

MISSION MESSENGER



Why Missions?

By Cindy Willis, FBC Caldwell

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Learning these verses from Matthew 28:19-20, made an impact on my growing up at FBC Caldwell in the 1960s. Girls in Action (or Girls’ Auxiliary as it was called at that time) was an important part of my growing-up years. We learned scripture, learned about mission work in other countries, met missionaries through GA Camp and special speakers, and truly began to understand what Jesus meant in this scripture.

First Baptist Church Caldwell has had a vision for missions, both home and abroad, for as long as my family have been members. Growing up, I was able to take part in local missions, and even made my first international mission trip to Mexico as a high school student. Meeting people along the way who encouraged my love of missions was such a great blessing. Even after I left home, in college and living in other places as a young adult, FBC and my family continued to be a part of international missions, to Brazil and Australia, as well as continued local opportunities.

Fast forward now to 2015. First Baptist Caldwell still has a love for missions, but it has been a long time since an international ministry has been attempted. Youth mission trips, local VBS ministries, and the like have continued. But during this time, our pastor, Steve Johnson, and the pastor of our local mission church, Iglesia Emanuel, Ruben Burgete, have begun challenging our two churches to consider God’s leadership. Through much prayer, research, and discussion, we settled on a ministry in Guatemala with an IMB missionary, and the Cristo es el Camino Iglesia in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Preparations began as teams were selected and plans, training and preparation was made. What an exciting time as both our churches rallied behind the calling we all felt to this ministry in Guatemala!

The two churches sent the first team in July, 2015. We had planned, prayed, collected materials, met with the missionaries via Skype, and felt much excitement as we began our journey. Our ministry was in Guatemala City, in Zone 3, the Garbage Dump. Cristo es el Camino has various ministry points, and one of the missions is Mision Restauracion, located in the Garbage Dump area of the city. Many of the families who live in this area live in small, one or two room houses, made of tin, with concrete or dirt floors. The adults work in “recycling”, which means they may go into the dump area to find recyclable materials. It is demeaning work, often dangerous. The people who do this work live day-to-day, and there are many obstacles in their lives: alcoholism, single-parents/absentee fathers, extreme poverty, health concerns, lack of education. While it can be discouraging to see these obstacles, it was a clear blessing to us to see the way God is at work in this area and the joy of the Lord is evident in the lives of the members and believers.



VBS at Mision Restauracion in the Garbage Dump area of Guatemala City



I fell in love with this little guy during VBS...Abram, who kept losing his shoe and wanting me to pick him up!

Our week passed by quickly, filled with various activities and opportunities for service in the area. Passing out food baskets gave us an opportunity to meet families in the area and provide them with much needed food staples. This was an opportunity to share testimonies, encouragement, and to pray for the family. VBS was held each afternoon at the Mision, with upwards of 70 children in a very small space! There was a team who were able to go install stoves in some of the homes, in order to give the families a safe way to cook meals. A couple's dinner was held, as an opportunity to encourage husbands and wives or couples to seek God's leadership in their relationship and family life. A day trip to the neighborhood of Belen, in Zone 7 of Guatemala City, also gave us opportunity to encourage the small membership, deliver food baskets and attend worship with them. Worship at all the different churches was a blessing, and even though there was a language barrier, the love of Christ is evident and we felt a connection to our Guatemalan hermanos & hermanas (brothers & sisters).

That connection continued through 5 trips (counting the initial vision trip) over about three and a half years. Upon returning a second time, we eagerly sought out members of the churches we had met before, eager to see how God was using them in ministry. Subsequent teams were able to build on ministries begun, and add to the opportunities of service. To this day, many of the members of the teams have continued to stay in touch through social media or email, continuing to pray for the churches, the people, the ministries. Guatemala will always have a special place in my heart, as I know is the fact for many of the team members of both churches.

FBC Caldwell and Iglesia Emanuel have now begun seeking God's leadership in another area. The commitment made in Guatemala had been for trips in three years. We feel a strong commitment to continue to pray and encourage the membership there, but also feel God's leadership into another area of the world. While these details are being worked out, there is evidence of God's leadership into the right direction. God blessed our two pastors who made a vision trip in December 2018, and we are waiting for God's final answer. Excitement is in the air, as again, these two small churches, in the small town of Caldwell, Texas, are seeking God's leadership, and trusting his plan, as he tells us to "Go ye therefore...."



Sweet fellowship with precious brothers and sisters in Christ. The love of Christ knows barriers.



Shiloh Baptist Church is hosting a **gospel singing/hymn night** on Saturday April 13th at 5pm. If you can announce this to your churches and pass this along to music leaders and choir, I would appreciate it.

We expect this to last about 60-90 minutes with food and desserts to follow. Additionally, we would like to have a mix of congregational singing and special music. We welcome piano, guitar, and other instrument players. If you have any questions, or to let us know that you are coming, please email me at nathan.giesenschlag@gmail.com or call/text me at 979-219-1315.

Visit our Facebook page!

We are striving to increase our visibility.

One way you can help us with that is by going to FIRM Baptist Area Facebook page, "like" us. Then you will get regular updates from FIRM.

Second, **send us pictures or notes on events** happening with your church. We will try to add as many updates as possible, BUT we need your **HELP**, since we can only be in one place at a time.

Please help us Make Kingdom Connections!!

News from our Churches

FBC Chappell Hill, is looking for a part-time minister to children. Please visit fbcch.net for more details.

Meadowbrook in Rockdale is looking for a paid nursery worker call 512.446.3367 or email : pastorsteve@meadowbrookrockdale.org for more info or to apply.

Fellowship Baptist, Baptized one

Cottonwood Baptist, Baptized two

March Birthdays

		Date
Hope Cruz	Primera Marlin	3
Jim Troxel	Battetown	6
Darren Donaldson	Fellowship, Brenham	11
Pat Knowlton	FIRM Area	16
Jack Faulkner	Greenville	17
George Nelson	Grace Fellowship, Brenham	17
David Barclay	FBC Milano	25
Robert Kinsey	FBC Lyons	28

March Pastor Anniversaries # of years

George Nelson	Grace Fellowship, Brenham	22
Jack Faulkner	Greenville	8

Mission Focus

We would love to focus this newsletter on the missional activities of the churches and individuals in the FIRM Area. If you or your church is going on a mission trip this year, let us know so we can highlight your trip. If you have recently participated in a mission project, let us know so we can share and celebrate. Remember, you replicate what you celebrate.



Men's Conference

Hosted by Meadowbrook Baptist Church,
Rockdale TX

Join us for a Men's conference at the Patterson Center in Rockdale on May 4th to learn Biblical Manhood with Jerrad Lopes.

Register today @ <https://www.dadtired.com/rockdale.html>



CHALLENGE

PRAY FOR **1** LOST PERSON

FOR **1** MINUTE

AT **1** O'CLOCK EVERY DAY

April Prayer Guide

April 1-6 Pray for Sherri Knowlton and the team from Hand In Hand in Africa as they are working with the South Africans and Maasai to help eradicate HIV/AIDS. Pray for John and Karen Faulkner as they minister at Greenvine Baptist. Pray for Harvey and Sue Abke at Burleson County Cowboy Church as they minister to their community. Pray for Rick and LeDena as they minister to Calvary Baptist Church,

April 7-13 Pray for the Mescalero Mission Trip planning meeting on April 11. Pray for Steve and LouVonne Johnson as they minister to FBC Caldwell. Pray for Daryl and Judy Mize as they minister at Friendship Baptist Church. Pray for Harmony Baptist Church, Bro. Delmar is retiring in June.

April 14-20 Area Wide Prayer and Fasting on April 19th to be ready to celebrate Resurrection Sunday.

April 21—27 Pray for Macedonia-Hix Baptist Church where Jimmy and Tina Haile are ministering. Pray for Ruben and Karem Burguete as they minister at Mision Bautista Emanuel in Caldwell. Pray for Providence Baptist where Dr. Malcolm and Joyce Bane are ministering. Pray for FB Chappell Hill, where Mel McKinney and his wife along with the staff are ministering to their community.

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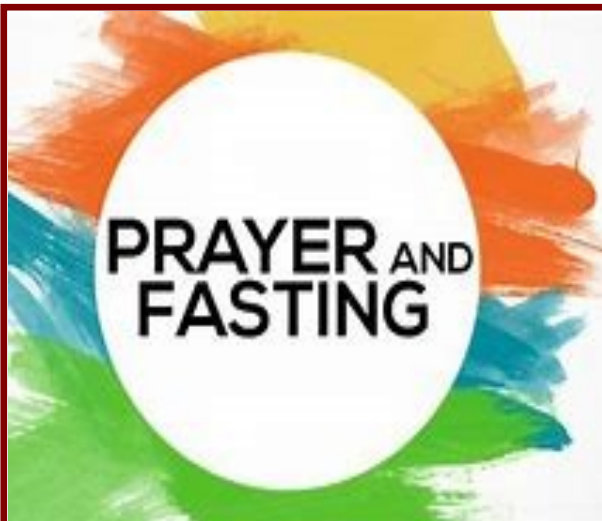
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Serving the Churches of Falls, Independence, Robertson, & Milam Counties



FIRM Area

Day of Prayer and Fasting

Join us for an Area Wide time when we humble ourselves before the Almighty God!