

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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FBC Bangs “The Messenger”  
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Words of Encouragement....

Genesis 29: 31-35 ➤ “When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb.... Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben [meaning - “see, a son”], for she said, ‘It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now.’ She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, ‘Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too.’ So she named him Simeon [meaning – “hearing”]. Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, ‘Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.’ So he was named Levi [meaning – “joined”]. She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, ‘This time I will praise the Lord.’ So she named him Judah [meaning – “praise”]. NIV

Leah’s experience as relayed to us in the passage above is a great illustration of part of every believer’s journey. We each long to be loved. We want to be heard – to be valued enough to know we are worth listening to. We yearn to be accepted and to belong.

You may recall that Leah wasn’t Jacob’s choice for a wife. It’s not that Jacob didn’t like her or care about her. There’s no evidence that they had a bad relationship. It’s just that Jacob fell in love with Rachel and worked seven years for his future father-in-law in order to marry Rachel, not Leah. And, while I don’t know exactly how it went unnoticed, Jacob doesn’t discover until the morning after the wedding that the woman he married was Leah.

Leah was a “fooler-package” for Jacob. Certainly not the woman he loved or the woman he worked hard to get. He’d been deceived (something he was also good at doing to others – see Gen. 25 & 27). While Jacob honored the marriage that had occurred, Leah was not the woman he had wanted to marry (Gen. 29:28-30).

And what must have been Leah’s relationship with her father Laban? He obviously didn’t think she was going to be able to find a husband without a little trickery on his part. Laban doesn’t come across like a man who exudes a lot of love and acceptance for Leah, or that he values her very much.

Can you imagine how Leah must have felt growing up in Laban’s home and then being sneakily transferred into another household where she is not going to receive the love and acceptance she so desperately desires?

And yet, the Lord saw Leah’s predicament and blessed her with children, more specifically, sons. In the Hebrew culture, having sons was a sign of God’s favor and blessing. With the arrival of each son, Leah thinks her situation will change and that she will finally be loved and accepted by Jacob in the way she desires.

Unfortunately, Leah couldn’t see beyond her own pain and feelings of loss. She saw each blessing (child) as a personal vindication – finally she would get what she deserved. God had seen her plight, now the rest of her family would see it also and would give her what she so desperately wanted. But it didn’t seem to work out that way. It doesn’t appear that she felt any more loved, accepted, connected, or appreciated for what she had produced for Jacob.

However, something does appear to have happened in Leah’s heart by the time the fourth son is born. This time it’s no longer about her, or Jacob, or her situation. She seems to have come to the realization that regardless of her circumstances (i.e., her feelings of inadequacy, her self-image, or her longing for love and acceptance) the only person that can truly meet her need is the Lord.

No matter what situation she may find herself in, the Lord is deserving and worthy of her praise. She seems to have come to terms with the fact that it’s not about her. It’s about Him! The ointment for her pain and the filling of her need is only found when she gets her eyes off herself and onto the Lord – WHEN SHE PRAISES GOD.

Dear believer, the same is true for us. Whatever your need or longing is, stop focusing on yourself and your circumstances and start centering your heart’s attention on the Lord. Complaining and grumbling about your situation will do nothing to change it or make it better. But focusing your heart, mind, and tongue on praising the Lord will at the very least change you.

Blessings to you on your journey of Judah! Pepper

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 2nd: Labor Day, Church Office Closed
- Sept. 4th: Deacons’ Meeting, Youth/Parent Meeting
- Sept. 8th-15th: Week of Prayer for Texas Missions/Mary Hill Davis Offering
- Sept. 8th: Missions Committee Meeting, Youth/Parent Meeting
- Sept. 10th: Advanced Group Luncheon
- Sept. 11th: Business Meeting
- Sept. 15th: Youth Ministry Team Meeting
- Sept. 20th-22nd: DNow Weekend for Youth
- Sept. 25th: “See You at the Pole”, “Saw You at the Pole”, Maintenance Committee Meeting
- Sept. 29th: 5th Sunday Pot Providence Luncheon
- Oct.: Holiday Food Drive for Bangs Food Pantry, Coat and Blanket Drive, Ministerial Staff Appreciation Month
- Oct. 2nd: 2020 Calendar Planning Meeting, Deacons’ Meeting
- Oct. 5th: Church Work Day
- Oct. 6th: Missions Committee Meeting
- Oct. 8th: Advanced Group Luncheon
- Oct. 9th: Business Meeting, Youth Fields of Faith
- Oct. 12th: 2020 Church Budget Workshop
- Oct. 13th: Children’s Ministry Team Meeting
- Oct. 20th: The Lord’s Supper, Youth Ministry Team Meeting
- Oct. 23rd: Maintenance Committee Meeting
- Oct. 31st: Children’s Trunk or Treat
- Nov.: Salvation Army Bell Ringers’ sign up, Holiday Food Drive for Bangs Food Pantry, Star Christmas Tree Project
- Nov. 2nd: Church Work Day


- Nov. 3rd: Time Change fall back one hour at 2:00 am; Missions Committee Meeting
- Nov. 6th: Deacons’ Meeting
- Nov. 10th: Children’s Ministry Team Meeting
- Nov. 12th: Advanced Group Luncheon
- Nov. 13th: Business Meeting
- Nov. 17th: Youth Ministry Team Meeting
- Nov. 20th: Thanksgiving Meal and Praise Service
- Nov. 27th: Church Office closes at noon, no Fellowship Meal or evening services
- Nov. 28th: Thanksgiving Day, Church Office Closed
- Nov. 29th: Church Office Closed
- Dec. 1st-8th: Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- Dec. 4th: Hanging of the Green, Deacons’ Meeting
- Dec. 7th: Church Work Day, Christmas in the Park Parade and Nativity Scene
- Dec. 8th: Children’s Christmas Musical
- Dec. 10th: Advanced Group Luncheon
- Dec. 11th: Christmas Outreach: Caroling and Fellowship Meal
- Dec. 15th: Turn in Star Christmas Tree gifts, Youth Ministry Team Meeting
- Dec. 18th: No fellowship meal or services
- Dec. 22nd: The Lord’s Supper
- Dec. 24th: Church Office closed, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec. 25th: Christmas Day, Church Office closed
- Dec. 31st: New Year’s Eve, Church Office closed
- Jan. 1, 2020: New Year’s Day, Church Office will be closed



Don’t forget to “Fall Back” one hour on Saturday night, Nov. 2nd before you go to bed!  
We change back to Central Standard Time on Sunday morning, Nov. 3rd at 2am.

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Don’t miss Hanging of the Green at 6:15 pm on Wednesday evening, Dec. 4th!  
Help decorate your church home for Christmas!







# CHILDREN'S NEWS



### Passionate Servants Wanted!

Deut. 6: 5-9 says to *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

FBC Children's Ministry is looking for passionate servants who feel God is calling them to minister and serve our children and families. Contact Joy if you feel God is speaking to you about actively serving in our Sunday School, Wednesday PM Bible Study, Children's Church, Children's Ministry Team, Nursery or as a Children's Ministry Intern. Servanthood is not a service project! It is a condition of the heart!

Thank you for being a SERVANT Church and thank you to our faithful servant teachers and helpers who have committed to this ministry! We truly are the "hands & feet of Jesus"! I pray that you will join us in fervent prayer for the lost & hurting! I pray that God would use Bangs FBC in a MIGHTY way to SERVE one another in LOVE and that "all men will know that we are His disciples by our LOVE for One Another"!

Servanthood starts at home, then pours over into our church, locally & globally! Let's look for ways to passionately & intentionally practice servanthood in our homes, neighborhood, sports teams, etc. May we never become complacent, distracted or casual about the ministry that God has called us to! Be the Kind Kid/Parent! Be the Kid/Parent that loves Jesus and others with all their heart, and it SHOWS in how we act and talk!!!

May we never become complacent, distracted or casual about the ministry that God has called us to! Be the Kind Kid/Parent! Be the Kid/Parent that loves Jesus and others with all their heart, and it SHOWS in how we act and talk!!!

**WE ARE THE CHURCH! WE LIVE READY TO LOVE, SERVE & GO!** The church is not a place to go, it is WHO WE ARE!

**"The church is not an audience of spectators; we are a fellowship of disciplemakers."** David Platt

Blessings on you! **Joy** 😊

# STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

*"True Christianity is not about adding Jesus to my life. Instead, it is about devoting myself completely to Him—submitting wholly to His will and seeking to please Him above all else."* --John MacArthur, *Slave: The Hidden Truth about Your Identity in Christ.*

*"If I am your Father and Master, where are the honor and respect I deserve?"* Malachi 1:6b

Summer is gone and another school year is upon us. Students are getting back into a routine, fall sports are in full swing, and the temperature is cooling down. All wonderful things. I wonder, though, if our attention to the Lord has taken a hit during our summer break.

While I do not want to argue legalism, it is no secret that church attendance is down in the summer, and seasons really shouldn't affect our devotion and love for the Lord. So, the question then becomes, "Why?" Why is it such a struggle to have solid commitments from church-goin', Bible-believin' folks? Why is Jesus not enough? The answer, quite simply, is priorities. Our priorities dictate our heart.

"Working" for the church makes me biased, of course. However, it is my passion to work with students and the church to see both prosper in the Lord. I am devoted to seeing her (the Church) be the light she was put here in Bangs to be. I alone cannot fulfill the purposes of the Church. She is made up of everyone who believes.

I invite you to make a new commitment to Christ--one that will honor Him through our actions, not because we are "working" to gain anything, but because we are faithful in our calling as Christ-followers. Let's make this next season one of devotion.

So, maybe you haven't been coming regularly. Maybe you're reading this and haven't been to church in a long time. I want to invite you to come home. No guilt or shame—just a fresh start! Not sure where to go? Contact me at 325-998-3659 and I will help you find a place to fellowship, learn, and serve. Hope to see you soon!

*Seth*

### Upcoming Youth Events

9.04.19 or 9.08.19—Parent meeting (only need to attend one)  
9.15.19—YMT Meeting  
9.20-22.19—Fall DNow—sign up is currently underway  
9.25.19—See You At The Pole  
10.5.19—Workday 8am-12noon  
10.9.19—Fields of Faith (Gordan Wood Stadium 6:30pm)  
10.20.19—YMT Meeting  
11.2.19—Workday 8am-12noon  
11.17.19—YMT Meeting  
12.7.19—Workday 8am-12noon  
12.15.19—YMT Meeting

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Upcoming Events!

Oct. 5th: Church Work Day (8am-12pm)  
Oct. 31st: Trunk or Treat, 5:30-7:00 pm  
Nov. 2nd: Church Work Day (8am-12pm)  
Nov. 20th: Thanksgiving Meal and Praise Service at 5:30 pm  
Dec. 4th: Hanging of the Green at 6:15 pm  
Dec. 7th: Church Work Day (8am-12pm)  
Christmas at the Park Parade at 6:00 pm followed by Nativity Scene at 6:00 pm  
Dec. 8th: Children's Christmas Musical at 10:45 am  
Dec. 11th: Christmas Outreach: Caroling and Fellowship Meal  
Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm



**December 24th in the Church Sanctuary**

# MISSIONS NEWS

**Bangs Food Pantry OPEN! First Thursdays from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Third Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

### CLOTHES CLOSET

We are still accepting clothing donations. We have partnered with other churches in a program called "Knit Together" for distribution of clothing we have collected or will collect in the future. "Knit Together" is a Clothing shop where foster families and children in the CASA program can pick up needed items for free. It is located on 7th street in Brownwood across from Coggin Avenue Baptist Church.

### Upcoming Missions Offering Opportunities

Week of Prayer for Texas Missions and Mary Hill Davis Offering® will be September 8th-15th

When you give to the MHDO, you help Texas churches be more effective in reaching and discipling the unreached populations in their communities. Your gift can fund just the right project to fill a need. What will you give?

Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, December 1st-8th

Supporting international missionaries among the unreached since 1888. 100% of your gifts directly support missionaries around the world! Pray about what you can give to reach the unreached! Mail your Christmas Cards in the Lottie Moon Post Office!

Watch for these upcoming opportunities!

Holiday Food Drive for Bangs Food Pantry starting in October  
Ministerial Staff Appreciation in October  
Salvation Army Bell Ringers Sign Up in November  
Star Christmas Tree Project starting in November



**The Cindy Evans  
Honorary Library**



**Library Hours**

Sundays

9:00-9:30 am

5:00-6:00 pm

Wednesdays

5:00-5:30 pm

Our Library was started in the Children's Department by Patsy Weeks in a closet. In about 2002 or 2003 Patsy stepped down and Cindy Evans then took over. For another couple of years the library remained in the children's department before being transferred to where it is now. At first it was in the room that has the window then when the new offices were built, the library was able to take over all three rooms. Cindy Evans had received an inheritance from her uncle which enabled her to buy a lot of books. Once people realize that we had a good Library they started donating books. We are still being blessed by donations resulting in a wide variety of books, from baby board books up to research books.

**Beth Eggert, Co-Librarian**



### MUSIC MINISTRY

*Speak to one another in songs,  
hymns, and spiritual  
songs...Ephesians 5:19(a)*

Is there a song that has been special to you? Please share the title of the song and a little about what it has meant to you on the forms on the Missions Table in the Church Foyer. We would like to incorporate some of these songs and testimonies in future worship services.



**Ladies Fitness Classes** will resume on Sept. 9th, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 8am in the FBC Gym. Bring a mat and hand weights and join the fun!