

NEWS FROM BEN & SARAH SANDERS

December 2022



“The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’” Luke 2:10-12

May you and your family be blessed with great joy in celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ

Good News from the Campus Christian Center (C3)!



In 2012, we opened the Campus Christian Center (C3) as a home for 20+ Christian ministries at Arizona State University in Tempe. This was the fulfillment of a vision the Lord gave us in 1981 when we were ASU students! After leasing for three years, our ministry, Community Ministries International (CMI), purchased the facility in 2015. Just six

years later, in 2021, the mortgage was fully paid off, thanks to God’s abundant provision through his generous people! To date, \$1.7 million has been given to the C3 capital fund, which is 90% of our goal! Praise God! This past year — C3’s 10th Anniversary — has been one of building renewal: five new HVAC units, a new main sewer line, and extensive remodeling of the 97-year-old Hiebert House at the front of the property, including construction of Eden Tea & Coffee House. Our colleague Amie Pierone



(pictured with paintbrush in hand) is leading this project and is planning to open Eden in January! For more information, please check out www.c3tempe.org and www.edenteacoffee.org and follow @c3tempe and @edenteacoffee on Facebook and Instagram.



Family Matters... We are grateful for the gift of family! In May, we celebrated our 39th anniversary. We first met in 1980 at a student prayer meeting at Quo Vadis Books next to ASU. (QV is now next to C3!) Life and ministry have been connected for us ever since. A special blessing in April was hiking the Grand Canyon with our daughter, Rebekah, celebrating that Sarah



has been cancer free for four years! We were also blessed to be at the University of Oxford for ten days in July serving as volunteer staff for the C.S. Lewis Foundation’s Summer Institute. In October, we celebrated the 101st birthday of Ben’s Mom, Virginia, and Rebekah’s 30-something birthday (pictured with Ben’s brother, Randy, at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix). Later in October, Sarah’s sister, Melody, moved in with us while she transitions back to Tempe. It’s good to be together!



ARIZONA CENTER for CHRISTIAN STUDIES

After starting the **Arizona Center for Christian Studies (AzCCS; www.azccs.net)** in 2011, Ben has organized major events at ASU featuring outstanding Christian scholars and scientists, such as Professors Colin Humphreys, N.T. Wright, Ted Davis, John Lennox, Deborah Haarsma, William Newsome, and Michael Reiss. In 2019, with a \$25,000 grant from Fuller Seminary, Ben and his team hosted the **Conference On Faith And Science (COFAS) at ASU**. With 12 leading Christians in science from across the U.S., Canada, and U.K. as speakers, this conference was attended by 250 students, professors, and community members. Following the success of this first COFAS, the John Templeton Foundation awarded a \$230,000 grant to AzCCS in 2020, with half of the grant for AzCCS to host two Christian-focused COFAS conferences and the other half subcontracted by AzCCS to ASU to host two multi-faith **Conferences on Religion, Ethics, and Science (CORES)**. Ben's extraordinary co-workers were Misty Falkner, Assistant Director of AzCCS, and Dr. Barry Ritchie, ASU Professor of Physics, along with amazing faculty teams. Because of COVID-19, we shifted from in-person to virtual events, beginning in September 2020 with a Zoom conversation between Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in London and four ASU professors, which was watched by over 400 people. In February 2021 (online only) and February 2022 (online and in person at ASU), CORES and COFAS conferences were hosted with 2,200 participants from 43 states of the U.S. and 36 other nations. Remarkably, almost 70 professors from around the world were in conversations with 60 faculty members from ASU and other Arizona universities. For more information, visit csrc.asu.edu/cores, www.COFASasu.org, and www.fb.com/cofas.asu. All 80 conference videos can be watched on the "CORES ASU" and "COFAS ASU" YouTube channels. The final CORES event will be on January 26, 2023, at 12 p.m. MST, with a program on "'Let There Be Light': Religion and the Birth of Modern Science." Further, Ben is discussing with the Veritas Forum the possibility of hosting Oxford Professor John Lennox at ASU in April 2023. More information will be forthcoming at www.azccs.net and www.facebook.com/azccs.



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Support Update

In addition to Ben's work with AzCCS, we serve as Directors of the Campus Christian Center (C3) (www.c3tempe.org). We do not receive compensation from either C3 or AzCCS. Rather, our work to develop and lead these ministries is possible because of the prayers and financial support of so many of you, our faithful partners over the past 25 years! We know it's easy to ignore fundraising appeals and we're thankful that so many of you have gone out of your way to consider ours.

Year-end gifts are often a large percentage of our annual receipts. **If you are able, would you consider making a special year-end gift to our work?** It would be wonderful to begin 2023 fully funded, with a full-time focus on directing C3 and AzCCS.

Ways to Give: Tax-deductible contributions for our ministry can be made:

- **online at www.c3tempe.org/donate (choose Ben and Sarah Sanders, Directors), or**
- **by check made payable to "Community Ministries International" and mailed to:**

**Community Ministries
For Ben and Sarah Sanders
P.O. Box 1245
Tempe, AZ 85280-1245**



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