

# Goshen News

Goshen Baptist Association

WWW.GOSHENASSOCIATION.COM

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Email address: [GoshenAssociation@hughes.net](mailto:GoshenAssociation@hughes.net)

*"The purpose of this Association shall be to proclaim Christ as Lord, to expand the Kingdom of God, and to assist our affiliate churches to carry out their mission before God."*

**This Special Edition was suggested by Goshen's Board of Directors emphasizing Goshen Missions and Dedicated to the memory of Tommy Dickens**

## EXCITING GOSHEN MISSION TEAM NEWS

### *New Missions Team Members*

John Miller (retired DoM) has agreed to take over as chairman of the Goshen Missions Team.

Dennis Barton (retired missionary and pastor of Oakland Baptist) has agreed to join the Missions Team.

We welcome them both aboard and look forward to what the Lord has planned for Goshen Missions as they share their wisdom and experience.

### *Armenia Church Planters*

Meet Svin Ghazelian (a Syrian refugee working as a church planter in Armenia and also attending seminary). Svin has a wife and three children. When Svin completes his studies, he will be serving in Abovian.

We currently have a little over half of needed commitments to give the recommended supplemental support for Pastor Vardan Hakobyan and wife, Lusine. Pastor Vardan is working in Sisian on the border of war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh and is under severe persecution.



*Pastor Vardan & Lusine*

Pastor Vardan writes, *"I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. Ps. 34:1 Praise the Lord for the days and years we have lived. Praise be to the Lord who has kept us al-*

ways, that we have been able to serve in the face of adversity. There were many hard and difficult days, but we were strengthened by the prayers of the Lord. Every month we definitely visit the sick, the elderly, and now especially the families of the victims from Artsakh war, we try to comfort them with the Word of God and prayer. Please pray for our family and the city of Sisian, so that we may be stronger, more courageous, and more productive in service."

*We are seeking additional support for Vardan.*

### *Study Bibles*

Tommy Dickens had it on his heart to provide Study Bibles for the seminary students and some pastors. Through his efforts, Goshen was able to send the funds to purchase 10 Study Bibles in Armenian and 4 Study Bibles in English. Thank you to all who gave funds for the Study Bibles.

### *Church Planter Commitments*

Goshen has received commitments to fully fund Svin for the three years. (It takes 18 commitments per planter to fully fund their supplemental support.) ***However, we still need 8 commitments of \$200 per year for the three years to fully fund Pastor Vardan.***

If you would like to support a church planter in Armenia like Pastor Vardan, mail your check payable to Goshen Baptist Association with "Church Planter" in the memo to P.O. Box 296, Mineral, Virginia 23117.

If you would like more information, call 540.894.8440.

# Medical Mission Opportunity

**Attention Medical Persons:** Medical mission teams are being formed now to work in Kenya March 4-13, 2022 organized by the WMU of Virginia. (For general medical, dental, eye care, physical therapy, labs & pharmacy.) Contact Laura Davis at ldavis@wmuv.org for more information.

## Mission Opportunities

**Project for September: Little Dresses for Africa** - collect cute cotton pillowcases, flannel, 100% cotton material, girls size 14-18 & ladies sm-med cotton briefs, or donate funds to purchase materials in bulk. (For Mission Stitches)

**RuraLove 540.894.8440, 587 Mica Road, Mineral,** is a ministry of Goshen Association to local families in crisis. Churches are needed to **follow up** with families in crisis to build a relationship with the goal of meeting spiritual needs. The Thrift Store is open year-round on Wednesdays 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month April-Nov.

**RuraLove always needs:** Chest of drawers, refrigerators, electric stoves, washers/dryers, twin & full mattresses, good vehicles.

**RuraLove accepts** a wide variety of items. Smaller donations may be left in the green wooden donation shed anytime. Please call ahead for larger donations. Volunteers may also be **scheduled** to pick up **LARGE** items on a Wed. morning.

**RuraLove does not accept** old style TVs, lg. entertainment centers, sleeper sofas, office desks, appliances which have issues. Also, no torn, damaged, moldy, or dirty items. If you have pets, RuraLove cannot accept upholstered items or mattresses due to allergies. **All items are to be nice enough to give in Jesus' name.**

**Hope for Appalachia** <http://hfavateam.com> ~ make "Hope Boxes" for students age 4-18 to be given out with salvation message at schools in Kentucky. See website for info.

**Hope House 540.371.0831** Battered women's shelter for abused women and their children, 902 Lafayette Blvd., Fredericksburg

**Shelter for HELP in Emergency 434.963.4676** Working to end domestic violence. Charlottesville

**Paul Stefan Home (Pro-Life Maternity Housing & Educational Center)** [www.paulstefanhome.org](http://www.paulstefanhome.org) ~ Orange

## 2020-2021 Annual Budget Report

Budget for 2020-2021	156,742.00
Monthly Needs	13,062.00
Received June	9,378.00
Received Oct-June	95,094.00
<b>Budget</b>	<b>- 22,064.00</b>
GMO Receipts as of 8-15-21	\$13,910.00

# CHURCH NEWS

**Craigs** will host their 254th Homecoming Sun, Sept 12 at 9:30 a.m. Theme: "Old Fashioned Homecoming: Keep Telling the Old, Old Story." Special music: Alex Smith & Friends and a Gospel choir. The message: The Story Past—Pastor John Swain; The Story Present—Pastor Brent Vickery; and The Story Future—Pastor Dane Gressett. A shared covered dish luncheon follows service.

**Louisa** welcomes 10 new members.

**Mechanicsville** welcomes a new member by baptism. Also celebrating 193rd Homecoming Oct. 3. Dr. Roy Thomas is interim. Please pray for Pastor Search process. [www.mechbaptist.com](http://www.mechbaptist.com)

**Mineral** VBS reports 70 kids and 30 volunteers with nearly \$4,000 collected for Hope for Appalachia Kindergarten Bags. Volunteers packed 262 bags with supplies which was abundantly more than they imagined! Ephesians 3:20-21 [www.mineralbaptistchurch.org](http://www.mineralbaptistchurch.org)

**Wallers** welcomes a new member in August. The Community Blessing Box is a hit with many thanks from the community. A free outdoor movie night will be held in Sept. The Apple Butter Fall Festival will be in November. See [www.wallersbaptist.com](http://www.wallersbaptist.com)

## Mission Stitches

*All are invited on Sat, September 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.*

Bring a lunch or about \$10 for lunch. Bring your machine and tools or fabric scissors to cut out the patterns. For more information on this ministry contact Terry Graham, 540.661.6268 or email [mrsjrg@aol.com](mailto:mrsjrg@aol.com).



## RuraLove Ministry Update

*RuraLove is open to the public to purchase clothing and yard sale items. In the past month (through your contributions and donations to RuraLove) you have helped local families in crisis by providing:*

- 2 Families with financial needs (\$1,319.00) (Rent, Mortgage, Utilities)
- 3 Families with a household need
- 2 Families with a medical equipment loan

*In the past month the RuraLove Thrift Store sales have:*

Served 282 families with clothing

Served 747 families with household items

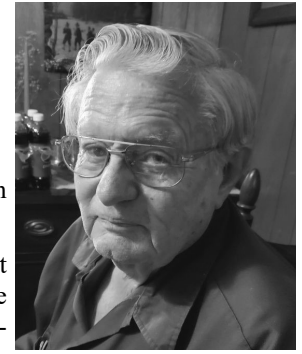
Total sales from the Thrift Store for clothing and other donated yard sale items for the month: **\$6,540.00**

**One hundred percent of all sales and donations go to local families in crisis.**

**Before bringing larger donations, please call: 540.894.8440.**

# Goshen leader leaves legacy for Mission Work

## Henry Thomas “Tommy” Dickens Sr.



Tommy Dickens, 87, met his Lord and Savior face to face on Monday, August 9, 2021. Tommy was born in a log cabin as the sixth of seven children on a farm in Sterling, Virginia to the late Benjamin Franklin and Ocie Bolt Dickens.

Tommy is survived by his spoiled and cherished wife of 62 years, Joy (Goshen’s Ministry Assistant), and five children: Dr. Ricky Thomas Dickens (Sharon) of Radford; Henry T. Dickens Jr. of Mineral; Teal Ann Dickens Johnson (Barry) of Louisa; Tammy Annette Dickens Wood (Wes) of Mineral; and Angela “Angel” Ann Dickens DeBeer (Josh) of Charlottesville. Tommy also had eight grandchildren, one great grandson, many nieces and nephews, a special sister-in-law Jean Stokes of Spotsylvania, a brother-in-law Bill Cowherd (Mary Agnes) of Florida; and brother-in-law Dr. Ossie Ganley of North Carolina. He also left behind his beloved dog Roxie.

He was drafted into the US Army and served from 1953-1955 and then six years in the Reserves. After the service, Tommy became an electrician in Northern Virginia and worked his way up to vice president of Marvin C. Cowherd Electric; then president of Quality Electric. After moving full-time to Louisa County, he was appointed as the Louisa County Administrator. While serving he completed the purchase of the land for the Northeast Creek Reservoir; was responsible for acquiring a \$70,000 grant for Louisa County to build a new landfill (which he completed under budget and the county is still using today); and won the award for top county in Virginia in a “Keep America Beautiful” campaign in 1975.

Tommy also became the very first Louisa County Building Inspector although he was most known for working 25 years for Louisa County Public Schools – first as a teacher of Electricity in the Vocational Department of the high school and then serving another 21 years in the Maintenance Department. Following his retirement from the school system, Tommy worked another eight years manning the county’s recycling centers before retiring fully just before his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Tommy gave his life to Jesus in 1964 and has served various positions in local churches including choir member, teacher, deacon, leading a film ministry, and being on the Board of Directors of a radio broadcast ministry, and more.

In 1980, Tommy went on his very first volunteer Mission Trip and it became his passion. He went on at least one mission trip every year and some years went on two or three as the Lord led. He noted that the Lord always provided for his Mission Trips and he never had to borrow money to go. Tommy went on a total of 34 foreign Mission Trips and at least four in the state of Virginia as well as using his electrical and carpentry skills in many local churches which were remodeling or adding on. During the foreign Mission Trips, Tommy built hospitals, clinics, and churches all over the world; given his testimony and handed out Bibles in many different languages/countries in the streets, schools, prisons, hospitals, even in a Russian court-

room and space center; and so much more.

Tommy has served Goshen Baptist Association faithfully since the 1970s as Youth Director; Brotherhood Director; Evangelism Coordinator; Maintenance Man; Partnership Missions Coordinator (where he organized and held informational Partnership Mission Dinners, recruited volunteers, planned and organized hundreds of teams); and so much more.

Tommy used his skills to work on, recruit and oversee the construction of the current Goshen Ministry Center.

He also was a founding volunteer of the RuraLove Ministry. As the ministry grew out of the rented warehouse in the late 1990s, he had a vision and fundraised, planned, organized and oversaw the building of the RuraLove warehouse on the property of Goshen Ministry Center which was debt free upon completion. Donating thousands of hours planning in addition to his manual labor until the dream was realized.

Tommy also served on Goshen’s New Works Committee and helped start Goshen’s Latino Ministry where he served faithfully for many years. Tommy drove the pastor and volunteers around every Saturday morning for visitation of Latino families and then returned that evening to pick up and take home anyone who needed a ride. He also planned and organized dozens of Fiestas that the families enjoyed very much. Tommy enjoyed making a crock pot of soup or beans for the Latinos to enjoy after services before taking them home.

Other projects close to his heart, Tommy volunteered with Goshen’s Disaster Relief program through Virginia Baptists and felt led that Goshen should have her own equipment for Disaster Relief. So, he fundraised and purchased Goshen’s Disaster Relief Trailer and equipment for “Mud Outs” and then Goshen’s Construction Trailer, tools, and tool shed to go out for Disaster Relief projects and more.

Most recently, Tommy served as the Chairman of the Goshen Missions Team since Goshen’s structure re-organized. Even in the hospital during his last two weeks, Tommy was praying and making plans for Goshen Mission work and sharing with all who would listen.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to Tommy’s passion – church planting mission work. You may make a donation by sending a check payable to: Goshen Baptist Association with “church planters” in the memo and send to Goshen Baptist Association, P.O. Box 296, Mineral, Virginia 23117.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Louisa Baptist Church on Sunday, September 26. Visitation with the family begins at 2 p.m. with a service held at 3 p.m. A meal will follow the service (bring a side dish and/or dessert to share).

**Free Christian Counseling:** Email Samantha J. Reynolds, BS, MSW, PA-C for availability: samtheuropa10@hotmail.com

**Ministry to Roma People at Ruth School—Romania** contact Brittany Garton: Brittany.garton@project-ruth.org or check out Ruth School's website at : www.project-ruth.org

**Little Dresses for Africa** - www.littledressesforafrica.org

**Door of Hope**—South Africa (Saving unwanted babies) www.doorofhopesa.com or facebook.com/doorofhopeSA

**Living Hope** Community Centre News—South Africa (Ministering to those living with HIV/AIDS). Wwww.livinghope.co.za

*Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month.*

## *Goshen News*

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## *September*

- |       |  |    |                      |              |
|-------|--|----|----------------------|--------------|
| 2     | Minister's Breakfast GMC 8:30 a.m.                                   | 5  | Stone Anniversary    | Berea        |
| 4     | Clothing & Yardsale @ RuraLove Warehouse 8-12:30                     | 8  | Suzanne Jarrell      | No. Pamunkey |
| 6     | Labor Day ~ Office Closed  | 17 | Campbell Anniversary | DoM Interim  |
| 10-11 | "Shine" CCCC   | 22 | Boyd Anniversary     | Mt. Gilead   |
| 12-19 | Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions<br>And Alma Hunt Offering       | 26 | Lyn Everett          | Mineral      |
| 18    | Mission Stitchers GMC 9-2  | 29 | Ben Boyd             | Mt. Gilead   |
| 18    | Vol. Receptionist Luncheon 11:30                                     |    |                      |              |
| 21    | Ministers new to Virginia VBRC                                       |    |                      |              |
| 22-23 | Baptist Ministry Assistants of VA Retreat & Training<br>Williamsburg |    |                      |              |

To donate and help people effected by disasters go to:

www.bgav.org or call 1.800.255.2428

100% of money donated goes to help people in crisis

## *September*

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|----|----------------------|--------------|
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| 8  | Suzanne Jarrell      | No. Pamunkey |
| 17 | Campbell Anniversary | DoM Interim  |
| 22 | Boyd Anniversary     | Mt. Gilead   |
| 26 | Lyn Everett          | Mineral      |
| 29 | Ben Boyd             | Mt. Gilead   |

### **Mark your calendar for October Meetings:**

*October 10 ~ Goshen's Fall Missions  
Celebration 3-5 p.m. at Perkins*

*October 26 ~ Goshen Fall Meeting  
2:00 p.m. at Mine Road*

**Email address: *GoshenAssociation@hughes.net***