



The Way

May 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When I was a boy, there was a bully on the block named Henry. Henry had been held back a couple of times, so he was automatically gigantic compared to his classmates, whatever grade he was in from year to year. I think Henry relished his role as being bigger and stronger than the rest of us. Henry had a statement I bet you've heard before: "I can whip you with one arm tied behind my back!" In Henry's case, that was probably true.

As believers, we are engaged in a fight. It is not a fight with each other, but a fight against three enemies: The world, the flesh and the devil. Ephesians 6:12 says "For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens." Unlike Henry, we dare not fight with "one hand tied behind our backs" so to speak. We need every

weapon and every piece of the armor that God has given to us. We also need the power to utilize these spiritual weapons. This is where prayer comes in.

"As believers, we are engaged in a fight... we dare not fight with "one hand tied behind"

Prayer is not only effective in that it is the means by which God chooses to do His work of saving sinners. Prayer is also the door by which more than a few lost people are willing to give us a hearing. For whatever reason, the majority of lost people in America are receptive to offers to pray. While many will not initially listen to a gospel presentation, they will gladly respond to the question, "How may I pray for you?"

There are numerous surveys that have been conducted stating that eighty to ninety percent of lost people pray. Even in the most unchurched generation in American history, the Millennials, at least half claim to pray on a regular basis. Some of this may be the "halo effect" where people claim to do that which they don't, simply because

they think they should. And who knows how many of them are praying, but that is beside the point. The point is, these polls reflect a positive attitude towards prayer, making lost people receptive to such a method.

This is the basis for an upcoming campaign we'll be starting in May 2011 called 24/7 PRAY. This is, of course, based on our prayer line number, which is (305) 247-PRAY (7729). The goal of the 24/7 PRAY campaign is to contact as many of our neighbors as possible with an offer to pray. As prayer requests come in, we'll be communicating with those who submit prayer requests by sending what we call prayer-grams, which are FBCH postcards with our church facility and logo on the front, along with the words, "We're praying for you." After those submitting prayer requests have received 7-8 prayer-grams, we will attempt to make a visit in person in which we follow-up on the prayer request, offer to pray in person and attempt to share the gospel. We already know from previous prayer evangelism efforts that most of those who give us

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prayer requests are unchurched. We also know that anywhere from 25-40% of people will actually take the time to write down prayer requests when we knock on their door and ask them to. I can tell you that it is a much higher percentage than would allow us to present the plan of salvation on their doorstep when we show up out of the blue.

Some will inevitably ask, "Is it really biblical to pray for the felt needs of lost people?" Yes! It is true that Kingdom issues always outweigh physical and temporal issues. Yet there is a biblical precedent for this type of evangelism. The sick, blind and lame were repeatedly brought to Jesus and were healed. Jesus healed them, not just for the sake of doing so. He healed them in order to show love and compassion, and to communicate that he was, in fact, the Messiah. The miracle always came with a message. Likewise, we are going to be intensely praying for the needs that are given to us by the community, many of those being felt needs. Yet at the same time, we will be praying for their felt needs so that their greatest need, their need for a Savior will be met and they will be saved.

There are several ways in which you can be a part of the 24/7 PRAY campaign. One way is to put up a campaign style yard sign in your yard. Some of you live in associations where this is not permitted, but many of you can and should do so. Besides, I know where many of you live and I see the signs you put up come election season! So if you don't put up a 24/7-PRAY sign, I'll do it for you!

Another way is a window sticker for your car. These will be white text

with a clear background so it will match whatever color car you drive. Then there will be business cards that say, "Let us pray for you! (305) 24/7-PRAY." You can distribute these to people as you are out and about. You can leave them with a hefty tip. (Those of you who are not good tippers, please do not put a 24/7-PRAY card with your tip!) You can put them in cards that you send to friends. We will also be distributing 24/7-PRAY cards at public events where a lot of people are gathering. Some of you can pass out cards to thousands of people or man a prayer booth in which you offer to pray for people on the spot.

Perhaps the best way to participate in 24/7 PRAY is in your own neighborhood. Let me tell you what I am going to be doing personally. I am going to write a letter and distribute it to about 30 of my closest neighbors. This letter will be written by hand and accompanied by a bag of fresh baked cookies. (Maybe the Frimans will give me their ultra-secret chocolate chip cookie recipe? It's for the sake of the gospel!) These letters will say, "I'm your neighbor and I am already praying for you. But I sure would like to know how I can pray specifically. If you have a special need I can pray for, for yourself or even a friend or family member, please let me know by writing it on the enclosed self addressed, stamped card and putting it in the mail. Please know that my church and I will pray for any request you write down. Thank you for the honor of praying for you!" Of course, some people will choose to give me their prayer request on the spot, which is fine. When I get prayer requests, I will lead my family in praying for them and we will also pray for them on Wednesday

nights and in our prayer room. They will begin to get prayer-grams in the mail. And I will personally follow-up to check on the request.

I like to call this "Mount Carmel Evangelism" as in Elijah at Mount Carmel. Elijah's method of proving that Jehovah alone is God was to pray and count on God to answer his prayer. Seeing fire fall from heaven, the people knew that the God Elijah prayed to had done it. This method of evangelism only works if God answers prayer and we know that He does! I am counting on the fact that God will move supernaturally in response to the prayers of His people. In fact, I am basing our entire evangelism methodology at FBCH on this conviction.

This method, however, will not work if we are not at prayer. I just cannot tell you how important it is for you to join us on Wednesday nights. We know that God is present where two or more are gathered, but we also know that God works powerfully through a praying church. I assure you, the time we spend in prayer on Wednesday nights is much more important than anything on tv! Make it your commitment to be here.

Don't forget that Mother's Day is May 8. We will have gifts for all mothers and some very special gifts for a few of you. Mother's day is one of my favorite days of the year. See you there.

*Pastor
Howard*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 05/01 - Tommy Milner | 05/08 - Alyssa Koury | 05/17 - Bridget Arcia | 05/26 - Benny Helms |
| 05/02 - Shirley Caves | 05/08 - Sebastian Mitchell | 05/17 - Betty Morris | 05/27 - Jimmi Neubauer |
| 05/02 - Glenda Kimmons | 05/08 - Dianne Quiles | 05/17 - Rachel Orr | 05/27 - Tori Rose |
| 05/02 - Ernest Rodriguez | 05/08 - Talitha Quiles | 05/18 - Isaac Eves | 05/27 - Beatriz Vasquez |
| 05/03 - John Ader | 05/08 - Miranada Santana | 05/18 - Naomi Harry | 05/28 - Libia Fabian |
| 05/03 - Doylene Losner | 05/09 - Breshion Benn | 05/20 - Kristy Alonso | 05/28 - Stephanie Smith |
| 05/03 - Mallory Melton | 05/09 - Paige Poteet | 05/20 - Britton Hall | 05/29 - Hannah Benn |
| 05/04 - Richard Collazo | 05/09 - Colton Search | 05/21 - David Dulevich | 05/29 - Michael Tonge |
| 05/04 - Kim Rodriguez | 05/10 - Anthony Soto | 05/21 - Nathaniel Kidwell | 05/30 - Adriana Anquiano |
| 05/04 - Nicholas Sincore | 05/11 - Chris Johnson | 05/22 - Caleb Easom | 05/30 - Fallon Martin |
| 05/05 - Kevin Harrell | 05/11 - Roy Nelson | 05/22 - Sharon Gottlieb-Hart | 05/30 - Jorge Orosa |
| 05/05 - Linda Santos | 05/12 - Andrew Benjamin | 05/23 - Meghan Gonzalez | 05/30 - Jormin Vilorio |
| 05/06 - Chris Gall | 05/12 - Michael Short | 05/23 - Will Kurver | 05/31 - Frank Arcia |
| 05/06 - Jacquelin Sanchez | 05/14 - Karlyn Tejada | 05/23 - Abigail Lopez | 05/31 - Michael Breen |
| 05/07 - Elda Aguayo | 05/15 - Joseph Hall | 05/24 - Jessica Boone | 05/31 - Monica Franceschi |
| 05/07 - Tiffany Biichle | 05/16 - Betty Breen | 05/25 - Kenneil Luke | |
| 05/07 - Rebecca Hall | 05/16 - Gabriela Murphy | 05/25 - Chrischelle Polles | |
| 05/07 - Wayne Rimmer | 05/16 - Vanessa Smith | 05/25 - Kelley Poteet | |



Music Ministry



We had a wonderful Easter Sunday as we celebrated our risen Savior! It was a Sunday that we should celebrate year round. I am extremely thankful for our sanctuary choir who also did a tremendous job of singing during this celebration.

May 22, at the 6:30 pm service, you will be delighted to hear our children's choir present their

spring program, "Discovery Camp Wise N Up." Mrs. Lori Diehl is our brave and courageous leader. She is very talented and wears several hats here around FBC. Let Lori know how much you appreciate her.

June 20—24 is our Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars now! Contact Lynda Melton or myself if you would like to help this year. You won't

want to miss out. This year's theme is New York, "The Big Apple Adventure." Come travel with us!

Singing for HIM,
Pam



Stewardship

May 2011

Contributions for April 2011:	\$ 49,687.77
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 45,693.24
Contributions Year to date:	\$ 352,704.14
Year to date budget requirement: (Through 30 Sundays)	\$ 342,699.30

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES


First Things Firsts

Men's Prayer Breakfast
 May 7th
 8 a.m.
 In the fellowship hall



Mother's Day Tea

May 7th
 2-4 p.m.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 5/7 - First Things First 8am
- 5/8 - Stewardship meeting 5pm
- 5/9 - Deacon meeting 7pm
- 5/11 - Business meeting 6:30 pm
- 5/15 - Sunday School meeting 5:30 pm
- 5/22 - Women on Mission 5:30 pm


Young Musicians

Spring Musical
 May 22, 6:30



Graduating?

If you or a fellow FBCH member are graduating from high school or college this year, please contact the church office prior to May 22nd 305-247-1662. Graduates will be honored on June 5.




MIKE HAGEN STRENGTH TEAM
June 12-13
 Sunday, June 12th 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, June 13th 7:00 p.m.



Coming summer 2011

Baptism class by appointment
 (If you would like to take the baptism class call 305-247-1662)



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD
THURSDAY MAY 5TH 2011
www.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

There will be a community wide National Day of Prayer service at the City Hall in Florida City, Thursday, May 5th at 12:00 p.m. All are invited.

ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL

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**Building bridges...empowering
people...changing lives!**



We are really ramping up for this year's Summer Mission Trip! In case you haven't heard, we're headed to Jacksonville, FL this year from July 9-15. We'll be working with Words to Works Ministries to conduct Backyard Bible Clubs, block parties, and working with local community organizations to take the gospel into Jacksonville. Cost for this year's trip is \$250. Students who are interested in participating MUST get their permission form and a non-refundable \$50 deposit in ASAP! (Deadline was May 1 but we still have 12 spots left open so the first 12 people who turn their stuff in can still go.) There are 3 trainings students must attend in order to participate in this year's trip with the

first training taking place on May 15! Informational brochures are available in the Youth Room or on the Student Ministry website: www.633students.org. If you have any questions about this year's trip, please feel free to contact me. Also, if you are able to help financially support our students with any amount, please see me. Your donation *of any amount* will go a long way toward helping a student share the gospel in Jacksonville this summer.

Graduation is just around the corner! We are planning a special service for our graduates for Sunday, June 5. Graduates, please make sure you have all of your stuff turned in to the church office by May 22. Also,

if you are or know of a high school graduate who has not received a letter regarding graduation, would you make sure to contact us and let us know so we ensure that no one gets left out of the celebration! I also know there are some college students graduating this year. We'd like to make sure that they get recognized as well, so please contact us and let us know of any college graduates whose accomplishment we can recognize.

Thanks for the privilege of serving you and serving with you for the glory of God! It truly is a joy!

For His Glory,

Joe

