

MEET OUR TEAM!

Jake Surface

I am a pastor's kid, but I did not grow up that way. God called my dad to pastoral ministry when I was going into 8th grade. My whole family moved to Clarks Summit from Auburn, Indiana so that my dad could go to BBC. God has used my dad's example of obedience in my life to help me understand what it means to be a believer in Christ. Since we moved to Clarks Summit, I have been going to Heritage. God has continued to use people from this church to build me up. I can honestly say that I would not be who I am today if it was not for this church. I was even set up with my wife through a mutual friend at Heritage. In October, we will celebrate 5 years of being married and during that time we have welcomed our two boys Joel (2) and Josiah (11 months) into our family. I have not always been super involved in our church. There was a time after college, that I would consider myself to have been "backslidden." However, God has brought me through that, and I have been growing closer to Him and have been becoming more involved at church. Most recently, I was a part of a yearlong internship with our church, and I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store for me in the future.

I have always enjoyed my times going on missions trips. I was even excited to drive Skip and Lorie to and from the airport for their survey trip this last summer. So as I listened to Skip and Lorie present this opportunity at the Family Gathering, I was instantly interested. Afterwards, Lorie came up to me and said I was on their list of people they would love to go with. I spent some time in fasting and prayer about it. Would it be wise for me to go? I brought it up to Katie and we talked about it further. Could she come with me? Ultimately, we decided that I could go, but that it would not be feasible for both of us to go. In some ways, I see this as an extension of my internship. It's another opportunity for me to see what ministry is like in other places of the world. It also helped confirm that I am built for ministry. I'm excited about this opportunity and can't wait to go.

In a lot of ways, I expect to be the muscle of the trip. We are doing a lot of light construction like projects. I have a little experience with that, but I am a quick learner and can work hard. It will also be an opportunity to learn from the Webers and hopefully put what I learn right into practice.

Wayne Wright

Until my senior year in High School I had very little exposure to the Bible and actually considered myself to be an atheist. While working part-time at McDonald's I met a young lady that kept inviting me to church and events at her Youth Group. I finally agreed and continued to attend whenever the doors were open. It was through that ministry that I become aware of my need and turned my life over to God. I later married that young lady.

Peggy and I married in 1978 and moved to Clarks Summit so that I could attend Baptist Bible College. I graduated in 1983 with a degree in elementary education. I taught at Summit Baptist Academy for 13 years. At this point it was necessary to change career paths due to Peggy's health. I worked at Proctor & Gamble for 23 years. I am now retired and spend most of my time rehabilitating

animals for adoption and refurbishing recreational vehicles. I am looking forward to future ministry opportunities and am willing to do whatever God asks.

The objectives described for this trip fit my areas of experience: carpentry and community outreach. Now that I am retired, this was a perfect opportunity to put my skills and time into a project that would both assist and encourage the Webers.

I simply plan to make myself available for anything needed

Peggy Wright

I had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home and learning about Christ's sacrifice for me at an early age. As the daughter of missionaries, I spent my formative years growing in my understanding of the Scriptures and learning what ministry really meant on the island of Martinique. I daily saw the Lord at work and I never questioned or doubted my belief in Him as Savior. For 47 years, my husband Wayne and I have lived in the Clarks Summit area. During this time, we have always strived to serve God in whatever capacity He would desire. I have seen the Lord open and close the doors. Through it all, I have found Him always faithful.

I spent my childhood on the island of Martinique, serving with my family in that ministry. I returned to the States to attend college and pursue a degree in Biology. I completed my undergrad degree at SUNY Potsdam and married Wayne 2 weeks later. I later completed a masters in Biochemistry at Scranton University. When we moved to Clarks Summit I worked in management for a dental practice in the area. After 15 years, due to health issues, Wayne and I switched careers and I went into teaching part-time at Baptist Bible College. The Lord has given me specific abilities and desires that are to be used to serve and glorify Him. After 29 years of teaching at Clarks Summit University (formerly Baptist Bible College), God closed one door and opened another. I am now involved with course development for Cornerstone University. I need only to be willing and the Lord will continue to show me where I may best serve Him. I am excited to see how I can best serve in the years to come.

Now that I am semi-retired, it provides me with the freedom to be more involved with ministry to others through my church. Growing up, I always benefited and was encouraged by groups that traveled to Martinique on mission trips. It is my time to do the same for others. My primary objective is to be an encourager.

Skip Schneider

Growing up I knew who Christ was but did not have a personal relationship with him. Through a series of events that God used to shape me, I accepted Christ when I was 30 years old. I was baptized at West Endicott Baptist Church in NY and served there until moving to KY to go to college.

My background involves time in the US Navy, carpentry, residential construction, commercial construction, and civil engineering. I have been working as an engineer since 1998. Currently, working to design and build larger solar and wind electrical generation facilities in the US.

I met my bride in NY and we both moved to KY to work on our degrees, we got married in 1998, combined our households, and in 2001 prayed about starting a family. God moved us back north in 2001 and had a place for us in Scranton/Clarks Summit. Our son Josh was born in 2002 and his brother Ben was born in 2004. Both boys are now awesome young men that have placed their faith in Jesus and serve/served here at HBC. My wife is amazing and can be seen serving and volunteering in many ministries here as well.

Lorie and I joined Heritage Baptist Church in 2001 and we have been serving here with our friends and church family since. I have been blessed to have served in almost all the Heritage Kids classes as a volunteer while the boys were growing up, including nursery. Currently, I am serving with Heritage Student Ministries (HSM) as a co-leader with the high school boys; I get to serve with the good folks of the Missions Committee and the Building & Grounds Committee too. Lorie and I are both fortunate to have been involved in Discipleship groups and we get to host a Community Group as well. I also have the privilege to serve our Pastors and church family as the chairman of the Deacons. I love that I get to interact with the next generation of HSM kids while I am serving as the Dad on Duty which is a part of our Safety Team at HBC.

Our family loves the Lord and the church body at HBC and we want to see more people more like Jesus!

The Weber's were in the US on a family trip and we were able to connect with them and saw an opportunity to serve the family we came to love by serving alongside them in Belgium.

I pray that through our team interaction with the locals and the Weber's that there will be a heightened sense that as Christians, we only want them to hear about the Love of God and what Jesus has done for us and ultimately to experience it for themselves

Lorie Schneider

I'm a wife to an awesome guy, mom to two great boys...and now a mother-in-law, daughter, older sibling, and child of the One True King. I am blessed to have met Jesus as a nine-year-old helping my mom (who had only been saved 3 months prior) practice sharing the gospel. I am grateful to have grown up in a Christian home, even though we all had a lot to learn.

Over the years, my understanding of what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus has grown & changed. Instead of just a checklist of dos and don'ts...though I do appreciate the guiderails...I am continually learning to fall in love with Jesus and studying the Word, and to live out of that overflow. I am slowly learning to shift my perspective from bemoaning the fact that I'll never get it right till I get to heaven, to embracing daily grace & mercy on the journey. Jesus IS the journey! I'm grateful for the opportunities God has given me to share His love with others and for how many different ways those opportunities can look. And some days I'm much better at it than others...because some days

my eyes are more fixed on Jesus than others. I'm just a sinner, saved by grace and journeying with Jesus.

In July 2023, the Webers came to Heritage to give an update on their ministry. We hosted the Missions Team & the Weber family for a meal/pool party/debrief and immediately hit it off with Jonathan, Sarah, and the kids. They spent more time with us over the next week and we really enjoyed getting to know them and their heart for Belgium. We were completely all in on the idea of leading a trip to Belgium in the upcoming years. As we kept in touch over the coming months, the Missions Team had decided to move forward with planning a trip and Jonathan contacted us about Skip & I doing a survey trip. We spent almost two weeks with the Webers in September 2024. It was incredible to get to do life & ministry with them! We love their family and really enjoyed getting to see how they pour into their community and even people in other parts of the country. We're excited to minister alongside of them and to them when we go back in April.

I aim to be a blessing...whatever that looks like in the moment. When we took the survey trip, our goal was to do life with the Webers. In doing so, we wanted to figure out how a group from Heritage could both partner with them in their ministries and encourage them as fellow believers on mission for the Lord. So while we were there, we watched and listened, and we planned & hoped & dreamed together with Jonathan & Sarah. Over the last few months, we have honed those into a more solid plan (though not as solid as my personality would prefer 😊). I plan to do everything I can to help accomplish those plans...lug, fetch, build, fix, clean, serve, help with the Resurrection Egg Hunt and Tieners, love on the Webers, and whatever else God has planned for us.

I also expect that God will stretch me in ways that I don't expect...and possibly won't appreciate right away. And I pray that I am quick to notice when His Plan A is my Plan B (or Q) and lean into it instead of fight against it.