



## Message from the Pastor: More than you can handle? Yes!

by Pastor Jeff Quattlebaum

I hear the phrase “God won’t give you more than you can handle” in many circles and all I can think about is how many people fall for this saying. Many people are asking or have asked if this “cliché” is biblically true. Often when we believe or say this statement, if we are truly honest with ourselves, we don’t want more than we believe we can handle. We like to make plans for ourselves that will keep us comfortable, and we want God to bless those plans and stay within the box we try to put God in. The only problem with that scenario is that God hardly ever cooperates with what WE want HIM to do. When you look at Scripture from the beginning to end, God always gave those He called more than they could handle so they had no choice but to turn and depend on Him.

In Scripture God never promises that He will keep us out of difficult situations or that He will make sure we never experience suffering. Jesus himself said in Matthew 5:10-12:

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Jesus also said in Luke 9:23, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.” Paul even addressed this in Philippians 3:10: *My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death.* We could look at other Scriptures in Hebrews and James, but I think you get the picture. God NEVER says in Scripture that He will NOT give us more than we can handle. He does promise to be with us in those difficult situations and to be an ever-present help in times of suffering.

God also doesn’t promise us that we will face only things we can handle. If we were able to handle everything in life on our own, then why would we need God? Often the greatest blessing of being in over our heads in life is that we have the opportunity to rely on a God who can take on anything and everything. God is able! So, the promise that can be found throughout the Bible is NOT that He won’t give you and me more than we can handle, but rather that He won’t give us more than He can handle through us.

You might ask, “Well, what about the extreme (which can be defined differently in everyone’s lives) circumstances?” I am here to tell you that even in the extreme circumstances, He will carry you through it all. I am reminded of that old poem written in 1964 by Mary Fishback Powers called Footprints in the Sand:

One night I dreamed a dream.  
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.  
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,  
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.  
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,  
You'd walk with me all the way.  
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."  
He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you,  
never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/beautiful-ways-footprints-in-the-sand-offers-solid-hope.html>

You can survive because of His grace. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.” Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* My brothers and sisters in Christ, you may not be able to explain it, but sometimes the greatest gifts are those you can’t explain. You may not understand it, but somehow you have peace, even in the middle of the storm. It is a storm you can’t handle, and yet you still endure. Why? Because He is with you. Somehow you feel the strength to stand firm because you are standing on Him as your foundation. Remember what David said in Psalm 40:2: *He brought me up from a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure.*

As we dive into the year 2022, God will give us things that will be over our heads. We will feel like we are drowning. But take heart, my brothers and sisters. God also promises that He will be in the deep end with us. So, how about it? Want to take a dive into the deep end with me this new year? That is where you will find God.

Diving in the deep end,  
Pastor Jeff!

## Children's Ministry invites you to help in 2022

by Marsha Gainer

Children's Ministry Team Lead

The Children's ministry had a wonderful year in 2021. We are looking forward to our 2022 programs.

The Children's Choir will be working on songs throughout the new year and will perform periodically. They were so cute at Christmas, and we are very thankful for each child!

The BAM program had wonderful meal providers in 2021. Thank you all for your support. We always need more workers. Everyone is invited to get involved this year. BAM will resume on January 12.

## Blessings of Christmas 2021

by Karen Behrens,  
Music Team Lead

December was a busy month for music, but wasn't it a blessing?! I am so proud of everyone that sang with the choir. It was the first time I have ever directed a cantata, and I thank everyone for your patience and kindness. God was definitely there that day. It is always refreshing when you hear people talking about it later about how blessed they felt. The Christmas Eve service was presented by our praise team.

Thank you, choir and praise team, for the wonderful year that we have had together. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas. See you all in 2022.

## December Food Pantry

by Laurie Morton

The Food Pantry Christmas Party was a huge success!! There were so many cookies!! Thank you, FBC bakers! And thanks to Marsha Gainer for 4 baskets and 6 popcorn cans that were handed out randomly.

According to my count we had 48 under 65, 19 eighteen and under, 40 over 65, 107 individuals altogether.

## Three questions for new year from our pastor

1) In 2022 - How does God want to use me in growing FBC Brady?

2) In 2022 - Where does God want FBC Brady to be by the end of 2022?

3) In 2022 - Will I let God be God over FBC Brady in every aspect/part of the church?

## Find your mission

by Betty Smith,

Missions Team Lead

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." - Matthew 25:35-36.*

*The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40.*

Happy New Year to all. As we look to a new year there are things we need to be about. Our thanks to you for your activity all the year 2021.

You were faithful at bringing items for the Haven, and we will continue that on through this next year.

Items for Mexico are already being collected and there is room for more.

We have completed our Parenting class until we get someone new. We went to court with our participant this month and found that almost all the other people in court that day were ones we have had. And most of the determinations were positive.

Please continue sending cards to Edith Slaughter and Amelia Britton at Brady West - 2201 Menard Highway, Brady, Texas 76825.

Many many thanks go out to the ladies of FBC for the many cookies that were brought for our Food Pantry Christmas party. We had an abundance, and everyone went home with a bag full. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

We closed out our Mary Hill Davis Offering at \$1,385, short of our goal of \$2,000. In December we started the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. So far we have raised \$1,352 of our \$2,500 goal. This offering will continue through the end of January at least.

We are looking for ways to support the Resource Center and have approved a check of \$500 to be sent from the Local Missions fund.

As we move into a new year our hope is that we can come up with some new and exciting ways to serve our Lord. If you have any

ideas, please talk to any of the team members: RaNon Caraway, Janis Groves, Marsha Gainer, Claudette Young, Becky Martin, and Betty Smith.

## Deacons on call in January

George Matula 792-8611  
Bobby Williams 597-3181

## Welcome new members

### Greg and Shelly!

by baptism:

Gregory Torres

by statement

Shelly Torres



## January radio spots

Pat Matula, 3-7

Karen Behrens 10-14

Becky Martin 17-21

Judy Mitzel 24-28

## More Christmas thank-yous

- Thank you to all who brought gifts for the Operation Christmas Child boxes and who helped pack the boxes. Total boxes this year: 134, all going to Peru.
- Thank you to Bobby and Bobbie Williams for donating a 6 x 12 foot trailer to the church to use for transporting donations to the Banda Ministry in Eagle Pass and for other needs as they arise.
- Thank you to all who helped with Christmas in the Heart. FBC was in charge of the bounce houses. Several hundred people enjoyed the festivities on the square that night.
- Thank you to Karen and our music team, singers, readers, sound techs, and children for the wonderful Christmas cantata and the Christmas Eve service.
- Thank you to everyone who helped decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Christmas.

## New custodian hired

Our longtime custodian Maria Rios recently retired. The church hired Priscilla Hernandez to replace her beginning December 1. Priscilla is also a teacher at Godly Impressions.

Thank you, Maria, for your hard work all these years. Thank you, Personnel Committee, for facilitating this transition. And welcome, Priscilla!

## January 2022 Bible Reading Schedule

### Week 1

- January 1<sup>st</sup> – Genesis 1-3

### Week 2

- January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Genesis 4-7
- January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Genesis 8-11
- January 4<sup>th</sup> – Job 1-5
- January 5<sup>th</sup> – Job 6-9
- January 6<sup>th</sup> – Job 10-13
- January 7<sup>th</sup> – Job 14-16
- January 8<sup>th</sup> – Job 17-20

### Week 3

- January 9<sup>th</sup> – Job 21-23
- January 10<sup>th</sup> – Job 24-28
- January 11<sup>th</sup> – Job 29-31
- January 12<sup>th</sup> – Job 32-34
- January 13<sup>th</sup> – Job 35-37
- January 14<sup>th</sup> – Job 38-39
- January 15<sup>th</sup> – Job 40-42

### Week 4

- January 16<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 12-15
- January 17<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 16-18
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 19-21
- January 19<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 22-24
- January 20<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 25-26
- January 21<sup>st</sup> – Genesis 27-29
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Genesis 30-31

#### **January birthdays**

- 1-1 Oralia Barrera
- 1-3 Amelia Britteon
- 1-7 Kay Holloway
- 1-14 Janis Groves
- 1-21 Pat Matula
- 1-22 Marsha Gainer
- 1-24 Ashlee Shaw
- 1-27 Regan Quattlebaum
- 1-28 Albert Pearson,  
McKenna Brandenberger

### Week 5

- January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Genesis 32-34
- January 24<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 35-37
- January 25<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 38-40
- January 26<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 41-42
- January 27<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 43-45
- January 28<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 46-47
- January 29<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 48-50

### Week 6

- January 30<sup>th</sup> – Exodus 1-3
- January 31<sup>st</sup> – Exodus 4-6

**Memory Verse for**  
**January 2022:**  
 Your word I have hidden  
 in my heart, that I might  
 not sin against you.  
**Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)**

#### **January events**

- 1-3 LIBA breakfast, Down Home  
Country Cooking, 8:30
- 1-3 and every Monday: Adult Bible study  
6:00
- 1-3 LIBA meeting FBC Santa Anna 5:00
- 1-8 Work day at church, starting 8:30-9:00
- 1-12 BAM resumes
- 1-14 Food Pantry food distribution,  
9:00-11:00
- 1-16 Church council 4:00
- 1-23 Business meeting 5:00

*From Pastor Jeff  
Let's do this in 2022!*



In 2019 the Discipleship Pathway Assessment study from LifeWay Research, conducted a study of over 2500 people from January 14-29. The results that came from the study found those who regularly attended Protestant churches are inconsistent in their reading and thinking about Scripture. The study identified eight signposts that consistently show up in the lives of growing Christians and Bible engagement was one of the eight. The results came out this way:

- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Americans who attend a Protestant church regularly (32 percent) say they read the Bible personally every day.
- 27% say they read it a few times a week.
- 12% only read it once a week
- 11% read their Bible a few times a month
- 5% read their Bible once a month
- 1 in 8 Americans (12%) admit they rarely or never read the Bible.

In John 17:17, Jesus prays, *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”* Jesus was praying that for His followers.

As we go into 2022 we will be reading through the Bible chronologically as a church family. One reason that I chose this way to read the Bible this year was for you to see how the Bible all fits together as one big story about Jesus Himself. One of the easiest ways to grow in your personal relationship with Jesus is by diving into His word each and every day. The local church is only as strong as its weakest member. That means one of the ways a church is strong spiritually is for all its members to be strong in the knowledge of the Word of God.

I pray that you will take up the challenge and read the Bible with us this year. Make it part of your quiet time with the Lord. I would also encourage you to have a journal/note pad/paper with you as you read. The reason for this is to take down notes, or questions you might have about a particular Scripture. You can then either ask me or one of your brothers and sisters in Christ to try and find the answer. (I do this all the time.)

For us as a church to be more like Jesus, we need to know HIM. How do we get to know HIM? We read HIS Word. Will you come along with me in this journey of knowing Christ better this year?



Your Word have I hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against you.  
*Psalm 119:11 NKJV*

- Bro. Jeff Quattlebaum, Misty, Regan, and Sam
  - our church staff and preschool
  - everyone suffering from Covid, and all health care workers
  - our members in the nursing homes and our homebound members
  - the lost and unchurched in our community
  - Brady children & youth
  - McKenna Brandenberger on mission
- Wyatt & Francisca Anderson  
Marshall Armstrong  
Pete and Oralia Barrera  
Bill and Sherry Barsch

Holden Bedwell  
Randy and Carol Bedwell  
Amelia Britteon  
Bill and Wanda Burns  
Sherry Cox  
Glen Douglas  
Glenda Douglas  
Charlie and Maria Garcia  
Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves  
Roy and Janet Guthrie  
Ronnie & Kay Holloway  
Trey Holtzclaw  
Curtis and Genna Jennings  
Janie Lowery  
James Mallow  
Ericka Moore  
Louise Morrow  
Lois Patton  
Kolie Penz  
Carole Ramsey

Vincent Perez  
James and Norma Ridout  
James and Anna Richards  
Carlton Rizer  
Tristan Rodriguez  
Kelly Rushfeldt  
Ashlee Shaw  
Edith Slaughter  
Blandi Thomas  
Jack and Susan Turk  
Sherry Vensen  
Makie 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 and guidance for the families of Doug Jescke, Carol Henderson, R.L. Hargroves, Imogene Snodgrass, and Ann Bohannon

# First Baptist Church Brady, Texas

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.

First Baptist Church  
(325) 597-2956  
1103 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
Brady, TX 76825  
Website: <http://www.fbcbrady.org>  
Office email: [bradyfbc@gmail.com](mailto:bradyfbc@gmail.com)  
**Rev. Jeff Quattlebaum**  
[fbcbradyrevjeff@gmail.com](mailto:fbcbradyrevjeff@gmail.com)  
325-240-9782  
**Laurie Morton**, Secretary  
**Kay Curry**, Financial Secretary  
**Karen Behrens**, Music Ministry  
**Meredith Navarette**, Preschool Director  
[godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com](mailto:godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com)  
**Norma Ridout and Carol Bedwell**, Pianists  
**Becky Martin**, newsletter and website editor  
456-1256

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.  
*Isaiah 43:19*

**Godly Impressions Preschool:**  
**We welcome the new year!**

For January:  
Theme: Storybook  
Color: White  
Shape: Circle  
Letters: O - S

Verse: *"Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."* Psalm 119:103

Throughout 2021 God has continued to navigate and answer the prayers of the preschool. A constant reminder to have faith, give it to God, and let Him be God.

All of us are looking forward to the path He will lead us on in this brand new year!

Blessings in 2022,  
Meredith Navarette, Director



Dear Friends at First Baptist Church,  
Thank you so much for the lovely luncheon you provided our family after my mother's, Imogene Snodgrass, burial. We all appreciated the time to gather one more time and rejoice in our mother together.

Please accept this donation to help others through similar times.

Gratefully,  
Steve Snodgrass

