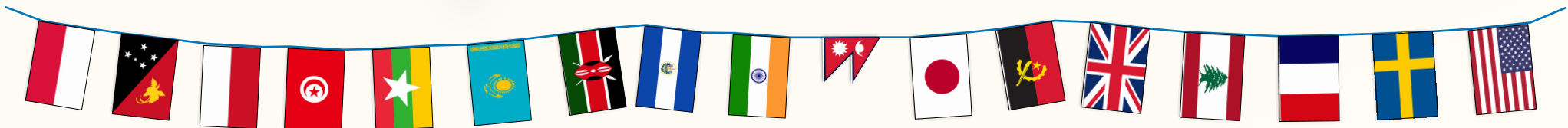


RIVERMONT EPC MISSIONS FESTIVAL



March
1st-3rd 2024

LYNCHBURG
VIRGINIA



Dear friends,

When you hear the word **festival**, what comes to mind? You may have thought about a music festival, a food festival or maybe even our fall festival. The one thing that ties each one of these festivals together is celebration. Festivals are celebrations, whether you're celebrating music or food or the season.

Jesus tells the story in Luke 15 of an unlikely festival honoring the homecoming of a prodigal son. The son has squandered his father's reputation, his place in the family, his inheritance on questionable things and people, and his dignity working as a pig farmer. He returns a broken man who is lost and dead inside.

Instead of throwing a fit, his father throws a festival when he returns. The prodigal son crumbles under the weight of his father's grace and generosity. The one who was dead is now alive. The one who was lost has been found and restored.

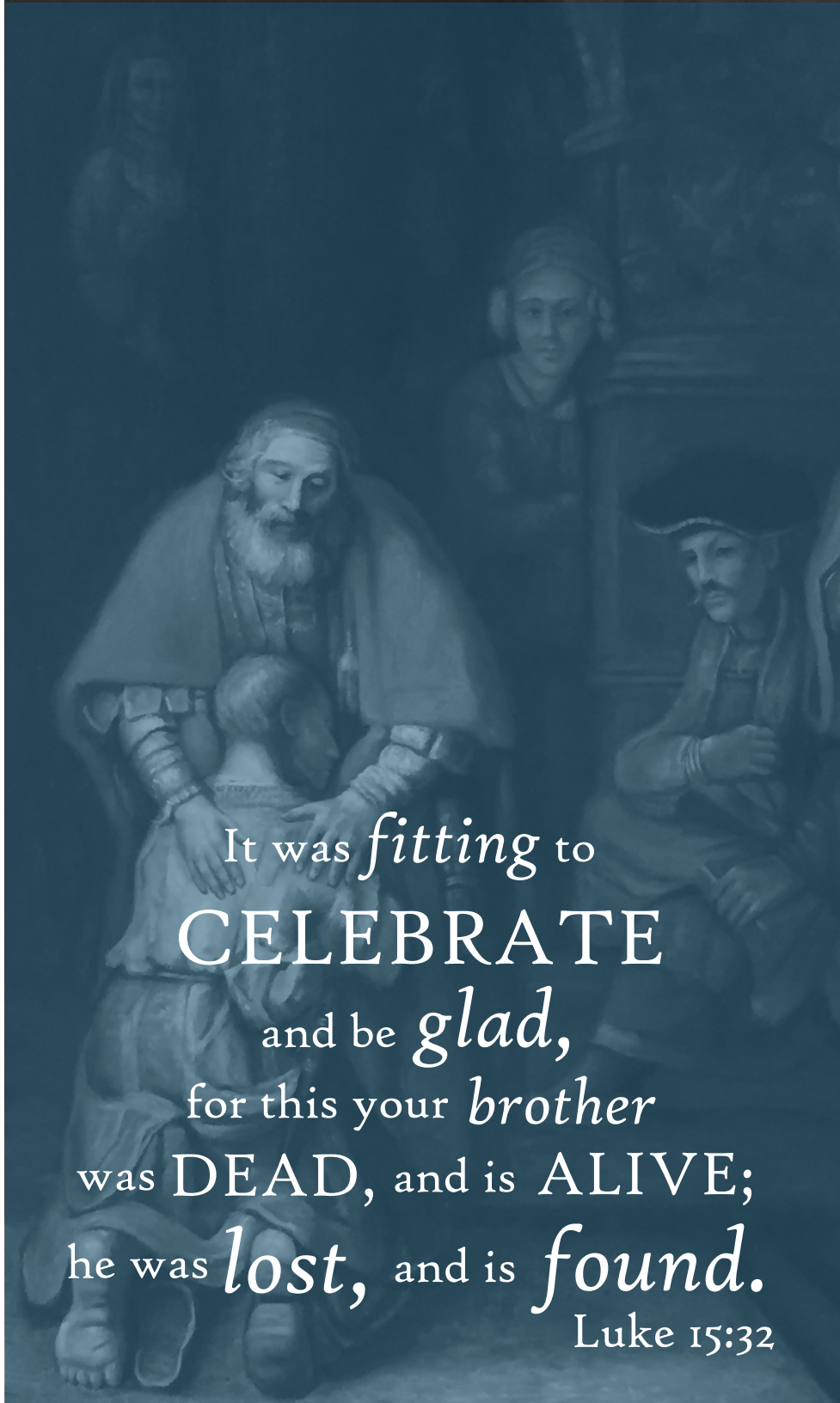
This gospel, this message of grace and mercy, is God's story to tell through our missionaries during our Missions Festival. I hope you'll join us as these stories get told. I hope you'll be able to see that God is far bigger than any obstacles or hindrance that keeps you from testifying to that gospel to your neighbor.

May this Mission Festival be a fitting celebration of God's immeasurable love for the lost who are waiting to be found.

Grace + Peace,



Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, 1669.



It was *fitting* to
CELEBRATE
and be *glad*,
for this your *brother*
was **DEAD**, and is **ALIVE**;
he was *lost*, and is *found*.
Luke 15:32

FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MARCH 1

- 5:30 PM** Festival of Food
Fellowship Hall
- Youth Pizza Party
The Youth House
- 6:30 PM** ADULTS: Missionary Panel Q&A
The Sanctuary
- YOUTH: Missionary Jeopardy
The Youth House

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Rivermont Missions Festival kicks off at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall with a **Festival of Food**. We'll have three Tapas style stations with food from the Mediterranean world, the Indian world, and the Pacific Rim. In addition there will be a tossed salad table, a kid's table with Chick-fil-A nuggets for our elementary age friends and below, and a dessert table.

Following dinner, we'll gather in the Sanctuary for a **Missionary Panel Q&A** from several of our missionaries as they discuss the unique obstacles and opportunities for gospel ministry in their part of the world.

The **youth** (5th-12th grade) have a special evening planned as they will enjoy a pizza party in the Youth House, which will be followed by an interactive game-show themed discussion with a missionary.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

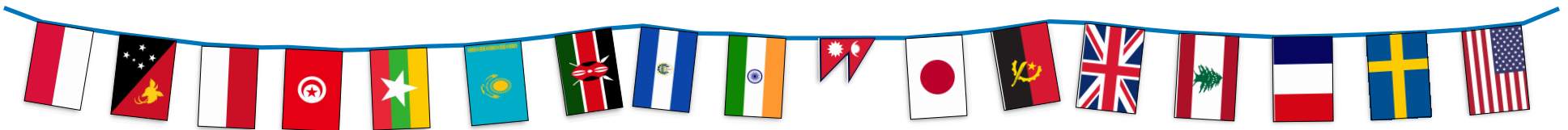
SATURDAY MARCH 2

- 8:00 AM** Continental Breakfast
Fellowship Hall
- 8:45 AM** Devotional with Pastor Brett
Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 AM** Missionary Workshops
*Fellowship Hall, Rivermont Room A,
The Choir Room*
- Afternoon/
Evening** Missionaries visiting Rivermont Small
Groups

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Rivermont Missions Festival continues with breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall with bagels and cream cheese as well as coffee from Bacon St. Bagels. We'll also have a fruit salad and yogurt to top it all off. At 8:45am, Pastor Brett will offer some devotional thoughts and at 9:00am, we'll have three separate workshops with our missionaries. The workshops are designed to give you a "behind the scenes look" at their work including some demonstrations..

In the afternoon and evening, missionaries will be meeting with small groups in Rivermont members' homes. If you are not in a small group, but would like to participate, contact Pastoral Assistant Janet Freshour (janet@rivermont.org) to be added to one.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MARCH 3

- 8:30 AM** Worship Service
The Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM** Missionaries in Sunday School Classes
Various Rooms
- 11:00 AM** Worship Service
The Sanctuary
- 12:30 PM** Covered Dish Lunch with Missionaries
Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 PM** Special Missionary Prayer Meeting
The Chapel

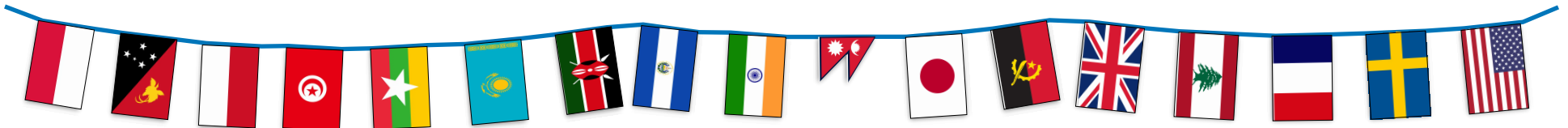
PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Rivermont Missions Festival concludes with a couple of opportunities to hear from our missionaries. During the Sunday School hour, missionaries will be in our Sunday School classes to share about God's work in their ministry and world. Classes will have the opportunity to ask questions and pray for the missionary in their class.

Following the late worship service, we'll enjoy a covered dish lunch with our missionaries in the Fellowship Hall. We'll provide the fried chicken and we ask the following groups of people to bring:

- **Side Dish** (Last Name starts with A - H)
 - **Cold Salad** (Last Name starts with I - O)
 - **Dessert** (Last Name starts with P - Z)
- Please bring enough to feed 6 to 8 people.

We'll end the day with a time of special prayer for our missionaries as they return home to continue God's work.



FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

**To sign up for the Mission Festival
click the QR Code with your phone camera
or type in the web address [https://repc.breezechms.com/form/
bf4131899867](https://repc.breezechms.com/form/bf4131899867)**

