



The Way

September 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I'd like to tell you about a new ministry that we have started at FBCH. First, some background information. Recently, a mission team from Blairesville, Georgia spent a week assisting our church in planting seeds in a particular community. Overall, we visited 380 homes, asking one simple question: "How can we pray for you?" Door hangers were distributed on which individuals could write down their prayer requests. One in four people who were home not only accepted a door hanger, but shared a prayer request with us and left it on their door knob for us to pick up. On one side of the door hanger was a survey. Less than half indicated that they are active in any kind of a place of worship.

Think about this. At the moment, we have 55 homes, mostly unchurched, that have written down specific prayer requests and shared them with us! We'll be adding to that number in the upcoming weeks as FAITH evangelism moves ahead. This is where that new ministry I

mentioned comes in. All of the prayer requests are recorded and assigned to a page and envelope. Those envelopes are assigned a number and placed in the library. Like a library book, those envelopes can be checked out by FBCH members who will commit to praying for those persons and their requests during the week. We simply ask that at some point, you write a brief note to the individual indicating that you are praying for them. (See the picture of the postcard, or "prayer-gram.")



These homes will be receiving at least one prayer-gram per week from a FBCH member. That is a weekly, hand written reminder that someone at this church is praying for them. Eventually, when someone from our FAITH ministry attempts to share the gospel, there will have been weeks of prayer that went into that one visit and the spiritual soil will have been watered and watered

and watered. Already, we are seeing the recipients of these prayer-grams visiting our church.

This approach serves two purposes. First, it is a practical, tangible way that we can share the love of Christ in our community. Most of these folks already knew that we existed. Only now do they know that we care. I don't know how many times I have knocked on a door and seen dread written all over the face of the person answering the door...until I stated we simply wanted to know how we could pray for them! All of a sudden, their guard comes down and their frowns are transformed into smiles. Suddenly, they don't feel like they are being inconvenienced. They feel like they are being blessed.

I continue to be amazed at the kinds of requests we receive. One man asked us to pray for him because he is lonely. Another woman asked us to pray that her father, who is dying, would not suffer tremendously. Business owners are asking us to pray for their businesses and the unemployed are asking us to pray for employment. Several asked us to

Cont next page

pray for physical needs to be met, which enables us to add “wings” to those prayers by meeting the very needs they cite.

Secondly, it builds a bridge to the lost. I will never forget a woman who received a prayer-gram from our prayer room ministry who called me and said, “Yesterday I had the worst day of my life. When I got home, the first thing I saw was a hand written card from someone at your church saying ‘You don’t know me, but somebody in this world is praying for you.’” She then added, “I’ve never stepped foot in a church my entire life, but I’ll be at yours next Sunday.” Sure enough, she was. Another man who received a door hanger last spring wrote on his survey that he did not pray or attend church, and there was little chance that he would be doing so in the future. He then began to receive prayer grams from our prayer room. Before long, I met that very man at the 11:00 service! He didn’t mention having received the prayer grams, but when he told me his name, I remembered it from having prayed over the door hanger he filled out.

“The one thing that made Jesus angrier than anything else was when God’s people failed to be a house of prayer.”

There is a fancy name for this kind of evangelistic approach. I call it “prayer evangelism.” There are multiple ways of doing it, but it always involves utilizing prayer ministry to establish rapport with the lost, with the aim of presenting the gospel. You could also call it Mount Carmel Evangelism. This is based on Elijah’s encounter with the

prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18. Elijah offers to meet the false prophets at Mount Carmel for a “prayer contest” to see which God answers prayer. When Elijah prayed and God answered by sending fire from heaven, the people saw God’s response to Elijah’s praying and knew that Jehovah is God alone.

By faith, I believe God will do the same today. I believe that God will supernaturally move in the lives of the people we pray for. I believe He will do so in such a way that they are able to connect the dots, so to speak, knowing that the prayers of God’s people are the reasons why something positive took place. I can imagine a man getting a phone call from someone offering him that job we prayed for and then reading a prayer-gram from someone in our church five minutes later. He begins to wonder, “Did the job come as a result of someone’s prayers?” I can imagine a skeptic who doesn’t believe in God, the Bible or prayer. He can argue against creation, but he can’t argue against the fact that his cancer didn’t go away until all those folks at the local Baptist church started praying. Now he is starting to reconsider. He becomes open to possibilities he would not consider before.

Many of you know that I am researching prayer evangelism for my Doctor of Ministry project at Southeastern Seminary. I am becoming more and more convinced that this method of evangelism could become the “bread and butter” method of evangelism for Southern Baptists in the future. But you have to actually have a vibrant

prayer ministry to even attempt this method of evangelism. It won’t work if we won’t pray. Our first core value is “The Centrality of Prayer.” That must be more than a statement on a banner or our web site.

Maybe some of you reading this article simply aren’t able to do some of the things you used to do in the church. This is the ministry for you! If you can stay home and pray and write a brief note to someone telling them you’re praying, you can do this. And it will be a tremendous blessing to our church. In fact, some of you who bemoan that you can no longer serve in certain ministries for health reasons can actually be more beneficial to FBCH now than you have ever been at any point of your lives!

One final thought. As we look at the earthly ministry of Jesus, we note that the same Jesus who was meek and mild could also be angry. His was a holy, righteous anger. And the one thing that made Jesus angrier than anything else was when God’s people failed to be a house of prayer. That is an amazing thought! On no other occasion did Jesus literally make a whip and put it to use than when the gentiles’ court of the temple (the place where they would gather to pray) was being used for commerce. Let it not be said that Jesus was angry at FBCH for not being a house of prayer.

Thank you again for the honor of being your pastor.

Pastor Howard



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 09/01 - Chris Boyett | 09/11 - Thomas Boone | 09/20 - Morgan Hodge | 09/27 - Genesis Vilorio |
| 09/01 - Ricardo Vidal | 09/11 - Dianely Claro | 09/20 - Edwin Lawrence | 09/28 - Mabel Horner |
| 09/02 - Brandon Ader | 09/11 - Anthony Hall | 09/21 - Andrew Headley | 09/28 - Jo Pekel |
| 09/02 - Donald Drinkhahn | 09/13 - Franky Arcia | 09/21 - Tristen Lopez | 09/29 - Megan Davis |
| 09/02 - Kevin Vasquez | 09/13 - Danielle Patenaude | 09/22 - Raymond Caves | 09/29 - Christopher Franco |
| 09/03 - Mary Wysong | 09/13 - Kenny Annamalai | 09/22 - Celia Lopez | 09/29 - Robbin Poteet |
| 09/04 - Elliot Claro | 09/14 - Tania Harrington | 09/22 - Buddy Rogers | 09/29 - Carlos Vasquez |
| 09/04 - Gilda Howes | 09/15 - Rosalie Symonette | 09/23 - Antenia Boynton | 09/30 - Scott Karanicas |
| 09/04 - Sarah Soto | 09/16 - Wesly Fox | 09/23 - Juan Cordero | 09/30 - Marty Oliphant |
| 09/05 - Curt Ivy | 09/16 - Lynda Melton | 09/23 - Sebastian Estevez | 09/30 - Jimmy Quick |
| 09/05 - Barbara Speers | 09/17 - Frank Aguayo | 09/23 - Tony Sanchez | |
| 09/06 - Emily Campbell | 09/17 - Helen Altman | 09/24 - Margaret Boyett | |
| 09/06 - Andrew Satterfield | 09/17 - Mike Biichle | 09/24 - David Morris Jr. | |
| 09/09 - Colby Lopez | 09/18 - Michael Padron | 09/25 - Alex Losner | |
| 09/10 - Mary Bliumfeldas | 09/18 - Linda Smith | 09/26 - Kathleen Quick | |
| 09/11 - James Boone | 09/20 - Natalie Helms | 09/27 - Robert Clower | |



Music Ministry



Summer is over and Christmas will shortly be upon us. All voices of all ages are greatly needed to produce a fantastic Christmas season of music. Our adult choir will present, "One Small Child" by Tom Fettke. You will have two opportunities to experience the Christmas cantata, December 3rd and 5th. Keep watching for more details.

If you have been thinking of joining a choir, now is the perfect time to connect, for there is always

room for more! Join the adults on Wednesday evenings after the prayer meeting service. The more the merrier, especially while we praise the Lord in song together! Youth choir and children's choirs are back in full swing on Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM. Thank you Doris Philpot and Lori Diehl for your leadership. I know you have new songs to sing about sharing the love of our Lord.

I am so excited about our newly installed sound system with the eight awe-

some hanging speakers in addition to new floor monitors! Many thanks to Robert Bernecker for the most gracious gift of time and funds we will enjoy for years to come. Hats off to our audio and sound committee as well....keep up the good work!

*Singing for HIM,
D.A.M.*



Stewardship August 2010

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Contributions for August 2010: | \$ 62,587.18 |
| Monthly budget requirements: | \$ 55,322.50 |
| Contributions Year to date: | \$ 525,307.58 |
| Year to date budget requirement: (Through 47 Sundays) | \$ 531,096.00 |

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

All choirs back in session
Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Preschool -Little Melodies
Children's Choir - Grade 1-6
Youth Choir - Grades 7-12

EVERYBODY SING

Have a song to share?
Contact Pam Helms
305-281-5471

SEPTEMBER 26TH
AT 6:30 P.M.



*Did you miss your photo shoot?
Make up date scheduled for
September 7th.
Please see Marlene Jackson or
Joan Maydak.
You may also contact the church office 305-247-1662*

First things First *Men's prayer breakfast*

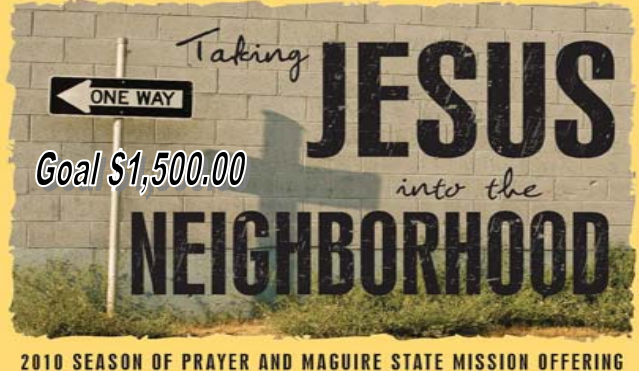
September 4th
8:00 a.m.
In the fellowship hall.



Taking **JESUS** *into the*
NEIGHBORHOOD

Goal \$1,500.00

2010 SEASON OF PRAYER AND MAGUIRE STATE MISSION OFFERING



Dates to remember

- ... 09/04 - First things First 8:00 a.m.
- ... 09/12 - Stewardship meeting 5:00 p.m.
- ... 09/12 - Singles meeting 5:30 p.m.
- ... 09/13 - Deacon meeting 7:00 p.m.
- ... 09/19 - Sunday School meeting 5:30 p.m.
- ... 09/26 - WOM 5:00 p.m.

Spiritual Renewal Conference
November 19 - 21

Dr. Gregory Frizzell

Directory of Prayer
and Spiritual Awakening.

Baptist General Convention
of Oklahoma



Wednesday

Church-wide fellowship dinner

Begins September 8th
5:00 p.m. - 6:15 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



With school back in full swing many families are settling back into a routine. The new school year has brought new students and families. I hope you'll join me in praying for those students and their families. I'm praying that God uses them in *amazing* ways to accomplish His mission! Several things are happening in the Fall that I want to make sure you are aware of.

First, on September 10-12, I will be taking a group of 30 students and adults to Disney to attend Night of Joy. This is a great opportunity for our students to connect with each other and strengthen their relationships with each other. Please pray for safe travel and for our students to demonstrate the

love of Christ to each other.

Second, See You At The Pole is a student-led prayer movement that takes place on school campuses nationwide. Each year, students gather around their flagpole at 7am and pray for their school, students, faculty, administration, and others. SYATP takes place on September 22. I am encouraging all of our students to be at their school flagpole on that day. One NEW thing we're going to do this year involves the parents! *Campus Prayer Journey* is an event for parents that takes place 12 hours before *SYATP*. At 7pm on Tuesday, September 21, parents are encouraged to conduct a prayer walk around their child's school. Prayer guides are available for all interested parents. Please see me to

get your prayer guide and to sign up. I'd *LOVE* to have every school in our community being covered in prayer!

Third, our annual fall retreat called *Metamorphosis* is just a little under 2 months away! Dates for this year's trip are Oct. 29—Nov. 1. Informational brochures will be available in the Youth Room, the church office, or on our Student Ministry website: www.633students.org. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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

Joe

