



# The Way

## October 2010

### NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Perhaps the greatest evangelist of the twentieth century was Billy Graham. He has been used by God to bring millions to Christ. I'll never forget, however, a warning he issued a few years ago upon looking at America's future. He warned that America was in the process of producing a "seedless generation." By "seedless" he was referring to the seed of the gospel.

His statement is full of wisdom. Dr. Graham understood that he was able to have evangelistic success, in part, because those who heard him preach had already had some exposure to the gospel. Even if a person was not raised in church, they probably knew someone who had been and had spoken about their faith. Even if no one had personally witnessed to them, at some point they had read a Christian book, listened to Christian music or heard a Christian sermon on the airwaves. The "seed" of the gospel was there before George Beverly Shea sang his first note of "How Great Thou Art" and before the first verse of "Just As I Am."

What happens, however, when that seed is not present? How do we reach those who have never heard a Christian sermon through any venue whatsoever? What about those who have so little exposure to anything Christian that the thought of attending a church, even at Christmas or Easter, does not even register? I believe that we are seeing such a generation come and we need to understand, their arrival changes everything.

A seedless generation won't attend church because of the children's or youth programs because they don't see the point. A seedless generation won't come to church because of the great music because they can probably hear equal or better musicality at the local university or club. A seedless generation won't read the Bible for answers; they'll check out the latest book by new age leader Deepak Chopra. When my wife was a student at Georgia Southern University, she lamented that students who faced a crisis were more likely to consult a tarot card or a palm reader than they were a pastor or chaplain. (And that was twelve years ago. Imagine what it's like now!) The tried and true methods of winning people to Christ do not apply to seedless persons.

Fortunately, one thing remains the same... "the gospel is the power of God unto salvation." Even in the most difficult of times, the gospel can flourish. But we must understand that nothing can be taken for granted. We must be willing to earn the right to be heard. We must be willing to be painfully patient.

Let me offer a few examples. Recently, I had the privilege of teaching the baptism class to someone who attended FBCH for at least four years before they felt comfortable even filling out a visitor's slip. They hardly missed a Sunday but no one knew who they were because that is how they wanted it. The "seed" was being planted. The fruit came later. Another man recently showed up at our building during the week wanting to look around. He said that he had been getting some of those prayer grams I told you about last month in the mail so he knew that people here were praying for him. He tried to call me "father" because he hadn't the slightest idea what is the difference between a Baptist pastor and a Catholic priest. He came because he was thinking about coming on a Sunday but he first wanted to tour the

Cont next page

building. Translation: He wanted to see if there would be anything here that would “freak him out” before deciding to come. Is there a pen where we hold the snakes? A small altar where we sacrifice small children? To this guy, anything was possible and he wanted to feel somewhat safe before bringing his family here!

**“Fortunately, one thing remains the same...the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.”**

These are signs of a seedless generation. It is happening all around us. What do we do? I’d like to offer a few suggestions. First of all, “stories” are very important to those with no exposure to the gospel. Being able to hear that someone’s life was transformed is invaluable. So when was the last time you shared your personal testimony? If you haven’t done so already, take the time to actually write it out. In our baptism class, we teach students to include three components in a testimony: Your life before you were saved, when and how you were saved, and your life since you were saved. Seedless individuals need to hear about how Christ has changed your life. Speaking of the importance of “story,” the parable of the prodigal son in Luke chapter fifteen becomes increasingly important when talking to seedless people. Missionaries to cultures who do not know the name of Jesus have long used this parable to encompass the gospel within the context of a story that everyone can understand. I personally love using the story of the prodigal son because no one down here knows it. I always stop when the prodigal decides to return to his father and I ask the lis-

tener to predict how the story will end. I have yet to hear a lost person guess the correct ending. The man or woman without Christ will always say “The father rejects the son” or “The father allows the son to become his servant.” Yet, when they hear the real ending, they immediately understand that it is a story about the character of God. Suddenly, they understand that God is greater than they ever imagined. Look for ways to connect to the prodigal son parable in your conversations with lost friends and neighbors.

Second, and I know I am going to sound like a broken record here, but praying for people is a great way to build a bridge to the seedless. Even those with no gospel exposure know by means of common grace that there is a God. Thus, prayer is never a foreign concept and is always a great place to start. Do you have lost neighbors and you’re looking for a way to connect? Simply ask them, “How can I be praying for you?” Our entire methodology of evangelism at FBCH is based on the concept of prayer evangelism, or building a bridge to the unchurched by means of prayer. I cannot tell you how important it is that you, the members of FBCH, keep our prayer room occupied and send those prayer grams to the many unchurched people in Homestead who are actually sending us their prayer requests. And more and more, they are giving us prayer requests via our prayer line, (305) 247-PRAY. I know of one family that promised to be here this coming Sunday because someone called the prayer line asking for prayer and sure enough, their request was answered affirmatively.

Third, service connects to a seedless generation. We must find ways to serve our neighbors. Let this be a reminder...If you have not recently done some random act of service (or just kindness) for someone without Christ, do so as quickly as possible. Cut their grass. Bake them cookies for no special occasion. Offer to pet sit when they need to leave town. Whatever you do...SERVE! You will have more credibility when you invite them to worship or attempt to share your faith.

I’m sure that these are just a few of the keys to reaching a seedless generation for Christ. But the generation is coming whether we like it or not. We must adjust to the new rules.

On another note, let me briefly mention another new ministry in which we need for some of you to be a part. As I mentioned, we have a prayer line. Someone needs to answer that phone when it rings. You automatically know that it is someone in need of prayer. The prayer line is currently attached to a cell phone, so if you would be willing to carry the phone for a week at a time on a rotating basis, please let us know. It simply involves keeping the phone with you and answering it when someone calls so that you can take down their prayer request and say a quick prayer. I continue to be amazed that people are, in fact, willing to call a prayer line to ask a complete stranger to pray for them in a time of need.

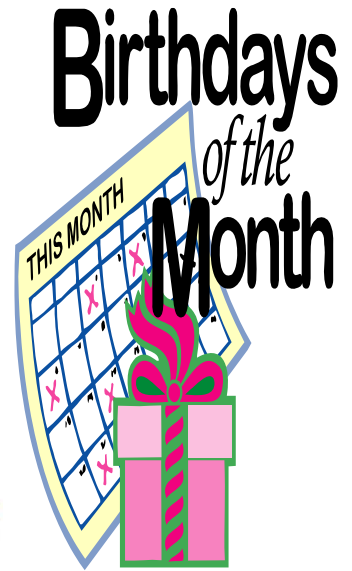
As always, thank you for the privilege of being your pastor.

*Pastor Howard*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- |                            |                              |                           |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10/01 - Vivianna Catlin    | 10/16 - Jonathan Sourber     | 10/27 - David Allen       |
| 10/02 - Javier Morales     | 10/17 - B.J. Benn            | 10/27 - Kaitlyn Breivogel |
| 10/02 - Vivian Nelson      | 10/17 - Steve Bergeson       | 10/28 - Neville Harry     |
| 10/02 - Marie Rives        | 10/17 - Sarah Moak           | 10/28 - Judy Mendheim     |
| 10/03 - Doris Ellison      | 10/17 - Karen Niblack        | 10/29 - Mary Breen        |
| 10/03 - Lex Lopez          | 10/19 - David Fleischfresser | 10/29 - Daisy Valdes      |
| 10/04 - Jonathan Davis     | 10/19 - Pamela Helms         | 10/29 - Jay Blake         |
| 10/05 - Blair Lowe         | 10/20 - Evelyn Brown         | 10/31 - Raoul Pardo       |
| 10/07 - Caleb Benn         | 10/20 - Bob Smith            |                           |
| 10/07 - Rebeca Santana     | 10/21 - Michele Bosserman    |                           |
| 10/08 - Suzanne Suarez     | 10/21 - Tim Ebersole         |                           |
| 10/09 - Carrie Bliumfeldas | 10/23 - Shelby Bosserman     |                           |
| 10/09 - Peggy Shekels      | 10/23 - Kelly Patenaude      |                           |
| 10/10 - Kailee Breivogel   | 10/23 - Alex Taylor          |                           |
| 10/14 - Rheah Bridges      | 10/26 - Jason Eldridge       |                           |
| 10/14 - Emily Friman       | 10/26 - Karil Jerrick        |                           |



**Did you know?**



Did you know...

FBCH help support over ten thousand missionaries through the cooperative program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to these, FBCH supports nine full time missionaries in Cuba. For seven of those nine, FBCH is their sole source of support. This means that 100% of their salary comes from the tithes of FBCH.

In the last month alone, these missionaries conducted 60 prayer and/or worship services in homes, meeting at seventeen

different locations.

Last year, FBCH led the Miami Baptist Association of 300 plus churches in total giving and per person giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for international missions.

FBCH gave almost \$72,000 to missions through church tithes (12% of receipts).

When the multiple missions offerings are included (Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Maguire, Haiti relief, children's homes), FBCH gave approximately \$109,000 to missions, or

close to 19% of total dollars received. This does not include dollars budgeted for evangelism in our own community.

Thank you for faithfully giving during the 2009-2010 budget year.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Malachi 3:10



**Stewardship  
September 2010**

Contributions for September 2010:	\$ 42,715.17
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 44,258.00
Contributions Year to date:	\$ 568,722.75
Year to date budget requirement: ( Through 52 Sundays)	\$ 575,354.00

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**



**Annual Youth Fall Retreat**  
**Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center**  
 October 29th - November 1st  
 Please see Joe for details.

**October 2nd 8:00 a.m.**



**Men's Prayer Breakfast**



**FBCH WOM Missionaries on Parade**

**All ladies welcome**  
**Saturday, October 9th**  
**11:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall**

**Prayer chain**

We are looking for prayer warriors who will pray for our church family when an urgency need. Examples include;  
 ... Any spiritual crisis  
 ... Accident/Death of loved one  
 ... Emergency hospitalization  
 Let us know how you would like to be notified; E-mail, Telephone or Text message.



**October 10th**

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

**at 4:00 p.m.**



- 10/02 - First Things First 8:00 a.m.
- 10/10 - Stewardship meeting 5:00 p.m.
- 10/11 - Deacon meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 10/17 - Sunday School meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 10/24 - WOM 5:00 p.m.

*Spiritual Renewal Conference*  
*Returning to Holiness*



**Dr. Gregory Frizzell**  
 Director of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening.  
 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

*November 19 - 21*  
*Four Inspiring Services:*  
*Friday, November 19th 7:00 p.m.*  
*Saturday, November 20th 7:00 p.m.*  
*Sunday, November 21st 8:30, 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.*

PO Box 900428  
29050 SW 177 Ave  
Homestead, FL 33090  
Office: (305) 247-1662  
Fax: (305) 247-0117  
E-mail: fbchoffice@bellsouth.net  
Web: www.fbchomestead.org

ONLINE:  
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF  
HOMESTEAD, FL



At the time of this writing there is a hint of fall in the air; and by that I mean when I stepped out of the house to get in my car this morning I wasn't stifled by the heat and humidity! I know that cooler temperatures are coming in our near future. I do pray, however, that there would not be a cooling but an ever-increasing fire burning in your heart to know and share Christ.

The beginning of fall means that we are just a few short weeks away from our annual fall retreat called *Metamorphosis*. Dates for this year's trip are Oct. 29—Nov. 1. Cost is \$135 and informational brochures are available in the Youth Room, the church office, or on our Student Ministry website:

[www.633students.org](http://www.633students.org). Feel free to contact me with any questions. Also, we do have students who are in need of financial assistance. If you are able to help make it possible for a student to attend *Metamorphosis*, please let me know ASAP.

I also wanted to make you aware of an opportunity our ministry has for you to serve. We have a prayer ministry program in which we assign adults a student to pray for. Each week we send an email prayer update to the adult prayer partners. If the student you have been assigned to pray for has any specific prayer requests, those will be sent in that email. If they do not, you will simply be encouraged to remember to pray for them. I am convinced that prayer is the great-

est tool we have in our mission of *“connecting students and their families to the Messiah, mentors, and the mission”* (for those of you who don't know it, that's our Student Ministry purpose statement). If you are not already an adult prayer partner and would be willing to serve in that capacity, or if you have more questions about it, please contact me and let me share with you my heart regarding this vital ministry.

As always, it is a pleasure and a joy to serve and to serve with you!

*Joe*

