



*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 1 Peter 1:6*

# VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

mountainvictory.org

**July 23, 2025**

Office: 828-586-2120 Ext. 102  
info@mountainvictory.org

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OF OUR MISSIONARIES & MINISTRY HELPS**

**The Velasquez Family, Spain & The Maietta Family, Italy**

It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.  
Psalms 119:71



My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

Psalms 119:28 KJV



Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

KJV

Proverbs 12:25



Sunday School @ 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship @ 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship @ 6:00 PM

Visit our church Webpage @ [Mountainvictory.org](http://Mountainvictory.org)

## PHYSICAL NEEDS/CANCER

Bates, Jensen (Toddler with Leukemia.)  
Baxter, Georgia (friend of Chambers)  
Cadenhead, Lyla (Ms. Carol's friend-Cracked vertebra in her spine. Lot's of pain. 80 Years old. She also has bone cancer.)  
Cook, Donna (D. Nation's cousin-Bone Cancer.)  
Deitz, Beverly (Friend of June Fox-Cancer)  
Driggers, Bill (Prostate Cancer-Radiation)  
Duvall, Larry (Debbie L. Brother-Melanoma cancer. His brain tumor is also growing again.)  
Egan, Evalee (Steven's 1st cousin-Stage 4 Cancer)  
Godfrey, Paul (P. Mills brother-in-law-Stage 4 Bone Cancer)  
Henry, Jimmy (Larry & Debbie's Son-At home recovering.)  
Henry, Larry (Prostate Cancer)  
Holland, Glenda (Friend of Steve & Harriett Angel-Leukemia)  
Houck, Amy (G. Bowles' Niece-Breast Cancer-50 years old)  
Howard, Pam (Friend of A. Jones-Lung Cancer.)  
Jones, Brian (Chemo treatment for Brain Tumor is affecting his liver)  
Jones, Jeffrey (Brian's brother - Surgery & Chemo.)  
Mabrey, Robin (D. Lambert's friend)  
Magers, Harland (Friend of Jane Weaver-Brain cancer 46 yrs old)  
McCoy, Wanda (D. Lambert's friend)  
Pritchett, Marie (Cousin of the LaVigne family-Aggressive form of cancer.)  
Ray, Mike (L. Henry's Brother-in-law-Brain aneurysm & Cancer.)  
Shuler, Kim (Chad's co-worker has Breast Cancer)  
Sprinkle, Ted (Friend of Mike F.-Aggressive Prostate Cancer.)  
Teem, Katherine (Shaye & Cheryl's Aunt 89 yrs old-Leukemia)  
Riva (H. Parris' 1st cousin-Cancer.)  
Juanita (Friend of L. George.- Pancreatic Cancer)  
White, Duane -Cancer  
Wiggins, David (Prostate Cancer spread to pelvis-radiation)  
Megan (Daughter of Pastor Marty & Pam Masitto- Cancer. This week she had a very long and extensive surgery on her face.)

## SERVICEMEN Prayer List

PFC Gavin Robinson-Army, Germany (Bowles' grandson)

Cameron Barzotti, US Navy (Bowles' grandson)

Schweinsaupt, Jonathan (Deployment for 6 months.)

## PRAYER LIST OF MISSIONARIES

McKinney, Ron & Kay (Physical needs)  
The Vance Family (Physical needs)  
Hawke, Robert & Jean (Physical needs)  
Lucy (Dennis Lagos' mother-nearing the end of life.)  
Lagos, Holly (Tachycardia diagnosis)  
Poe, Debbie (Squamous Cell Carcinoma in her mouth.)  
Dehart, Dawn (Detached Retina- Recovering from surgery.)

## PRAYER LIST OF PREACHERS

Bagwell, Benny & Beth  
Winch, Don (Back Pain and declining health.)  
Rodriguez, Frank - Retiring from pastoring, due to health concerns. Grace Baptist Church as they seek a pastor.  
Marty & Pam Masitto - Their health and God's leading. Rest for both of them.  
Moore, Mike (Healing from a broken vertebrae after a fall.)

## PHYSICAL NEEDS/OTHER

Allen, Dakota (Ms. Evie's relative-Colon issues.)  
Anders, Wayne (Friend of Howard P./Heart issues.)  
Antes, Aretta (Debbie L. cousin-Sepsis)  
Arceneau, Willow (Carol E. granddaughter-Encephalitis)  
Barnes, Mary (Carol E. sister-Salvation)  
Bennett, Kay (Friend of The Parris' - Health issues.)  
Blankenship, Janie (Health Issues/Gout.)  
Chambers, Shannon (Ron C. DILaw-Physical needs.)  
Chambers, Reggie & Edith (Ron Chamber's uncle & aunt-Physical needs)  
Clark, Melena & Edward-Mother & Son (Salvation and freed from drug usage.)  
Clayton, Jerry & Marian (Physical needs.)  
Cochran, Matt (Mary C. son-in-law- Doing much better and doctors can't believe the obstacles that he has overcome! PTL)  
Connerly, Sue & Leroy (Sue has Lewy Body dementia and her husband, as he cares for her.)  
Cottongim, Phyllis (Physical needs and Norm caring for her.)  
Cunningham, Willa Mae (R. Parris' sister - Physical needs.)  
Douglas, Loretta (Longtime friend of Arlene D.-Possible Leg amputation.)  
Gennett, Julie (Friend of G. Bowles-Health issues.)  
Green, Bud (Macrodeg. Eye disease and salvation.)  
Greene, Grayson (G. Greene's Granddaughter-Health Issues)  
Hatcher, Mike (Health issues-needs to see a doctor.)  
Hill, Lee (Bruce's Brother-in-law-Health issues.)  
Hohenstein, Gisela (Friend of Jane W.-Severe health issues.)  
Hunter, Kent & Elaine (Friends of H. Parris-Health issues.)  
Jones, Lynne (Friend of Carol E.-health problems and selling her cabin. Also, Carrie Keith-Heart problems.)  
McKinney, Jake (Friend of Pastor-Car accident-Long recovery.)  
McMahan, Braydon, Beth & Eden (Eden has been diagnosed with PCH- Pontocerebellar Hypoplasia, Type 2A. Pray for all of them.)  
McMahan, Mag (Please pray for her and her caregivers.)  
Mills, Barbara (Friend of M. Fitzgerald-Dementia)  
Montgomery Family (Friends of the Hughes' -Physical, emotional & spiritual needs.)  
MuKherjee, Sam & Nikki (Carol E. granddaughter and husband. Salvation.)  
Pate, Ronda (Carol Einstein's Daughter-Liver complications)  
Pinsonbarger, Jo (Friend of J. Weaver-Heart Trouble)  
Rivera, Rafael (Bitterness toward God & father's salvation)  
Schweinsaupt, Samuel, Laura, Gavin & Lincoln (Please pray that the court will do the right thing for Lincoln.)  
The Schweinsaupt Family  
Smith, Wayne (Salvation)  
Spink, Linda (Carol E. 1st Cousin-Bacteremia-Serious condition in the hospital in CA. Her daughter, Tracy is caring for her.)  
Stin, Jenifer (Jewish lady who needs salvation)  
Sumner, Mark (Health issues)  
Trombly, Mavis (Good friend of Jerry Cool-Pacemaker and declining health.)  
Ward, Paul (Valerie Dillard's father- Stage 5 Kidney Disease.)  
Weber, Sierra (Doug & Debbie's daughter-Recovering from complications after childbirth. Baby boy is doing well.)  
Willis, Amy (Mother of VCS students. Has had 2 miscarries and is now pregnant again. Prayers for a safe pregnancy & delivery.)  
Wood, Shaye (Knee problem and pain.)  
The Gray Family (Special request)  
Mickey & Elaine (Lord we lift them up to you!)  
Stephens, Kevin (VCS Car accident- Still in the hospital in Bristol TN. He will be there for 4 to 6 months,. Facing another surgery. Prayers are still needed.)  
Hyde, Sue (Pastor's mom is having spells of dangerously High Blood Pressure and they are not sure what is causing the episodes.)

**PRAY FOR OUR PASTOR AND HIS FAMILY!**

**PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH!**





## Mark Your Calendar

**Sunday, July 27th @ 12:30 PM**

**Teens to Deep Creek & Picnic**

**Sunday, August 3rd AM Service**

**SPECIAL OFFERING FOR**

**The Kevin Stephens Family**



**Monday, August 4th @ 7:00 PM**

**Church Prayer @ VBC**

**Sunday, August 10th AM Service**

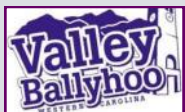
**“TEEN TAKEOVER YOUTH SUNDAY”**

**Monday, August 11th @ 7:00 PM**

**Church Bible Sunday**

**“The Case Against Calvinism”-Week 1**

**Saturday, August 16th @ 2:00 - 7:00 PM**



**Event Time: 4:00 to 6:00 PM**

**Valley Ballyhoo @ Western**

**(Sign up sheet for volunteers  
in the Welcome Center)**

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**Sunday, August 17th @ 6:00 PM**

**Back to School Challenge for  
VBC & VCS**

**Monday, August 18th**

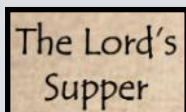
**FIRST DAY OF VICTORY  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**



**Saturday, August 23rd @ 4:00 PM**

**Back to School Picnic @ Mark Watson Park**

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**Sunday, August 31st @ 6:00 PM**

**Lord's Supper & Finger Food  
Fellowship**

**It's a Busy Month!**

**Faith Promise 2025-2026**

**\$105,000.00 Budget**

**July Monthly Faith Promise**

**Offerings: \$7,805.00**

**Missions: The Investment you can**

**EXPAND YOUR REACH Bank on for Eternity!**

**Monthly Payout: \$8,621.00**

**Thank you for giving to Missions!**

## PRAY FOR VCS

**Pray for Bro. Doug, Ms. Donna,  
Teachers and Staff, as they  
prepare for school to  
begin soon!**

My faith rests not in what I  
am, or shall be, or feel, or  
know, but in what Christ is,  
in what he has done, and in  
what he is doing for me.

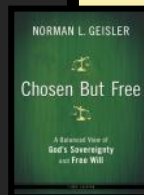
CHARLES SPURGEON

**Join us, beginning Aug. 11th.,**

**@ 7:00 PM for a class**

**“The Case Against Calvinism.”**

**Thank you, Pastor Jody**



**SIGN UP @ THE WELCOME CENTER**

**Used Books** have been purchased  
and will be **\$10.00** each, if you  
want one. *They are just a tool,  
not our study guide.*

# The Velasquez Family

*Missionaries to Spain*



[www.operationspain.com](http://www.operationspain.com)

April 30, 2025

Dear Pastor, Congregation and Friends,

A proper theology of suffering is indispensable for an enduring missionary work. I've been thinking a lot about this recently as once again we are going through a complicated church discipline matter in our church in Colmenar Viejo. No, the situation is not as serious as the one we experienced in 2023, but it's heartbreaking nonetheless. Witnessing the consequences of unrepentant sin in the lives of professing Christians is one of the most difficult things we've had to endure as church-planting missionaries. However, I am reminded of the words of Paul and Barnabas to the young believers at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, when they said, "we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22b). We certainly are not experiencing the same kind of suffering that Paul and Barnabas endured—especially considering that Paul said the above words after having been stoned by an angry mob—but we are reminded that suffering of all sorts will always be a part of our ministry. But we rejoice for God's sustaining grace!

The church continues to experience growth in spite of the discipline issue. One of the results of the growth is that we have more children than ever in attendance and we need to expand the children's ministry. Thankfully we have some dear ladies that are stepping up and are preparing to help with this need. We also have 5 membership candidates that are close to finishing the membership process and will soon be available to help in many necessary ministries such as evangelism, discipling, and audio/visual. And just as there are discipline matters to attend to, there is also visible gospel fruit in the lives of others, that God is using to encourage us in the work. Marriages are being restored, prodigals are coming home, and we glorify God for all of it.

Please pray for Antonia, an elderly Spanish lady that has been attending church services for several weeks now. We believe that she is close to coming to faith in Christ. God is using Juan Carlos, a dear brother with a wonderful testimony, to accompany Antonia every Sunday and also every Thursday (for the Bible study), and to help her with her doubts and questions. We believe that Juan Carlos will be key in helping us reach more of the elderly community, as he lives in the largest senior residence in our city. In addition to Juan Carlos, one of our membership candidates, Karla, is a doctor that works at the residence. So clearly God is opening up a great door of opportunity there!

As I wrap up the letter, I would like to thank you for your prayers for our children. Ian, our oldest, is close to finishing his first year of university here in Madrid. We are thankful that he is able to continue living with us as he studies and still be an active part of the church, serving in the audio/visual ministry. Several of you have gone out of your way to write birthday notes for our kids and even send them special gifts. Thank you for those details that show us your love and care for them. We love you in Christ. Blessings!

Reaching Spain for Christ,

*David Velasquez*

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*"... let the nations be glad and sing for joy..." (Psalm 67:4)*



**Sending Church:**  
Landmark Baptist Church  
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Louisville, KY 40272



# The ITALIAN BATTALION

On the Front Lines of World Evangelism

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Dear Praying Friends,

July 2025

"Brethren, pray for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:25). The Apostle Paul cherished the prayers of the brethren, recognizing that the mighty hand of God is often moved by the faithful prayers of God's people.

### We desire your prayers for this unique season of ministry in Italy

We have had countless mission teams visit us over the years, and we've hosted many interns for summer ministry. Our prayer is that God might use these visits to put the ministry in Italy into their hearts, and so the Lord of the harvest might then send forth laborers into the harvest field of Italy. Our plea is: "Come over..., and help us," just as Paul heard in what is known as the "Macedonian call."



**Specific request for this summer**—We have 64 individuals spending anywhere from 6 days to 3 months at our church this summer. We ask that you would pray with us that God would call 15 new missionaries to serve God in Italy. This would essentially double the number of Independent Baptist missionaries in the entire country of 60 million people. This could potentially transform the whole church-planting effort in Italy. This is something only God can do.



**Pensacola Christian College (YOM) concert**—The concert with the PCC group was an enormous blessing. We had several visitors attend because of a newspaper ad we had published, and some came from the flyer we distributed at the open market. We were delighted to also have our neighbors Amelia and Franco and many others come hear the Gospel presentation and the music.



### Vacation Bible School and combined evangelistic meeting

One family that attended our concert also brought their three children back to participate in our 5-day VBS. Ambassador Baptist College student, Peter Smith, joined us in Grosseto to be our main speaker. Peter had visited our ministry several times with his parents, evangelist Dwight & Amber Smith. God clearly moved among us as he preached 14 times in just 8 days. Several children responded to the invitation for salvation.



**Summer interns**—Luke Hargis was our intern last year and came back this year to spend the whole summer with us. Will Raub is fulfilling his music internship with us. Danielle and Christine are teachers at The Crown College of the Bible. Joel and Brett are students at Crown College as well. These all came to help in our VBS and to help in the first-ever two weeks of Camp that our co-workers will be hosting on their property.



**August mission trip**—In August, we are expecting a group of 12 from a church in Dulles, Virginia.



**A new name written down in glory**—Costantino is a 20-year-old young man who was seriously doubting the validity of his infant baptism. After meeting with our coworkers, the Childers, Costantino accepted Christ as his Savior. His countenance shows so evidently the



peace of God he now has since coming to Christ. He is reading the scriptures fervently and passionately, sharing the Gospel with everyone he can. We are looking forward to baptizing him in the coming weeks.

Please continue to pray for fruit that may be to God's glory from this summer's ministry.

Your fellow servants in Grosseto, Italy,

*Frank & Jennie Maietta*

## From the Heart of a Pastor –

### “You’re Out of Your League”



I love baseball! I have always been a fan of the game. When I was a child, I participated in Little League just as thousands of youngsters do today. And even though I wasn't very good at it, I was hooked. I vividly recall being 11 years old and becoming so excited when I purchased my first Detroit Tigers baseball cap. I wore it everywhere I could for the next few years and was elated when they won the World Series in 1984. I can still remember the images of Kirk Gibson, Alan Trammell, Jack Morris, and Sparky Anderson and their series against the San Diego Padres. Later I became an Atlanta Braves fan(atic). I still am! There were many years in a row that I didn't miss the home opener. Getting to watch Smoltz, Glavine, Maddux, and the Jones boys, with guys to whom I am still close after all those years, are memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Even now my youngest son has been bitten by the baseball bug. He follows it with a tenacity that even I didn't possess at his age. He can tell you the up-to-date standings, who is leading each league in Home Runs and RBIs, and who he thinks will win the Cy Young award at the end of the season. He and I watch the games, get excited when Atlanta wins, and become disgusted when they don't. I guess this is just good, old-fashioned, father and son time together.

He often asks questions about various aspects of the game. One of them in particular has continued to stick in my mind. It surrounds those who have made their way through the minor leagues and have finally reached “The Show.” Sometimes it is rather quick. A player has been drafted, sent through the farm system, and then called up to join the Big Club. The excitement that surrounds such an athlete is electric. He quickly finds his footing in the field and at the plate. He collects his first hit, his first RBI, his first home run, and his first game-winning hit. Soon, his jersey becomes a hot item; and perhaps, he is on his way to Cooperstown.

But on other occasions, a former high school or college star labors in the minor leagues for years. Every spring he has hopes of this finally being the year that he makes it big. He endures the bumps and bruises along the way as he is traded, injured, released, re-signed, designated for assignment, and so on. Many of these “diamond daydreamers,” will be relegated to continually languish in the lower levels, never seeing their moment in the sun or under the lights of the big league.

Time and age will ultimately catch up to them and they will, reluctantly, hang up their cleats. They may also hang their head in disappointment; believing that they never reached their potential. They never signed a big contract, never heard their name announced in a stadium filled with cheering fans, never drove in the winning run, or made a highlight reel play in the field. But they gave it their all! They worked hard and played hard. They pushed through the pain and the disappointment. But they gave it their all! The fields that they patrolled were nowhere near the likes of the immaculately groomed diamonds that once captured their attention. The equipment that they used was often worn out and in need of repair or replacement. But still, they gave it their all!

Lest you think that this is merely a trip down memory lane or even strolling along a path that was never walked, let me make a quick jump to another area of thoughtful consideration. I am thankful that in God's calculation of what is important and what is not, of what truly matters most in life and more importantly what matters in eternity, there are no big leagues or little leagues. There is not a designation of being “in the Majors” or being resigned to remain “in the Minors.” While I will grant you that there are bigger “stadiums” and that certain “players” have a larger fan base, let me remind you that we are all on the same team and are striving for the same result in the end.

However, a significant problem can and does occur when someone begins to believe that they are too gifted to be wasting their talent at such a lower level. Every field is important and every time at bat matters; whether millions are watching or only a handful. Therefore, never allow yourself to begin to believe that just because someone isn't under the bright lights night after night or takes the field to the cheers of thousands of adoring fans, they are of lesser importance than those who do.

Perhaps about now someone is thinking, “But there is the distinction given to Major Prophets and Minor Prophets in The Word of God.” Is there? Is such a differentiation by divine design or has it been man-made? We only refer to many of The Old Testament prophets as major or minor based solely on the scope or length of their prophecy, not on the importance of the message that they delivered.

Let me return to the foundation of what I have been attempting to address. There are no major leagues or minor leagues with God. He doesn't look at someone and call them a success or a failure based on whether they became a household name or an “All-Star” in someone's list of “Heavenly Heavy Hitters.” Even in Hebrews 11, which has been often called the “Hall of Fame of Faith,” there are unnamed heroes mentioned. There are men and women whose faith earned them recognition but whose names will only be known to us when we reach Heaven.

So, weary warrior, keep swinging for the fences, keep throwing the truth of the Gospel to a world that still needs to hear that Jesus saves, keep running and diving and striving to not lose a single one that comes your way, and keep giving it your all. People are watching you and the way you approach the task that God has given you to do may be just the encouragement that someone else needs to get out of their seat and in the game. You may not always hit it out of the park. You may strike out occasionally. You may make a few errors in the field. But you are not out of your league. The league belongs to the Lord!