

MARCH  
2017

# The Baptist Briefs

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONONGAHELA, PA

## WINTER WEATHER Cancellation Policy

A text message or email will be sent out if we need to close due to bad weather. Information will also be posted on both WPXI & KDKA television stations.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 4 Jeff Dunmire  
Mar. 5 Lori Stillwagon  
Mar. 5 Robin Yohe  
Mar. 7 Judy Shaw  
Mar. 9 Donna Gorby  
Mar. 11 Bill Staffen  
Mar. 13 Connie Caldwell  
Mar. 15 Margaret Falter  
Mar. 15 Jackie Leaver  
Mar. 15 Lynn Toretta  
Mar. 16 Sara Toretta  
Mar. 18 Tammy Warchol  
Mar. 19 Betty Dorman  
Mar. 21 Donna Irwin  
Mar. 25 Morgan Baxter

HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY  
Mark & Michelle Tabacca  
March 26



## This Issue

Pastor's Corner	P. 2
Children's Corner	P. 3
Preschool Corner	P. 4
Women's Ministry	P. 5
Missionary Newsletters	P. 7

## Adult Game Night

Mark your calendars!

What: Adult Game Night!  
When: **Saturday, March 4th at 6:00 pm**  
Where: FBC Fellowship Hall  
Who: ALL of you PLUS invite friends!  
Why: Fun! Fun! Fun!

Join us for a night of fun and games! Bring your favorite snack to share - drinks will be provided. And no excuses parents...there is childcare available for a \$5 per family donation! (potty trained only please)



## Ladies Painting Event

Would you like to go to the beach with us? Just sit and relax in a comfy chair with your feet in the sand? Sounds great, doesn't it?

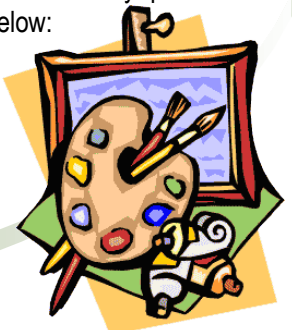
Please join us at First Baptist Church for a painting session with Kate Gibson on **Saturday, March 25 at 1:00PM**. Artistic ability is not required. Kate Gibson will walk you through the steps to paint a beautiful beach scene on canvas.

All women ages 13 to 100 are invited to join us for "Paint With Kate Gibson". This is a first come, first serve event. Class size is limited to 25 people. The cost for this event is \$30 per person. Payment is due at time of reservation to hold your spot.

Beverages will be provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share with others. There will be no childcare for this event.

For more information or if you have any questions contact one of the ladies below:

Katie Irwin 724-825-7654  
Lisa Leach 724-454-0942  
Sis Baxter 724-258-9649



# Pastor's Corner

DURING FEBRUARY I'VE BEEN IN A SERIES ENTITLED "DONE ENOUGH YET?"

In my message on Sunday February 19th I mentioned the need for a teaching strategy that goes beyond putting a plaque of the Ten Commandments on a wall ([you can listen here](#)). As parents and a Congregation attempting to support our families we need a strategy to invest Biblical truth in our children. If we're going to help them live out their Hope in and beyond College, then we must strategize and execute a plan so that Bible knowledge goes beyond their heads and becomes established in their hearts. Our influence during their formative years passes quickly. The reason I spoke seemingly in a negative way about having the Ten Commandments placed on the wall alone is because as a visual strategy it is incomplete. Why? Because it included decrees, commands, instructions and statutes. Through all of those the Lord declared how their relationship with Him would work and provided glimpses into His nature and character. Although it is common to think of the Law as limited to the Ten Commandments. Actually, it was comprised of regula-

## Pillar #1 We Need the Big Picture

*"...we need a strategy to invest Biblical truth in our children."*

tions for worship, instructions on legal matters, principles for society, edicts for sexual conduct and more. When obeyed, the Law was a path to fruitful life (Leviticus 18:4-5). The Lord made it clear that His laws were not negotiable. He expected unconditional obedience. Those refusing to listen to Him and carry out all of His commands would be met with divine anger, overwhelming cost and the realization that God would always get His way (Lev 26:14 - 39).

The Law is much more than a set of restrictions. It governed the Old Testament system of sacrifices which were the mechanisms for maintaining a right standing with God. Yet it was only a shadow of the superior sacrifice Jesus made when He came to earth to redeem us from the guilt of our sins. In His death, Jesus set aside the first way and paved a new way by providing the perfect, ultimate sacrifice of Himself once and for all. Men and women are now made holy through faith in His sacrifice and resurrection (Hebrews 10:1-10). This helps us understand Jesus' words when He said

that He did not come to abolish the Law but to complete it (Matthew 5:17).

Since a strategy is so vital we've adopted the Orange program as the backbone of our children's and student teaching materials here at FBC. My prayer is that our parents are using the weekly parent cues and homework we send home with your kids and students to help you with that strategy. Recently, I've discovered an additional "voice" to help you. I've included it in this month's Briefs. Jeff Anderson is a pastor/blogger that presents an at home strategy that I think has some great. I hope it will give you some added help. The material is really well done and clearly thought through. Actually, it is so clear that I think it will help all of our adult readers as well. So whether you're retired, an empty-nester, still raising children or single, I think you'll be blessed by his thoughts.

Enjoy,  
Pastor Mark  
Colossians 1:9-10

## PILLAR #1 WE NEED THE BIG PICTURE

[www.JeffAndersonAuthor.com](http://www.JeffAndersonAuthor.com)

In my previous post, I noted two concerning, and connected, trends:

- 1 Young people walking away from faith
- 2 Biblical literacy dramatically declining among young people (and adults)

As promised, this is the first of five pillars to teach your family. That means five ways to help your family grow up to understand truth, and to walk more confidently in the faith.

### No Gimmicks

These are not five magic solutions to raising kids. Transferring faith is a multi-faceted process that is influenced by a wide range of factors, like:

- Church, Culture
- Child's freewill
- God's sovereignty
- Prayer

- And of course, Parenting

And under the Parenting category, there's our own Spiritual Modeling. And the one we're focused on in this series - Biblical teaching.

### Pillar #1 - Youth need the big-picture

I know. This is so simple it's crazy that it even needs mentioning. But it does. Youth need to know the basic narrative of the faith. They need the big picture. *What's the overall theme of the Bible? Is there a thread that runs from Genesis to Revelation?*

### What's the 30,000-foot perspective that allowed the Christian religion to survive and thrive for the past 2,000 years?

Among the evidences of declining biblical literacy is the fact of basic articulation. Most kids today can't articulate their faith. They

might be able to recite the sinner's prayer, their date of baptism, and maybe even some landmark Bible stories. Before smart phones, they might have rattled off the books of the Bible. But when it comes to grasping the big picture, and relating it back in their own words, they go blank.

### Getting the big picture is crucial to any discipline in life.

Lawyers don't just know laws, they understand the legal framework and storied cases that make up the legal system. A good tour guide doesn't just offer facts and dates. They know the sequence of events leading up to the moment of interest.

An NFL quarterback doesn't just know how to take snaps or call plays in a huddle. They see the entire field and try to anticipate what

# So what's the big picture for a Christian?

the other team's eleven players might be scheming.

## So what's the big picture for a Christian?

Genesis 1-3: God placed man in a garden filled with delicious fruit trees, and gave him a tent (a body) that would live forever. Satan came on the scene. And so did sin. An angel showed man the exit sign out of the garden, cutting off access to that special fruit tree (called the Tree of Life). As a result, death followed for everyone.

Revelation 20-22: One day (still ahead of us), after a really gruesome battle and a dreary judgment, those life-giving fruit trees will once again appear in a "garden" called the New Jerusalem... the capital city of Heaven. And finally, man will live forever with God. A wild plan, isn't it?

## That's the skinny version, using the first and last three chapters of the Bible. But what's the middle of the story?

When I share the sex talk with my children, I don't use "birds and bees." I talk specifically about the "seed." The seed from a mommy and a daddy, that results in a baby.

I've found the "seed" to be helpful tool when I want to transition to talking about the Bible. A launch pad for the big-picture Bible discussion is Genesis 3:15. The verse tells about the seed of a woman that will one day rock the enemy and save the world.

For 4,000 years this seed worked it's way through the human race. Eventually a baby Messiah was born. For a season, which continues even into today, this seed has been pestered by the snake (Satan) nipping at the ankles. But in the end, this seed (Christ) will crush Satan's head.

It's a grander story than could be scripted by any Hollywood sci-fi movie.

## Building the narrative

- The Bible stretches a period of 4,000 years,
- consisting of roughly 70 generations,
- organized around 5 key reset events,
- to set-up two climactic redemptive events.

## 4,000 Years:

God gives us the data to calculate a Biblical timeline. Third graders can chart the date of Noah's flood with a calculator, some paper and the text from Genesis 5. When kids see that they can sketch the biblical timeline, lights goes on in their minds...and big smiles appear. (It feels good to figure things out.)

Throughout scriptures, God provides helpful references to piece together the timeline. At the end of this article, I provide links to some of my favorite timeline maps you can share with your family.

## Roughly 70 Generations:

I like to ask kids, "how many great, great, great... grandfathers does it take to track the "seed" from Christ to Adam? (A very smart student might answer the question with a question.... Do you mean through Mary? or Joseph?)

That's right. The Bible unfolds the family tree from the 1st Adam to the 2nd Adam (Christ). The Gospel of Luke traces the genealogy from Adam to Mary – 76 generations. Matthew's Gospel builds a partial genealogy from Abraham to Joseph (Bible scholars note 65 generations noted from Adam to Joseph).

The biblical accounts are there to link The Seed from Genesis 3:15 to John 3:16 (God's Son sent to die for the world). Consider these ways various Bible accounts help us understand the role of The Seed.

- Why did God save one man's family (Noah) from the flood? [Answer: To keep The Seed alive]
- What's so significant about Abraham being asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac [Answer: that meant killing the path of The Seed that would lead to Christ]
- Why the weird story of Judah having sex with his daughter-in-law Tamar who posed as a prostitute [Answer: she carries The Seed in the line of Christ – shocking, huh?]
- What's so special about the story of Ruth? [Answer: she marries Boaz, the great grandfather to King David – also ancestor to Christ]

- What's up with the run-down of all the bad - and occasional good - kings in Kings and Chronicles. [Answer: many of the kings are carrying The Seed into the future]

The bible is the history of all the birth certificates of each generation from Adam to Christ.

Lets keep moving.

## "Reset" Events:

Bible stories are important. I recommend sharing as many as you can with your children.

The problem is, kids learn them with no context for how they relate to the big picture. As parents, we can help their understanding by linking these stories to The Seed.

There are five key events God uses to pave the path for The Seed. Interestingly, these five events are marked by a special conversation with God. I call them "resets" because of how these events reset the direction for The Seed to travel.

### 1. God speaks to Satan in the garden, in the presence of Adam and Eve.

After Adam and Even ate the forbidden fruit, man was flawed and death entered the scene. But God had a solution, saying to Satan, "GAME ON! Your fate is sealed. I'm going to crush you.... With a special seed." (Jeff's paraphrase)

### 2. God speaks to Noah of plans to destroy the earth by flood.

Angels were procreating with humans, (no kidding – you can read about it in Genesis 6). So God started over with one family. NEW BEGINNINGS for mankind. The previous human race was contaminated with angelic seed. (I promise, your kids will get this more than you think. It's us adults that act weird about these truths.)

Reset Event	Approximate Date	God speaks to	Historic Event	Transition for the Seed
#1	4,000 BC	Adam, Eve, Satan (serpent)	The Curse	New Game Plan
#2	2300 BC	Noah	The Flood	New Beginnings
#3	1900 BC	Abraham	The Father of nations	New Nation
#4	1500 BC	Moses	The Exodus	New Order
#5	5 BC	Mary	The Messiah	New Adam (King)

3. God speaks to Abraham of plans to give him and his wife, Sarah, a son.

As wickedness spread across the earth again, the seed was once again at risk. So God launched a NEW NATION (called Israel) and a safer path for routing The Seed.

4. God tells Moses of plans to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt.

The Israelites found themselves in slavery. Not good for The Seed. To keep The Seed safe, God provided an escape from slavery and separation from their enemies. He established a NEW ORDER for this new nation by which to live (i.e. new laws, new land, new government, new tabernacle, new code of worship, etc.)

5. God tells the virgin, Mary, that she will have a child.

Instead of a seed from a man, it would be a Holy Spirit Seed. Finally a NEW ADAM (i.e. the baby Jesus who grew up as a child, walked the earth as a perfect man, and offered himself as a sacrifice to God.)

**Two redemptive events:**

Two climactic, redemptive events are integral to the overall biblical narrative.

The redemption of man: Jesus came to earth to be sacrificed as the Lamb of God, to redeem fallen man. Three days after his cross crucifixion, Jesus was resurrected from

the dead. Those who place their complete trust and belief in Him will have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life and have eternal life. They too will one day experience a bodily resurrection.

Renewal of the heavens and earth: This event lies ahead of us, following the final judgment and destruction of Satan, his angels, and all those whose names are not written in the Book of Life.

## ONE MORE TIME

***The Bible spans a history of 4,000 years, consisting of roughly 70 generations, organized around 5 key reset events, to set up 2 climactic redemptive events.***

### Action for families

By keeping the big picture narrative in mind, relating the Bible to your children can make more sense to them... and to you as parents also. They'll have a mental container to place the various stories and facts they learn about the Bible.

Here are three ideas for keeping the Biblical narrative front and center in your home.

1. **Create your own Bible timeline:** As a family, chart out the timeline and key reset events on a poster board or flip chart

sheet, with colored markers. Practice helping your youth share the biblical narrative, using the language of The Seed. Below is an outline to use as a guide.

2. In addition to your homemade timelines, you can obtain **printed Bible timelines** to place in your home that go much deeper in helping to tell the Biblical narrative. Below are links to three of my favorite posters that I have hanging in my home office. They are very useful reference for my personal Bible study, as well as for sharing with the family.

3. Read the Bible regularly as a family, and talk about the narrative along the way.

### Parents, faith does not transfer automatically.

The enemy is in the business of stealing faith from our youth. It happens easily when they don't know the big picture. The parable of the seed (Matthew 13) is all about people who hear the truth, and for a while they seem to get it.

But often, for many, something tragic happens. The big picture never develops in their minds or in their hearts. Then distractions come their way...and they drift.

### What stops the drift and anchors a soul? Understanding.

### Big Picture Timeline

4,000 BC	2300BC	1900 BC	1500 BC	5 AD
RESET #1	#2	#3	#4	#5
God talks to... Satan, Adam/Eve	Noah	Abe	Moses	Mary
Seed Strategy "Game on!"	NEW Beginnings	NEW Nation	NEW Order	NEW Adam

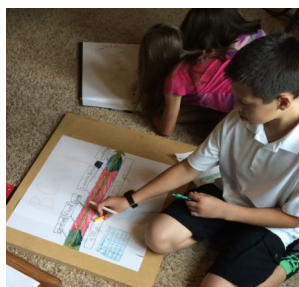
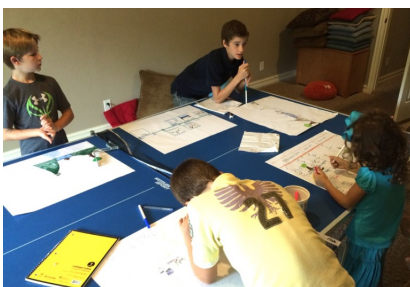
### Printed Bible timeline links

<https://usstore.creation.com/genealogy-poster>

<https://answersingenesis.org/store/product/seven-cs-timeline-poster/?sku=00-5-058>

<https://amazingbibletimeline.com>

Grown-ups can have fun with this, too! (Below are from a recent class I taught)





Students in our  
First Look class  
making valentines  
for our shut-ins!



## FIRST LOOK SCHEDULE

1st Hour: Mar. 5 Beth Stabile  
Mar.12 Mark Tabacca  
Mar.19 Mark Tabacca  
Mar. 26 Leslie Trilli

2nd Hour: Music & Missions  
Lisa Leach

## 252 BASICS SCHEDULE

1st Hour: Terri Graney  
2nd Hour: Music Connection

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

March 5  
10:00 Bonnie Kirby  
11:00 Debbie Jobes

March 12  
10:00 Brittany Critchfield  
11:00 Leslie Trilli

March 19  
10:00 Dawn Stancata  
11:00 Lisa Zanardelli

March 26  
10:00 Michelle Tabacca  
11:00 Darlene Willis

# Women's Simulcast Conference\*

With Priscilla Shirer  
(Star of the hit movie "War Room")

Please join the Women's Ministry of First Baptist as we host this one-day simulcast that focuses on the power of prayer and learning to study God's Word for yourself.

**DATE:** Saturday, April 22, 2017

**TIME:** 9:00am - 4:30pm

**PLACE:** First Baptist Church of Monongahela  
601 W. Main St. Monongahela 15063

**COST:** \$20 (due by April 9 and non-refundable)

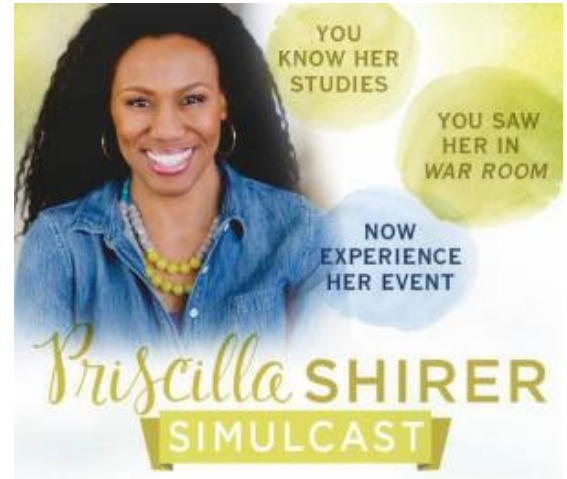
This price includes coffee & doughnuts and a luncheon at 12:30pm.

Seating is limited, so mail in your \$20 non-refundable payment today (to the address above - include name, address and phone number) or click on the link below to register.

<http://www.firstbaptistmon.org/events/womens-simulcast-with-priscilla-shirer/>

For more information or to let us know of any food restrictions/physical limitations, call us at 724-258-7750!  
Hope to see you there!

\*A simulcast event is an event that is broadcast to various locations simultaneously through the Internet.  
We will stream the Priscilla Shirer Live Event using Internet technology.



# Preschool Corner

*The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more you learn, the more places you'll go."*

- Dr. Seuss



## Marching into Literacy

In honor of National Read Across America day (March 2), FBC preschool is designating March as literacy month! We will spend this month reading some of our favorite stories by authors such as Dr. Seuss, Eric Carle and Eric Litwin (author of "Pete the Cat" books).

We will further our literacy adventure by hosting a Family Fun Night where students will listen to stories, learn through fun literacy games, make crafts and exchange gently used books. We are always excited when our families gather to spend time together!

We will end our literacy month by taking a fieldtrip to Monongahela library to enjoy story time with Miss Becky.

## Live Rockin' Reptiles Program

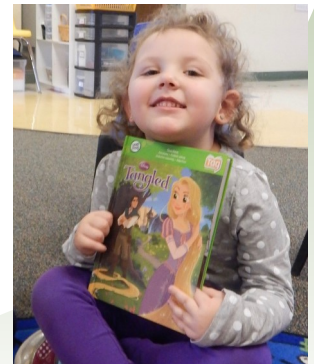
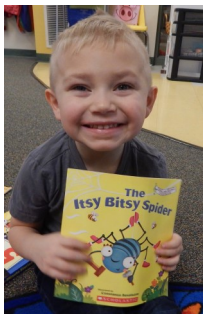
We recently secured a scholarship from the Carnegie Museum to fully fund a live "Rockin' Reptiles" program. This hour long program will allow our PreK4&5 year old students to get up close and personal with live reptiles, learn what they eat, examine their amazing adaptations and discover how they survive in the wild. Special thanks to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for providing our preschool with such a valuable program!

## Welcome Kayci

I am excited to report that our student population continues to grow! We are pleased to welcome Kayci to the FBC family and thrilled she is making such a smooth transition to the PreK3 class. We are glad to have you here Kayci and look forward to getting to know you and your family better!

## Preschool Prayer Pail

Be sure to take a card from our new preschool prayer pail (located on the easel in the lobby) and pray for one of our students! Thank you.



# MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Mid-Morning Prayer 10:00	2	3 Morning Prayer 6am	4 Co:Lab Home Team 9:00am  Game Night 6:00pm
5 Communion  Youth Group 5-8pm	6	7 Hand Bell & Choir Practices	8 Mid-Morning Prayer 10:00  Hosting Lenten Luncheon  6:30 Preschool Literacy Night	9	10 Morning Prayer 6am	11
12 Youth Group	13	14 Hand Bell & Choir Practices	15 Mid-Morning Prayer 10:00	16	17 Morning Prayer 6am	18
19 Youth Group	20 Board Meetings	21 Hand Bell & Choir Practices	22 Mid-Morning Prayer 10:00	23	24 Morning Prayer 6am	25 Women's Painting Event 1-3:00pm
26 Youth Group	27	28 Hand Bell & Choir Practices	29 Mid-Morning Prayer 10:00	30	31 Morning Prayer 6am	



Sponsored by the Monongahela Ministerium every Wednesday during Lent (March 1<sup>st</sup> - April 12<sup>th</sup>) at 11:45am in the First United Methodist Church of Monongahela. Our church will be providing and serving the lunch on March 8th.



**March 12**  
Turn you clocks  
ahead one hour!

## HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities are available with Jefferson Hospital. Whether you would enjoy working directly with patients in the Surgery Center, volunteering in the Gift ship or behind the scenes in an office, volunteering a Jefferson is a wonderful way to bring happiness into the lives of others. To learn more, contact Janet O'Brien at 412-469-5885.

# 22 Things Christians Need To Stop Doing...Now!

BY WILL MAULE, EDITOR AT HELLO CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE

Christian preachers are often talking about the "mission" of God's people, and this is absolutely right. Christians have a lot to do in this world, and our task to make disciples and take the gospel to the nations is immediate and apparent. But there are also other things that we should seek to cease in our lives. Here, [Chuck Tate](#) at Charisma magazine gives us 22 key things and attitudes that we need to cut out of our lives.

**1. Quit expecting the world to like you. Jesus said it would hate you (John 15:18-27, Matthew 10:22).**

**2. Quit throwing your own teammates under the bus.** "We're called to build each other up, not tear each other down. In fact, Jesus said that our love for each other proves to the world that we are really His true disciples (John 13:35, 1 Thessalonians 5:11)."

**3. Quit gossiping. This includes sharing "juicy prayer requests" with no intention of actually praying (Psalms 34:13, Psalms 101:5, Ephesians 4:29).**

**4. Quit replacing prayer with "good vibes" and "positive thoughts." No. Just no. Prayer moves the hand of God and the hand of God moves the world.** "Prayer is much more effective than making someone feel warm and fuzzy inside. By the way, I'm not saying positive thoughts and good vibes are wrong (and they do make you feel good), I'm just saying prayer trumps them both (2 Corinthians 1:11, Philippians 1:19, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:16)."

**5. Quit saying repentance isn't necessary. It is. Jesus said so.** "And just so you know, there are 53 references to repentance in the New Testament. Now go repent (Matthew 5:17, Acts 3:19, Romans 2:5, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 John 1:9)."

**6. Quit saying that the "portions of the Bible that make you feel uncomfortable" are irrelevant and nothing more than dated writings.** "All 66 books, 1,189 chapters, and 31,102 verse are the inspired Word of God. So the next time you think about throwing out the Old Testament, just remember

that Jesus quoted it numerous times in all four gospels (John 1:1-4, John 1:14, 2 Timothy 3:16)."

**7. Quit expecting unbelievers/non-Christians to understand the Bible and/or to live like Christ.** "It's hard enough for Christians to live like Christ and it's impossible to do so without Him (until the blinders are removed) (2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:24-25)."

**8. Quit acting like the Great Commission (Go into all the world to preach the gospel) is the Great Suggestion.** "It's a command. Go already (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15)."

**9. Quit thinking that it's OK to be silent about your faith.** "Yes, it's just as important to represent Jesus by how we live, but someone can't respond to the Good News without hearing it ... and they can't hear it if no one opens their mouth (Matthew 10:27, Romans 10:14-15)."

**10. Quit being more passionate about your political affiliation than your relationship with Jesus.** "If 99 percent of what you post on social media consists of bashing government officials and presidential candidates—you're doing more damage than good (Romans 13:1-7, 2 Chronicles 7:14)."

**11. Quit using the Bible to beat the "hell" out of people.** "That doesn't work. Ever. I don't care if you're right—if you're a jerk, nobody is listening. Love wins! (No, I don't mean the book by Rob Bell.) (1 Corinthians 13)."

**12. Quit your legalistic rants, knee-jerk reactions, and judgmentalism.** "You're turning people off. You're making good news bad news. Jesus befriended sinners. Try it and great things will happen (Mark 2:17, Luke 5:27-32, 1 Timothy 1:15-16)."

**13. Quit calling yourself a Christian if you believe there are multiple paths that lead to salvation.** "Jesus said that He's the only way to heaven. If you don't believe Him, you're not a Christ-follower (John 14:6, 1 John 2:4)."

**14. Quit living like everybody's going to heaven and nobody's going to hell.** "Jesus died so the whole world could be saved, but He said the path to heaven is narrow and few find it. And for the record, He preached more about hell than heaven ... but He did it without using a bullhorn and manipulative scare tactics. #LeadLikeJesus (Matthew 7:13-14)."

**15. Quit acting like you're better than those who don't know Jesus. You're not (Luke 18:19, Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11-13).**

**16. Quit criticizing loving believers who take a biblical stand for godly morals.** "Jesus didn't call us to be politically correct. Develop some backbone. And yes, I said wimp. And yes, I will repent for calling you a wimp (Acts 4-6)."

**17. Quit pointing out the speck in your neighbor's eye while ignoring the plank in your own eye.** "By the way, I can hardly see my computer as I type this because of the log in my own eye (Matthew 7:3-5)."

**18. Quit being a jerk, period.** "Whatever your position is (on anything), if you can't communicate it in love, you're a clanging cymbal and your message is worthless. So yeah, I probably shouldn't have called you a wimp in No. 16 (1 Corinthians 13)."

**19. Quit defending sin. Quit hating sinners.** "These are equally important. Oh yeah, and lose your critical lens (Psalm 97:10, Matthew 22:37-39)."

**20. Quit using the phrase "he who's without sin cast the first stone" out of context.** "The next thing Jesus said was, "Go and sin no more" (John 8:1-11)."

**21. Quit using grace as a license to live however you want.** "Jesus is grace, so don't trample Him under your feet (Romans 6:1-2, 1 John 2:4, Hebrews 10:26-31)."

**22. Quit using the phrase (when inviting people to church) "come as you are" if you're going to complain when they start showing up (Mark 2:17, Luke 5:27-32).**





## Spring Break is here!



I love this time of the year because it means we're preparing to send student teams out for Spring Break mission programs. I only wish I was part of one of these teams! Even so, I'm extremely grateful that I get to play a part in sending them each year.

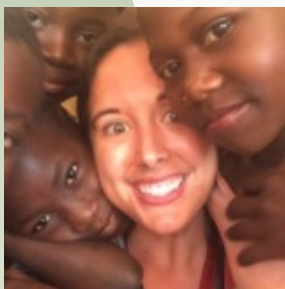
As of 8:30 EST this morning, six students and two staff head out to Guyana for a week of evangelism on campus at the University of Guyana. For the past four years, teams from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, have been investing in this partnership in Guyana. Through building relationships and participating in God's work there, our team comes home with a bigger view of God's kingdom - recognizing that they're part of something much bigger than their cam-

pus or their church. They are often eager to stay connected to God's global church and are more committed to praying for our world.

On Saturday, March 4, our second team leaves for Kingston, Jamaica. These 18 students and four staff will spend the week at two campuses in Kingston, participating in evangelism training, having gospel conversations on campus, and following up with students in hopes of helping the student movement in Jamaica grow.

Please pray for the additional funding that both teams need and for final details to come together. Pray for the deep and comprehensive work that God will do in their hearts.

## Bekah - Bolivia '12



From time to time, I'd like to share stories of Global Program alumni, to help you understand the kind of impact these programs have on those who participate. We'll start this time with Bekah's story.

"During the summer of 2012, I joined InterVarsity for a Global Program in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Among many impactful moments, our week working at a Christian camp for the Ayoré, a marginalized people group, stood out the most. My heart was touched and ignited with fire when I interacted with children who were in the throes of poverty and struggling to have basic needs met. They were starving for love, hungering for people to stop for them, to tell them that they matter and that

their lives have purpose. There was one sweet girl in particular that week who got my attention. I prayed for direction on how best to minister to her and sensed Father God whispering, "Just love her." That week I intentionally sought this girl out and loved her. The transformation was dramatic. She went from being a detached, unemotional child to sitting on my lap, allowing me to talk to her, and receiving the Father's love. It's amazing what the Holy Spirit can do with willing hearts! After that week, my heart couldn't stop beating for the hurting and I knew that my life would look different.

**"Saying yes to Jesus is always the best yes. He writes the best chapters."**

Saying yes to Bolivia set the stage for future ministry. I later accepted a one year teaching position in Honduras, and then a position in a bilingual classroom in the US. I recently returned from three months in Mozambique (photo above) with the ministry Iris Global and am praying about next steps. My simple yes led me all over the world and now leads me around my community. Saying yes to Jesus is always the best yes. He writes the best chapters. Each one of us is a missionary; each one of us has people in our lives that need to be touched with the Father's love. Say yes to God's plans for you today and watch Him re-direct you, you won't be disappointed."

## Prayer Requests

Please pray for...

- safe travel for the teams over the next three weekends.
- good health and fruitful ministry.
- God's leading toward the people He's in whom He's already been working.
- minimal distractions for the students - that they would hear God clearly.
- for growth in ministry depth and breadth in Guyana and Jamaica.

## A Personal Update

We're all doing very well these days, enjoying some unusually warm weather, one another, and time with friends and family.

CJ is talking up a storm and coming up with new words and phrases seemingly daily, is finding more and more things funny, and is an incredibly active little boy.

Missy is still working hard tutoring and selling Usborne books, as well as enjoying involvement this year in Bible Study Fellowship.

Todd is busy finalizing mission program plans for this spring and summer and beginning to dream about next year's programs.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers and let us know how we can pray for you.

**Adam & Dianna Nathanson**

**USA address:**  
1844 Darrich Dr.  
Baltimore, MD 21234

**Venezuela address:**  
Resd. Galipan, Apt 22  
Calle 4, Montalban II  
Caracas, Dto. Federal,  
Venezuela zp 1020

# Nathanson Heartbeats

January, 2017

Email address:  
nathanson4@gmail.com

**USA Cell Phones:**  
Dianna (443) 220-1066  
Adam (443) 846-8277

**Venezuela phone:**  
011-58-412-221-8520

Dear Friends & Family,

Well it is the end of February and we are just getting the January newsletter out. January news will be mostly about Cuba and Adam's trip there. On February 4th, Adam, Dianna and David returned to Caracas. We have spent the last few weeks getting settled and figuring out the grocery shopping (which is much more complicated than before) and slipping into the movement of the church here in Montalban and the church in San Antonio, which we will be helping out with more these next few months.

We also had a little scare with Dianna's mom, Doris. She had some heart problems and Dianna was on the verge of returning to Baltimore to help her parents out. In the end, Doris received a diagnosis that did not include surgery, but treatment through medication, so for now, things are stable. Please continue to pray for the health of our parents (Chuck & Doris Brooks and Leonor Avila.) We have been so blessed to have amazing parents who support us in everything we do. They are a very intricate part of our ministry and their health and well-being is as important to our ministry as our health!

Daniel is studying hard at Liberty University and has been blessed to become a part of the King's Players, a drama group that travels around and performs skits in churches. He is loving being a part of this group and along with classes and homework, he is keeping busy. Please pray for him!

We thank you for your many prayers over the last year. We now are looking forward to what God has in store for us as we work alongside the Venezuelans. They humble us with their love and passion for Christ. We are amazed at the work that God continues to do even though the crisis here has grown worse and there appears to be no end in sight. YET GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL!!!!!!

Love, Adam, Dianna, Daniel & David

## January

On January 3, Adam left for Cuba. Our June trip with Dr. Henry and the prayer seminars was so successful that the doors were opened for us to return and share with more churches for the first weeks of January. It was a blessing to see familiar faces and to hear testimonies on how the churches prayer meetings have grown due to the personal time people are having with the Lord in prayer.

Digmar teaching the Prayer Seminar in January



One purpose for this trip was to install Pastor Digmar Lugo Garcia as the head of James Gordon Henry Ministries in Cuba (JGHM). It was a joy to see various pastors from June join us for the event and how excited they are about working with him to get the seminars into other churches. We shared 10 seminars that included 500 participants and 50 leaders and pastors. Thank you Dr. Henry for 60+ years of ministry!



R to L: Dr. Henry, Digmar, Adam in June

The last week in Cuba, a friend, Vic Pease from Maine, joined me and Pastor Digmar as we went to different churches to share the Gospel by donating sporting equipment to the teams directly or to the churches as a tool for their sports ministries.

It was an amazing time of seeing God show up in the simplicity of a sport, be it soccer or baseball, and Vic sharing the Gospel or his testimony. The kids, parents and players received the message warmly and then Adam presented a wrist band with the Gospel colors and many came forward to make a profession of faith. By the end of the week, over 100 people had received Christ! We thank the Christian Farmers ministry in Maryland for their support and prayers as we minister on the streets of Cuba.

([www.christianfarmers.com](http://www.christianfarmers.com))



Ministering to the children and their families through baseball



Ministering to a Women's Softball Team



The Baseball team after receiving Christ!

The testimony of the week was with a men's softball team in Placetas who were fighting and arguing over calls made by the umpire in a game one Sunday afternoon. I did not notice until

later that the umpire was drinking rum while trying to make calls on balls and strikes. He finally made a horrendous call at second base and both teams erupted and argued and they never finished the game!! Our turn came and we took the field with 4-5 churches represented and played for 2 hours with no problems. The coach of the first team noticed our peaceful game. He asked how that was and we shared about our faith and invited his team to play us during the week. We all met on a Wednesday morning and the umpire was sober! We played 7 innings and they beat us, but we were able to share the Gospel and the WHOLE team received Christ. It was sobering to see God turn their hearts and see this victory for Christ! Thank you, Vic, for your investment in the lives of these Cuban people!

In Caracas, our church began a new outreach in January. There is a young lady with a vision who desires to minister to children with cancer and other terminal sicknesses. Evelyn has launched a vision and is working with a team to visit children's hospitals in the city of Caracas and to bless and encourage the patients and their parents. We are thankful for the creativity and work they do as a team called RA-FAGAS DE FE (Gusts of Faith). Please pray for many more opportunities to minister to these families.



Ráfagas de Fe  
(Gusts of Faith) ministering in the Children's Hospital

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for us as we navigate the new normal in Caracas with buying food and medicines and ministering to the church members.
- Pray for Dianna's mom, Doris as she recovers and adjusts her medication
- Pray for Daniel at College: decisions about next year, good health, encouraging friendships and productive study times
- Pray for the elders: Adam & Dianna, Rene & Consuelo and Ivan & Enyis; especially for their health and spiritual protection
- Protection, safety, provision and wisdom for our church family in Caracas
- Please pray for the paperwork and supplies needed to remodel/build the 2nd floor of the new church house
- Pray for Venezuela as the situation is still unstable with inflation over 1000% and for the government to be able to come to some sort of solution.
- Finances—continued monthly support



Feb 4 – We returned to Caracas

Feb 26– Celebration of the Caracas Church's 11th Anniversary

March 4, 18—YUPI (Bible Club) in 3 areas

March 5, 19– Teen Meetings

March 12– Leaders 360 meeting

March 15-April 1—Adam travels to Brazil/ Argentina with Dr. Henry, Dianna and David travel to Panama to spend a few weeks with friends from Venezuela

March 18– Women's Conference in Caracas

### NOTICE: CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR SUPPORT

Tax deductible financial support can now be sent to:

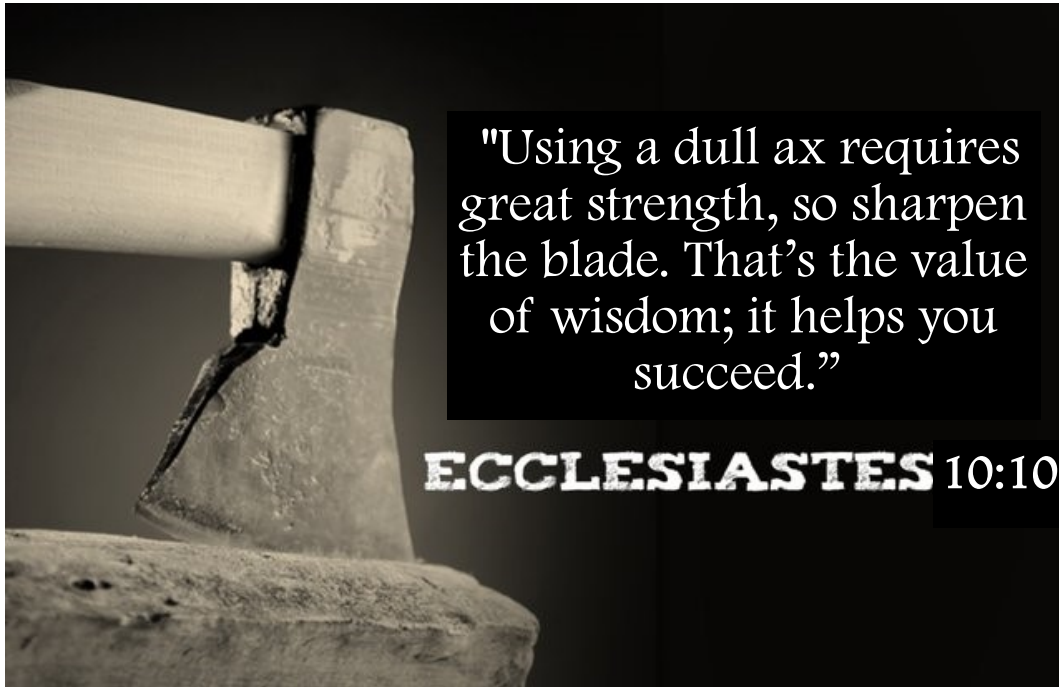
IAGM, PO Box 1246, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Memo: Adam Nathanson

or

Go to [www.iagm.org](http://www.iagm.org) and click on the donate button for online giving (Paypal fees are incurred).

Members of:  
International Association  
of Grace Ministries  
[www.iagm.org](http://www.iagm.org)



"Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed."

**ECCLESIASTES 10:10**

## First Baptist Church

601 W. Main Street  
Monongahela, PA 15063

Phone: 724.258.7750

Fax: 724.258.9390

Email: [secretary@firstbaptistmon.org](mailto:secretary@firstbaptistmon.org)

Website: [www.firstbaptistmon.org](http://www.firstbaptistmon.org)

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No.46  
Monongahela, PA  
15063