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Non-Profit
Organization
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Bangs, Texas
PERMIT NO. 9



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WORSHIP LEADER
INTERIM CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR
OFFICE MANAGER
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Words of Encouragement...

Mark 4:14-20 > "The sower sows the word. These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. And in a similar way these are the ones sown with seed on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and yet they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown with seed among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. And those are the ones sown with seed on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much."

I recently preached a message from this passage about the parable of the Sower and the Seed. And as I mentioned then, I suspect the vast majority of times this parable has been studied and explained, it was from the perspective that Jesus is talking about the person (the heart) that becomes saved versus those that do not. While that certainly would be a part of the meaning of this parable, I believe its meaning is much broader and applicable to all of us every day.

This parable is not merely about those who "get saved." This parable is really about the "readiness" of a person's heart to receive the word of God (His message to us), whether that person is lost or saved. The explanation of this parable offered by Jesus here in Mark 4:14-20 clearly identifies the "word of God" as the seed in the story.

If a person is lost without Christ, and the word of the "good news" comes to him, then the nature of the soil (the heart) influences the response of that person to the seed (the word) that is sown. Salvation, then, only occurs for the one in whom the seed "bears fruit," not for the other three responses.

For those of us who have been born again, the same heart-readiness is required every time God's word (God's message) comes to us. God is looking for those whose hearts are ready to receive the word He has for them. And, as in the parable, there are a number of things in our lives that could prevent and choke out what God wants to do in our lives.

Only one heart-response bears fruit. Only one condition of the soil is ready to receive and respond to the message (the word) from God. The other three conditions of the heart will keep us from bearing the fruit God desires from us. Satan is still in the business of "snatching away" the seed God is sowing. Satan still tries to keep God's word from taking root in our hearts and seeks to choke it out by the worries and vane pursuits of this world that clutter our lives.

Again, the real issue is the nature and condition of the soil (the heart). God is regularly sowing His word (seed) into our hearts. He speaks His message through the Word of God that you read, through a sermon that you hear, through the lessons taught in Scripture, through a friend who brings you encouragement, and through countless other ways every day.

So, how is your heart-readiness for the message (the word) God wants to sow in your life? He wants your heart to receive His word and allow it to bear fruit in and through your life.

I know God is ready, willing... and still sowing His Word in your heart.

Blessings to you on this journey of keeping your heart ready to receive the word God has for you.


Bro. Pepper

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER! Any and all dates are subject to change.

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| Sept. 14th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, Special Events Decorating for Fall | Nov. 16th: Thanksgiving Meal and Praise Service |
| Sept. 18th: Missions Committee Meeting | Nov. 20th: Missions Committee Meeting |
| Sept. 19th: Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts. | Nov. 21st: Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts. |
| Sept. 21st: Children's Committee Meeting | Nov. 22nd: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority |
| Sept. 25th: Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions | Nov. 23rd: Church Office closes at noon, No meal, no services |
| Sept. 27th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority, Calendar Planning Meeting | Nov. 24th: Thanksgiving Day, Church Office closed |
| Sept. 28th: See You at the Pole, Saw You at the Pole | Nov. 25th: Church Office closed |
| October: Ministerial Appreciation Month, Coat/Blanket Drive | Nov. 27th: No Children's Church |
| Oct. 2nd: Women's Ministry Luncheon | Nov. 30th: Hanging of the Green, Youth Committee Meeting |
| Oct. 5th: Deacons' Meeting, Fields of Faith | Dec. 3rd: First Blessing |
| Oct. 7th: Bangs Homecoming, 5th Quarter | Dec 4th-10th: Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions |
| Oct. 8th: Budget Workshop | Dec. 4th: No Children's Church, Children's Christmas Musical, Women's Ministry Luncheon |
| Oct. 12th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee | Dec. 7th: Deacons' Meeting |
| Oct. 16th: The Lord's Supper, Ministerial Appreciation Luncheon | Dec. 11th: Home for Christmas |
| Oct. 17th: Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts. | Dec. 14th: Soup Social, Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Youth Christmas Party, Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting |
| Oct. 19th: Children's Committee Meeting | Dec. 18th: The Lord's Supper, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions |
| Oct. 23rd: Missions Committee Meeting | Dec. 19th: Mobile Food Pantry@Cannon Courts Apts. |
| Oct. 25th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority | Dec. 21st: No meal, no services |
| Oct. 26th: Youth Committee Meeting | Dec. 23rd: Church Office closed |
| Oct. 29th: Fall Night of Worship (Youth Room) | Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| Oct. 30th: No Children's Church | Dec. 25th: Christmas Day |
| Oct. 31st: Trunk or Treat! | Dec. 26th: Church Office closed |
| November: Salvation Army Bell Ringers Sign Up, Food Drive for Bangs Food Pantry, Christmas Cards for Military | Dec. 27th: Mobile Food Pantry@Bangs Housing Authority |
| Nov. 2nd: Deacons' Meeting | Dec. 28th: No meal, no services |
| Nov. 4th: Youth-5th Quarter | Dec. 30th: Church Office closed. |
| Nov. 6th: Women's Ministry Luncheon | Dec. 31st: New Year's Eve |
| Nov. 9th: Business Meeting, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting | |
| Nov. 11th: Veteran's Day | |



Don't forget to "Fall Back" one hour on Saturday night, Nov. 5th before you go to bed!
We change back to Central Standard Time on Sunday morning, Nov. 6th at 2am.

Don't miss Hanging of the Green at 6:15 pm on Wednesday evening, Nov. 30th!
Help decorate your church home for Christmas!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



"And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." [Deuteronomy 6:7-8.]

We have had another fantastic summer training up the children that God continues to bring us! Once again, the summer seems to have flown by here in the children's department. We had another great experience at preteen camp as we took 31 kids and 4 adults to the Heart of Texas Encampment Center in Lake Brownwood and learned to be an Overcomer. We ended camp with 6 kids giving their lives to Jesus! We finished our 'back to basics' Wednesday night theme, where we utilized a study called "What's in the Bible" to give our kids familiarity with the history, make-up, and overall purpose of the Holy Scriptures. We also discovered that God is "Monumental" with 93 friends at Vacation Bible School. With mixed emotions, we promoted 13 kids up to the youth group after our Back-to-School-Bash, where we once again gathered in groups to pray for our school! All of this made possible by our amazing volunteers and your continued prayers. Thank you all so much!

We are now in the full swing of fall- school routines, sports schedules, and planning for some great Community Outreach for Jesus events! Our Children's Choir practices have begun on Wednesday nights from 7:00-7:30. This year, the kids will ride on a float in the Christmas parade and sing for the congregation in December. In October we'll again be hosting one of our largest annual outreach events, the Trunk or Treat— please sign up to host a trunk today!

As most of you know, Garrett has been called to a full-time staff position at FBC Copperas Cove, where he will serve as the Minister of Discipleship and Facilities. So, Sunday September 4th will be my last day as the Children's Director. It has truly been a humbling experience to get to spend so much time with our Church's most valuable treasure--your kiddos. I have learned so much more than I taught them. Thank you for trusting me, praying for me, and serving with me. I am forever grateful!

Shine for Jesus!

Sarah (*Galatians 1:10*)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT from Dr. Pepper Dill

I am so thankful for Sarah's ministry to our children, as well as to our church family. She and the Children's Ministry Team have done a fantastic job teaching, encouraging, and loving our kids here at FBC. While we will miss Sarah (as well as Garrett and their family), I am also very excited about the new ministry to which the Lord has called them at FBC Copperas Cove, as well as what the Lord will do in them and through them there.

When I became aware that Sarah would be stepping down from her leadership role in our Children's Ministry, I immediately began asking God for wisdom and direction as to who He would have serve in that position. And as always, God is so faithful in His provision and guidance.

I am thrilled to announce that Kelcy Purcell will be serving as our Interim Children's Director beginning Sunday, September 11, 2022. Kelcy has been working closely with Sarah over the past year and has served as an active member on the Children's Ministry Team. She met with me to share how she felt the Holy Spirit leading her to step into this ministry role. She and Josh had been talking and praying about it for several weeks, and the Lord seemed to be confirming it in their hearts.

I wholeheartedly agreed... as did the members of the Children's Ministry Team!

So, it is with great joy and excitement that I welcome Kelcy Purcell to the church staff in her new role as Interim Children's Director. Please pray for her as she assumes these new responsibilities... and please continue to pray for those who serve alongside her with our children.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Greetings church family. We had an amazing summer this year. July was full of activities starting at Follow Lead Serve Camp at Howard Payne University, which we were able to take three to this leadership camp. They all learned how to take a step past just showing up to youth but to be a leader in every situation through how we conduct our lives through our worship. Next, we went to Highland lakes Camp. We took nineteen youth and five sponsors. It was an amazing week. We learned about being converged with Christ and how that makes us bold. We had three youth come to Christ during this camp. Then, we got to be the VBS recreation team for a week.

As the youth go back to school, please pray for them and how they spend their time. That school activities and schoolwork would not consume all their time. That they would remember to get into their Bibles and focus on what is most important as their schedules become chaotic. Also, that they would continue to be bold in Christ to spread the Good News to their friends in their school and bring them to learn more.

Jarryd

Continued on next page. . .

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Oct. 31st: Trunk or Treat
- Dec. 4th: Sunday Morning Christmas Children's Choir Program
- Dec. 14th: Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Youth Ministry News continued. . .

Upcoming Youth Events

- September 28th: See You at the Pole, 7AM at the High School flagpole
- September 28th: Saw You at the Pole Rally, 5:45PM between the High School and Middle School
- October 5th: Fields of Faith, 7PM at Gordon Wood Stadium
- October 7th, 21st, & November 4th : 5th Quarters, 10PM to midnight in Church Gym and Fellowship Hall
- October 22nd: WAY Summit, 10AM-5PM at Coggin Avenue Baptist Church



WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Hey Church,

First of all, I'd like to say how excited Mary Beth and I are to be here at FBC Bangs. The Lord has called us here and we are definitely experiencing the blessings of being in his will. I am stepping into this position with great joy, and with the sense that I am finally realizing God's call on my life that I've felt for a decade. Thank you for receiving Mary Beth and me with such grace and compassion. I think we can both say we have truly found a place to belong in Bangs and in this church fellowship.

Several things have happened in the life of the worship ministry since I arrived. We've made updates to the audio/visual systems in the sanctuary, as well as in the youth room. The livestream has also received a few updates. You will notice the online sound quality has improved, and it is now possible to see the performers on stage and the song lyrics at the same time. I appreciate your patience with us as we continue to work through the issues involved with these systems.

While some things have changed since I arrived, there are foundations the FBC worship ministry has stood on and will continue to stand on that will not be compromised. We will sing truth about God. We will strive to honor him. And we will love this church family. This was true of Leesa and Stacy's leadership before me and it is a standard I want to uphold. In this I pray that the Church would grow closer to God and closer to each other, that we would be spiritually formed to be more like Christ, and that the spirit of God would move within our church and our city.

If you would like to volunteer in the audio/visual booth or on the worship team, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I would appreciate your prayers for the worship ministry, as well as for Mary Beth and me personally. I love you and I'm excited for what God is doing here at FBC Bangs.

Grace and Peace,
Duncan

MISSIONS NEWS

Upcoming Missions Offering Opportunities

Week of Prayer for Texas Missions and Mary Hill Davis Offering® will be September 11th-17th

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 4th-10th

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:

- Ministerial Staff Appreciation in October
- Holiday Food Drive for Bangs Food Pantry starting in November
- Salvation Army Bell Ringers Sign Up in November
- Lottie Moon Post Office in December
- First Blessing in December

