

The Vistoso Voice

Weekly

Friday, March 18, 2022

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH—PART 2

Last week you were introduced to Michael Haltom from my perspective as to how he might fill the role of associate pastor here at VCC. This week I thought I would provide more by way of personal details.

Currently

First, both Michael and his wife, Kathy, are Midwesterners. They currently make their home north of Chicago, not too far from the Wisconsin border. Michael is a Senior Project Manager for a large real estate management firm, and has spent his work career in the contracting and construction management field.

Faith

Michael spent four years in the Marine Corps, including time in Okinawa and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He came to faith in Christ shortly after getting out of the Marine Corps.

As he grew and developed as a new believer, he was drawn into ministry, and as time went on, he felt a strong calling into teaching and pastoral ministry. He has served for the past nine years as an elder and chairman of his church's Executive Board. As such he fills the pulpit upon the pastor's absence, teaches Sunday school and leads a small group. He also has leadership experience in Christian non-profits, serving as President of

Frontline Street Intervention, a ministry focusing on at-risk youth, and as a Board member of Haiti Pastor Training Mission.

Personal

Michael and his wife Kathy, have been married for 11 years, and have two grown daughters from previous marriages who will remain in the Midwest.

Commitment

Finally, at the time of their wedding, both Michael and Kathy felt the call into Christian service. They felt this call so strongly that, as part of their marriage ceremony, they signed an open contract with the Lord to go wherever He might

send them, (as pictured).

Those who have met Michael enjoyed getting to know him. And I have no doubt we will be blessed by Michael and Kathy's presence in our fellowship.



BUSINESS MEETING

A called business meeting has been scheduled for Sunday March 27 to act upon the Board's recommendation to call Michael Haltom as an Associate Pastor. Votes will be accepted on Saturday and business will be conducted during the Fellowship Time following the Sunday service.

APRIL DEVOTIONAL OUT

The April issue of the devotional is available today in the literature racks and on the information tables in the foyer and Fellowship Hall. It has also been sent to the website to ensure that we can have the book posted in time for devotions on Friday, April 1.

thisweek

March 21-27, 2022

- **Tuesday**, 10:00 am, Men's and Women's Bible Study in the Book of Genesis.
- **Wednesday**, 2:00 pm, choir practice.
- **Thursday**, HeartCall Ladies Bible Study, 9:30 am.
- **Thursday**, Women's Tea, 11:30 am.
- **Friday**, 7:30 am, Men's Bible study in Colossians.
- **Friday**, 10:00 am, Women's Share, Care, and Prayer.
- **Saturday**, 5:00 pm, worship service followed by fellowship and sermon Q&A.
- **Sunday**, 10:00 am, worship service followed by fellowship and sermon Q&A.

Vistoso Community Church

Telephone: 520 825-0652
e-mail: vistosocc@icloud.com
website: vistoso.org
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday:
10 am-2 pm;
Friday: 8 am-12 noon

Pastor: Kevin Redig
Emergency: 520-403-4088

MISSIONS REPORT

NEW MISSIONARIES FOR MONTHLY SUPPORT

The Missions Committee is excited to report that we have been able to begin monthly support of a missionary couple in Ecuador—Blake and Allison Bess.

The Process

Before describing their ministry, let's first look at the process:

- **Proposal.** Anyone who is part of the fellowship at VCC can bring forth a proposal for missions support.
- **Investigation.** We gather extensive information via an *intake form* in order to ensure that we are doctrinally aligned and the work is compatible with our selection criteria.
- **Evaluation.** Although we may not always have the funds for ongoing support, because of our generous fellowship we are almost always able to help in some way.

The New Missionaries

In the providence of God, the funds became available to consider monthly support, at almost the same time that one of our members brought Blake and Bess forward for the Committee's consideration. So that you can see what such a proposal might look like, we have reprinted excerpts from the actual proposal for support for Blake and Allison Bess. It is the perfect way to introduce you to our newest monthly-support missionaries from someone that knows them well. Please begin to pray for their ministry, and look for their updates in the Missions Corner.

The Proposal

Blake and Allison Bess are missionaries in Cotacachi, Ecuador, a city of about 11,000 people, located in the Andes mountains. It is surrounded by indigenous Kichwa communities, bringing the population to about 40,000. They are non-denominational, independent missionaries who believe the Bible is God's word and that salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone.

Blake first moved to Ecuador at the age of 19, with his family in 2009, when his father retired. Blake was a Christian but had not thought of going into ministry until at the age of 24 he met Louis McKinney, a Baptist missionary, church planter and the founder of Wilderness Baptist Missions. Blake knew God was drawing him into ministry and began working alongside McKinney. As a result, Blake eventually became the assistant pastor of a small church in Cotacachi, receiving some support through Wilderness Baptist Missions.



Five years ago, Blake became the head pastor of the *Iglesia Biblica de Cotacachi church* and also began formal biblical training remotely through GTIBI (Grace Training International Bible Institute) a ministry we support.

Blake met Allison in 2019 at a Bible conference in Minnesota and they were married the following spring. Blake and Allison together minister to the Kichwa and Mestizo people (mixed Spanish and Kichwa) and Afro-Ecuadorians, residing on the coast of Ecuador. The ministry is based from within the local church, with many indigenous people traveling into the City to attend.

Poverty abounds and the physical and spiritual needs of the people are great. Blake and Allison receive no support from the church as the people are only able to afford rent for the building and occasionally a few associated costs. Individuals and a few church groups in the US provide for Blake and Allison's living costs, ministry essentials, and physical needs of the people. They attempt to meet the people's needs by supplying a food bank at the church, assisting with or covering medical expenses, and many additional physical needs. They also invest in translating and printing biblical materials and purchasing Bibles that are distributed free of charge.

On a personal note, I have known Allison all of her life, and have witnessed her personal walk with the Lord, having ministered alongside her within our local churches over the years. Blake's work and labor of love for the people and desire to fulfill this ministry is evident.

Submitted by Jennifer Sowers
VCC Member