

July 1, 2020

▶ Volume 46, Issue 7

# First Edition

## Regathering for In-Person Worship

At the time of this publication, FBC Floresville has begun the process of reopening. In early June, adult and student Bible study classes began to gather together and acted as a test group to see how well we adhered to the social distancing guidelines during worship. Sunday, June 28, 2020, we officially opened up for in-person worship in two worship services, 8:00 am and 10:30 am, with adult and student Bible study sandwiched in-between. For everyone's protection, some changes have been made to the way we have done things in the past. For example, pew Bibles, hymnals, and bulletins will not be available, ushers will assist with social distancing efforts, no communal coffee, and you'll find secure locations to drop off your tithes and offerings. Face masks are not required, but they are certainly recommended.

Although preschool and children's small group classes (Sunday School) have not yet resumed, children are encouraged to attend in-person worship and attend with their families. There will be no nursery or childcare available.

We do understand that not everyone is able to return to in-person worship. Because of this, the 10:30 am worship service will continue to be streamed on Facebook LIVE each week.

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## How Did We Get the Bible?

Today's world is unprecedented and unlike any other time in history. In the world of the 15th century Reformers, no one questioned the authority of the Bible; everyone believed the Bible and there were no skeptics. Then came the era of the Enlightenment in the 1700s when in Germany, cracks in that belief system began to form when questions arose about the source of biblical authority. While these questions were unprecedented for the time period, they are nothing like we experience in the 21st century.

Today's world is filled with its own unique challenges. Culturally, as many as 85% of people have bought into the propaganda that the events recorded in the Bible are mythical. Many doubt that Jesus was God and wonder whether the resurrection really happened. These doubts can open a door to convincing belief systems (Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, etc.) that distort the truth of scripture or even cause people to choose to become atheists or agnostics.

For these reasons, Pastor Mike Clements has begun a sermon series to help believers understand how we got the Bible. Today's Christians must be able to answer questions regarding our own faith and defend it. We cannot continue to get by on tradition or our own assumptions about scripture. That's the reason for this sermon series.

In the next few weeks, look forward to Pastor teaching about the inspiration and canonization of the Bible, meaning *did God write the Bible?* and *how were the 66 books of our Bible chosen?*



## A Word from Missionary Bob Farley in Belize

I would like to start off by saying THANK YOU to those of you who have given during these challenging times. I can honestly say that today, the only reason we are still in Belize and have something to eat is because we serve an awesome God, and we have the most incredible financial supporters of any missionary on the PLANET. Rhonda and I are humbled beyond words by your generosity. We gratefully appreciate your prayers and support. Without your thoughtfulness, we would not still be here serving. As weird as our times seem to be and as damaging as the virus has been, it is still true to say "woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness." God's attention is still focused on the "....ends of the earth." The harvest is still ".....plentiful, and the workers are still few." None of this has caught God by surprise. Rhonda and I chose to stay in Belize and not furlough during COVID-19. Our last team departed on March 10th. So to date, we have canceled 23 teams, 4 events, and 1 trip to Oklahoma due to the virus.



Yemeri Grove Christian Church families have continued to meet in homes by sharing the printed message distributed weekly to 11 families without internet and 14 families who receive the message by e-mail. Then, I (Bob) preach in a ZOOM meeting for those who are able to receive it. The church has grown just due to the fact that there are more of us presenting the message. We have had FIVE salvations during this pandemic. As a church, we have fed numerous families, while some from the States have given generously to make that number over 200 food boxes or about 15,400 meals. As a church, we have also sent funds to Sarstun (Guatemala) to feed less fortunate families there as well. In addition to giving food out, we have fasted as a church and continue to fast every Saturday (from sundown Friday evening to sundown Saturday) to keep our focus on Christ. We have been studying the Book of Acts... about how the early church responded to challenging times of being scattered and persecuted... while living it out in real life. It is the day-to-day live experiment of "State of Emergency." We are getting word now that after two months of lockdown, face masks, nightly curfew, checkpoints, and travel bans, we may be able to start meeting as a congregation again soon.

Please pray for:

- The Belize Bible College as we start classes back in August. We are praying for 10 new students and the regulars to return.
- The men's dorm is still unfinished, and we will need \$5,640.00 to complete the construction for the fall 2020 students to live in. We will need this dorm to start the fall semester.
- Pray for the Bible College Radio license approval.
- Pray for an "experienced water well driller" to come on staff. We are being overrun by those requesting water wells in our area, but no one to drill them.
- Pray for an experienced sawyer to come and help us operate a new LT-15 sawmill and some needed machinery.
- Pray for a farmer or ag barn manager to lead our agriculture program. We would like to start a disciple-making program around an agriculture course for students in our area.

## Pray for our Missionaries

Jerry & Elizabeth Averill  
Scotland

J.P. & Sarah Canady  
Minneapolis, MN

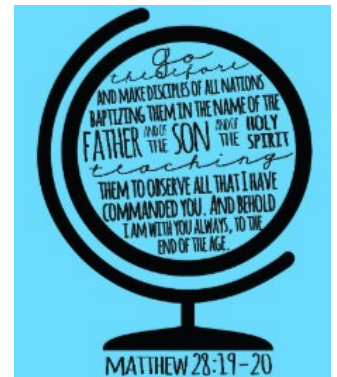
Bryan & Lisa Catherman  
Salt Lake City, Utah

The Aaron Coffey family  
Belize Bible College

The Bob Farley family  
Belize & Guatemala

The Trey Fleming family  
Japan

The Derek Ross family  
Philippines



## Children's Ministry News

During the June business meeting, the announcement was made that Darlene McKeen has submitted her resignation as FBCF's Children's Director effective July 31, 2020. Darlene has committed the last two and a half years of her life to FBCF, its children, and their families; she will be sorely missed. She recently completed a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Western Governors University and has accepted an exciting full-time teaching position in the fall. Darlene's exceptional work ethic, unending ambition, and genuine love for children will serve her well in her new adventure. More news will follow later regarding ways to honor her as she starts her new venture.

While we are losing a great Children's Director, we look ahead to what God has next for the families and children of FBC Floresville. Please be in prayer for FBC's leadership as the next steps are taken to fill Darlene's shoes. With children's ministry being basically on hold because of COVID-19, now is a good time to refocus the ministry's objectives. During this time of hiatus, please pray that God will begin to raise up additional volunteers from within our midst who will champion children and their families and are called to minister to young families. Pray that these people will be ready to tell boys and girls about Jesus once our preschool and children's classes begin.



## Women's Ministry News

Hello Everyone!

I thank the LORD for all that He has done for me and I count my blessings. I know this time has been very stressful and difficult for everyone, some more than others. So when I feel that I am beginning to lose focus on the negative, I STOP, put on the brakes, and shift gears. The many things that I have to complain about are infinitely outnumbered by the blessings and promises that our Father has given to us.

I do want to thank the LORD for all the recent rain He has provided! I will continue to pray for more rain that will help all the farmers and the ranchers and those of you with beautiful vegetable and flower gardens. Let's keep our focus on the LORD and pray for the day that will definitely bring a huge smile to all of our faces.

I thought I'd share this wonderful story of ministry from our friends at Faith Comes by Hearing, an organization that is covering the world with the Word by making recordings of the Bible's text in the heart languages of people around the world.

Jesus Feeds His Sheep—Six men who live with leprosy were isolated from society for many years. None of them was a Christian, so a church volunteer began a listening group every week to teach them about Jesus. In the beginning, these men were timid and spoke very few words. However, the first time Sun heard the Audio Bible in his heart language, his demeanor immediately changed. Now, he listens to the Audio Bible every day, and despite his illness, he is full of joy and has taken it upon himself to encourage the other men. Recently, Sun gave his life to Jesus and was baptized. Through Sun's example of Christlikeness and your generous gift of this Audio Bible, the other men are coming to know Jesus in a more meaningful way.



I want to encourage each of you to visit [www.faithcomesbyhearing.com](http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com) or download the audio app at [www.bible.is](http://www.bible.is). I miss all of you and I'm praying for all to stay safe! Hopefully we'll be together again soon...very soon. If you have any questions, any Women's Ministry activity ideas, or need more information, please contact Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068 or me, Donna Arispe, at 210-560-9642.

## How to Pray for Your Kids This Summer

**New Season—New Prayer Requests.** Though we generally delight in summer, summer also presents challenges for parenting. Prolonged daylight hours with delayed bedtimes, more loosely structured schedules, ticks and mosquitoes . . . such things introduce struggles into the mix, and as they say, “What’s a mother to do?” It helps to ask, Why did God invent summer? He did it because summer has a unique way of bringing him glory and affording us (and our children) tailor-made opportunities to grow in Christlikeness. As pastor and teacher John Piper says, “Summer is for seeing and savoring Christ.”

What’s unique about summer? For one thing, most kids are outdoors more. There they encounter bugs, scrapes, sunburn, and water. In normal circumstances, some children pack up and are sent off to Bible camp, with all of its relational dynamics (good and bad), risk of contagious germs, and a garden variety of difficulties ideal for growing up. Some children are packing for college or the military and saying their farewells. How shall we pray in the midst of these specific circumstances? That depends, of course, on your motives. Is Christ’s honor the chief motive for praying? Do we most want our children to see Jesus and delight in him, becoming like him in character? The clay is still soft, so ask God for sculpting opportunities in their young lives. It was in summer that I suffered two broken ribs, a broken finger, and a separate emergency trip to the hospital for an abdominal problem. But it was not a wasted summer if those adventures are how God designed for me to discover compassion for others who suffer; if that’s how he planned for me to learn to couple alertness with cautiousness in riding my bike; if that’s how his Spirit would produce flexibility and forgiveness from the heart. So yes, pray summer prayers for your children. This guide offers parents practical steps and tips for wise, God-centered, and consistent correction aimed at transforming their children’s hearts.

**Pray as Children.** Wise parents pray as children. That is, we too have a Father. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matt. 7:9–11) If you desire good things for your children, how much more does God? The best thing he desires to give our children is his Son, the one who made summer and holds it together by the word of his power.

**Pray for God’s Nearness.** Pray that your children would be more and more impressed with Jesus, and consequently draw near to God. (James 4:8) You can foster their becoming increasingly wowed by Jesus through summer reading, summer observations of God’s outdoors, or summer interactions with Godly influencers (e.g., global gospel workers on home leave, etc.). Even before summer arrives, pray for such opportunities, then plan them. Reading this article about praying is of little good unless prayer results. Pray. “You do not have, because you do not ask.” (James 4:2) Even before summer, even before you have finished this article, you can intercede to the one who will do “far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.” (Eph. 3:20)

**Specific Prayers to Pray.** How shall we pray summer prayers?

*Pray with thankfulness.* Thank God for what he has already done in the lives of your children. He knit them together. He gave them their parents (you). He gave them exposure to the gospel. He is giving them experiences to broaden and deepen them. If they have professed faith in Christ and given ongoing evidence of spiritual growth, pray with glad thanksgiving!

*Ask with specificity.* In the lives of your children, what are you laboring toward? Christlikeness? Maturity? What you have been laboring toward is what you actually want for them. Ask God specifically for what you really want. For them do you want eyes that behold spiritual realities? Healthy teeth and lips that speak of Jesus? Yielded obedient wills? Growth in grace and the knowledge of the truth? Ask specifically.

*Ask Him to pour out his spirit on your sons and daughters.* (Acts 2:17) Speaking of specifics, ask God to enable them over the summer to learn to distinguish between being a son and being a daughter. Years ago, I would not have imagined having to pray a prayer like this, but current societal winds will not take your children in the direction that God designed them.

*Pray that they not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin or adversity.* It’s likely that at some point over the summer they will encounter disappointment—a rained-out activity, an illness, an injury, loss of a friend, a cancellation because of COVID-19.

*Ask God to give your children parents who are good role models.*

*Pray that God’s word would abide in them.* (John 15:7) Ask God to draw you and your children to his life-giving word that bears witness about Jesus. Pray that when your children encounter Scripture, they would see Jesus there and be nourished.

*Pray that they would be good examples to others.* (1 Tim. 4:12) Children don’t have to be sponges only; they can also be spouts.

*Pray that they would learn a skill with excellence.* (Prov. 22:29) How to grill a hot dog? How to grow tomatoes? Master a portion of Scripture memory? How to defrost a freezer?

*Pray that they would be masters of their devices, and not mastered by their devices.*

*Pray that they would have peace with God.* If not yet born again, experience new birth. If already born again, not fog up their relationship with God with sin, but regularly confess sin and receive sweet promised forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

These few brief suggestions are not meant to foster some simplistic formula for summer parenting. As you are filled by his Spirit, you will overflow in prayer for your children.

Sam Crabtree is the author of *Parenting with Loving Correction: Practical Help for Raising Young Children*. The full article may be found at: <https://www.crossway.org/articles/how-to-pray-for-your-kids-this-summer/>



# July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Office closed for Independence Day holiday	4  
5  *Greg Parker	6	7	8	9 FBC vols @ Food Pantry	10	11
12  Observance of the Lord's Supper *Carter Thomas	13	14	15  —————Students to Canyon Lake—————	16	17	18
19  *Ron P. Tipton	20	21	22 MDO end-of-year pick-up 6-8pm  FBCF students volunteer at Church Under the Bridge	23	24	25
26  *Ronald T. Tipton	27	28	29	30	31	

## Schedule of Events

FBC has slowly begun the process of reopening as outlined by our local, state, and federal authorities.

### Sunday

- 8:00—In-person Worship (except Lord's Supper & 5th Sundays)
- 9:15—Bible Study (adults & students only)
- 10:30—In-person Worship And online worship through Facebook LIVE

### Wednesday

- 10:00—Ladies Mid-Week Study
- 6:30—Life Groups / Prayer Meeting / Youth Bible Study
- 7:30—Choir Rehearsal

### Weekly Activities

Creative Hands—Quilting  
Mondays at 10:00 am  
Ladies Bible study  
(in-person and online)  
Thursdays at 6:30 pm  
Worship at Veterans' Home  
—Wednesdays at 2:00 pm  
(except for 2nd Wed of each month)  
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

## July Birthdays

1 Sherri Bays	7 Barbara Herndon	19 Keely Loeffler	25 Heather Keylich
1 Rick Remling	9 Joy Rogers	20 Lance Embrey	26 Stacy Collins
2 Destiny Rodgers	10 Kollman Street	20 Julee Smith	28 Ann Burris
2 Dalton Yeager	10 Vici Anderson	21 Sandra Roemer	29 John Risley
3 Coy Baker	10 Stanford Talley	22 Thomas Welfel	31 Lauryn Coston
3 Rose Losoya	11 JoAn Bush	23 Sarah Bauer	31 Greg Parker
3 Jennifer Varnon	11 Ross Klespies	24 Elisha Canady	31 Sophia Rodriguez
4 Mason Kotzur	14 Carleen FitzSimon	24 Benjamin Huber	
4 Ronald Brieden	15 John Trabucco	24 David Smart	
5 Shaun Murray	17 Clifton Rogers	25 Iris Burris	
7 Stephanie Gilchrist	17 Linda Stephens	25 Yolanda Pacheco	



## First Baptist Church

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Floresville, TX 78114  
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Fax: 830-393-3613  
E-mail: [office@fbcf.org](mailto: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.**



WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
/FIRSTBAPTISTFLORESVILLE  
[WWW.FBCF.ORG](http://WWW.FBCF.ORG)

Our sincere condolences are extended to the family of Doris F. Sebera, aunt of Pastor Terry Smith, who passed away on June 2, 2020;

Heartfelt sympathy is offered to the family of Dr. Jimmy Ross Hodges, great uncle of Karissa Parsons and uncle-in-law of Pam Dempsey, who passed away on June 9, 2020;

Deep sympathy are offered to the family and friends of Nadine Miller who passed away on June 11, 2020;

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Shawn McCarville, nephew of Jeannie McCarville, who passed away on June 12, 2020;

Heartfelt sympathy is offered to the family of Frances "Frannie" McCarville, sister-in-law of Jeannie McCarville, who passed away on June 26, 2020.

## WAYS TO GIVE

Online at [www.fbcf.org](http://www.fbcf.org);

Text "Fbcf1234" to 73256;

Drop off or mail your gift to

FBC  
1115 B Street  
Floresville, TX 78114

## BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:  
\$ 525,000.00

June Loan Payment:  
\$ 5,000.00

Current Loan Balance:  
\$ 143,171.31

**"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)**

## Floresville Food Pantry's Suggested Donation for JULY SUMMER FOODS For Kids

Macaroni & Cheese

Cereal

Pop Tarts

Cereal/Granola Bars

Crackers, Cookies, Chips

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Ramen Noodles

Vienna Sausage

Canned Spaghetti/Ravioli

Canned Chili

Hot Dogs

Lunchables

The Floresville Food Pantry is partnering with *Daily Bread* ministry of San Antonio to provide food to the needy of Floresville. The Pantry is now open on Thursdays only. Clients need to arrive at 8am to sign in and wait for food distribution. A devotional time will be at 9am. Clients are asked to bring their own bags.

The Pantry is located on the corner of 4th and A Street and the phone number is 830-321-1151.

Volunteers and donations are always appreciated.



**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](http://www.fbcf.org), or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
May 2020	\$ 57,022.40	\$ 57,596.85
YTD thru May	\$ 271,300.31	\$ 287,984.25