FBC NEWSLETTER

Embracing Our History | Engaging Our Future | Inspiring Worship

Focus On: Storm Damage

Like so many of you, our property suffered some damage from Hurricane Isaias. An enormous oak tree was ripped from the ground and toppled into our yard, thankfully missing our house! The only property damage was to



a chain-link fence, along with the loss of a beautiful tree.

As our family began the cleanup, the fresh, sappy smell of the leaves and branches filled my nostrils. We dragged branch after branch to the street for pickup, and it wasn't long before that fresh smell began to fade. By the next day, the leaves had started to dry out and turn brown, and that sweet, fresh smell was gone.

It occurred to me that this quick progression from green to brown, from living to dying, is a picture of what can happen in our spiritual lives, too! If we are not continually connected to the life-giving source of our Savior,

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A Word from Our Pastor

For the past few weeks as our community has been recovering from the recent hurricane several members of our church have been going out and serving the people of First Baptist and our community by cleaning up downed trees and removing dangerous debris from their property. This group is our disaster relief team. You may have seen them wearing their yellow shirts on specific Sundays. They represent our church and the Florida Baptist Convention. Rodney Nobles heads up this group for our church and local association and he has done a masterful job of organizing our church's effort and interacting with people who have needs from the storm. We truly owe him our appreciation for all of his service.

The disaster relief volunteers are missionaries just like those who go to Nepal and Honduras. This is an important ministry that meets urgent needs and takes the Gospel to people in a very tangible way. It is important that we pray for them while they do this work. We need to also financially support this group because, while most of the work they do is in other places, this time, it was in our own home town and local area. It costs a lot of money to do this work. There is always the need to buy new or replace old equipment, purchase supplies to have on hand when an emergency arises, and a need for funds for fuel and travel when a call goes out for help. If the Lord lays it on your heart to financially support this ministry, then you can donate to that ministry by giving to our church and designating your gift to disaster relief.

When you see these men and women wearing their yellow shirts, please tell them thank you for all the work that they have done for the kingdom of our Lord. Grace and Peace to You All.

Pastor Stan

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Storm Damage

we begin to fade spiritually, just like those leaves.

Jesus reminds us in John 15:5: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing."* (NIV)

Just as a branch must remain connected to the vine to receive the nourishment it needs to live and bear fruit, we must remain connected to Christ. We cannot thrive spiritually on yesterday's strength or yesterday's walk with God. We need Him daily!



While Hurricane Isaias brought considerable damage, it also provided opportunities to witness the blessings of people helping one another. Neighbors shared resources such as food, generators, tractors, and even their own strength to help with cleanup.

Even in the midst of a storm, God reminded me of two important truths: we need to stay connected to Him, and we need one another. When we abide in Christ, His life flows through us, enabling us to bear fruit and demonstrate His love to those around us.

Laura Kitchen

Thoughts from Pastor Andrew



Have you ever wondered why so many hymns and worship songs (old and new) have themes that look toward our eternal home in Heaven? Here is a sample from songs we have sung in corporate worship the last few months:

-*"When Christ shall come…"* (How Great Thou Art)

-*"and we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore."* (Christ Our Hope in Life and Death)

-*"Standing with those who have heard 'Well Done', proclaiming forever that You're the One who's faithful…"* (Endless Praise)

-*"Still my soul will sing Your praise unending, ten thousand years and then forevermore"* (10,000 Reasons)

-*"A thousand generations falling down in worship, to sing the song of ages to the Lamb…"* (Holy Forever)

-*"Behold our God, seated on His throne… You will reign forever!"* (Behold Our God)

-*"When we've been there 10,000 years…"* (Amazing Grace)

Why is this reflection on Heaven important? We need to remember that this world is not our home! (Phil. 3:20) In the chaos, difficulty, and pain of this world, we have an eternal and perfect rest to look forward to: We are now a child of the King and will spend eternity worshipping in His presence (Hebrews 3 & 4). This "forever rest" that our relationship with Christ secures cannot be taken away by anyone or anything!

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."
2 Corinthians 4:17-18 ESV

Let's worship and walk in this encouraging promise today.

Pastor Andrew

Missions & Media

Updates from our recent mission activities in Nepal & Honduras:

While in Nepal, we encouraged all those busy in flood relief efforts. We were unable to travel to Nuwakot or Rasuwa due to restrictions and overall safety. We did however tour the Kathmandu warehouse where supplies were gathered, sorted and packaged for distribution.



We were told of numerous stories from the disaster, some giving evidence of His protective hand and certainly some sad stories that confirm our (your) Kingdom work in Nepal is far from completion.

We will now focus our efforts on restoring the homes & churches that were lost. This is the long term plan. We are anticipating that rebuilding will be in the $5k~$6k range per dwelling.

The Honduras team encouraged hundreds of youth and churches while in country. Making a difference in Honduras and targeting the youth will render Kingdom growth now and in the generations to come.

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Family Focus

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ." Phillippians 1:3-6

Recently I have been reflecting on what the Lord has done in my life and the life of our church and specifically the children's ministry. I consider one of my greatest privileges to serve in our children's ministry, and I am continually blessed by those who give so faithfully of their time and talents to serve our community, our church, and our children.



You may not realize it, but it takes around 50 volunteers a month to provide Sunday School, nursery during the service on Sunday mornings, and the Wednesday evening Awana program. That is a lot of people who are giving of themselves every month to love on our children and help teach them the truths of God's Word. I am so thankful to all of those who give of themselves to serve in our Children's Ministry. I pray that as we continue to serve, we will see children come to know the Lord as Savior and that they will also learn to love serving the Lord. During this season of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take the time to think about what the Lord has done in your life and give thanks for all that He has done and all that He will do in your life.

Beth Hendricks

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Missions is an act of love: meeting needs. Yes! Let's share the Gospel through our actions. He has certainly issued invitations to FBC to touch the world with His love. Thank you for being faithful to His call.



Pastor Chuck

First Baptist
Crestview

Pastoral Staff



Dr. Stan Lewis
Lead Pastor



Andrew Heathershaw
Worship Pastor



Chuck Walthall
Missions & Media Pastor



Bret Castille
Student Pastor

Children's Ministries



Beth Hendricks
Children's Ministries Director

Our Service Times

-Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
-Live Online @ fbcew.org
-Sunday School 9:00am
-Wednesday Scripture Studies 6:00pm
-Plus Worship Choir, Student & Children's Ministries and more!

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Student Ministry Updates



Hello church family! We are officially full speed ahead into the Holiday Season, and the FBC Student Ministry has been extremely eventful! There have been so many opportunities for our students to grow closer within the rest of FBC and each other, and I am forever thankful to the LORD for giving us these opportunities.

One of the many examples of this was our recent Church Work Day; friends, if you have not seen the Student Center in a couple of months, you need to! So many of the students (as well as many loving volunteers) have been adapting this building to suit our needs, as well as creating an environment that the students can call their own! I am so proud of each of them and their tremendous work that they have put in to our Student Center and into building up each other!



Some other great upcoming events are the Fall Festival (you most likely know all about this, so I won't bore you with the details), the FBC Students Halloween Party, and even looking forward to the Student Christmas Lock-in on December 18th and 19th. I know that many of our students are so excited for more of these events and opportunities to become more united as a group, and so am I!



I want to thank all of you who have been a support to our Student Ministry here at FBC. You've volunteered, provided finances, meals, and encouragement. You are greatly appreciated; thank you for all that you have done!

Pastor Bret