



## Message from the Pastor: *Unstoppable Hope*

by Jeff Quattlebaum, senior pastor

On Saturday, March 20, I took a trip to East Texas to take care of some business in Tyler and then to see my mom. On the way, I passed some farms where the farmers were getting their fields ready to plant. It reminded me of a story I once heard about a farmer named Jake. Jake was a farmer that loved being in his fields right before the harvest. He had a crop of corn stalks that towered high above his head, and his tomato plants were so loaded with tomatoes that he had to tie them to stakes to keep the plants from toppling over.

Jake loved the harvest season because he had a deep satisfaction in seeing the evidence of his labors in the past months. He loved enjoying fresh from the field corn on the cob and the juicy tomato slices from his tomato plants with his dinner. Those were some good days for Jake the farmer, but what always made me really like this story was his passion for being a farmer. There were some seasons that Jake would not have a good crop, and there were some seasons that he would not have a crop at all. There were times when late frosts would kill his strawberries and when the rains did not come, and the plants dried up. There were days when the locusts and other pests would eat his profits up in front of his face. Many times, Jake would think about why he stayed in the farming business and even considered quitting multiple times.

When hard times come, when discouragements set in, and other problems come our way, the thought of quitting always comes into our minds. Jake's love for farming was in his blood and that is what kept him going year after year. We also must remain steadfast because of the One who loved us enough to die for us.

As we prepare ourselves for the events leading up to the death and the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, I cannot help but think about our brothers and sisters who followed Jesus in the beginning of the New Testament Church. They walked with him, talked with him, ate with him, cried with him. And then it happened. Jesus was arrested, falsely accused, and eventually put to death on the cross just like the Scriptures in the Old Testament said. It looked like all hope was lost, and discouragement set in with the women and disciples of Jesus. The hopes that the men and women who followed Jesus, who believed He was the Messiah the Old Testament Scriptures talked about—those hopes were crushed by His death.

The Bible tells us that the disciples went back to their previous careers as fishermen, and even after the women told them that Jesus was alive, they did not believe. Then one evening the unthinkable happened: Jesus appeared to His disciples and it changed everything (John 20). The discouragement was gone and, even more important, the disciples finally understood what happened because Jesus opened their hearts to the meaning of the scriptures concerning the Messiah (Luke 24:25-32). Forty days went by after Jesus rose from the grave. Then the time came for Jesus to go back to the Father (Acts 1). Jesus told them to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. Right before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His disciples a mission to spread His gospel to the whole world (Matthew 28:19-20).

My brothers and sisters, as we approach Easter, remember what Jesus went through and the meaning behind it, but the story does not stop with the events that happened on Easter. All of history was leading up to the moment when Jesus would make the perfect sacrifice and make a way for mankind to be reconciled to a Holy God. We are called to pick up the torch from our brothers and sisters who have gone before us to keep spreading the Gospel of Jesus until He comes again very soon. Paul tells us in his letter to the churches in Galatia, *“So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.”* (Galatians 6:9, NLT). The work of spreading the Gospel is hard, and it is easy to get discouraged when it looks like there are no results from our efforts. There will be seasons where the harvest will be abundant, and there will be seasons when it looks like nothing is happening. There will even be seasons when it looks like our enemy is winning. But Jesus reminds us in Matthew 16 that Hell itself cannot stop the true Church of Jesus. Paul gives us encouraging words when he says, *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain”* 1 Corinthians 15:58, CSB.

God Bless!

Pastor Jeff

**Children's Easter events**

*by Marsha Gainer, team lead  
Children's Ministry Team*

The Children's Ministry is looking forward to a wonderful special Easter Sunday morning program that will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center with breakfast. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt, games, the Easter story, and crafts. The program will end around 12:00. Everyone is invited. Children may stay for all events or for part if they want to attend services in the sanctuary.

We have also set a date for our VBS in July. We will have a registration block party on the 10th and begin on the 11th. Please save these dates as we will need everyone's help. Our program is growing with God's precious children. Thank you for your prayers and support.

**Easter choir**

*by Karen Behrens, team lead  
Music Team*

I am so excited about our Easter Celebration Choir next weekend. It has been a blessing to see some of our members come and want to be a part of our Easter music. I look forward to seeing you all every week for practice. I am in hopes that we will have the new sound board in before Easter so we will have a crisp sound.

Be thinking also about May as we have 5 Sundays in May. Anyone that would like to do a special, please let me know. I have to have the music a week in advance to be able to get it in the PowerPoint.

Thank you to Carol and the praise team for all your hard work and dedication. I really appreciate you all.

**Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross – Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 PM at Richards Park. Everybody is invited.

Stations of the Cross or Way of the Cross is a service that walks with Jesus through the steps leading up to the crucifixion. There are between 8 and 14 stations of the Cross depending on how detailed the service is going to be. At each station there is

prayerful meditation on what Jesus was going through as He was becoming the suffering servant (Isaiah 53). The service will be about 45 min. and there will be a fish fry for the community at the end of the service.

On Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 AM at Richards Park there will be a community Easter Egg hunt.

**FBC on mission**

*by Betty Smith, team lead  
Missions Team*

It looks like spring is on its way and missions has a happy face. You are doing good with your cards to the hospital, and now also to our own church members - James Mallow, Amelia Britteon, and Edith Slaughter at Brady West (2201 Menard Hwy., Brady, Tx. 76825). Please keep them coming.

Bobby Williams is wanting to take a load of items to the border soon if there is enough to take. As of now there is not. As you get ready for spring and clean out your closets, remember this ministry.

A good amount of items has come in for The Haven and will be delivered this week.

We are over half way to our \$2,000 goal for the Annie Armstrong Mission Offering for North American Missions. As of March 28 we have collected \$1317.80. You still have time to contribute through April.

The Food Pantry continues to serve as a drive-through. Our hope is that in the not too distant future we can once again carry on this ministry in person, praying with the recipients and giving personal love.

I thank God for the mission hearts of members of First Baptist Church. As summer comes and more people get their shots, there will be more opportunities to serve God in our community and beyond.

**March Food Pantry**

76 adult boxes, 14 kids' boxes  
75 families, 138 individuals  
70 under 65, 39 over 65  
29 age 18 or under

**Operation Christmas Child**

**April gifts**  
Toothbrushes and toothpaste

**Search for Youth Pastor**

*by Judy Mitzel, chair  
Personnel Committee*

The Personnel Committee submitted a job description to the church for a part time Youth/Discipleship Pastor at the business meeting in February. The job description was approved as written and Brother Jeff submitted the application online and had over 50 responses. At the business meeting in March, it was approved by the church to form a youth team to oversee the interviews and determine if a full time or part time position is needed and report back to the church for approval. Please continue to pray for this ministry as we all look forward to see those smiling faces praising the Lord.

**April birthdays**

- 4-1 Bill Burns
- 4-3 Tanzee Shedd
- 4-4 Sherry Cox, Mabel Jones
- 4-5 Farion Morton
- 4-6 Robert Reeves
- 4-7 Austin Reeves
- 4-13 Becky Elliott
- 4-16 Jonathan Torres
- 4-22 Glenda Douglas
- 4-30 Carrie Pearson, Toney Urban

**April radio spots**

- Becky Martin (5-9)
- Bro. Jeff (12-16)
- Judy Mitzel (19-23)
- Janis Groves (26-30)

**Deacons on call**

- Jerry Caraway (325-240-9764)
- Jim Smith (325-240-9791)

**For your calendar**

- April 2, 5:30: Stations of the Cross at Richards Park
- April 3, 11:00: Community Easter Egg Hunt at Richards Park
- April 4: Easter Sunday
- April 5, 8:30: LIBA breakfast, Down Home Country Cooking
- April 9, 9:00-11:00: Food Pantry food Distribution
- April 11, 4:30: Deacons meeting
- April 18, 4:00: Church council
- April 25, 6:00: Business meeting
- Second week of July: VBS



Jesus told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." *Luke 24:46*

- Bro. Jeff Quattlebaum, Misty, Regan, and Sam
- All health care workers; local, state, and national leaders; school administrators, teachers, and staff; and missionaries
- All who have Covid-19 or have lost loved ones in the pandemic
- our church staff and ministries
- our members in the nursing homes and our homebound members
- the lost and unchurched in our community
- Brady children & youth
- the Navajo Nation

Wyatt & Francisca Anderson  
 Marshall Armstrong  
 Holden Bedwell  
 Amelia Britteon  
 Bill Burns  
 Frieda Chew  
 Sherry Cox  
 Glen Douglas  
 Glenda Douglas  
 Charlie and Maria Garcia  
 Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves  
 Nita Groves  
 Roy and Janet Guthrie  
 Jackie Harper  
 Betty Henderson  
 Ronnie Holloway  
 Curtis and Genna Jennings  
 Rex Joslin  
 Janie Lowery  
 James Mallow  
 Jennifer McAnally

Ericka Moore  
 Louise Morrow  
 Alisa & Brayden Morton  
 Lois Patton  
 Norma Ridout  
 James & Anna Richards  
 Tristan Rodriguez  
 Kelly Rushfeldt  
 Edith Slaughter  
 Jack and Susan Turk  
 Don and Lucy Vaughn  
 Sherry Vensen  
 Becky and Ed Weber  
 Linda Wall  
 Megan Wall  
 Mackie Jo Walters

*In military:*  
 Jon Bradshaw  
 Brandon Haymon  
 David Hernandez

Jose Lopez  
 Moses Marmolejo  
 Jennifer McAnally  
 Concho Moore  
 Brandon Pfannenstiel  
 Jace Telford  
 Joseph Telford  
 Jonathan Torres  
 Wes Stark  
 Justin Williams  
 Ricky Williams, Jr.

We pray for comfort for the families of Wilbur Beam, Riley Jacobs, Gayle Doyal, David Deans, and the victims of the mass shootings in Atlanta and Boulder.

The newsletter is available on the church website: [fbcbrady.org](http://fbcbrady.org). If you would like a reminder of when it is posted each month, send your email address to Becky Martin: [becky@scottmartin.net](mailto:becky@scottmartin.net).  
 Print copies are available at the church and can be mailed on request.

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“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”  
 Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)  
*Memory verse  
 for April*

### from Godly Impressions Preschool: *Time*

We are hopping into spring at Godly Impressions Preschool. The teachers and students will be working on numbers 5-8, the color purple and the shape of an oval. On April 1<sup>st</sup> we will be having class Easter parties and an egg hunt. In Chapel we are learning about the death and resurrection of Jesus and what that means for those who accept Christ as their Savior.

I was talking to my mom earlier this week about a problem I had and she said one word, a word she’s said over and over to me in the course of my life: “time.” What she meant by that is time reveals God’s purpose and plan for us; we just have to be patient. So coming into the Easter holiday I thought about the significance of the 3 days’ time, how the whole world was forever changed in the span of three days. I can’t imagine the feeling of defeat the disciples had, the grief of Mary, the victory the soldiers felt on Friday. They must have thought those feelings would last forever. But in just 3 days, Jesus rose again and the disciples finally understood who Jesus was, Mary had her son back, and the look on the soldiers’ faces must have been priceless to see Jesus walking through the streets.

I think we often get discouraged when things seem to not be falling in place fast enough, or when the season we are in feels never-ending. We want our plans and needs to be instant; we want God’s plan to be revealed now! And sometimes those things are revealed to us in three days and sometimes we may wait years, but the Bible illustrates hope for us. We in the 21<sup>st</sup> century get to see the big picture on the other side of those three days. God’s full plan was revealed, and we know that God has the same for us, a plan that just takes time.

Blessings,  
*Ashlee Shaw, Godly Impressions Preschool director*