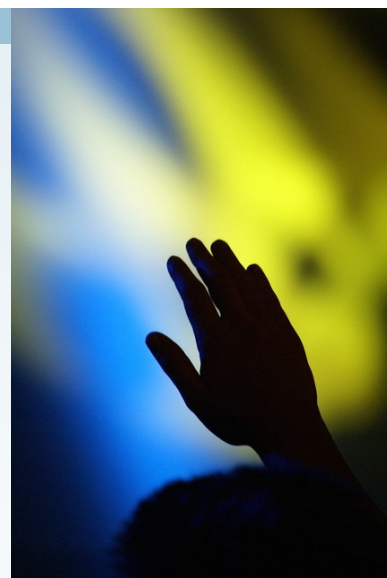




May 2021



Fox River Life



This being May Missions month I decided to share a very well written article, as the author has articulated it better than I could ever do. This article is adapted from Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global by Andy Johnson.

10 Things You Should Know about Missions and the Local Church

1. The mission of missions is primarily spiritual.

I hope we can agree that the church should especially care about eternal suffering. The church is that unique gospel community chartered by Jesus Christ himself. Consequently, it should especially labor to fulfill its unique mission to guard the gospel, proclaim the gospel, and disciple those who respond in repentance and faith to the gospel.

If our churches fail at that mission, no matter what other good things we do, we will have failed in the unique mandate that Christ has given us as churches. It is good to do other good things, and our churches may make different decisions about engaging in good works and social action. But it is the stewardship of the gospel that remains utterly unique to the Christian church. We must keep first things first. That is the priority of Christian missions.

2. The mission belongs to God, for his glory, on his terms.

God intends not only that his mission would go forward but that it would go forward on his terms. He means to get glory by showing that the mission is his and that his power sustains it. Any effort on our part to change or broaden the mission, or to substitute our ideas for God's, runs the risk of trying to rob God of his rightful glory. And trying to rob an all-knowing and all-powerful God of the thing he is most passionate about in all the universe is breathtakingly stupid and ultimately pointless. God says:

For my name's sake I defer my anger; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. (Isa. 48:9-11)

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In His Service

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16)But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17) and their talk will spread like gangrene."

- 2 Timothy 2:15-17a

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

3. Global missions is primarily through the local church.

In one sense the commission to missions was given to every individual Christian. But in another sense it was given primarily to local churches. Each of us individually is called to obey Christ's command to make disciples who know and obey his Word. But how does he intend us to do that? His Word is clear — normally we are to pursue obedience, build up disciples, and plant other churches through the local church. The local church makes clear who is and who is not a disciple through baptism and membership in the body (Acts 2:41). The local church is where most discipling naturally takes place (Heb. 10:24–25). The local church sends out missionaries (Acts 13:3) and cares for missionaries after they are sent (Phil. 4:15–16; 3 John 1–8). And healthy, reproducing local churches are normally the aim and end of our missionary effort (Acts 15:41; Titus 1:5).

4. The Bible says a lot about how to approach missions.

It would be cruel for God to know what he wants, but then leave us to figure it all out. God would never treat his children that way. Throughout his Word, God has given us a treasury of instructions on the global mission of the church — what it is and how to approach the mission in faithfulness and joyful confidence. We love and honor him not merely by working toward the final goal he's given — worshipers from every language, tribe, people, and nation — but also by using the means he has decreed. And he has told us that his global mission will advance through holy lives, faithful prayer, gospel proclamation, and healthy reproducing churches.

5. The local church can equip missionaries.

The role of the local church is not merely to assess but also to actively equip missionaries. We may not know a lot about specific cultures, learning languages, or even historical issues that shape a people's attitudes toward the gospel. But the local church is the perfect place — God's appointed place — to grow Christian character, encourage general fruitfulness, and transmit sound Bible doctrine. We shouldn't let a few things we might not know keep us from faithfully and assertively stewarding the responsibility for missions God has given churches. Churches are where faithful missionaries are made. If our churches do a good job in our basic responsibilities, then we have all we need to raise up godly missionaries.

6. The church should support those it sends.

Not only should our churches send missionaries wisely, but we should support them appropriately. And our support for workers should be as ample as God's Word enjoins. As we commit to send or support missionaries, we should expect our giving to be serious, significant, and sacrificial. Whether we give directly to missionaries or through some cooperative sending agency, our goal should be workers amply supplied so that they lack nothing.

7. The church can care for missionaries by keeping in touch.

The foundation of a congregation's ability to care for its missionaries is regular communication. We can't meet needs we don't know about, and it's hard to meet pastoral needs if relationships atrophy. Thankfully, it's probably never been easier to keep up relationships from afar. With email and Skype, there is generally no reason to fall out of touch with workers. But it still takes effort. Busyness, time-zone differences, and sometimes security concerns can push these calls off the agenda. Church leaders should consider setting a regular monthly time when they will call each supported worker. In addition, they might find another member of the church who is willing to keep in regular contact with each missionary and occasionally report back to the congregation.

8. Hospitality goes a long way.

One of the best ways to care for missionaries is literally to do what the Bible says to do: show hospitality to them (3 John 8). I wish biblical application were



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whomever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16



For His Glory

"Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

22 Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul! "

- Psalm 103 : 20-22

Birthday Blessings for Mabel Hurst

The women's ministry committee has a goal to send birthday blessings to all the women in missions that we currently support. This month, Mabel Hurst is celebrating her 99th birthday and we have called on all of you to help us out by sending her a birthday card to help her feel loved in a big way! Ellen has cards provided in the foyer for you to use if you don't have one of your own. You can send her card to: Mabel Hurst, 98 Missions Blvd., Sanford, FL 32771.



Deaconess Ministry Update

We held a dual celebration on Saturday, April 24th. Our church is 60 years old this year! We gathered to have a birthday party to commemorate this milestone and to celebrate each members individual birthday. We had a delicious potluck spread complete with a BIG birthday cake! There were almost 40 in attendance!!!! Great turn out. Since we were "founded" in 1961 we decided to have "life in the 60's" as our theme. There were lots of trivia questions and fun facts about a decade that many in our church remember well. It was fun to have the younger folks there as well.

We will gather together again in July for our church picnic, so mark your calendars for July 18th. Blessings to you all.



Elliot Bressler prays for cake!

Deaconess of the Month—Jan Jourdan



In His Service

"His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. "

- Mark 3:12

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

always this straightforward. Hospitality is important during brief visits, but even more important during the months-long returns most missionaries make from time to time. During those longer visits home, consider what your church can do to offer free housing to the workers you support. Plan and budget ahead for this. And don't stop with housing. Look for ways to help them be a meaningful part of the congregation. We want our workers to be able to rest, be refreshed, and reconnect with friends and church leaders. They won't be able to do this if financial concerns force them to live far away with relatives or with another church more willing to provide the housing they need.

9. Short-term help isn't always helpful.

Supporting workers well also means being sensitive about how, when, and whether to send short-term teams to work with them. It's worth noting that not all short-term teams are a help. Sending people at the wrong time or with the wrong skills, or just sending the wrong kind of people, will not help your long-term workers. The best way to make sure short-term work is genuinely helpful is to send teams that your overseas workers request. Make it clear to your long-term missionaries that receiving short-term teams is not a condition of your support. Rather, give them the freedom to direct who should come, when they should come, and even if they should come or not. Anything else is likely to lead to short-term projects that serve your own ends, but at the considerable expense to the workers you claim to want to help.

10. Long-term vision is key to a good partnership.

Your church should work to cultivate long-term overseas workers from your own congregation. At the outset of a partnership, why not articulate the explicit goal that some of your own members will uproot their lives and plant them long term in another culture for the sake of the gospel? Even more, if possible, why not aim to eventually staff an entire missionary team from your church or in partnership with other like-minded churches. Having a team that is on the same theological page right from the start won't solve every problem, but it will certainly avoid many.

Being long term focused may also mean doing short-term trips with the long-term mind-set. Rather than just providing "missions experiences," consider trips that support the work of existing long-term teams to whom you are committed. See your short-term work primarily as a way to support your longterm partners in whatever ways they need, and secondarily as a way to raise up your own members to join the work long term. Workers on the mission field generally need more boots on the ground—day in, day out—not just friends passing through.

So, what are the benefits of persecution? First of all persecution helps to separate the true worshippers of God from those who are not. When things get difficult in any area of life, those who are committed to that thing do not give up, they dig their heels in deeper. They determine that this area of their life demands their all and they have made the decision that they will persevere until the end...so help them God! Those who are not committed or are on the fringe will soon find themselves running away from the difficult times and will fall back like the soldiers of Israel who were fighting alongside Uriah. Persecution quickly separates the "wheat from the chaff." Secondly, persecution helps us to go deeper in our faith. Whenever we have challenges in our faith, it forces us to send forth our roots deeper into the ground that we might find what we need to be sustained and also to grow in our faith. Finally persecution helps us to see more clearly and to remove the distractions of our life that often keeps us from going deeper. When Christians are faced with real persecution, it helps them to see that the things that they held as so dear and important are not so dear and important when compared to the realities of eternity.

With that right understanding in place, what are some practical things we can do to help ourselves prepare for persecution? First of all, quit feeling and acting so entitled. Many Christians today have bought into some form of the health, wealth, and

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

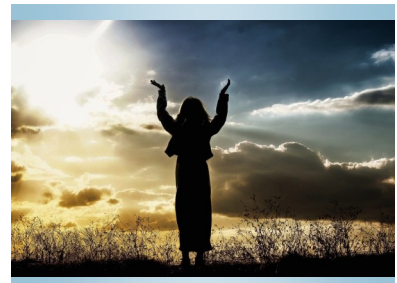
prosperity gospel. They might dislike the charlatans on late night TV who on their religious-ecized infomercials sell 'another gospel', and yet they live as those who, because they are believers and especially American believers, somehow deserve to be treated favorably. Carried through the streets on the backs of heathens being worshipped for their morality, patriotism, and self-righteousness. Secondly, avail yourselves of **both** the private and public means of grace. It is important to make sure that we are privately engaged in the study of the Word and in prayer, and just as important is the involvement in the public forms of prayer and Bible study. We need each other desperately to help build one another up, to challenge and sharpen each other and strengthen and deepen our relationships, so that when difficult times come we are not out on a limb or in a ditch by ourselves... 'It is not good for man to be alone.' Finally, read, pray, think, and meditate on and about persecution. We cannot be properly prepared for something if we continue to ignore it or pretend that it does not exist. We would benefit greatly from reading accounts of Christians down through the ages who endured persecution, our hearts would be stirred with compassion as we pray for others who are experiencing persecution and asking God to give them strength to endure and persevere. Doing these three things and a many more will help us when true persecution comes to the church in America.

Let me finish with a word of encouragement. The Church of Jesus Christ has always experienced exponential growth during times of horrendous persecution. Tertullian stated that: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Or to put it even better: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* No one in their right mind would desire or wish for persecution, however no one spiritually mature does not see the inevitability and benefit of it. When our time comes, may we dig our heels not into "sinking sand" but into "the rock that shall not move, grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love."

In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim

Intentional Discipleship Update

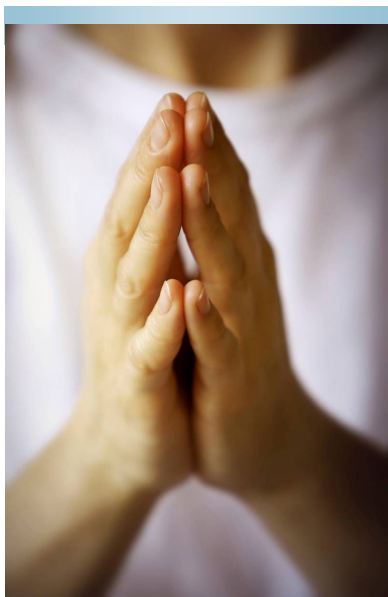
As we enter the month of May we are coming to the end of a couple of studies. There are only two lessons left in our Sunday School, so we should be finished up with those by the end of the month and then like we have in the past, we will have a Quiz competition. These are always fun to be a part of and if for no other reason than to watch Scott struggle with us who are in various stages of our sanctification in regards to competitiveness. Also, the men are heading into this weekend the last two chapters of the book of Romans. We are hopeful to be finished with that by the end of May as well, our next foray in Biblical Studies will be in the Old Testament book of Daniel. We will be following that up with the final book of the Bible which is the Book of Revelation. So, we are going to for the foreseeable future be knee deep in eschatology, more to come on that subject in the near future. The ladies Bible studies on Saturday morning and Thursday afternoon are continuing along very strongly. Both are well attended and they are about half way through their respective studies. There is always room for more at the table and if need be they will get a bigger table. Please consider availing yourself of these vital ministries that help us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."



For His Glory

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

- John 12:24



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

May 2—Ask PT at 5pm
 May 9—Prayer at 5 pm
 May 16—Five Solas - Sola Christos at 5 pm
 May 23—Prayer at 5 pm
 May 30—No Evening Services

SUNDAY



Men's Bible Study
 Saturdays at 8am

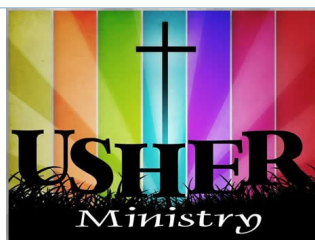
Women's Bible Study
 Saturdays at 8am
 & Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer
 Wednesdays at 9:30am

Connect
 WITH OUR
 CHURCH FAMILY



Financial Update—April 4-25, 2021
 Budget needed weekly: \$ 2606.00
 Received: \$
 Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



May 2

Kyle Tubbs

May 9

Jeffery Smith

May 16

Jay Hoffman

May 23

Howard Schimke

May 30

Bob Abitz

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect
 non-perishable food items.
 Place your food items on the table
 provided in the foyer.



Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address:

prayer@foxriverbaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com — (920)277-1526

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

Missions Update

Roman and Emily Citac will be visiting Fox River Baptist on Sunday, May 30th and sharing an update with us. Make sure to be here to hear all that's been going on with them in Moldova and how the Lord has been using their ministry to bless others!

These are a few photos they sent ahead.



Roman & Emily with their children
Henry & Josie



Josie,
Emily &
Henry,
picking
raspberries



A student who is very dear to us



Students from our Leadership Course at the center.

Moldova
is
famous
for
grapes



Jesus Calls us to be His Disciples

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.”

- Mark 8:34



FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



- 1—Ian Dohms
- 4—Ryan Smith
- 4—Jeffrey Smith
- 9—Linda Hoffman
- 17—Scott Smith
- 26—Tim Godfrey
- 29—Tommy Mlodzik



20—Aaron & Laura Bressler



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Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm