



Gospel: God's Word for Everyone

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5 ESV)

I am writing this article from Cochabamba, Bolivia, while on the Mission Study Tour sponsored by the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, the Rocky Mountain Region, and International Ministries. I am looking forward to sharing with my First Baptist Omaha church family all about this experience in the coming weeks and months. However, for now I want to take a moment to reflect on an uncanny parallel between the Scriptures and my experience in this amazing country.

When Paul wrote his second letter to the Macedonians, he was addressing believers who, though they had scarce financial resources, gave SACRIFICIALLY to further the cause of Christ. They did not grumble about giving to others, but rather they BEGGED to take part in the relief of the saints. They gave according to their means and even BEYOND their means. They were committed first to The Lord and second to their brothers and sisters in Christ.

In reflecting on our experience here with some of the other pastors on this Mission Study Tour, we have agreed that these descriptors of the churches in Macedonia also apply to the churches of the Bolivian Baptist Union. Though finances are scarce, they work together, giving sacrificially to plant churches, train leaders, and address issues stemming from poverty. They do not drag their feet when it comes to helping others but rather they do so with a glad and sincere heart. They give generously in an effort to establish self-sustaining ministries. And finally, their commitment to their hermanos and hermanas (brother and sisters in Christ) is only surpassed by their passionate love of God.



When Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the Macedonians, he was challenging the former to learn from the example of the latter. And likewise, I believe God is calling First Baptist Church Omaha to learn from the example of generosity, sacrifice, and passionate love of God that is so typical among our brothers and sisters in Bolivia.

Keeping this in mind, I continue to be grateful to all of our ABC missionaries, including my new and very dear friends, Mario Morales and JD and Rhonda Reed, who are working alongside our local partners in Bolivia. May we at FBC Omaha commit ourselves to pray for and support missionaries such as these. And may we be open to the Spirit's leading as he calls us to deepen our relationship and commitment to them and to fellow believers in Bolivia and elsewhere.

Un saludo desde los hermanos en Bolivia (salutations from the brothers and sisters in Bolivia),

Pastor Mateo

November, 2013

COLUMNS

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STAFF

Matt Toupin
Pastor

Jim and Karla Musick
Music Directors

Phyllis Porter
Office Manager

Ben Martinez
Building Superintendent

Sunday Worship

9:45am: Sunday School for all ages
11:00am: Worship in the Sanctuary
12:00am: Coffee Fellowship in the Parlor.

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Please Remember The Following In Prayer



Beverly Tompkins, Nancy Clatterbuck, Velta Henson, Ruth Saklar, Bob Snyder, Pat Buie, Pauline Borrromeo, and Floyd Webber.

- Those with other medical concerns.
- Our men and women who are serving our country in the military at home and overseas.
- Our kids and youth.
- The "Vision Team" and the YMC Search Committee.
- Remember the staff of FBCO and the members of the Cabinet in prayer.

Annual "Hanging of the Greens"

The date and time for the "Annual Hanging of the Greens" has been set! Mark your calendar for November 30th at 6:30pm. Anyone interested in decorating our church for the Christmas Holidays, young and old alike, come to the sanctuary to get your instructions as to where to decorate.

We will all return to the sanctuary for a brief time of devotions and singing of Christmas Carols.



"Let Earth Receive Her King!"

THERE IS CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH!

Our church has been awarded a "Matthew 25" grant" by the American Baptist Home Mission Society. This grant will cover the cost of a special catered outreach meal that will take place during the holiday season. The date is December 15 from 4:30pm to 6:30 pm.

- A special Christmas Cantata will be presented after the "Celebration of Life" Dinner on December 15.
- FBC Omaha is also the recipient of a Missional Immersion Grant from ABC Nebraska. The grant will be used as partial funding for a new project, called MESA. MESA is an exciting and creative new Bible Study and outreach ministry geared toward our Young Adults and Spanish Speaking neighbors.

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS





CHURCH 101: New Member Class (for Adults)
 Are you interested in connecting with the FBC Omaha church family? Then this learning experience if

for you! We will be looking at the importance of local church membership, what the word "Baptist" means, and how you can become connected with serving the Lord and this community at FBC. It all happens in Pastor Matt's office during the Sunday School Hour, 9:45am to 10:45pm, November 10th and 17th.

November Anniversaries

- 9—Jack and Connie Payne
- 13—Adam and Kirsten Cleveland
- 13—Tim and Wenda Gilman

November Birthdays

- 1—Scarlett Wagner
- 4—Jim Musick and Melanie Musick
- 6—Connie Payne
- 6—Ireland Wagner
- 7—Jeri Shelor
- 9—Bobbie Roberts
- 11—Evan Gamblin
- 13—Ben Martinez
- 14—Michelle Todalen
- 14—Marjory Braman
- 15—Georgia Soucie
- 19—Jeff Gamblin
- 20—Lee Riveria
- 21—Jim Kaiser
- 22—MaryLou Sorensen
- 24—Jean Weaver
- 26—Anita Dyer
- 26—Nike Kubiak
- 28—Wenda Gilman
- 29—Elaine Conrad
- 29—Pam Kulisek
- 29—Ken Sciford

Kid's Corner
Kid's Corner



Stop by and check out the Kid's Corner! The new books donated by your generosity has filled the books shelves with more books. All the new books are on the shelves and arranged according to age.

Pre-School thru Kindergarten:

- The Jesus Storybook Bible
- The Pumpkin Patch Parable, The Sun flower Parable, Pine Tree Parable, The Parable of the Lily
- all by Liz Curtis Higgs
- God's Wisdom for Little Boys
- God's Wisdom for Little Girls
- by Jim & Elizabeth George
- Read-Aloud Bible Stories—Vol. 1-4
- Jeremy, the Tale of an Honest Bunny by Jan Karon

1st Grade thru 3rd Grade:

- Magic Tree House Series
- Imagination Station, Vol. 1-3

4th Grade thru 6th Grade:

- Concord Cunningham, Scripture Sleuth
- Red Rock Mysteries, 2 books by Jerry Jenkins
- Mandi Series (for girls)
- Sugar Creek Gang Series (for boys)
- Case for Christ for Kids
- Case for Faith for Kids
- Meet Sophie, Sophie Steps Up by Faith

Pre-Teen thru Teen:

- Amy Carmichael—Selfless Servant of India
- David Livingston—Explorer & Missionary
- Corrie Ten Boom—WW II Heroine

Adults:

Several adult fiction books were donated and are on the shelves ready for check out.

REMEMBER: Books can be checked out for one (1) month. PLEASE return them on time so they are available for others.