



## FIRST EDITION

First Baptist Church

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## A Great Multitude + YOU

*"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" ~ Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)*

The global need for missions is more urgent than ever. There are 7,070 unreached people groups. That is 4.5 BILLION unreached people. But because of people in our churches, the International Mission Board's vision is more attainable than ever. There are 47,530 cooperating SBC churches with a total of 14,525,579 members. Just think... if 25% of Southern Baptists gave \$100 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, that totals nearly \$400 MILLION! Together, we're able to do so much more than if we chase this vision alone. Your generosity makes this possible. All of the proceeds from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering go toward supporting missionaries, from entry through exit to partnership.

Every church, regardless of size or resources, has a role to play in reaching every nation. Your generosity through praying and giving are the lifeblood of Southern Baptist missions. For more information about Lottie Moon or the offering that was named for her, visit [www.imb.org/lmco](http://www.imb.org/lmco).

To give, designate "Lottie Moon" on your check or giving envelope. If giving online at [www.fbcf.org](http://www.fbcf.org), choose the Lottie Moon fund.

**"Just think... if 25% of Southern Baptists gave \$100 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, that totals nearly \$400 MILLION!"**

## Week of Prayer for International Missions

Read below for a preview of suggested prayer topics. Visit the church's Facebook page for more information about each need.

Day 1: The Naivasha Children's Shelter in Naivasha, Kenya, provides a safe place for boys who would otherwise be living on the dangerous streets. The shelter workers seek to reunite them with their families.

Day 2: In an area of Croatia with 250,000 people and only one Baptist church, Eric Maroney works with a team to broadcast an evangelistic program, which airs twice a week and reaches more than 40,000 people.

Day 3: Doug Derbyshire has been faithfully visiting Baan Po as a medical missionary for the last six years. After trying every evangelism technique he knew, there was still no church in Baan Po. His last visit in January 2020 sparked new hope as three patients made decisions of faith.

Day 4: Farmers harvest fish from a pond built to provide a sustainable livelihood for 11 indigenous missionary families. IMB missionary Joe Brewster and his team partner with indigenous missionaries in Peru to engage unreached tribes with the gospel.

Day 5: Throughout their 175-year history, Southern Baptists have maintained an uninterrupted witness among the nations, in time of famine, war, and civil unrest. This commitment has not come without sacrifice.

Day 6: Working alongside Italian and US partners, the Worthys bring the gospel to areas of Italy with little to no evangelical witness by strategically placing partnering groups in areas of Italy where churches do not exist.

Day 7: For 20 years, the IMB worked to maintain a gospel presence among the Khaleela, a Muslim people group in South Asia. After years of setbacks, Luciano and Sofia Serrano moved to the region and are now discipling a woman from the Khaleela who decided to follow Christ.

Day 8: IMB missionaries say thank you to Southern Baptists who give generously so that the gospel spreads to all nations.

imb

LOTTIE MOON  
CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING®

### Your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering matter:

- \$2—a tube of Henna to illustrate five gospel stories
- \$6—USB with the gospel in sign language
- \$8—Facebook "boost" to publicize an evangelistic event
- \$20—ten New Testaments in a local language
- \$50—language learning supplies
- \$80—sewing machine for a job training class
- \$150—one month of in-country language study
- \$230—two sheep for a family to start animal husbandry work
- \$600—satellite phones for emergency situations
- \$3,000—production of a gospel film in a new language

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## We Wait with Hope and Long for Christ's Return

By Erin Franklin

Each year during Advent, we celebrate Christ's birth and anticipate His return.

*"O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel."*

O COME O COME  
emmanuel  
{with JOY calligraphy}

The lyrics of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" serve a dual purpose, aptly applying both to Israel's hope for Christ's first coming and also our hope as we await His second coming. As we remember Christ's birth this Advent season, we long for His return. We celebrate the new life in Christ we have, yet we still hope for a place with no more grief, no more pain, no more death. Through the promise of salvation, this hope will be fulfilled at His return (Rev. 21:4: He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away).

Perhaps early on in your walk with Jesus, you, like me, had thoughts similar to these when thinking about Christ's return: But wait — first, I want to go on my vacation next week. I want to go to college. I want to get married and have kids and grandkids. I want to do all the things you (older Christians) have been able to do before Jesus comes back. As faith matures, though, our understanding of heaven develops to a deeper comprehension that goes beyond worldly desires. But now, why do we primarily want Jesus to return? Is it the yearning to be reunited with family members? The hungering for a world of peace? While it's true and good that we may look forward to all these things, we must remember not to place them above the simple yet primary longing to be with Christ forever, worshipping Him.

We can't celebrate His first coming this Advent season without also being ready to celebrate His second coming above all else. We rejoice because God is with us, indwelling us with His Holy Spirit and fully knowing us as His children. Yet we "eagerly wait" (Phil. 3:20) for the day when the Light of the world will come to eradicate darkness and fully reveal the glory of God to us "face to face" (1 Cor. 13:12: For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known).

**"We can't celebrate His first coming this Advent season without also being ready to celebrate His second coming above all else."**

So because we know the rest of the story, we can share the rest of the story. Not only is Advent a time of celebrating and rejoicing in the present with our brothers and sisters in Christ, but it's also a time to share the gospel hope with those who don't yet know His redeeming love personally. The purpose of His birth, death, and resurrection is so that all who believe in Him can be saved before His return to earth as King, when perfect justice and judgment will be enacted (John 3:16; Matt. 25:31-46).

The reality of the goodness found in walking with Emmanuel's guiding light and wisdom leads to a desire to share this good news with all people — so that each can say with profound hope and faith, "O come, O come, Emmanuel!"

Erin Franklin is a production editor at LifeWay and is a graduate of Lipscomb University. The Tennessee native is passionate about communication and enjoys spending time on her family's century farm, meeting new people, and playing a good ping pong match. Visit: <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/advent-o-come-o-come-emmanuel-we-wait-with-hope-and-long-for-christ's-return>



## Family Ministry News

Families, if you have not already done so, please see Pastor Matt Keller to pick up supplies so your family can participate in a fun (and meaningful) project that will prepare your hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The church will provide materials that will include 25 days of short Bible reading in the form of 25 ornaments. After reading the passage, children can take turns adding the day's ornament to your family's Christmas tree.

Families of students, the church has purchased a devotional book for families to work through during the month of December. See Pastor Matt or stop by the office during the week and get your family's copy of The Dawning of Indestructible Joy: Daily Readings for Advent by John Piper.



Remember, there will be no Family Ministry programming until December 9, 2020 (at the earliest), because of a probable exposure to Covid-19 among participants. Watch your emails and the church's Facebook page for more information.

Moms and Dads, the Bible teaches in Deuteronomy 6 that parents should teach God's words to your children... "talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Pastor Matt has discovered a great resource to use as you go about your day, whether at home, or driving around town. The goal of the "God's Big Story" PODCAST is to teach the Bible, sing the Bible, and talk about what it means. "God's Big Story" is a production of The Village Church in Dallas. You'll find it on Apple podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. It's really good; check it out!



## Christmas Events

### DEACONS MEETING/PARTY

*Sunday, 12.06.2020 - Noon @ Fellowship Hall*

### TITUS 2 & HOPE CLASS PARTY

*Saturday, 12.12.2020 - 4pm @ the Thomas' home*

### CHILDREN'S AND STUDENTS' CHRISTMAS PARTIES

*Wednesday, 12.16.2020 - 6:30pm*

### STUDENT MOVIE NIGHT

*Saturday, 12.19.2020 - 5pm @ FLC*

### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Sunday, 12.20.2020 - 8am & 10:30am*

## Congratulations

Congratulations to  
Jake & Heather (Moss) Sparks,  
and grandparents Paul & Chris Moss,  
on the arrival of a baby boy,

### Moss James Sparks

born November 13, 2020,  
7 lbs. 1 oz., 20 inches long.

Congratulations to  
Jonas & Kami (Kunath) Satterfield,  
grandparents Justin & Jeanette Kunath,  
on the arrival of a baby boy,

### Jasper Davis Satterfield

born November 14, 2020,  
9 lbs. 14 oz.



## Missionary Moments—The Averills in Scotland

Every Christmas season since they have served in Scotland, Jerry and Elizabeth Averill have created a live production depicting the birth of Jesus. *The Dundee Nativity* will look a little different this year. With no live performances of *The Dundee Nativity* this year because of COVID restrictions, the Averills, along with a partnership with the inter-church Dundee Nativity Steering Group and Platform Arts, will be professionally filming the play. An online launch night is being planned where charities, care homes, churches, and other organizations will have small gatherings to watch the film as part of a larger celebration. The Dundee Nativity will be available on YouTube and Vimeo, as well as on DVDs and memory sticks, so that churches and other places of worship may watch and share the great news of Jesus' birth.

*Dundee Nativity—The Movie: Celebrating a Covid Christmas* is a musical comedy on film, by local Dundee artists and volunteers. It is presented with an entertaining and relevant slant on the events of the first Christmas, told through this year's unusual circumstances because of Covid-19. The movie aims to bring a message of hope, encouragement, and reassurance to all who are struggling with the situation. Through drama, music, and dance, the celebration of Christmas is presented in a way that is funny and thought-provoking for people of all ages.

The official launch date is December 11, 2020. Please pray as this project is cast, rehearsed, filmed, edited, and distributed. Pray that God would keep Covid at bay throughout the production process. Pray that the film will reach more people than a live production would have. A photo from a recent promotional photo shoot is included. Again, continue to pray for the actors and film crew as they film and record the audio.



Left to right: Kris Forrester (Balthazar), Mae MacDougall (Caspar) and Elizabeth Averill (Melchior) in front of the Mills Observatory in Dundee. *Dundee Nativity—The Movie: Celebrating a Covid Christmas* is told from the point of view of the Magi.

## Missionary Moments—The Fleming Family in Japan

Plans have changed... Corona has put us all into a very unpredictable season even under the best circumstances. But what about when you're a missionary, trying to renew your visas, pass your language evaluations, and plan your first stateside assignment? God has been teaching us a lot about patience, flexibility, and trust as this year has made all those things uncertain. We take great comfort in knowing that none of this has surprised God and He has been guiding us throughout the process. So what has changed for us?

We are no longer on track to return to the United States for 6 months starting in December. The original plan was to reach our required language level within year three of our first term and then return to America for 6 months for what our company calls "stateside assignment." But, Japanese is hard. And it's taking longer than we planned to learn enough to complete all our requirements. Compounding this, the pandemic forced us to move our language classes to the dreaded online learning format and it cut down on our overall interactions with Japanese people. The good news is that we have gone back to meeting with our teachers in person and we are having small gatherings with friends again. Our church is meeting in person every week and we are even having some outreach events again. Our language is steadily improving, but we now plan to stay here in Osaka until we reach the required language level and complete a few other necessary steps. So probably August 2021.

In the mean time, we are going to spend some time with our families this holiday season in America for bereavement and rest. Instead of the 6 months we had planned, we will only be able to come home for 6 weeks. Please pray for our church here in Osaka to continue to grow and be healthy while we are away. Pray that both the church and our team of missionaries as they continue the work of advancing the Gospel to the Japanese people and ministering to our friends.

For this shorter trip, getting from Japan to America is the easy part. The return trip is where we really need your prayers. The Japanese government is very strict when it comes to allowing Americans to return even if you have a valid visa and residency. All 5 of us need to test negative for Corona within 72 hours of our departing flight. Then, upon arrival in Japan, we have to test negative again. We will then be required to quarantine for two weeks without using public transportation (which is required to get us home to Osaka). So if the rules don't relax by January, we could be stuck in Tokyo or at the very least incur some expensive rental car fees to get us home. We are believing that God can work all this out and we ask that you pray for Him to do so. We would ask that you also pray especially that we would not contract the virus while in America. Not only would it put our families at risk, but it would make returning to our ministry in Japan an even greater challenge.

Looking at 2020 so far, I am overwhelmingly thankful. Our church recently had to move into a larger facility due to social distancing limitations, but now we have filled that building up with new visitors and friends that are feeling it's safe to return to church. Our visa renewal process went smoothly; God heard our prayers and we had no problems. Adria and I recently took another language evaluation and we both improved our scores. I'm thankful for our result and for our amazing teachers. I can now see God's perfect timing and plan in many ways. This year has been difficult and many times we feel like we have been hanging by a thread. All I can figure is that thread is a network of prayer warriors who, despite my inconsistent newsletters, refuse to stop lifting us up to the Father in prayer! Please continue to pray. I am so thankful for you.

~ The Trey Fleming family



# DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5  8am Family Movie Night 5pm
6  10:30 am Finance Ctee—10:30a Deacons Party—Noon *Danny Fenner	7	8	9	10 FBC vols @ Food Pantry	11	12 Titus 2 & Hope class party 4pm
13  10:30 am *Amos Garcia	14	15	16 Business Meeting 6:30pm Student / Children's Christmas Party 6:30 pm	17	18	19 Student Movie Night 5pm
20  10:30 am *Bob Herndon	21	22	23 NO Evening Activities	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed 	26
27  10:30 am *Tom Kuykendall	28	29	30 NO Evening Activities	31 		

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Sunday

- 8:00am—In-person Worship
- 9:15am—Bible Study
- 10:30am—In-person Worship and online worship through Facebook LIVE
- 4:30pm—Student Praise Band

### Wednesday

- 6:30pm—Life Groups/Prayer Mtg / Children's Worship / Student Worship

\* Deacon of the Week

### Weekly Activities

Creative Hands—Quilting  
Mondays at 10:00 am  
Line Exercise Classes  
Tuesday & Thursday from  
9:30-10:30 am



## December Birthdays

3 Aaron Garcia	8 Ross Koenig	15 Chad Rex Reed	21 Chuck Garza	28 Ron Tipton
4 Rob Coleman	8 Teri Villarreal	17 Jean Evelyn Hughes	21 Craig Wilder	29 Robert Calmes
4 Claryce Holcombe	9 Braelyn Burns	17 Sarah Brieden	22 Cathy Kotzur	29 Becky Ledoux
4 Stacey O'Leary	9 Sara Ham	17 Karen Sada	22 Shine Trabucco	30 Bob Bagley
4 Preston Taggs	11 Clay Respondek	18 Melba Dunn	23 Sheila Brieden	30 Judy Whitley
5 Jerry Kotzur	12 Susan Eubanks	18 William Eckel	23 Evie Carter	30 Cody Bland
5 Randy Richards	13 Dahlia Sellers	19 Gearis Herndon	23 Michael Villarreal	
5 Doug Watson	14 Norma Idrach	19 Deana Smith	24 Carlos Garza	
6 Jeanine Livingston	14 Ryan Parker	19 Peggy Tipton	24 Judy Murray	
7 Elliana Woods	15 Marty Choate	20 Lyla Smith	25 Buddy Smith	
7 Drew Clements	15 Cole Harris	21 Timothy Davis	28 Ron Fischer	



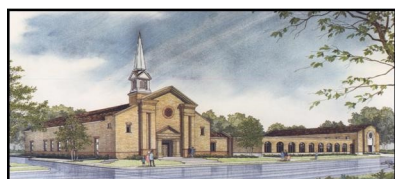
1115 B Street  
Floresville, TX 78114  
Phone: 830-216-4946  
Fax: 830-393-3613  
E-mail: office@fbcf.org

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

**Terry Smith,** Worship Pastor  
830-391-3362

**Matt Keller,** Family Pastor  
409-656-3089

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

*Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Raymond Ballard, brother of JoAn Bush, who passed away on November 11, 2020;*

*Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the loved ones of Emma "Joyce" Pelech, who passed away on November 11, 2020;*

*Deep sympathy is offered to the family of Mary Alice Cannon, mother of Tanja Olinick and Tami Kensing, who passed away on November 20, 2020;*

*Heartfelt condolences are offered to the family of Mary Perez, grandmother of Matt Perez, who passed away on December 1, 2020.*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for honoring my 15-year employment anniversary last month. I appreciate all the recognition and gifts I received, especially the kind words. The glass vase looks beautiful in my office, with or without fresh flowers. The monetary love offering was very generous and my family appreciates it so much. God has truly blessed me in this position and I am grateful for that. I work with the best staff and the best congregation, serving the Lord all together.

Thanks again, Penny Smith

Church Family,

We would like to thank our precious church family for the love, support, and prayers during our Mom's recent health issues and her passing. She was a shining example of a Christian woman and we are forever grateful the Lord gave her to us. We sincerely appreciate each kind word, thoughtful card, and phone call from our sweet church friends. Thank you again for loving and supporting us.

Tanja Olinick and Tami Kensing, along with their families

## New Members

### By Statement

**Jack Van Dieren**  
126 US Hwy 181 S  
Floresville, TX 78114  
830-393-3211

**Patricia Van Dieren**  
126 US Hwy 181 S  
Floresville, TX 78114  
830-330-1341

**Steven Kramm**  
1703 5th Street  
Floresville, TX 78114  
210-243-3345

## BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:  
\$ 525,000.00

November Loan Payment:  
\$ 5,000.00

Current Loan Balance:  
\$ 120,574.73

"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 DECEMBER CANNED FRUITS & VEGETABLES

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.



## BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2020  
6:30 pm

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
October 2020	\$ 52,593.00	\$ 57,596.85
YTD thru October	\$ 545,417.29	\$ 575,968.50



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.