

# The Evangel

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST JACKSON JULY 2014

## Mission Edition



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### The Heart of a Giver

Giving is a foundational principle of the Christian life. It was set, from the beginning of time, for us to experience a fullness in our relationship with God. Though, the **heart** of giving proves to be something a little more involved. The heart of a giver is motivated by love and filled with promise.

When we look at John 3:16, we see that the first principle of giving is love. "For God so loved the world **that He gave...**". If love isn't the foundation of our giving, then we are unable to exercise our faith. Faith works through love (Galatians 5:6) therefore giving under any other motive is displeasing to the Lord. At times, we may find ourselves giving for many wrong reasons:

- Greed
- Obligation
- Pride
- Guilt
- Necessity

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 we get the sense that our giving is under the microscope of God. Is it truly from the heart or are the intentions tainted? What about the woman with the alabaster

box? Or the woman with the two mites? God was less concerned with the gift than He was the heart of the giver.

The second principle of giving is promise. Not that we are to expect a return on our gift, but that when the heart and the gift are aligned we should expect to be blessed. Nearly every scripture in reference of giving, especially in the Proverbs, clearly has both principles present.

If you obey the principle of the scripture then you should expect the promise at the point of obedience. For example, Proverbs 28:27 states, "Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing..." The motive for obeying the principle (give to the poor) is love and the promise (you will lack nothing) is faith. And so, when our giving is aligned with love and obedience then we should watch for God to glorify Himself through us.

Now take into account the second part of John 3:16, what do you have to give God... the One that has given you His all?

**Pastor Josh Hensley**  
Minister of Worship and Media

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

**John 3:16**

## From Pastor John Chidester...

Church,

What a month it has been already. At this point in time last month I was making an announcement to my church that God was calling me and my family to leave a place and a people that we had truly come to love with every ounce of our being. I would be lying if I said that it was not difficult. As difficult as it was First Baptist Jackson has shown my family great love and support in the short time we have been with you. My family and I are extremely excited to be here with you and can not wait as we are expectant of what our great God will do in our midst.

Just as an example, while I was speaking with one of your students this past week they made the comment that they are yearning for deep Bible study. My prayer is that deep study will bring obedience and faithfulness to God and his Word. As the Spirit of God works through us I long to see many lives redeemed and restored for the Glory of God.

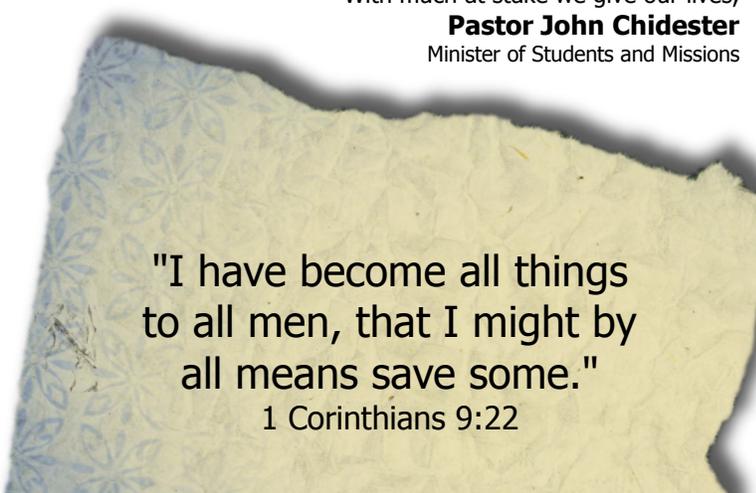
One avenue that we will constantly be pursuing is that of reaching people that do not yet trust Jesus as their Savior. Our methods may look different than some you have seen in the past, but they will fit the context and the people we are seeking. Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth stated that "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Cor.9:22) In following his example we will also use any Godly means necessary to reach a lost and dying world... for this is our great command and duty.

One of the first ways we will seek to do this is to go out our our way to make the name our God known by showing practical love to those around us. Students, this is where you come in. If you are playing baseball right now we will be supplying you with a bucket of sunflower seeds that have a ton of individually packed

bags of seeds. We will be putting our church information on these packets and will need help to do this on Wednesday night. As we seek other opportunities to reach people around us it is vitally important that if you (student) are involved in any sport, team, club, band, etc I would request that you provide me a schedule so we can show up and support you outside of the church... for that is our mission field. Parents and Grandparents make sure you also get me a schedule incase your students forget!

VBS NOTE: We have a good number of workers and the big thing at this point is to get the word out so that we may see a ton of kids attend our VBS! Pray that God will move in a big way.

With much at stake we give our lives,  
**Pastor John Chidester**  
Minister of Students and Missions



"I have become all things  
to all men, that I might by  
all means save some."  
1 Corinthians 9:22

## THE SENIOR SECTION

### Home-made Ice Cream Social

The annual senior adult "Home-made Ice Cream Social" is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15 at Cape County Park- South, Pavilion #20. (*Pavilion 20 sits on a hill above the south park lake and backs up to Memorial Cemetery. It has restrooms, water and electricity on site*) The social begins at 6:00, giving everyone time to eat a bite of supper before coming out for desserts, fellowship and entertainment.

We will need a few volunteers to make the ice cream (*last year we had 7 buckets – which was just about the right amount.*) Please contact Jean, or leave a message with the church office, if you plan to bring ice cream. Others may bring additional sweet treats (like cookies or brownies) or assorted toppings, fruits, syrups, etc. for the ice cream. Bowls, plates, tableware and drinks will be provided.

If you are uncomfortable driving to the park, then meet on the church lot in time to catch the van...which will be leaving for the park at 5:45.

### JOY Choir On Tour

The JOY choir will be presenting an "old-time worship" experience to the residents in several area nursing home during the month of July. The choir has compiled a program of favorite old songs, scriptures, prayer, narration and a skit that should take them back (in memory) to their childhood country churches. The tour schedule includes: Jackson Manor (July 2, 10:00), Veterans' Home (July 16, 10:30), Monticello House (July 23, 10:00) and Lutheran Home Assisted Living East (July 30, 10:00.)

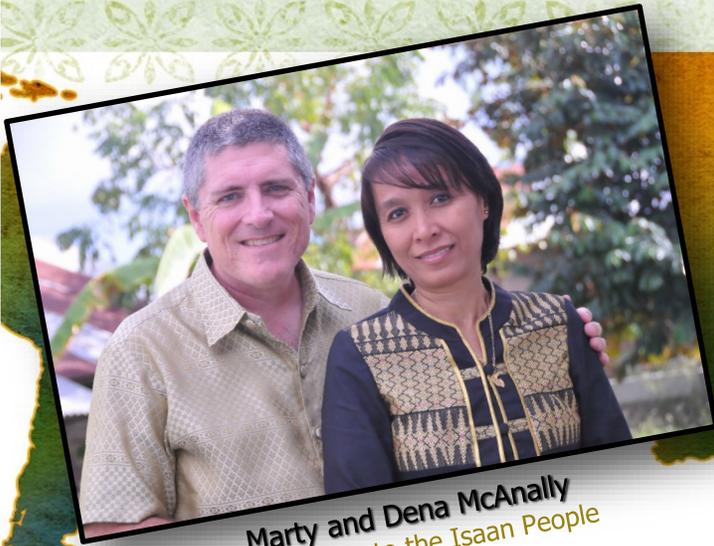
### Worship at Old Bethel

In keeping with this summer's historical activities, the FBC senior adults met at Old Bethel Baptist Church on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> for a time of worship and "dinner on the grounds." The worship consisted of several songs & hymns from early 1800s... accompanied by instruments that would have been around at that time (guitars, violin, harmonica, pump organ, & harpsichord). In addition, there was a humorous & historical presentation by Ma & Pa (Popp), scripture readings, prayer and a message from the "circuit-ridin' preacher" Bro. Bob Houchins. The 59 people present enjoyed both the time of worship and the picnic fellowship that followed on the grounds.

**Jean Schweain**  
Senior Adult Ministry



# MISSIONS | highlight



**Marty and Dena McAnally**  
Missionaries to the Isaan People  
Bangkok, Thailand

Let us join our hearts this month in praying for a young couple who spoke to our church family at the Annual International Missions Banquet several years ago, Marty and Dena McAnally. Pray for Dena as she celebrates her birthday, July 10.

She and her husband serve in Thailand. She writes in the recent newsletter, "We are sowing rice and sowing His Word" in the Northeastern part of the country with the Isaan people group. We are thankful after a long dry season the rains are falling, the rice paddies are filling with water needed for successful paddy-farming."

She comments, "Endless parallels can be drawn between sowing of the rice seed and sowing of the Word of God here. In the rice fields, a vast multitude of seeds are sown. Not all will grow. Some are transplanted and separated by a space, allowing them to flourish. Some seeds are sown by hand, some by a tractor. Some will be healthy plants and others will not grow."

In Thailand she says the spiritual harvest does not come all at once, and does not come in great abundance, nor does it come without intense labor in preparing the "field" and in sowing the gospel seeds.

Dena urges us to pray for the harvest in Issan and reminds us that we are laboring with them when we are on our knees lifting this work up to our Father in heaven. She suggests we read Revelation 4:15.

Please pray for this couple as they continue their two year intense study of the language. Thank God that local people are asking for them to teach English, which they are doing in their home on Saturday and in two villages other days. Ask God to use this as an open door to present the gospel.

## Weekly Prayer Requests

### Week 2:

Oswald Chambers wrote many years ago, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater works, PRAYER is the greater work."

This week as you pray, thank God for J.B. and Liz Bundrick, as they celebrate their first year in Lesotho, the tiny mountain kingdom in South Africa, where God has called them to serve as International Missionaries. Continue to pray for their language study and Praise God for their exciting news that they will have their first child next January. Please pray for Liz's and the baby's health, ask God to put His arm of protection around both in the coming months.

### Week 3:

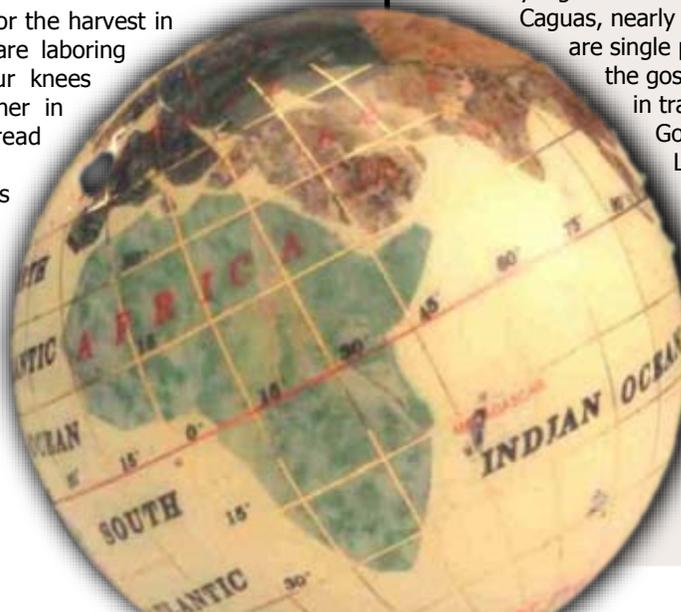
Please pray for the lunch the Women on Mission will serve the Homecomers Carnival Workers on Thursday, July 24 in our Fellowship Hall. Pray that these guests will sense the Love of Our Lord through the meal and the gospel presentation. Ask God to touch hearts throughout this annual ministry. Pray for our witness to the community as we open the front doors of our church and offer clean rest rooms to the crowds that will attend the Homecomers Celebration Monday-Saturday nights (July 22-26) and also offer a cup of cold water. Ask God to bless this simple outreach ministry to our community as only He can.

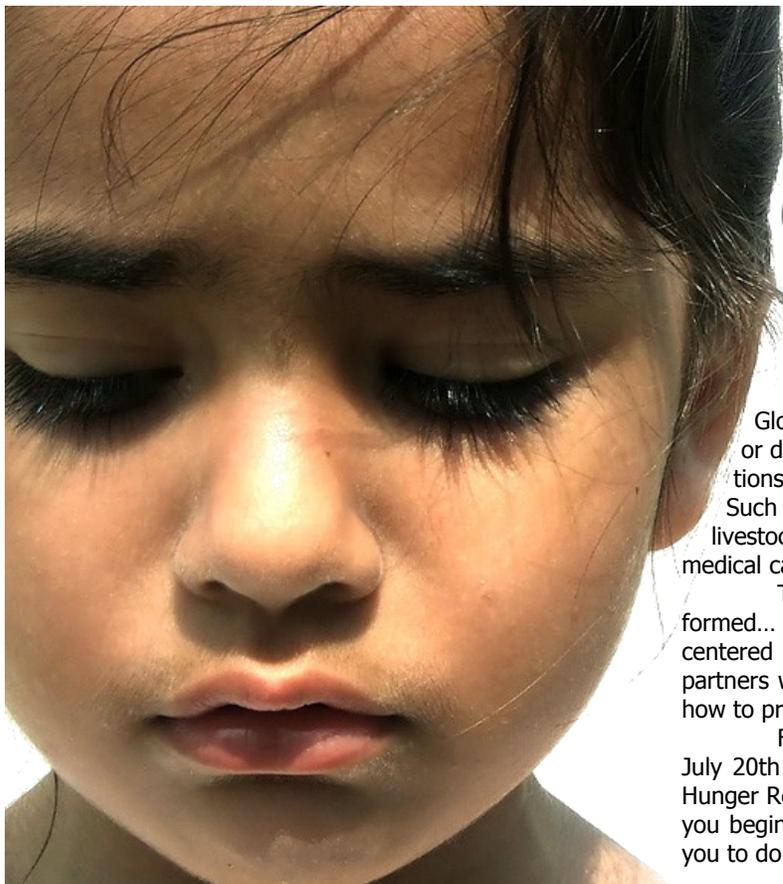
### Week 4:

Pray for Freddy Valcarcel, who had a thriving ministry among Hispanics in Clarksville, Tennessee but sensed God calling him to Puerto Rico. He says, "Now my wife and I work among people broken by legalism and hopelessness. Of the 130,000 people in Caguas, nearly 80 percent are divorced and 95 percent are single parents." People are slow to respond to the gospel, they have experienced many hurts in traditional, legalistic churches. Please ask God to help us show them the love of the Lord".

### Week 5:

Thank God for sending us our new minister of students and missions, John Chidester. Pray for him to find God's leadership in all the plans he makes for our mission work here in Jackson. Pray that we will have open hearts to more outreach in our community showing our Lord's love for all people.





# GlobalHungerRelief

*bread for life.*

Global Hunger Relief funded projects meet crisis hunger needs in famine or disaster relief situations, but also catalyze long-term change in conditions of human suffering and extreme poverty that cause chronic hunger. Such projects may involve job training and vocational education, livestock and seeds, farm improvement, clean water, home reconstruction, medical care and hygiene education, etc.

The goal of GHR hunger projects is communities and lives transformed... for today, tomorrow, and forever. GHR funds are used in Gospel-centered hunger projects that share God's love in both word and deed. GHR partners work to help people discover the new lives God offers them, learning how to provide for themselves and share new life with others.

First Baptist Jackson will be taking part in the fight against hunger. July 20th and 27th, we will be taking up a special offering to support Global Hunger Relief. We have set a goal of \$5000, but ask that, more than anything, you begin praying for those affected by hunger and what God may be calling you to do about it.

## TAMPA PROJECT 2014: *Lose Yourself*

Update from Shelby Kate McCord

The theme of Tampa Project 2014 is Lose Yourself. The verse is Luke 9:23-24 "Then He said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever would lose their life for me will save it.'" This verse was already one of my favorites and I look forward to seeing all that God has to show me this summer about losing myself.

Thank y'all for your love and support both financially and through prayer. I wouldn't be able to experience this life changing Project without your support. I will be on mission here from May 26th—July 29th. Please pray for me for:

- ⇒ Boldness to share the Gospel, being more willing to go out of my comfort zone
- ⇒ Fall more in love with Christ and grow stronger in my scripture memory
- ⇒ That lives would be changed for the glory of God

You may snail mail me at:

Attn: Shelby Kate McCord, Tampa Project  
c/o Howard Johnson Plaza  
111 West Fortune St.  
Tampa, FL 33602



### VBS 2014

## GOD'S BACKYARD \* UNDER THE STARS \*

*Where kids have a blast serving Jesus!*

August 4th—8th

9 am—12 pm

Volunteers are need to teach, work various stations, and to show the children the love of Jesus Christ. If you are interested in helping, please fill out the tear off portion of your bulletin or contact Pastor John Chidester.

You may now pre-register your child online at [www.FirstBaptistJackson.tv/vbs-2014](http://www.FirstBaptistJackson.tv/vbs-2014)

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Find us on  
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# Upcoming Events

**July 15-**

**Senior Adult Ice Cream Social** @ 6 pm, Cape County Park South, Pavilion #20 (more info on page 2)

**July 20-**

**Commissioning Service** for Greg and Donna Shaver for mission work

**July 20 & 27-**

**Global Hunger Relief** (info on page 5)

**July 22-26-**

**Jackson Annual Homecomers** from 6 pm—11 pm. First Baptist Jackson will be open to the public to use the bathrooms and free water. This event is a great outreach to our community. If you would like to help, please contact Lisa Crites and the WMU.

**July 24-**

**Carnival Workers Luncheon** @ noon. WMU will provide lunch for all Jackson Homecomers carnival workers.

**July 27-**

**ACTeens Activators Mission Trip** sharing night @ 6 pm

**July 27-**

**Gus Brotherton's 80th Birthday Party**, 2pm—4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Punch and cake to be served.

**August 4-8-**

**VBS 2014: God's Backyard Bible Camp** (more info on page 5)

**September-**

**"We Love Jackson"** Campaign, every Sunday night during the month of September we will put our hands and feet in the community of Jackson... Our Community, Our Mission