

DANIEL & BETHANIE BLAKE



Courses This Term

Daniel

- II Corinthians
- Biblical Theology of Missions
- Congregational Ministry
- Expository Preaching

Bethanie

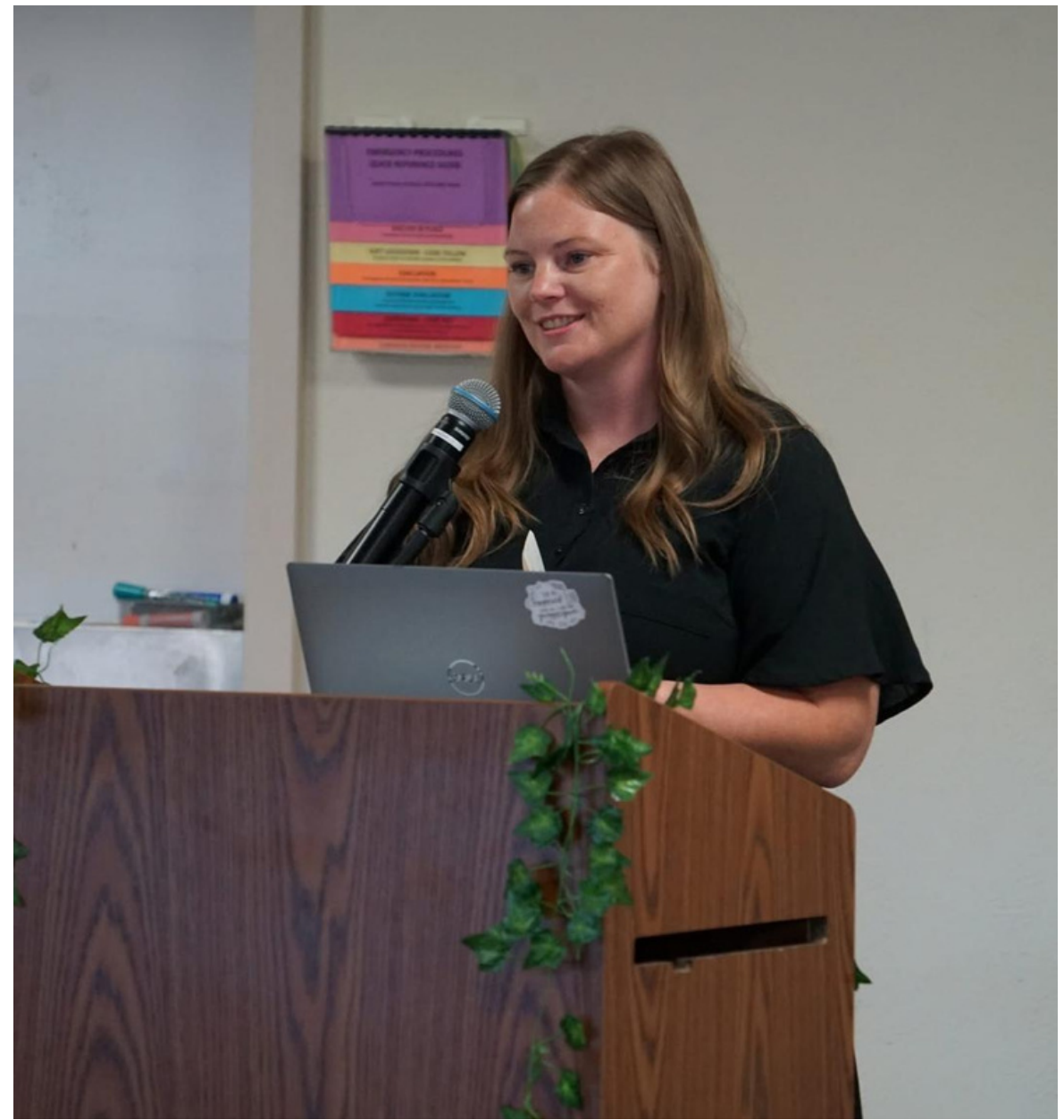
- II Corinthians
- Biblical Theology of Missions
- Effective Womens Ministry 4
- Public Speaking 5

This term we both took II Corinthians and Missions together. In Corinthians, we looked at the background and circumstances of Paul's letter to the Church as well as identifying the challenges that they faced with spiritual formation. We were then able to look at different aspects of ministry to help us see how we can help congregations mature today.

In Missions, we looked at how mission work correlates with God's eternal purpose and how this may vary from culture to culture. We were also able to evaluate our own personal motives for carrying out God's Mission and explore different ways that we can do this. This course has been particularly helpful for us as we begin to make preparations for full time mission work back in the UK next year.

In Congregational Ministry, Daniel was able to get an insight into the work of a minister in a church setting in the USA, focusing on day-to-day work, relationships and responses to stress. Daniel has also continued in his preaching practicums this term he was able to present sermons in class. Daniel was also presented with the opportunity to preach in chapel where he spoke on "Thriving not Surviving."

Bethanie has continued with Effective Women's Ministry course and learned about ministry from the perspective of a minister's wife, including interview processes and expectations. Bethanie also continued in public speaking and was required to write and present a 20-minute topical lesson to her class. Bethanie spoke on "Speaking the truth in love" from Ephesians. 4



This term Bethanie and the level one ladies joined together to organize the annual salad supper at Sunset. This event was to honor the ladies who are graduating and any ladies who have supported their husbands through the school. This was such a wonderful evening to honor the lovely ladies that I have had the pleasure of studying alongside for two years. I will miss them very much but I am excited to see how God will use them in His Kingdom.



We are grateful for the opportunities that SIBI has provided for us. Prior to coming to SIBI, Bethanie had never presented a full lesson to an adult audience before, and Daniel had never preached a sermon to a congregation. But since coming to SIBI we have been taught how to write and present lessons and have both grown in our confidence and public speaking abilities and are excited to be able to put these new skills into practice.



We also had the opportunity to attend “Lads to Leaders” in Oklahoma this month to represent SIBI on a booth. We were given the opportunity to judge the speech contest of grade 7-12 and watched one of the puppet contests which we really enjoyed. This event was a brand new experience for us, having never attended a “Lads to Leaders” event before but we were so encouraged to witness the enthusiasm and talent of the participants

Summer Plans

We have now ended our studies for the summer and will resume August 10Th 2026.

We have been helping with the planning of the Middle School Mission and Mystery Trip with Green Lawn Church of Christ, and we will be attending that trip next week which we are looking forward to.

Our next main event Lord Willing will be our trip back to England on July 22nd for Bethanie's Sister's wedding. We are looking forward to this trip to see family and friends and we will use it as a type of survey trip to further get a feel of how and where we want to serve when we return home next year.

Prayer Requests & Needs

We continue to ask for prayers surrounding our future mission work in the UK. We have one more year left in the states and wish to spend the next year getting ourselves ready to return and work. We are currently casting visions of what that might look like, once we have finalized this and carried out more research, we will send a report with our vision and specific needs. Fow now we request prayers for wisdom and clarity and for the right opportunities to help prepare us further.

We are also still seeking financial support to return to the UK in August 2026. One of Bethanie's younger sisters is getting married, and we would love to be able to be there and spend time with family and use it as a survey trip to see how and where we can serve on our return next year. We are looking to spend 3 weeks there and need to raise around \$2000. If you are willing to help, please email daniel.blake@sunsetonline.org

Thank You!

As always, we want to thank you for all that you do to support us. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here at SIBI so far and have grown and learnt so much in these past two years. We have grown in our confidence, our understanding and discovered gifts we never knew we had. It is because of you that we have been able to do this, and we look forward to being able to pass on what we have learnt to others and to help them grow too. We cannot thank you enough! God Bless You! - The Blakes