

Show Me Your Glory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRFIELD

November 2017

The Struggle is Real

Last month we highlighted the various ministries and mission work of the church. Some of the ministries are more familiar than others, but with each ministry there are struggles that are very real and challenging each day.

The bus ministry lost three children this last month when the Becker family moved away. The oldest son, Brenden, recently made a profession of faith and was baptized. The younger two, Rachel and Christian, were very faithful to attend and were growing in their knowledge and trust of Christ. Losing these children was a tremendous loss to many of us in the church; we have poured love into their lives for the last five years and hate to see them leave. This family needs our constant and continued prayers in their new journey.

If you would like to send cards or letters to them, the new address for the Becker family is:

637 East Ave
Berry, AL 35546

Also keep our church family here in your prayers as they are hurting over this move too.



Melisha Diamond and her daughter Shelby have been in Evansville for the last six months now. They are another family that we love and are heartbroken for their being separated from us. Melisha was a faithful volunteer in the food pantry until they moved, and Shelby always had a smile and hug to brighten our days.

Each week the Food Pantry ministers to meet the physical needs of the community through the food distribution. Beyond that, the volunteers in the food pantry pour love into these souls as well. Pat and Dwight Harvey have been a great source of Christian witness of love, patience, and kindness to the Pinnick family. Debra and her daughter Susie are caring for a handicapped teenager Damien. Damien recently had surgery and is still struggling to recover. This family needs our prayers and support as well.

Finally, our brother in Christ, Bob Gooch, is struggling mightily with his addictions. He has currently checked himself into a treatment program for detox and rehabilitation. Those who know Bobby know his grief is intense and his addictions are strong. Please pray that he will cling to the love of Christ to comfort him and that he will be able to come out of this rehab stronger in his walk with Christ. He can receive cards of prayer and encouragement at:

Bob Gooch
c/o The Fellowship House
800 N Main Street
Anna, IL 62906

These examples of the struggles of ministry in our church are just a sample of what we see each and every day in this lost and dying world. We have many people sick with serious life threatening diseases, families struggling to get by each day, and people struggling with mental illness or addiction. In this month of Thanksgiving, in addition to thanking God for all He has provided us, please be praying for all those who are suffering through trials. Pray for Bennie as he ministers to so many needs each day, and be thankful that we have a pastor that loves his flock and cares for their needs. Pray for others in our church to rise up and serve in these ministries so that our community will come to know the love of Christ in word and deed. Pray for those of us in the church office everyday and the needs we see, the stories of desperation and lostness we hear. Pray that all our hearts don't become hard and we remember that this could be us in any of these situations.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Colossians 3:12-17

Church Security

In recent months, we have been reminded that a church is no longer automatically a sanctuary of peace. There is a rising trend of violence that is happening in the churches in the United States. At First Baptist Church, we take this wake up call seriously and are currently working to develop an Emergency Response Plan. This plan will include medical emergencies, violence toward the congregation, weather related emergencies, and any other necessary situations. There is an appointed Emergency Response Plan Committee that is dedicated to developing the best plan for our church. Please be in prayer as this is developed.

While the plan is being developed, there will be some temporary measures implemented. Please be aware that these measures will not be designed to inconvenience anyone, but rather serve to keep us protected at all times.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Who is Lottie Moon?

Born Charlotte Digges Moon, December 12, 1840, in Albemarle County, Virginia. Lottie rebelled against Christianity until she was in college. In December 1858, she dedicated her life to Christ and was baptized at First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Lottie attended Albemarle Female Institute, female counterpart to the University of Virginia. In 1861, she was one of the first women in the South to receive a master's degree. She stayed close to home during the Civil War but eventually taught school in Kentucky, Georgia and Virginia.

Her Missionary Work

Edmonia Moon, Lottie's sister, was appointed to Tengchow, China, in 1872. The following year, Lottie was appointed and joined her sister there. Lottie served 39 years as a missionary, mostly in China's Shantung province. She taught in a girls' school and often made trips into China's interior to share the good news with women and girls.

Lottie Moon was passionate about people knowing Christ. She didn't hesitate to speak her mind. Today's China is a world of rapid change. It's home to 1.4 billion individuals – one-fifth of the world's population. Village dwellers flock to trendy megacities with exploding populations. And China holds its own in the world's economy. It's very different from the vast farmland Lottie Moon entered in the 1800s. But one thing hasn't changed: China's need for a Savior.

When she set sail for China, Lottie was 32 years old. She had turned down a marriage proposal and left her job, home and family to follow God's lead. Her path wasn't typical for an educated woman from a wealthy Southern family. God had gripped her with the Chinese peoples' need for a Savior.

For 39 years Lottie labored, chiefly in Tengchow and P'ingtu. People feared and rejected her, but she refused to leave. The aroma of fresh-baked cookies drew people to her house. She adopted traditional Chinese dress, and she learned China's language and customs. Lottie didn't just serve the people of China; she identified with them. Many eventually accepted

her. And some accepted her Savior.

Lottie wrote letters home detailing China's hunger for truth and the struggle of so few missionaries taking the gospel to the 472 million Chinese in her day. She also shared the urgent need for more workers and for Southern Baptists to support them through prayer and giving.

She once wrote home to the Foreign Mission Board, "Please say to the [new] missionaries they are coming to a life of hardship, responsibility and constant self-denial."

Disease, turmoil and lack of co-workers threatened to undo Lottie's work. But she gave herself completely to God, helping lay the foundation of what would become the modern Chinese church, one of the fastest-growing Christian movements in the world. Lottie Moon died at 72 — ill and in declining health after decades ministering to her beloved Chinese. But her legacy lives on. And today, when gifts aren't growing as quickly as the number of workers God is calling to the field, her call for sacrificial giving rings with more urgency than ever.

The Call to Give

Lottie frequently sent letters back home detailing Chinese culture, missionary life and the physical and spiritual needs of the Chinese people. Additionally, she challenged Southern Baptists to go to China or give so that others could go. By 1888, Southern Baptist women had organized and helped collect \$3,315 to send workers needed in China.

In 1918, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) named the annual Christmas offering for international missions after the woman who had urged them to start it.

First Baptist has set a goal of \$7000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year. This is an offering of the International Mission Board and 100% of your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

What better Christmas gift than the good news of Christ? Help share the gospel around the world by giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FAIRFIELD, IL
PERMIT NO. 30

308 South First St.
Fairfield IL 62837
Phone (618) 842-3764
Fax (618) 842-3704
Bennie Tomberlin, Pastor
www.fairfieldfbc.org
fbcfairfield@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sermon Broadcast on WFIW 1390 at 10:45 each Sunday

All Glory Be Forever

We had turned from God to sin's disgrace
We chose the path to hell
Perfect law of God condemned our race
For all in Adam fell
But the righteousness of God appeared
And the world found hope again
For the Righteous One has come down to bear
All the curse of sin and death

Now to Him Who's seated on the throne
All glory be forever
Oh, the depths of wisdom, grace, and power
All glory be forever
All glory be forever

Every bond of sin that held us fast
Is left in Jesus' grave
We've been freed from all that gripped our past
From Satan's rule and reign
We've been raised to life to breathe His grace

As captives now reclaimed
All our guilt is gone, all our strivings ceased
We're alive to seek His fame

Now our future's fixed, our journey clear
God will not let us go
Every trial that tempts our hearts to fear
He'll use to give us hope
All creation groans as we await
What our eyes have longed to see
Every pain and evil we've long endured
Will be crushed by Christ our King

Now to Him Who's seated on the throne
All glory be forever
Oh, the depths of wisdom, grace, and power
All glory be forever
All glory be forever

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