



FIRST EDITION

First Baptist Church

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Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Every Church. Every Nation. This is more than a catchy phrase. It's at the core of what we do. Every church—and every church member—has a critical role to play in bringing the gospel to the world. Our church's participation in the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) is a key part of that.

Over 2.8 billion people have little to no access to the gospel. Together, we can change that. 100% of our church's gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering support International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries who are making disciples and multiplying churches around the world.

Churches of all sizes have helped [us]. And because they have, we have seen God work to spread the gospel in amazing ways.

LARRY PEPPER,
IMB missionary, Tanzania

Our gifts transform lives around the world. When we give, we are part of reaching every nation with the gospel. And those gifts transform lives, from missionaries who serve on the field to the people they're called to serve.

God uses men and women from all walks of life to go and share the gospel. IMB sustains over 3,500 missionaries and commissions about 300 new missionaries each year. Our gifts prepare, send, and support them. Every dollar you give matters.

LANGUAGE EDUCATION: \$150 provides one month of in-country language study;
SECURITY TRAINING: \$600 provides satellite phones for emergency situations;
BIBLES: \$20 provides 10 New Testaments in a local language;
AUDIO & VIDEO GOSPEL: \$3,000 will fund the production of a gospel film in a new language;
ORAL & DEAF LEARNING TOOLS: \$2 pays for a tube of Henna to illustrate 5 gospel stories;
CHURCH PLANTER TRAINING: \$445 provides training, food, and travel for more than 90 pastors, leaders, and believers;
TRAINING MATERIALS: \$500 provides leader training manuals for local believers;
AGRICULTURE: \$230 provides two sheep for a family to start animal husbandry work;
MEDICAL: \$5 provides 20 clean syringes;
JOB TRAINING: \$1,800 provides a sewing training station to teach self-sufficiency and entrepreneurial skills;
REFUGEES: \$39 provides one week of meals for a family.

To give, visit <https://give.imb.org/>. You may also give through First Baptist Church. Indicate Lottie Moon on your check's memo line or on your giving envelope. Gifts to LMCO may be given online at our web page by visiting www.fbcf.org.

In just the past year, the IMB has seen:

- 811 people groups engaged
- 108,714 new believers come to Christ
- 14,817 pastors trained
- 12,005 churches planted

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Video-Conferences with Missionaries

Pastor Matt Keller has scheduled several video-conferences with missionaries who serve around the world. Middle- and high-school students spoke with a missionary in Quito, Ecuador, on a recent Wednesday evening. Upcoming interviews are scheduled with missionaries in Osaka, Japan; Salt Lake City, Utah; Dundee, Scotland; and Hamburg, Germany.

If anyone is interested in joining the students on a Sunday during the Bible study hour or on a Wednesday evening, contact Pastor Matt Keller.





Who was Lottie Moon?

Lottie Moon—the namesake of Southern Baptists’ international missions offering—has become a legend. But in her time, Lottie was anything but an untouchable hero. In fact, she was like today’s missionaries. She labored tirelessly so her people group could know Jesus.

What was her pre-missionary life like? Born Charlotte Digges Moon, December 12, 1840, in Albemarle County, Virginia. Lottie rebelled against Christianity until she was in college. In December 1858, she dedicated her life to Christ and was baptized at First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia. Lottie attended Albemarle Female Institute, female counterpart to the University of Virginia. In 1861, she was one of the first women in the South to receive a master’s degree. She stayed close to home during the Civil War but eventually taught school in Kentucky, Georgia and Virginia.

“Today’s China is very different from the vast farmland Lottie Moon entered in the 1800s. But one thing hasn’t changed: China’s need for a Savior.”

Her missionary work: Edmonia Moon, Lottie’s sister, was appointed to Tengchow, China, in 1872. The following year, Lottie was appointed and joined her sister there. Lottie served 39 years as a missionary, mostly in China’s Shantung province. She taught in a girls’ school and often made trips into China’s interior to share the good news with women and girls. Lottie Moon was passionate about people knowing Christ. She didn’t hesitate to speak her mind. Today’s China

is very different from the vast farmland Lottie Moon entered in the 1800s. But one thing hasn’t changed: China’s need for a Savior.

What was her mission? When she set sail for China, Lottie was 32 years old. She had turned down a marriage proposal and left her job, home, and family to follow God’s lead. Her path wasn’t typical for an educated woman from a wealthy Southern family. God had gripped her with the Chinese peoples’ need for a Savior. For 39 years Lottie labored, chiefly in Tengchow and P’ingtu. People feared and rejected her, but she refused to leave. The aroma of fresh-baked cookies drew people to her house. She adopted traditional Chinese dress, and she learned China’s language and customs. Lottie didn’t just serve the people of China; she identified with them. Many eventually accepted her. And some accepted her Savior.

What was her vision? Lottie wrote letters home detailing China’s hunger for truth and the struggle of so few missionaries taking the gospel to the 472 million Chinese in her day. She also shared the urgent need for more workers and for Southern Baptists to support them through prayer and giving. She once wrote home to the Foreign Mission Board, “Please say to the [new] missionaries they are coming to a life of hardship, responsibility and constant self-denial.” Disease, turmoil and lack of co-workers threatened to undo Lottie’s work. But she gave herself completely to God, helping lay the foundation of what would become the modern Chinese church, one of the fastest-growing Christian movements in the world. Lottie Moon died at 72 — ill and in declining health after decades ministering to her beloved Chinese. But her legacy lives on. And today, when gifts aren’t growing as quickly as the number of workers God is calling to the field, her call for sacrificial giving rings with more urgency than ever.

What are her letters home? Lottie frequently sent letters back home detailing Chinese culture, missionary life and the physical and spiritual needs of the Chinese people. Additionally, she challenged Southern Baptists to go to China or give so that others could go. By 1888, Southern Baptist women had organized and helped collect \$3,315 to send workers needed in China.

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? In 1918, Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) named the annual Christmas offering for international missions after the woman who had urged them to start it.

~ Article adapted from information gathered from the IMB at: <https://www.imb.org/who-was-lottie-moon>



**A YOUNG MAN SHOULD ASK HIMSELF NOT
IF IT IS HIS DUTY TO GO TO THE HEATHEN,
BUT IF HE MAY DARE STAY AT HOME. THE
COMMAND IS SO PLAIN: GO.**

- LOTTIE MOON -



Upcoming Christmas Celebration Events

First Baptist Church's Praise Choir will present a dramatic musical presentation on Sunday evening, December 9, 2018, at 6:00 pm. "An Unexpected Christmas" tells the story of stranded airline passengers in a rush to get home for the holiday and their unexpected encounter with Jesus, the real reason for the holiday. Plan to stay for a cookie fellowship afterward. Please bring cookies to share.



These days, Christmastime is often extremely crazy and busy with so many things to do. From parties to shopping, from recitals to exams—it is easy to lose focus on the Prince of Peace that was born in Bethlehem that holy night. Today, our Christmas is not usually quiet, calm or silent. As we read how the story unfolded, we can see that first Christmas was crazy and busy too! Thankfully, Jesus came to bring peace and hope to the chaos in our world. This is the message our Team Kids Praise Children's Choir will present on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at 6:00 pm. The Preschool Bible Buddies group will share as well. Plan to stay for a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party afterward.

Christmas Eve Celebration Events

Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Monday, December 24, 2018, at 5:30 pm, in the Worship Center. Our students will lead in worship as we celebrate Christ's birth. Bring your family and join us for this very special event.

Sanctuary poinsettias may be taken home following this worship service.



*Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service*



Immediately following the candlelight celebration, the Clements family invites everyone to an open house. Pastor Mike and Allison will provide enchiladas, and everyone else is asked to bring a side dish, dessert, or appetizer. Please call or text Allison at 830-391-0061 to RSVP or with any questions. The Clements live at 1704 Chestnut Street in Floresville.

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 19, 2018 @ 6:30 pm

In the worship Center. New business will be presented by the Finance Committee.



OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

The office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th. There will be NO church activities on Wednesday, December 26th.



FABULOUS FIFTH SUNDAY

December 30th is Fabulous Fifth Sunday. There will be one combined worship at 10:30 am and plan to stay for a fellowship luncheon.

There will also be no 8am worship service on Sunday, December 23, 2018.

Floresville Food Pantry December Wish List

Canned Fruits and
Vegetables

Baked Goods Fundraiser for Youth Camp

Tiffany Gonzalez is organizing a baking fundraiser to help send kids to camp next summer. She will be taking orders for holiday baked goods with suggested donation amounts. Watch for information about signing up in the foyer or call Tiffany at 630-605-0854.



Deacons/Staff Christmas Party

Saturday, December 1st @ 6:00 pm

Titus 2 & Hope Class Party

Saturday, December 8th @ 4:00 pm

SAMS/Choate Class Party

Saturday, December 8th @ 4:00 pm

Gaertners' Class Party

Saturday, December 15th @ 5:00 pm

Student Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 19th at 6:30 pm

Bring a \$5 value White Elephant gift.

Children's Christmas Party

Wed., Dec. 19th, 5:30 pm—7:30 pm

Bring an ornament to exchange (\$3 max value).



Women's Ministry News



Let me be one of the first to wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas season—where we celebrate the birth of our LORD and SAVIOR Jesus Christ! We have an abundance of blessings every day of the year, and this is a perfect time to share what these blessings are with family, friends, and new people we meet! I know some of you will

be very busy this season, but don't let that stop you from taking a minute to pause and reflect what the LORD has done in your life!

Christmas blessings to you and your family, ~ Donna Arispe



Wrapped gifts for the boys and girls at the South Texas Children's Home should be returned by Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Return the tag along with the gift so we know to whom the present belongs. The gifts will be delivered on the morning of December 10, 2018. Thank you for purchasing a gift that will bless a child this Christmas!

Don't Keep Jesus in Just a Nativity Scene

A Christmas Play Presented by
Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Written and directed by Sister Gladys M. Smith.

Sunday, December 16, 2018, at 5:30 pm
1805 Standish Street



Safety Committee

At a recent Business Meeting, First Baptist Church of Floresville (FBCF) authorized the creation of a Safety Committee. The Committee on Committees created this committee and recruited members to fill the new positions.

FBCF feels it is prudent, in light of recent events in our state and in our nation, to develop policies and procedures that, when implemented, will minimize or negate harm to our members and visitors in the unlikely event that disaster strikes.

The Safety Committee is charged with developing and implementing Safety Policy, a FBCF Safety Operating Manual, and procedures to implement the Safety Policies.

The Safety Committee has developed policies and procedures for the following unlikely scenarios:

- Medical Emergencies,
- Acts of God such as the following: tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, etc.
- Active Shooter.



Our initial focus is on greater monitoring of the Sanctuary, Nursery, and Family Life Center. Due to insufficient resources, we will only be able to cover Sunday School (Bible Study Hour) and second service on Sunday. We are currently working on procedures for Wednesday evening activities. We hope to have the Wednesday evening procedures developed to be implemented in the near future.

Our procedures include Greeters in the parking lots before and after service. The greeters will likely have radios to effectively and constantly communicate with the Safety Committee Chair or Vice-Chair. These radios are shock-resistant, waterproof, link with the National Weather Service, and contain flashlights in the event of a power outage.

Our future plans include purchasing and installing, in phases, fish-eye cameras at key locations along with equipment for a monitoring control center.

Our desired goal is to have in place procedures to react appropriately and quickly to minimize or negate vandalism and harm to our members and visitors.

If you are interested in receiving our current draft of the Safety Committee Operating Manual, please contact the church office.

If you have recommendations, suggestions, or specific questions, you can address them to Carter Thomas at carter.thomas@frontier.com or by phone at 830-391-6872.



Schedule of Events

Sunday

- 8:00—Worship Service (except Lord's Supper & 5th Sundays)
- 9:15—Bible Study
- 10:30—Worship Service
- 3:00—Veterans Home (except 2nd Sunday)
- 4:00—Student Choir
- 6:00—Monthly Movie Night (1st Sunday of month)

Wednesday

- 3:30—TeamKids
- 4:30—FLC open for students
- 4:45—TeamKids Praise
- 5:30—Wednesday Night Supper
- 5:30—Kids Movie Night LAST Wed
- 6:30—Life Groups / Prayer Meeting Youth Bible Study / Bible Drill & Bible Buddies
- 7:30—Praise Choir Rehearsal

Weekly Activities

Creative Hands—Quilting
Mondays at 10:00 am
Bible Study Fellowship
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
Ladies Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Sr. Adult Game Day
Thursdays from 1-4 pm
Line Exercise Classes
Mon, Tue, & Thu from
9:30-10:30 am

* Deacon of the Week

December Birthdays

3 Aaron Garcia	8 Teri Villarreal	15 Cole Harris	19 Marcy Perez	23 Michael Villarreal
4 Rob Coleman	9 Braelyn Burns	15 Chloe Little	19 Deana Smith	24 Carlos Garza
4 Claryce Holcombe	9 Sara Beth Ham	15 Chad Rex Reed	19 Peggy Tipton	24 Judy Murray
4 Stacey O'Leary	9 Rose Hopper	17 Jean Evelyn Hughes	20 Lyla Smith	25 Buddy Smith
4 Preston Taggs	12 Susan Eubanks	17 Sarah Brieden	21 Timothy Davis	28 Ron Fischer
5 Doug Watson	12 Billie Riddle	17 Karen Sada	21 Chuck Garza	28 Ron Tipton
6 Jeanine Livingston	13 Dahlia Sellers	18 Melba Dunn	22 Shine Trabucco	28 Daryl Wheeler
7 Drew Clements	14 Norma Idrach	18 William Eckel	23 Sheila Brieden	30 Bob Bagley
8 Bob Andrews	14 Ryan Parker	18 Jonathon Jansky	23 Evie Carter	30 Judy Whitley
8 Ross Koenig	15 Marty Choate	19 Gearis Herndon	23 Sandy Lawtum	30 Cody Bland

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Deacon & Staff Party 6pm
2 Caroling 4pm & Gaertners 7pm *Bob Herndon	3 FV Nursing Home 3:30	4 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	5 WNS Hamburgers Angel Tree Gifts DUE @ FBC	6 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	7 More than Moms Movie 6:30p	8 Youth to Riverwalk Titus II /Hope Party 4pm Choate Class Party 4pm
9 An Unexpected Christmas 6pm *Tom Kuykendall	10	11 Last BSF	12 WNS Frito Pie & Chili Dogs	13 Children to Devine Acres Farm	14 Fun Bunch Christmas Shopping	15 Gaertners' Party 5pm
16 Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night 6pm *Marshall Livingston	17	18 Safety Committee 7pm	19 WNS Pork Steaks Kids' Party 5:30 Youth Party 6:30 Business MTG	20	21	22
23 One Combined Worship *John Long	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc @ 5:30pm ——Office Closed——	25 Merry Christmas	26 NO Afternoon or Evening Activities	27	28	29 8am MEN'S BREAKFAST
30 Fabulous Fifth Sunday NO Early Worship *Shaun Murray	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE					



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Fax: 830-393-3613
E-mail: office@fbcf.org

Mike Clements, D.Min., Pastor
830-391-2016

Terry Smith, Worship Pastor
830-391-3362

Matt Keller, Student Pastor
409-656-3089

Darlene McKeen, Children's Director
Penny Smith, Office Manager
Christie Davis, Office Assistant
Rosa Beltran, Church Custodian



Because He First Loved Us.



Deep condolences are extended to the family of Ray Alley, brother of Sophie Rodriguez, who passed away on November 9, 2018.

with
Sympathy

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the turkey and all the fixings for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. I am blessed to have such a wonderful and caring church family. May God Bless

ALL of those who donated the food, time, prayers, and financial support to this worthwhile ministry. Have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving!

~ Your Sister in Christ—Carla Smith & family

Pastor and church,

I just want to thank you once more for your kindness to Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). It gives me great joy to send our prayers and blessings to First Baptist Church. This past week was the anniversary of the Sutherland Springs shooting. As you stood along with their church, pastor, and members, may God continuously give you an *Aaron & Hur* to hold you up when needed. Continuous blessings and sincere thanks. "Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4

~ Mavis Cantu, Bible Study Fellowship

Dear Church Family,

"Thank you" cannot express all the love and comfort we have received during this journey that so many have been on before us. We believe the LORD will be showing us what HIS plan is for us in this chapter of our lives. We know HE is with us and will never leave our side! Thank you for all the beautiful cards, flowers, and delicious meals. It is a blessing and privilege to be part of a body of believers and prayer warriors. Your continued prayers during our journey are a true blessing!

In HIS Name! ~ Donna & David Arispe

Dear Floresville Family,

We wanted to thank you for your prayers and support for True Love Waits Philippines. We couldn't do what God has called us to do without your partnership. Unfortunately we weren't able to see you last July. After marrying off our eldest daughter, our time in the US was just too short. Please pray for continued openness and opportunities to share Christ here in the Philippines.

Love, Amanda & Derek Ross

New Members

By Statement

Kellum Colton
111 Country View Lane
Floresville, TX 78114
512-348-2715

By Baptism

Diedre Whatley Colton
111 Country View Lane
Floresville, TX 78114
512-621-6480

By Baptism

Lyla Smith
322 Broken Arrow
Floresville, TX 78114
210-363-4314

Carson Addington

325 Wildrose Drive
Floresville, TX 78114

Cadance Perez

1214 Marianna Court
Floresville, TX 78114
210-300-0293

BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:
\$ 525,000.00
November Loan Payment:
\$ 5,000.00
Current Loan Balance:
\$ 225,582.40

*"Take from among you
an offering to the Lord.
Whoever is of a willing heart, let him
bring it as an offering to the Lord."*

~Exodus 35:5a (NKJV)

**online
GIVING**
easy. fast. effective.



Online giving is an easy, convenient, and secure alternative to writing a check. Go to the church's web page, www.fbcf.org, or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
October 2018	\$ 51,975.27	\$ 54,829.00
YTD thru October	\$ 531,675.64	\$ 548,290.00