



## Thanksgiving Baskets

This community outreach ministry will look a little different this year due to COVID-19. Out of caution we will not ask for donated items as we have in the past but rather are planning for financial donations. The necessary items will then be purchased with these funds and distributed. We will partner with Mata's Produce to provide vouchers for turkey and eggs. We ask that you pray for this important outreach effort as the need will be greater this year than in years past. Although Thanksgiving will be different for many families this year; together we can share the hope and love that only comes through Jesus Christ. Each basket costs \$50 in total. You can choose to donate the full cost of a basket or a portion of the cost. Every little bit helps! To donate, use the form on our Give page and designate your gift for Thanksgiving Baskets.

## A Word from our New Minister of Discipleship

In Proverbs 16:9 the Bible tells us, *"The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."* If we claim to be Christ followers and we have God's calling on our lives as His children, we understand who is in control and who's will we follow. This scripture gives a testimony to the life of a Christian. We develop plans and timelines of what we believe needs to happen, but at the end of the day we see that God can move in ways in which He will be better glorified. Our task is to submit and follow His will, even if it doesn't make sense or it contradicts our personal opinion. In our continued growth under the Lord, we must always seek the will of God. We should also acknowledge Him in all that we do as we plan and also move. In James 4:13-15 the scripture tells us, *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.'"* We are all on borrowed time and the reality is that as Christians our life is not our own. As a Minister of God, I have come to learn that obedience to God is the most important thing to implement.

About a year ago the Lord told me to continue my education. As I have sought His will on what He wanted me to continue, Educational Ministry is what was put on my heart. In obedience I have continued in pursuit of a second master's degree in Educational Ministry (M.Div.) where I have been able to complete more than half of the degree plan. After seeking the Lord through much prayer and counsel, it became evident that God had unfolded an opportunity for me to grow in these areas of Discipleship and Education here at the First Baptist Church of El Paso. These revelations paired along with my personality, temperament, and spiritual gifts go hand in hand. I am very excited to help develop and unfold a plan for discipleship and education for our church. We must continue to be of one mind and one accord as we serve the same King, Christ.

It is great to be back at First Baptist Church of El Paso. It has been great to reconnect with people whom I met my first time around as an intern and college pastor from 2011-2015. It has also been exciting to meet some new people who have become a part of this body since then. My family and I are very excited to see what the Lord does in the next few years. Please keep our Discipleship and Education ministry in your prayers as we seek the Lord and His will for our church. Pray also for our spiritual and physical protection as we move forward.

In His grip,  
Pastor Erick F. Jimenez

## October Giving

	2019
Budgeted	\$142,119
Received	\$148,204
	2020
Budgeted	\$153,423
Received	\$219,000 (est.)

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

—Lamentations 3:22-23



### **UPWARD Basketball & Cheerleading**

UPWARD Basketball and Cheerleading is a high-energy ministry where children learn

teamwork, sportsmanship, and Godly principles for daily living. Gear up for an all new 2021 season! Registration is now open at [fbcep.com/upward](http://fbcep.com/upward) and in the Great Hall.

### **Congratulations**

#### ***Caleb Tian***

Parents: Tammy Fan and Rebecca Soto

#### ***Sailee Mae***

Grandparents: Rick and Deanna McSwain

#### ***Florence Dorothy Young***

Grandparents: Bob and Kim Cook

Parents: Christian and Morgan Young

### **Sympathy**

- Elvin Porflit in the loss of his mother, Maria Luisa Porflit.
- Gabby Valle in the loss of her mother, Gregoria Hernandez.
- Brenda Stroud in the loss of her brother, Gary Vondran.
- Brittany Rainer in the loss of her aunt.

### **A Word from Jeremy Kroeker, Minister of Youth**

In Proverbs 16:9 the Bible tells us, “The mind of a man plans his Twelve years ago, as Tara and I prepared to welcome our first son into the world, there were two things that I said I would never do as a parent:

1. Get a minivan. (Not that there’s anything wrong with minivans, so if you have one, please don’t be offended.)
2. Wear one of those baby carriers that straps the baby in front of your chest. (Men just look weird with those on—you know what I’m talking about?!)

To this date, I have successfully held true to my word! SUV’s and BACKPACK baby carriers have got us along just fine!

Over the past few months, COVID concerns and restrictions have brought about new challenges and stresses in our lives, and many youth and families are being affected in different ways. For many, these have been very difficult times, and that’s what got me thinking of the backpack baby carrier and how it relates to our youth ministry, and our church family as a whole (the minivan thing really has nothing to do with it...I guess I just wanted everyone to know that I have never owned a minivan).

In Galatians 6:2, the Apostle Paul is talking to the church about helping one another through the ups and downs of life. He says this: “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” CARRY each other’s burdens... The Greek word *bastazo* literally means to carry, to take up, or even to take away or carry off. The word *burden* comes from the Greek word *baros* which means a weight. When you put those together, to carry a burden means to take away or carry off the weight someone else is experiencing. You are bringing some form of relief and comfort to someone else’s challenging situation.

You see, I really enjoyed the times of carrying my sons around when they were young. Sure, it was a bit of added weight, but the feeling of having them close and being able to talk to them and walk with them in that way was so valuable. Even on long hikes, when the extra weight started to tire me out, or the crying in my ear began to annoy me, I remembered what a privilege it was to carry these boys, especially in times when they couldn’t have done it on their own.

That’s what I’m trying to get to: as a church family, and as a youth ministry, we are called to “carry each other’s burdens.” Many teens are really struggling right now. They often don’t know who they can talk to, or the enemy (the devil) convinces them that no one would care, or they would be judged if they tried to talk to someone about what they are going through. Many parents and families are struggling as well. Whether it be challenges in their marriage or with their relationships with their children, they often keep it to themselves for some of the same fears. We often decide to carry our own burdens, and in doing this, we miss out on the help of others being able to come alongside us and help us with the weight of whatever we are going through. ►

Our FBC Youth leadership team and I tell students all the time, “if you need to talk to someone, and you don’t know who to talk to, come to us.” I tell them that as a youth pastor for 20+ years, there’s probably nothing I haven’t heard before, so don’t be embarrassed to talk with me about something that you may be struggling with. I extend the same statement to anyone who may need to hear it.

I’m here for you. WE’RE here for you.

Let us “fulfill the law of Christ” with one another (which is to love God and love others with everything that we are) by carrying each other’s burdens. ■

### **Women on Missions November Report**

Out of an abundance of caution, the Women on Mission (WOM) Meeting scheduled for October 1, 2020, will take place through email.

**Mission Service Project for November:** Christmas Shoe Boxes for Crossing Borders Ministries. More information on Christmas Shoe Boxes is at the bottom of this email. Pat and Dick Murtland will take the Christmas Shoe Boxes to Fabens, Tx. You can drop the boxes off at the church or given money to Pat to purchase items. Designated funds may also be given to the church finance office.

**Report on the October Mission Service Project:** WOM gave \$200 to the BSM. The BSM Leadership Team purchased food and made sack lunches to be distributed to the students. The BSM is involved in Bible study and discipling UTEP students. Hunter Ballew, BSM Director said last Thursday they put together sack lunches and went out to share the Gospel. They had 30 Gospel conversations and one person commit their life to Jesus on campus!

**Mission Service Project for December:** Instead of making goodie bags and distributing to homebound, we will call the homebound members of our church and talk with them, encourage them with a Bible verse, pray with them and give them a Christmas blessing. Each small group will receive 10 or 11 names and numbers to call in December.

**Mary Hill Davis Offering:** Thank you for giving so generously to Mary Hill Davis Offering \$8,540. Those funds will be used in Texas for missions.

### **Pray for Missionaries Passage: Acts 16:23-34**

*After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the*

*prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.*

There are times when living an authentic and bold faith in Christ can land you in a place you don’t want to be. Paul and Silas cast out an evil spirit from a slave girl. One thing led to another, and they were put in prison. Yet they sang and prayed loud enough for the other prisoners to hear. And when they had a divine opportunity to escape, they did not. As the jailer was about to kill himself, Paul assured him no prisoner had escaped. Because of what the jailer had seen and experienced, he asked how he could be saved. As a result, he and his whole family accepted Christ and were baptized that night.

Are you in a place you don’t want to be? Do you encounter new faces because of it? Will the way you live for Christ turn them toward Christ or away from Him? Will they ask you, “What must I do to be saved?”

**Prayer Focus:** Pray the Swazi people would turn from the way of their culture and seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray King Mswati of eSwatini and his wives, children, mother, and siblings would call upon His name and humble themselves. Through their obedience, may the Lord be able to forgive their sins and heal their land (2 Chron. 7:14).

**North American Mission Board:** Delaware, Chandra Rudrapathi, Ohio, Caleb Chamberlain, Gregory Hitchcock, South Carolina, Robert Winter, Wisconsin, Robert Warren. International Mission Board, American Peoples, Brent Waldrep, East Asian Peoples, VH, European Peoples, Scott Tuminello, Ryan Williams, South Asian Peoples, MT, Chaplains, Volunteers, State Convention

**Missionaries, Retired, NAMB:** Margaret Blake, Shyre McCune, George Ratz, IMB, Wayne Frederick, Danny Hood, Linda Lee, Jeri Whitfield.

—Martha Caldwell, Director, WMU, and Pat Murtland, WOM Facilitator