



Renovation and a Story of Gifts

Our renovation team continues to work hard at getting finalized quotes for projects around the church. The team is Steve Moore, Steve Sivells, Larry Lindsey, Alison Davenport, and Jim Kilgo. They have worked over several months getting assessments done on projects throughout the church. It will be exciting to get a presentation from them this year!

On that note, we have received a gift in the amount of \$150,000 designated for the renovation of the church. Praise God for this! There will likely still be the need for fund-raising in the future. But this gift more than significantly helps.

Praise God! Furthermore, we have received a non-designated gift of \$50,000 in January as well.

Be in prayer over the renovation. Be ready to hear from the renovation team this year!

Many of you may be wondering, "where in the world did this come from?" Be sure, "all good gifts come from God." There is no way around that. Receiving \$150,000 for renovation is a gift from God. God knows how to give good gifts (Matthew 7:11). Why does God do this? James 1:17-18 tells us:

"17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights



with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

What are the gifts for (even trials and wisdom 1:2-7)? "That we should be the firstfruits of his creatures." God's gifts are part of his bringing in the rest of the harvest. In other words, what God gives us he

gives so that we may bring in more harvest. God has given us the means to renovate our building, so that we may be a kind of firstfruits.

Some time around the Spring of 2012 an individual called me to say, "God has blessed us financially. Does the church need anything?" I didn't know what to say. (continued on page 4)

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Verse of the Month:

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER WITH THESE WORDS

“12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Letter from Baptist Center Mission

Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you for your generous financial gifts to the Baptist Community Center Mission ministry for 2012. Your commitment to helping families in the Austin community is deeply appreciated. Thanks to individuals and churches like you, the center is able to make a difference in many lives.

We are blessed to be celebrating 72 years of ministry to our Austin neighbors. Your support enables us to offer daily assistance and compassion to those in need of physical and spiritual help.

Despite the sluggish economy, we were able to finish the year in the black. We are grateful to God for your faithful supporters.

We covet your prayers for our ministry as doors of opportunity are opened daily for us to be a witness for Jesus. Please feel free to come and visit our facilities.

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”

2 Corinthians 9:8

Your friend in Christ,

Pat Mustoe

Executive Director

We as a church
gave \$800.00 to
the Baptist
Community Center
Mission in 2012.
Praise God!

A Thank You from Whitney Pyterek

Dear Milwood Family,

I wish I could write to many of you personally to say how blessed I have been by your presence the past five years in my life. Without the countless words, smiles, hugs, prayers, and songs that this family has given me I would not be the person I am today. While I am all sorts of mixed emotions when it comes to leaving this incredible community, I am so thankful for the opportunities Milwood has given me to serve the Lord as well as all of you. It was my privilege to stand before you and hear your sweet voices praising Jesus every Sunday. I will sorely miss that sound in Europe. Lastly, I want to say thank you for all the support and encouragement I have received from you during the transitions from high school life to college life to married life. What a ride!! I look forward to spending lots of time playing my beautiful new guitar. Thank you, thank you, thank you! That was a very unexpected blessing and I absolutely love it. I get to carry a piece of Milwood with me around everywhere now! I know Joe is appreciative of the support I have found here while he was away. I am looking forward to this new phase of life and if you all have taught me anything, it is that "endurance produces character and character produces hope and hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts." I love you all! Please keep in touch! Facebook is a great thing and my email as of March 3 will be whitneykrusee@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!

All my love,
Whitney



My Sweet Christmas by Nora Evans

For years I have dreaded the trip home to Chicago for Christmas. The weather was always bad but worse it meant family drama and dealing with my mother, the worrier. Mom worries about everything but mostly about what other people think. Every trip home would be stress-filled and, at some point, I would explode with frustration. Mom is 85 and Dad is 87 and I am blessed that they are still in good health and living in their own home. I know my time with them is short so this year I asked God to grant me patience for my week at home. Patience not to get upset and frustrated but to be loving, understanding, and helpful. It was amazing because I got what I asked for. I enjoyed being with my mom and dad and have returned to that loving feeling I always had towards my mom.

One night at dinner it was just Mom, Dad, and me and I did something I had never done before. I asked if I could pray before dinner. When we were kids we would say grace but that stopped a long time ago. Mom and Dad go to church regularly but I have never heard them pray out loud. That night I prayed out loud and when I finished they both had tears in their eyes. I thank God that he listens to our prayers, comes alongside of us to hold our hands and gives us strength to speak out. It was such a wonderful sweet Christmas that I will always remember.

(continued from page 1)

This was not the type of phone call you get every day. I simply responded that I would get back to them. I sat on that phone call for a few weeks or months. I then wrote back asking this individual to pray about giving \$100,000 to missions and \$150,000 to the church for renovation. We received the gift for missions in 2012 and the gift for renovation last month. The couple has said to me personally many times, "All the glory goes to God. We are giving what God has given us."

Are you prepared to let God give through you this way? Spend a moment thanking God for these generous gifts. They are his gifts. They are his purpose. His purpose is the building of the church into the image of Christ and bringing the lost to salvation. Don't read this and think, "Oh, my tithe is less important now. My gifts are less noticed." That did not stop the widow from giving her copper coins (Mark 12:41-44). And surely, Jesus noticed.

Thank God for what has been given. Lift these praises and request to Him!

Missions

Missions can sometimes be a lonely venture. When you are miles from your homeland, family, and cultural comforts, it is easy to feel discouraged. In fact, ministry can often feel lonely even if you are at "home". Spend time this month praying for those on site at our missions points. Pray that the community around them will encourage them. Pray that they will not grow discouraged as they seek to win souls through the gospel of Jesus Christ!

David Brainerd was a missionary to the Native American Indians in the mid-1700s. A contemporary of Jonathan Edwards (Brainerd almost married his daughter), Brainerd was bright and passionate. But he faced deep sorrows while on mission. Many in ministry face this, whether at home or away ministering to the "Indians". Here is David Brainerd's journal entry from July 21, 1744.

"This morning, I was greatly oppressed with guilt and shame, from a sense of inward vileness and pollution. About nine, withdrew to the woods for prayer, but had not much comfort...towards night my burden respecting my work among the indians began to increase much and was aggravated by hearing sundry things that looked very discouraging. In particular, that they intended to meet together for an idolatrous feast and dance. Then I began to be in anguish."

There is a holiness to this anguish. But it is still lonely to be in a place where you are surrounded by those who don't follow Jesus. There in the hurt is a longing for salvation and glory for God. Often the anguish is overbearing. Pray for these whom we support as they take the gospel to the nations.

ACUNA

Pastor Hugo and Wife Betti (family as well)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Team Members

BSM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

JD Swiger (Milwood member serving on staff at BSM)

Cody Shouse (BSM Director)

BSM Staff Members

- Pray that God who comforts the downcast will comfort them (2 Corinthians 7:5-7)
- Pray that their hurt will be turned to motivation and passion for the lost
- Pray for God to bring fruit to the ministry
- Pray for the People of Austin, Acuna, and United Arab Emirates to have soft hearts to receive the gospel



Letter from Help One Now

Dear Milwood Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for your donations to Help One Now. Your generosity of \$2,200.00 has greatly advanced the kingdom by helping us care for children, empower their leaders and transform their communities. With your help, we have added hundreds of new kids to the sponsorship program, built dozens of homes, given out multiple micro loans, provided clean water to people in need, launched the Ferrier Village to fight human trafficking, funded a school and so much more. You, along with the rest of the Help One Now tribe, are catalytic; you are truly making a difference in Haiti and Africa.

From the orphan,
The Help One Now staff

Here is what's happening in our Awana Ministry

Awana Truth & Training Bible

Quiz Results

On February 9 we sent four teams to the Austin Truth & Training Bible Quiz at Bannockburn Baptist to compete with other Awana clubs in the Austin area. All of the clubbers did an excellent job and 3 of our 4 teams placed in the competition. The Boys Red Book team placed 4th, the Girls Green Book team placed 2nd, and the Boys Green Book team placed 3rd. Congratulations to Jaden Acevedo, Jedidiah Acevedo, Sammy Barnwell, Sophie Hootman, Ben Hurley, and Jaeden McGaughy for a job well done!



Awana Verse-A-Thon Results

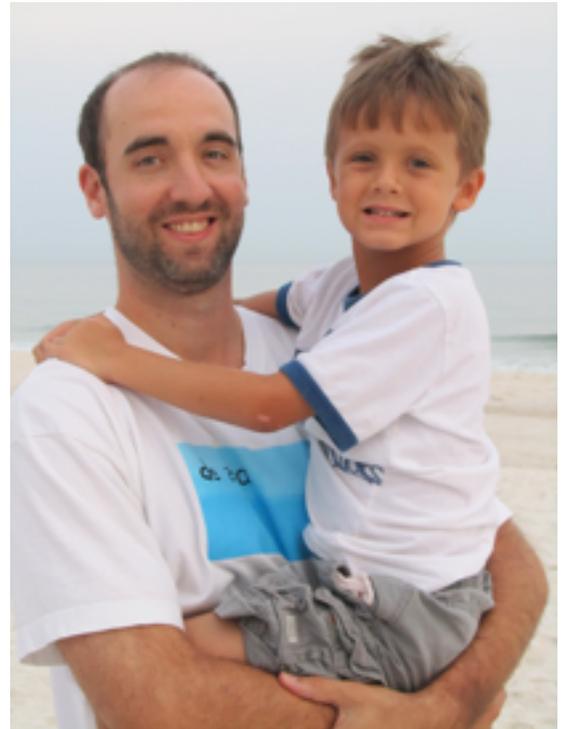
Our Awana Verse-A-Thon fundraiser in the month of February was a huge success! The kids collected 38 sponsors, recited 161 verses and raised \$800 in their efforts to reach Arabic speaking churches in the UAE through Awana International. That equates to allowing 130 children to attend Awana club where evangelism and discipleship can change the ending of their life story for eternity. Praise the Lord!

Here's an opportunity for you to learn a bit more about our new members

Andrew Sloma

"I grew up in Minnesota and my son, Ben, who is 6 years old, was born there as well. I loved the lakes and greenery but the cold finally got the best of me! I've worked for IBM as a Software Engineer for 11 years and have been with them since graduating from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. I've been living in Austin for a little over a year, and my son Ben has been here with me since he started 1st grade in the Fall. We were a part of the Loudin's LifeGroup for awhile and now are helping the Fieleke's start a new LifeGroup in Northwest Austin. Finding a Christian community has been very important for me personally and LifeGroups have been a great way to plug into a community of like-minded Christians.

I love to play just about any sport under the sun; I played golf for my University. I also enjoy watching College Football and Basketball. Ben and I love the water and the outdoors, so we try to spend more of the summer in the pool or out hiking. We are happy to be a part of the Milwood community!"



Jon and Jonni Meredith

Jon

Hometown: Carbondale, IL

Job: Equity Trader at Great Point Capital

How he ended up in Austin: Came originally to attend The University of Texas

LifeGroup: Sivells/Wilson

Hobbies: Gardening

Jonni

Hometown: Nacogdoches, TX

Job: takes care of their daughter, Emma

How she ended up in Austin: Came for college in 2001

LifeGroup: Sivells/Wilson

Hobbies: Gardening and vegetarian cooking

Thank you!

I am so thankful for the love offering that the church gave Colette and I in honor of our two year anniversary. What a blessing! Your cards and thoughts are so encouraging to me. Thank you each so much for all the love you have shown us. We are grateful to have a church that we call "family". I feel like we are only beginning to see what God has in store for our church. May

God's glory and the gospel of his son remain center!

With Love,

Nathan