



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

September 2016
newsletter
FBC Brady, TX
325-597-2956
<http://fbcbrady.org>

Finding God in the future

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

Most of you are aware of the earthquake that destroyed several towns in Italy last week. In addition to the six lives that were lost, experts are already commenting on the loss of another kind—the loss of history and the culture of the region. Many of you are probably aware of the incredible damage Isis has done to historical sites across the Middle East. The destruction they have wrought has cheated countless generations of beauty, wonder, joy, inspiration, awe and knowledge.

We grieve the loss of what was. We miss that which we knew and loved; what we understood, what was real. But as great as that loss is, it is at least finite—we KNOW what we lost. The loss of history is tragic: it is a loss that can never be replaced, only mourned. But there is a greater loss, and that is the loss of the future.

This is one of the many tragedies of abortion. It kills not just a child, but a future, a life branching out into the lives of others, changing the futures of many. A mother and/or father have no imagination, and so the branch is cut off before it can grow. In the movie *Unforgiven*, Clint Eastwood's character says that killing a man "takes all he's got, all he's ever gonna have." He understands the enormity of the loss of the future.

Esau was a man who had no appreciation for the future. He loved his present and his past. Esau's problem, like so many, was that he had no imagination. He did not see the future, what he could be. Did Esau think Isaac would live forever and subsidize his hunting expeditions into perpetuity? Did Esau think (hope) the future would leave him alone? Esau didn't see himself as a man who would become a wealthy, nomadic herder, with many servants, wives, children, and responsibilities. He didn't see himself as responsible for the needs of many people. Esau was only interested in himself. He loved his present so much that he sold his future and the future of those not yet born. Esau put at risk all those whom he would come to love, all those who were to be his dependents, for a bowl of soup.

We often take the past into account as we make plans for the future. That is, in many ways, a wise thing. But often what we really do is to try to protect the past from the future, to preserve the past at the expense of the future. And the future, if not completely aborted by our devotion to the past, arrives stunted and powerless, too little too late. So much lost, so much to never be, because we love our history more than we love our future.

The past does not have to be consumed, destroyed, or forgotten in order for the future to be realized. But it does have to become the past. It should be a place or time we can visit and be encouraged to go forward: a well in the desert. But as we sit at that well, we need to imagine the future. Jesus gave his life to make the past powerless, a place that is unfit for habitation. As individuals, what can your future be because of God's grace, because of Jesus' love, because of the Holy Spirit's presence and gifts? Your future is limitless, infinite, is it not? The same is true for us as a church.

I love history. I love the facts and the firmness of history. But in a way, history is easy, too easy. History is static. It can be memorized, catalogued, and ultimately mastered. History is finite. It's not scary or challenging, not alive and limitless like the future is. Let's not take the easy way out. Let's choose the future. You will find evidence of God in the past, but you will not find God in the past. He is urging us forward, promising us that we will find Him in the future.

—Bro. Kevin

AWANA begins Sept. 7

It's time to begin another great year of AWANA, Mission Friends, GA's, and RA's. Plans are taking shape, food and supplies are being ordered, volunteers have said *yes*, and kids are getting excited. It will all start on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 5:30 in the sanctuary.

Parents, please come early the first night to register your children. You may then come in to pick them up at 7:15.

AWANA is for pre-K (4 years old by Sept. 1) through 5th grade. Age-group classes have Bible study, missions study, and a meal, all following music, pledges, and prayer in the sanctuary.

More volunteers are always needed and welcome. Call the church office to let RaNon know you would like to help.

Welcome new members

by baptism

Ethan Roberts
Jason Franco



Bible study for Navajos

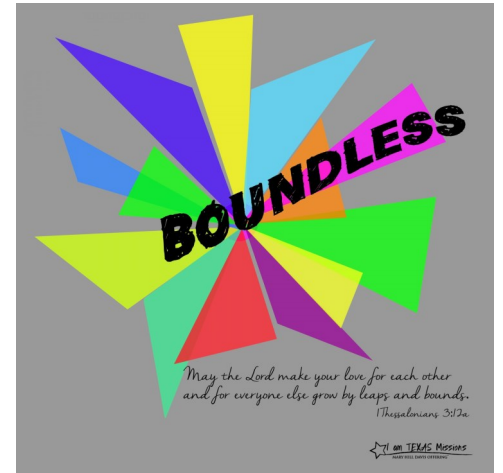
by Lynn Munden

We are in the process of sending a Bible study to the Navajo ladies at Eagle Spring Baptist Church in New Mexico. The Grace Class has kindly volunteered to purchase the books that go with the starter kit. The title of the Bible study is "Sweet Life Café." The study centers around the verse John 6:35:

"I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry.

Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."



Week of Prayer for Texas Missions Sept. 11-18 Mary Hill Davis Offering State goal: \$4,000,000 Our goal: \$2,000

"May the Lord make your love for each other and for everyone else grow by leaps and bounds." 1 Thessalonians 3: 12a

The Mary Hill Davis Offering helps fund many mission projects around the state, including

- ◆ Texas Baptist Men
- ◆ Shalom Builders
- ◆ *Bounce*, a student disaster recovery ministry, helping communities bounce back after disaster strikes.
- ◆ Leadership training
- ◆ Christian Women's and Men's Job Corps
- ◆ Literacy ministry
- ◆ Prison ministries

Please pray about your family's contribution to this important offering. Watch for more information throughout the month.

McKenna's home from Haiti

by McKenna Brandenberger

My time in Haiti was absolutely amazing, a gift from God. The Haitians are the kindest, gracious and most humble people I have ever had the privilege of knowing. There was always a sense of joy wherever we went.

Our group helped with small building projects in the orphanages and spent most evenings playing soccer with the children and older boys. We were able to take some Haitian style trips and see the sights of the beautiful country.

We had many nights of refreshing thunderstorms and worship with the locals. I did not leave before trying every kind of local fruit that I could.

I was very blessed by this experience and I would love to return to Haiti.

2 Corinthians 2:14 *But thank God! He has made us His captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now He uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume."*

Youth News

Hello to all the Brady and surrounding area youth (grades 6th-12th) and to your parents! The purpose of this section of the FBC Newsletter is to let you know of upcoming events and the accomplishments of our youth. Kids are allowed to begin arriving at the FLC right after school on Wednesdays! We will open at 3:30 pm so all kids, middle school and high school, are welcome to come and do homework, play video games, play in the gym or outside, or play board games etc. At 6:30 pm we eat a great meal together and around 7 pm we head back to the youth room for worship and a lesson. Youth group ends at 8 pm, so please make the proper arrangements to get home on time and PLEASE invite your friends from school to come join us.

Food is taken care of by Stephanie McKay, Matt Popnoe, Lynn Munden, Jeanagayle Behrens, and Jerlene Smith and we are very grateful! If anyone is interested in helping out with the youth or special events, call or text Gabe @ [830-391-4367](tel:830-391-4367).

Summer Events

We had a very fun, jam-packed summer and if you were a part of it we are grateful for your participation or your help in making these events a success!

Summer Rec Day Camp - This day camp was put on by the rec team from First Baptist Church Midland and sponsored by FBC Brady. It was held at Richards Park for kids K-6th grade and an average of 17 youth who came and helped run the camp every day of the week. We had over 45 kids a day on average attend this event where kids could play games, do crafts, but most importantly learn about God.

Summer Youth Camp - I took 11 youth to the Mt. Lebanon Encampment in Cedar Hills, Texas. The camp was Sunday afternoon through Friday morning! We all had a blast with the different activities and tournaments but the highlight definitely had to be listening to the camp speaker Sammy Lopez and the worship led by the Nick Gainey band. Thank you to all of those who helped sponsor kids and helped with our camp fundraiser which allowed our group to go. We hope to build on this group in the future and send twice as many next year!

Super Summer Camp - This was my first experience with this camp but it was nothing new for Sharon McDonald, Jessica Medrano and Josh Collier who had attended numerous times. The schedule was intense with many sessions packed into each day! But it was really solid and well organized. The kids learned a lot which is what is most important, and can't wait to go back next year!

Paisano Day Camp - This camp is a tradition the FBC Brady youth have been doing for a while now and many kids were excited to go back to this camp out in the middle of nowhere literally (in between Marfa and Alpine). We had nine kids and myself attend and we teamed up with a little over 20 youth from Midland. The youth put on a day camp every morning for K-6th grade and over 100 kids attended every day of the week! In the afternoons our kids would hang out playing games and participating in the various tournaments. There were no age limits on any of the tournaments, and I'm proud to say Brady took third in basketball and second in dodgeball! Every night ended with a time of worship and a sermon from a guest speaker. It was great to get away from everything for just one week because distractions were really eliminated. In our group we were also excited that one of our newest to the group accepted Christ into his life for the first time!

Last I'm grateful to John and Charlie Elliott who helped orchestrate and run the show while we were there.

Youth Lock-In – To kick off the new school year we had a lock-in August 5th. It was fun and exhausting but I think the kids had a great time. It was an all-night sleepless sleepover that featured group games, video games, food, movies and worship.

Ping-Pong – a group of us have been playing ping-pong on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm and 6 pm on Sunday nights! If you like to play please come out and join us and invite a friend.

Sunday Night Hoops - every Sunday night starting at 7:30 pm the gym will be open to high school age and above, to come fellowship and play some basketball. We have been averaging 15-20 a Sunday and would love to have you! Occasionally we will also play during the week on a Tuesday or Thursday at 7 pm. Text me to get updates on when the gym will be open.

Upcoming Events

Sunday School is ongoing every Sunday from 10:00 – 10:40 am. I meet with the youth in the Family Life Center. We would like to have as many youth attend in the mornings as possible.

See You At The Pole - September 28th is this year's SYATP. This is a student-led event to pray for our country, schools, each other and whatever else the students feel led to pray for. Youth gather around the flag poles at the high school and middle school before school starts that morning.. Hopefully we can get a lot of kids to participate in this.

Game Room – We would like to turn the upstairs space above the gym into a game room and hang out area for the youth. To make it more functional we would like to lay carpet squares up top and build some cool stylish furniture. We would also like to add some video game consoles and small tvs for kids to enjoy. If you can help or would like to help in any way please contact Gabe so that we can get this vision off of the ground. Currently we are working on ideas on how to cool the gym area and upstairs.

Lunch - I will begin attending middle school lunches and high school lunches again and am excited about getting to hang out and meet some new kids!

School Activities - I will definitely be attending as many Varsity football games as I can. And will alternate between the freshman/JV and middle school games since they are on the same day!

IMPORTANT –

If a Wednesday is not listed here as a special event or as “no youth,” we are having a regular youth night.

If there are any concerns that you as students or parents may have please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your prayers and support.

God bless,
Gabe Rios, Youth/Music Minister

Keith's Konnections

by Keith Simpson, Ministry Director, Lake Ivie Baptist Association

As we look at our society today, it is not difficult to see how much in disarray we are as a nation and across the world. Our family units, our communities and our churches are under attack as never before in the history of mankind from not only the invisible powers, but also, it seems, from within our nation as well. The basic unit of all mankind, (and the first institution ordained by God), the family, has crumbled dramatically in the last fifty years or more leading to problems in our communities, our school systems, and yes, even in our churches. How did we allow this happen? Let's have a short history lesson to begin with. Somewhere around 1966, there was a court case brought by Madelyn Murray O'Hare that removed prayers from public schools, and we, as Christians, did nothing. Then in 1973, in Roe V Wade, which legalized abortion, once again Christians stood by and did very little, and because of that apathy, millions of babies have been destroyed. And just in the last few years, certain laws have given fringe sects of society more rights than the general public has, and we are called names when we try to stand up for what is right.

We need to ask ourselves one question. Do I obey man's laws or do I follow God's laws? We must, above all else, obey God rather than man which is not popular and may even get us into trouble. The world, by in large, is not interested in what God has to say about the societal problems that we face. Most of society does not believe that there is right and wrong, moral and immoral, good and evil, and they want to be left to their own devices to do whatever pleases them. Joshua said in Joshua 24: 15, **"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."** (KJV) Scripture records also in Judges 21, verse 25, **"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."** (KJV) Acts 5:29 also says, **"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."** (KJV) Obeying God, rather than man, is not popular today, but must remain our charge.

I really feel NOW is the time for Christians to start taking a stand and I pray that it is not too late. I would love to see communities come together for a prayer service with honest, soul-searching prayer for our communities, our churches, our schools, our government officials and our pastors above all else. We need to repent for what we, as Christians, have allowed to happen. We need to repent for our individual sins, for the sins of our families, for the sins of our forefathers, for the sins of our communities and for the sins of our government officials. Imagine a community coming together in PRAYER to seek God's face, to confess their sins, and earnestly seek God's wisdom and guidance for our society. I still strongly believe in the promise of II Chronicles 7:14, **"If MY people, which are called by MY name, shall humble THEMSELVES, and PRAY, and seek MY face, and turn from THEIR wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."** (KJV)

Upcoming Events!

September

5th Labor Day – Office Closed
 10th Engage Evangelism Conference FBC San Angelo
 12th Brady Breakfast
 13th Admin Team Meeting
 18th Paul Speaks (Philip Smith)
 19th Coleman Breakfast
 25th SYATP Rally
 26th Ballinger Breakfast
 30th–2nd Hallelujah Trails Cowboy Church Revival

October

3rd Brady Breakfast
 10th Coleman Breakfast
 17th Ballinger Breakfast
 17th HAPPY BOSSES DAY!!!
 23rd Annual Meeting FBC, Eden

If just two or three churches in a community could come together for this purpose, and be honest about their plan and repentance, I can see a great unfolding of God's presence come upon that community. I have come to realize that Satan is gaining a stronghold in many of our communities, and the only way to defeat him is through prayer. If you would be interested in sponsoring an event such as this, please call me and let's talk about it. I don't have a formula or a program outlined for this, but I can see great benefits coming into that community if we get SERIOUS about GOD's business. In the darkest times of persecution in the Christian faith,



Please continue to be in prayer for our pastor-less churches:

El Cordero, Santa Anna
 Tennyson Baptist Church
 First Baptist Church, Paint Rock
 Hopewell Baptist Church

Keith Simpson
 Ministry Director
 P.O. Box 639 Ballinger, TX
 Cell: 325-456-0928
 Email: keithsimpson47@gmail.com

Starr Sims
 Ministry Assistant
 Office: 325-365-2585
 Cell: 325-718-7402
 Email: lakeiviebaptist@yahoo.com
 Website: www.lakeiviebaptist.com

September 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <i>First Day of Preschool</i> Welman Bauer	2 Aberdeen Jeschke Mia Alonzo	3
4 <i>Deacons meeting</i>	5	6	7 <i>AWANA begins, 5:30</i> Mackie Ranne Joyce Collier	8 Raymond Torres	9 <i>Food Pantry food distribution, 9:00-12:00</i>	10 Virgil Middleton
11 <i>Business meeting, Joshua Torres Juanita Groves</i>	12 <i>Triple S, noon LIBA Brady breakfast, 8:30, El Flamingo</i>	13 Melissa Burkhart	14	15 Jody McKay	16 Sue Tucker	17 Rodney Simmons
18	19	20	21	22 Serena Alexander Laurie Morton	23 Judy Owen Judy Oden	24 Gregory Torres Sharon McDonald
25	26 <i>Triple S, 5:30</i> Gracie Galindo Shelby Gothard	27	28 <i>SYATP for youth at high school and middle school</i>	29	30	

Weekly Events

Sunday

- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 10:50 AM Morning Worship
- 6:00 Bible study
- 7:30 Sunday Night Hoops, FLC

Monday

- 4:00 Ladies Bible study
home of Mary Ballew
- 6:30 CWJC, Building Men for Christ

Tuesday

- 6:30 FLC open for ping-pong

Wednesday

- 7:00 AM Men’s Prayer Breakfast
Presbyterian Church
- 3:30 FLC open for youth
- 5:30-7:15 AWANA (*begins 9-7*)
- 6:00 Adult prayer meeting
- 6:30 Youth meal
- 7:00-8:00 Youth worship and Bible study

Thursday

- 2:00-3:30 Dorcas quilting ministry
- 9:45-12:00 Food Pantry: donated food
brought from Walmart to the
Church

Greeters for September

- Sept. 4 Joyce Scott and Darlene Friar
- Sept. 11 Jackie and Jeanagayle Behrens
- Sept. 18 Jerry and RaNon Caraway
- Sept. 25 Randy and Carol Bedwell

Deacons on call in September

- Jerry Caraway 792-8749
- Virgil Middleton 597-2629

Food Ministry Report

August 2016

- 106 families
- 117 adults
- 61 children under 18
- 28 adults over 65



Food distribution day for this month is September 9 from 9:00-12:00. Please note there is only one distribution day.

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM

Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Maurice Mallow, Tina Young, Cynthia Reeves, Debbie Nobles, and Karen Behrens for recording radio spots in August.

September devotionals will be done by Gerald Nobles, Judy Oden, Randy Bedwell, and Kevin McDonald.

Pray without ceasing. . .

May the Lord make your love for each other and for everyone else grow by leaps and bounds. 1 Thessalonians 3: 12a

- our nation’s leaders
 - our members in the nursing homes
 - our homebound members
 - the lost and un-churched in our community
 - Brady children & youth
 - Our Sunday School
 - Our preschool
 - AWANA
- Joseph Aguirre
Louise Baker
Dorothy Bishop
Tina Durst Cellars
Tammy Childs
Sherry Cox
Susan Davenport
Fayrene Easley
- Jacque Elliott
Tina Feemster
Chuck Green
Holly Groves
Roy Guthrie
Theda Henniger
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Bill Johnson
Susan Jolliff
Leroy Keese
Stephanie LaFuentes
Mary Beth Lewis
Mike Lowery
Sue Marchbank
Dorothy McAnally
Scherrie McKaskle
Betty McMillan
Gary Mitzel
Louise Morrow
Christina Morton

- Asher (Kelly Nichols’ grandson)
Tracy Parsley
Diane Peavy
Bobbie Petty
Cynthia Reeves
Gunnar Roberts
Wynell Roper
Edith Slaughter
Grace Spurgin
Sissy Trevino
Lorene Trujillo
Jack and Susan Turk
Aletha Van Meter
Adele Waide
Tess Warren
Kristan Wilson
Kenneth Young

- In military:*
Jon Bradshaw
Howard Brown
Brandon Haymon
Talisha Hendley
David Hernandez
Jose Lopez
Moses Marmolejo
Concho Moore
Brandon Pfannenstiel
Jace Telford
Joseph Telford
Jonathan Torres
Alisha Slone
Wes Stark
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the family of Carlos Rios.

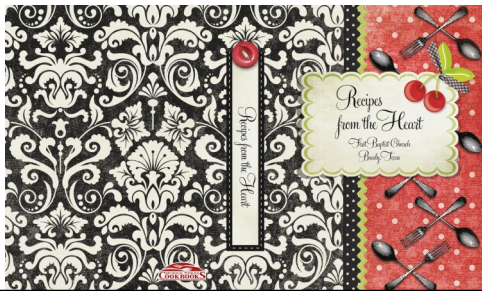
The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. A link can be sent to your email address each month; just send your address to Becky Martin: becky@scottmartin.net.

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FIRST BAPTIST
C H U R C H

Be knit together by strong ties of love.
Colossians 2:2

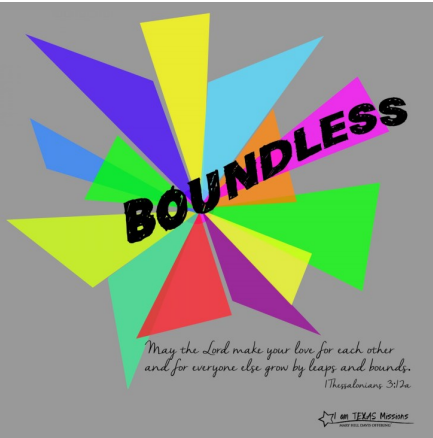


The cookbooks have been paid in full, but we now need to sell the remaining cookbooks. We have less than 100 books to sell. Many have picked up cookbooks to sell, but we need everyone who had a recipe in the book to please help us sell the rest. The cookbooks are available to pick up every Sunday morning in the parlor. They would make great Christmas presents!!! Thanks to all who have helped out so far!!

Godly Impressions Preschool & Child Care

We had a great turn-out for Open House held last Sunday. Parents came to enjoy meeting their teachers and to see the renovations that were made to our facilities. There were approximately 25 families that were at the festivities who enjoyed hot dogs and all the fixings. Children enjoyed getting their face painted and jumping in the bouncy houses! It was a wonderful success and Thank You church family for helping us start off the new year!

—Kelly Nichols,
Preschool Director



Thank you to Melinda Cook and her crew for organizing the end-of-summer fellowship August 21. A large turn-out of the FBC family enjoyed the time together under the pavilion, on a perfect cool evening. Thanks to all who helped make this happen!