at East Africa Christian College, building and teaching in two rural pastors' conferences, and teaching foundational biblical truth in a new church that had begun only two months prior to our visit. Serving together, we both recognized that God clarified His call for our future in many ways on that trip. Returning from TZ, we engaged several missions agencies and found a solid fit with Africa Inland Mission (AIM).

How did God lead you to this particular place and ministry?

Many of you reading this have been to NTC over the years. You've built buildings, brought farm equipment, and installed water systems and internet services during our long history of supporting Norm & Sheila Dilworth. We have friends who graduated from NTC and are now into strong partners. Our church has walked with Micah Ngussa from the beginning of TCRC, and his brilliant

modeling of faith in God has grown our own faith. We've had the privilege of walking with Joel Simbitti as he has fanned the flame of missions across the AICT Church. Philip Mafuja's leadership at NTC set the school on a stable foundation for development, and he oversaw the establishment of a missions department at NTC. Each of these leaders, while encouraged by the growth of the church in TZ, feel a real need for pastoral leaders who have solid training in biblical truth and theology. So many people are coming into contact with the gospel, but there are relatively few trained pastoral leaders to keep up with the growth. We hear this same pressure being felt by other leaders in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and other African countries.

Engaging with AIM, we shared our own love of God's Word and inquired about available opportunities where we could focus on helping establish biblical truth in pastoral leaders and missionaries. AIM has a desire to see "Christ Centered Churches Among all African Peoples" with a priority toward evangelism and church planting among UPG's and toward encouraging sound theological education where churches are growing. AIM has a category of workers called Theological Educators (TE's). You can imagine our excitement when we browsed the AIM Website and saw that the first opportunity listed in this category was for a TE at NTC. Our hearts have been welling up for the same things for which our friends in TZ feel a deep need, and when we see this same vision established both in our own sending church here in Carlock and in the AIM organization, it brings a clarifying resolve to our direction. That clarity continues to solidify as we've been sharing our plans with friends and small groups here at church. Your enthusiasm and your support for our plans have overwhelmed us with a humbling confidence!

One of our church's three vital signs is being "Rooted in Scripture". How do you see this idea at play in your leading to Africa up to now, and how do you see this being an important part of your future ministry?

SUSAN: I was always in and around Scripture, at home & church, but I don't think I truly began being rooted in Scripture until my 20s – 30s. After college I began attending Bible Study Fellowship where I learned how to study the Bible myself. I saw transformation in my understanding and application of the Word over the next decade, but I still struggled to prioritize spending time regularly in the Bible. In my late 30s some crises hit, and time in God's word took on a deeper level of comfort and strength for me. I began to see that how I went through each day (emotionally, physically, and mentally) was different depending on whether I had spent time with the Lord in His word in the morning. I had heard this experience described growing up, but now the reality was a stark contrast for me. I haven't struggled to have a quiet time since.

A hunger for God's word is a gift from Him, and I know that it has influenced where we are now—on the brink of overseas service—and it will be the fuel for ministry there.

JIM: I grew up in a Bible environment & memorized verses in children's programs, yet high school and young adult life brought competing explanations of the world and life that challenged biblical truth. From high school science to college philosophy to cultural debates on economics, politics, and social issues, life presented intellectual and experiential alternatives that appeared more substantial to me. Following the 'apparently' more reasonable ways of thinking about life and the world, I made a wreck of things and found myself in great need of rescue. In deep need of Christ's forgiveness and new life, those concepts that I had heard and memorized in my youth came back to me in much more relevant ways. While continuing to read physics, economics, philosophy, and politics, I also began hearing the Word of God taught weekly at church. Far from seeming irrelevant, biblical truth stood out more boldly against the emptiness of those competing alternatives that had earlier seemed sounder. Real transformation began in my life, and by my mid-thirties I joined in with other men in an intentional, deep small group Bible study. That seven year dive into the Word brought a kind of life to the knowledge not realized in prior studies. Invited to teach in an ABF, my personal studies went even deeper, and God pressed each new level of understanding deeper into my soul and lifestyle as well.

I love the word "rooted" in this question. When I think of things that are rooted, they are living things. Things rooted are full of life. Things rooted are drinking in the water and nutrients that feed growth. Things rooted continue reaching down deeper into the richness of the soil below. Tall trees often have root systems as deep into the ground and as far out from the trunk as the visible tree displayed above ground. This is a good analogy to my own life in God's word. God is The Master Communicator who loves us so much that He gave us His direct verbal revelation in human language, and I've grown in my own recognition of the profound source of truth and life that is there to be had for anyone who takes seriously the big questions in life. Based on my own experience of the value of being rooted in God's Word, Susan and I now head to Africa charged with the call to pass along to others this same truth, which God has so richly poured out onto us.

What were some of your biggest challenges and victories over the last year?

1) We've seen God directing us through the same chaos everyone else faced this last year. We applied with AIM late 2019 thinking we'd have 6 months of application process. Plans were scrapped and replanned a couple of times. Many interviews were postponed or set up on Zoom, yet the uncertainties of timing did not derail the

process. Working through changes in procedure, changes in requirements, and changes of expectations became the norm. However, in the last week of October, we were offered an appointment with AIM and assigned to NTC the next week.

2) Closing down life here has been challenging emotionally. Both of us moved quite a bit throughout life, so moving here in 2005 began the longest stay in one location for either of us... by twice the length. We feel a sense of strong relationship in community here at East White Oak Bible Church, to the extent that we feel we are leaving our family. We are also literally leaving our own families. While we are enthusiastic about our new venture (including our ongoing partnership in the gospel with you all), we do feel the real cost of leaving.

What have been some things over the past year that have greatly encouraged you?

1) So many encouragements! We've seen the deep value of the community of Christ that is the local church this past year. With all the disruptions, we've noted the life of small groups walking with each other. We have been amazed how in the face of uncertainty, the outward and generous nature of Christ has shown up in many ways among our local church body generally.

2) We are very encouraged by all the ways that God has directed our lives to this moment in the last year! Many obstacles slowed, redirected, or stopped apparent progress, yet each of these were met with display after display of God's care and timing and our own awe and worship of Him.

3) You have been so encouraging to us this past year! We are continually lifted as we watch the enthusiasm with which our church body pursues missions. So many families watch for ways to participate in God's kingdom work and understand that their participation is truly storing up treasure in heaven.

What are some of your goals or desires for your future ministry?

Of course we have long-term hopes in several areas, but in the near-term we have four major points of focus.

1) Language learning. We will spend our first four or more months in TZ studying Swahili at a school in Morogoro.

2) Theology, Bible, & Missions. Jim will be learning how to build curriculum and communicate God's truth in ways which meet the needs and challenges of a different culture.

3) Engage in a local church. There is an AICT church in Bulima, and we look forward to becoming a part of the church body there – worshiping and living life with our Tanzanian neighbors.

4) Loving people and Learning culture. The best thing we have to offer in Tanzania is to learn and to love the people, displaying the love of Christ.

What advice would you give to someone who may be feeling called to be a foreign missionary?

Missionary service is not an individual sport. God designed His kingdom to advance through His church. East White Oak Bible Church is rich with people ready to help you as you explore ways that you can be involved and serve in missions. We highly encourage you to begin talking and learning with someone on the missions team or one of the pastors. You should know that the missions team has been working for several years to build a pathway that can meet you where you are, help you clarify your call, build and equip you for ministry, and launch you well. Be ready to receive the input and encouragement God will use to guide you in this journey.

How can we pray for or support you as you prepare to go?

Prayer:

It is our desire to have a prayer team who is committed to praying for us while we are in Tanzania. We plan to send out regular, brief prayer requests. If you would like to join our prayer team, please email us at srws68@gmail.com. Our time here is rapidly winding down, and we long to finish well. To leave our jobs well, to say good goodbyes, and to experience the joy to be had even on the harder days.

Support:

Our monthly support goal (\$5,000/month) and our outgoing fund (\$37,582) must be at 100% by June 8th in order for us to leave on the planned date of July 5th. We are currently at 97% pledged of our monthly support need, and 56% raised of our one-time outgoing fund. If you would like to help with either of those, you can give directly through AIM at this link.

We also have a need for a vehicle in Tanzania. If you desire to give toward a vehicle for us you can do that through East White Oak Bible Church.

How can we stay up to date with your life and ministry?

Website / Blog: We have a website where you can go to follow our updates (Thank you Josh Prather!) simmons2africa.com

Join our Prayer Team: We're asking for 100 people to join our prayer team. Please email srws68@gmail.com



Rooted in Scripture Playlist

Music can help us focus our hearts on being Rooted in Scripture. Our prayer is that the songs on this Spotify playlist will be an encouragement to you as you listen.

Find the link at eastwhiteoak.church/oak-leaf-may-2021



An open house farewell for Pastor Josh and family will be held Sunday, May 16 at the church's picnic pavilion from noon – 1:00. Light refreshments will be served. Join us in thanking Pastor Josh for his ministry at East White Oak and encouraging the Prathers in their new ministry adventure. *Rain date: Sunday, May 23*



Looking for a way to get more connected at East White Oak? Enjoy a meal and fellowship, and maybe make a new friend along the way! Register by May 23 for placement in a June group.

Find the link at EastWhiteOak.church/oakcentral



Do you enjoy connecting with kids? Consider serving in Children's Ministries this summer!! Serve all or part of the summer based on your schedule. See the details and sign up here.

Find the link at EastWhiteOak.church/oakcentral

Verse of the Month

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE IN 2021

May 2021

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

This most famous of Bible verses is rightly famous. It begins with God, who sets the rules for His universe. God's love is so great that He sent His only Son to this earth to save us. Whoever believes in Jesus will not experience eternal death but instead will experience eternal life.

EastWhiteOak.church/biblememory



Rooted in Scripture Survey

Rooted in Scripture Personally

The following set of questions are geared towards the unique ways we each study God's Word as individuals.

How much importance do you place on being Rooted in Scripture through Bible reading and study? (choose one)*

Great importance

Moderate importance

Some importance

Little or no importance

Please indicate your preference for your personal Bible study times. (choose one)*

Mornings

Afternoons

Evenings

Please indicate how much time you typically spend each day in Bible study. (choose one)*

It's Survey Time!

Join the church in taking a survey to dig deeper into what being Rooted in Scripture looks like for you both personally and corporately! Being Rooted in Scripture means we have an unflinching commitment to the Word of God and have roots that are the foundation of spiritual health both personally and corporately as a church body.

Please consider taking this short survey to answer questions that will enlighten the church to the unique ways we each study God's Word as individuals and help our church leaders consider how we may best serve the Church as we're seeking to be worshipers maturing in Christ! This survey is 15 multiple choice questions and your answers will be completely anonymous. Look for all the results in the next Oak Leaf!

Find the link at
eastwhiteoak.church/oak-leaf-may-2021