

# FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

## The LINK

January 2020

Volume 21, Issue 1

If you were given a gift would you open it? Of course you would, but that doesn't mean you would use it. People are gifted exercise equipment and appliances all the time that are rarely or never used. What if you were gifted an item and on top of the box said, "Using this will change your life." Would you at least reflect and try it?

Naaman was told in 1 Kings 5 of someone and something that could change his life. He had incurable leprosy and went in search of the promised one who could cure him. The problem arises when Naaman, commander of the armies of Syria, is instructed to wash seven times in the dirty old Jordan River. He refuses and starts the journey home. He expected something more grand or fanciful to meet him in his present state. He was presented with the grace of God from God himself, by a slave girl, king, servant, and prophet. His wise servants in the mercy of God steer him correctly to do as God told him and he is changed by the God of Israel.

You have been presented with a gift that can change your life. God's grace to change you and me from the inside out. The word of God, prayer, encouragement of the church, and evangelism to the world are life transforming. Just as washing in the Jordan placed Naaman in the path of God's grace, Donald Whitney shares, "the spiritual disciplines place us in the path of God's grace." Here is the gift you have in 2020. Pathways to God's grace that grant access to know and love God more. These gifts will transform us into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18.)

The challenge is to get into the word in 2020. We have Bible reading plans which are designed for busy schedules. Commit to not just read your Bible but to sit in God's presence and listening to know him as you read your Bible. Memorize scripture starting in 2020. I think we reserve scripture memory as something for children that we leave behind. Adults should excel in this discipline and lead the way by example for kids. "I have stored your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" Psalm 119:11. Did you know you can read the entire Bible in a year by reading less than fifteen minutes every day? "It takes about 70 hours to read the Bible cover to cover, which is less time than the average American spends in front of the television every month." Donald Whitney

Our "quiet-times" with God should include the hearing from God in his word and talking to God in prayer. We have a God who wants to know us and express our hearts to him. Tim Keller said, "the goal of prayer is not getting something from God, it is getting God."

Please understand there is no substitute for these elements in the growth of God's children. Books and devotionals are not like an egg substitute equivalent for the word of God laid open before us. There is no substitute for your personal prayer time either. Why would we let others give the paths of grace to us second or third hand? As we spend time in these disciplines, God changes our thoughts, desires, and actions. "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" Psalm 37:4. Delight in the disciplines of grace.

So what if I told you that you already have a gift that can change your life?

Gratefully, Pastor Tim

# Pictures from Children's Christmas Program held on December 18, 2019



## Parking Lot

If you have not been able to drive by the parking lot, please see the attached pictures and enjoy for yourself. They have been working hard to pour concrete and set drainage. We have had trucks, graders, front-end loaders, and crews working diligently. It is exciting to see this come to fruition. We are seeking to complete a goal that started over 30 years ago, which creates space for our church and our community. We as Christ-followers do everything for the glory of God and that includes planning and paving. We also are those who seek the good of others first (Matthew 22:37-40; Philipians 2:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:24). We are paving the future for those who are not yet here. We are paving the way for the school to use our facilities for the good of the city (Jeremiah 29:7). We hope to bless people who come to our church and others who might never come to our church. This is what grace looks like after all; giving with no strings attached. Thank you God for the grace of Jesus. We are also paving a more accessible and easier to use space for our own church body. This is the order of our lives and our church—God, others, and then ourselves. We still need funds to see this dream become a reality. We give to parking lots and budgets to the glory of God, the good of others, and the benefit of our own.



## Movie Night

Sunday, January 12, 2020, 6:00 pm, in the Annex

## Overcomer

Life changes overnight for Coach John Harrison when his high school basketball team and state championship dreams are crushed under the weight of unexpected news, when the largest manufacturing plant shut down and hundreds of families leave their town.

How will John and his family face an uncertain future?

Can he now coach cross country?

How does a new found friend help him and the least likely runner attempt the impossible?

Come find the answers and enjoy this movie filled with a powerful mix of faith, a twist of humor and a ton of heart.

## *Prayer Ministry, Nancy Rogers*

**Prayer Leader of the Month:**  
**Marla Brocher**

**Each day is God's gift to you.  
What you do with that day is  
your gift to God.**

*"Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time." Hebrews 4:16*

**In view of the New Year, let us be obedient and come before our Lord with boldness as we seek His guidance and help along the way.**

### Prayer Requests in the Month of December, 2019

**May our church become a "house of prayer" as we unite in prayer for our church and others.**

- (1) **Always pray for Pastor Tim Singleton, and his family**—for his anointing by the Holy Spirit.
- (2) **Pray that the eyes, ears and minds of the unbeliever will be opened** to hear the message.
- (3) **Pray for our leaders, teachers, and all who attend** that we will bring honor and glory to God.

**Knox Rebel**, son of Garrett and Rebecca Rebel, - **PRAISE** that he is doing better. Pray for his complete healing.

**Ashley Olivier Gorney**, Daughter of Bob and Lora Olivier, high school teacher in Gardner, KS. Her breast cancer was in remission, but after thinking she had pneumonia, tests revealed Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. Pray for a healing touch from God for her, her family and her parents.

**Dean Mackey**, Dale Dawson's brother-in law, had a surgical procedure on his heart. Pray for healing.

**Darlene Miorandi**—is struggling with sciatica pain in her back and having to use a walker. Pray shots in back will take pain away and that she will be able to function on her own again.

**Debbie, a Cousin of Rich Charles**, was diagnosed with a brain tumor and had surgery. She will need radiation on the root of the tumor that they could not get. Please pray for her.

**Co-worker of Tim Beckham** whose wife is pregnant and having complications that requires bed rest. Please be in prayer for **DeAnn** as she heals.

**Debbie Dawson**—praise for good results from mammogram and sonogram.

**Darlene, Peggy Smith's mother**, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Pray for the medical team treating her and for healing.

**Pray for one of our youth that** has been placed in a group home. She is very upset and needs prayer.

**Melissa Ramsey's brother Mark — PRAISE**—has had his last chemo and is cancer free. "Thank you God and thank you all for all your prayers."

**Mike**, Renetta Furrow's brother, is battling bladder cancer. He is on daily dialysis. Pray for wisdom for his doctors and for healing.

**Janie Tupper's daughter-in-law's son, Cabe**, is at a crossroad between following the devil and following Christ and needs lots of prayer.

**Prayer request from a young Christian friend of Kathy Burt:** "I need prayer!" My dad is not doing good. In the last week he has fallen at least 4 times. He hurt his "good" leg and is now using a walker. He went to the doctor and got a referral for an MRI. He is in so much pain and becoming depressed." Thanks for prayers.

*To all who have requested prayer support—may the loving thoughts and prayers of people who care about you find their way into you heart and bring God's joy to you this day.*

**"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57**

### PRAY FOR THE MISSIONARY LISTED IN SUNDAY'S BULLETTIN

*Pray for their protection, strength of mind, body and spirit in their work for our Lord.*

**Alan and Beth Locke**, missionaries to Ghana, Africa. Pray for them regularly—that they feel God working through them every day to reach others for Christ. **Read their letter in this Link to see further prayer requests.**

**Pastor Reuben Diyali and Family, Bhutanaese Napali Church of Kansas.** Pray for church growth as they reach out to surrounding communities with the Gospel.

**The Cousins Family**—Pray for them as they transition to full-time work at Wycliffe. Pray for faith and perseverance, for financial support partners, for translation work done by Wycliffe, and for people who are hungry for the Bible but do not have success.

**Clint and Kelsey Gilliam**, IMB missionaries serving in Southeast Asia. Pray for wisdom in their work and His guidance in decoupling two young women.

**Spanish Mission Church**, Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) and their pastor Luis Guerrero and wife Enedeli.

**"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15**

### PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH'S MISSION OUTREACH

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)*

**The LIT group**—(Leaders In Training) - Pray for this group as they minister in our community.

## Prayer Ministry, continued

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”**  
Proverbs 3: 5, 6

### PRAY FOR THOSE IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING

Alta Fry, River Bend, Great Bend;

Margaret Suppes, Cherry Village, Great Bend;

Grady Bolding, Brookdale Assisted Living, Great Bend.

**“Behold, God is my salvation. I will trust and not be afraid;**

**For the Lord is my strength and song, and He also has become my salvation.”**

Isaiah 12:2

### HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES

Pray for the family’s peace and comfort at this sorrowful time.

Pray for Martin and the family of Iris House as they mourn her recent passing.

**“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. 1 John 5:11**

### PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE US ARMED FORCES

Tucker Alexander, Navy, son of Gary and Gail Alexander

Kayla Callahan, Marines, serving in Kuwait

Gregg Dodds, Air Force, Shaw AF Base, SC, Wife Morgan, son Greyson. Granddaughter of Darlene Bergren.

Monique Durant, friend of Darlene Miorandi, home from Afghanistan!

Michael Frayser, Air Force, son of Bob and Donna Frayser

Anthony Hollin, Army, son of SuLin

Casey Lynch, Air Force, g-daughter, Darlene Bergren. Husband Chris, Children: Braedon, Madyson, Gracyn

Kevin Martin, Navy, wife Cindy and sons Donnell and Tristen

Daniel McCray. Ft. Bragg, Texas, Darlene Miorandi’s cousins’ son

Morgan Whorton, National Guard, a relative of Marla Brocher

Cordell Merten, Air Force, son of Mike and Pam Merten; grandson of Jack and Wilda Merten

John Miner, Air Force, wife, Maranda, son-in-law of Steve & Judi Swagerty

Danielle Miorandi-Letzelter, granddaughter of John and Darlene Miorandi, home from Afghanistan!

Bryce Letzelter, (Danielle’s husband) - also home from Afghanistan!

Brett McPherson, Navy now at boot camp.

Steven McPherson, Army serving in Afghanistan

Tyler Penn, son of Mike Penn

Justin Powers, Army, wife Angela and daughter Jocelyn.

Devin Ramsey, Army National Guard, son of Aaron Noblitt and Kathye Phelps.

Jasper Rankin, US Marine Corp, son of Denise Rankin and grandson of Freddie Rankin

Dan Reed, Air Force, wife Megan, son-in-law of Steve & Judi Swagerty

Jonathan Schneweis, Navy, wife Alicia, children Gage and Kinsley

Rian Winters, Marines, son of Tony & Robin Schneweis

**“The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped.**

**Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.” Psalm 28:7**

### PRAY FOR OUR NATION

**“First, of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people;**

**for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct.” 1 Timothy 2:1, 2**

As we pray for America, whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are “one nation under God,” and whose currency states that it is “in God we trust,” may Americans encounter the God who rules over this country—the Lord God Almighty and pray for peace and unity for our country.

### PRAY FOR JERUSALEM AND THE NATION OF ISRAEL

**“I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who curse you. And through you, I will bless all the nations.” Genesis 12:3**

**“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you.” Psalm 122:6**

**“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results.” James 5:16**

**We have a new year of ministry. Let us remember this verse,**

**“Verily I assure you, Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you have done it unto Me.” Matthew 25:40**



**January Birthdays**

- 1 Gary Norton
- 2 Patricia Teel
- 3 Carolyn Barr
- 3 Mya Ehster
- 3 Oaklyn Thomas
- 8 Ryker Ogden
- 9 David Ellegood
- 11 Mark Kitch
- 13 Lane Smith
- 14 Brian Kitch
- 17 Rusty Sievers
- 20 Shirley Flick
- 23 Brevan Phelps
- 26 Pam Kitch
- 26 Corbin Fowler
- 27 Jessica Bernard
- 29 Virginia Harmony
- 30 Dan Scott
- 31 Freddie Rankin



**January Families of the Week**

**January 5** - Wayne and Connie Rathbun

**January 12** - Garrett and Rebecca Rebel

Jaxon, Knox and Lexi

**January 19** - Terry and Kathy Rebel

**January 26** - Denver Richards

**Wednesday Meal Schedule for January**

Everyone is invited to attend the church supper every Wednesday at 5:30. Adult Bible Study and classes for preschool, children and youth follow at 6:30.



January 1 — *NO MEAL*

January 8 — Cooks: Anna Burke and Kathy Burt

January 15 — Cooks: Marla Brocher and Roz Crane

January 22 — Cooks: Helen and Rusty Wrinkle

January 29 — Cooks: Cliff and Kathy Burt



**Extended Care for Jan 5 & Jan 12** —Cliff Burt Class

**Extended Care for Jan 19 and Jan 26** —Special Population/  
Children's Workers

**Classes & Times**

Adult Small Group/Kids Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Bible Study & Prayer	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Supper	5:30 p.m.
Preschool, Kids, Youth and Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

**Parking and Future Building Projects Fund**

Total Contributions:	\$ 143,142.27
Expenses Paid:	\$ 34,183.12
Current Balance:	\$ 108,959.15

Church E-mail:	FirstSouthernGB@gmail.com
Church Website:	www.fsbcgreatbend.com
Prayer Request Line:	(620) 793-6800
Phone:	(620) 793-8444
Fax:	(620) 793-8445

## LOCKE UPDATE

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people.  
Angels speaking to the shepherds  
Luke 12:10

Yes, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!  
O Come All Ye Faithful, a Christmas hymn

### PRAISES

We are thankful for you who give faithfully to the Cooperative Program (in Southern Baptist churches) and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO). Your unflagging support with prayer and giving support all 3600 around-the-world missionaries. You provide vehicles and water tanks and homes and encouragement and medical care and prayers and mission visits and training. And we are grateful and don't forget you as we work together so that ALL can hear and be disciplined and encouraged to share Christ.

### PRAYER REQUEST

A 2 1/2 year process that isn't yet completed. Alan described it as a 3-legged stool with one leg or the other always wobbling. Isaac\* and Mary\* "ran away" by taking a different job, after agreeing to be missionaries. After 1 1/2 years he repented and asked forgiveness. Then it took a year for the request (to sponsor and work with them) to be approved by one partner. Please **pray** all three legs will be working together soon. **Pray** as memorandums of understanding among the couple, the convention and a church in the USA are drafted.

Many of the Ghana Baptist staff are tired or exhausted or sick. **Pray** they would rest in Christ during this wonderful season of the Bible.

Alan is making his 3rd trip to Sifwi to teach lay leaders. This next class is Old Testament Survey. **Pray** for clear speaking, translation and understanding. **Pray** the leaders in training will have the stamina to sit and hear and learn. **Pray** they not get stuck on prophets and prophecies, but rather hear their messages and see how they spoke God's warnings and the coming of the Messiah, Jesus.

Website for giving – [imb.org/give](http://imb.org/give) or in your local Southern Baptist church.

Pray for those who are alone or feel lonely during this festive season. Help us to be aware to look beyond our own agenda to those we can encourage.

During this season of giving, be reminded of the greatest gift, the Messiah, God with us. And remember the cost of that gift, Jesus leaving heaven, "Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." (Philippians 2: 6-7) So let's give the gift of humility to God and to all we meet.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH OF YOU.

*Alan & Beth Locke  
Ben Locke  
Accra, Ghana, West Africa*

# January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	2  5:30pm Missions 6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Deacons	3	4
5  9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 6:00pm Evening Bible Study and Prayer	6	7	8  5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	9	10	11
12  9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 3:00pm Church Council 5:00pm Business Meeting 6:00pm Movie Night	13	14	15  5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	16	17	18
19  9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 6:00pm Church Prayer Night	20	21	22  5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	23	24	25
26  9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 6:00pm Evening Bible Study and Prayer	27	28	29  5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	30  5:30pm Missions 6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Deacons	31	