



FIRST MISSIONS

NEWSLETTER

Coming Full Circle: How Royal Family Kids Camp Changed My Life - And How I'm Now Giving Back

When I think back to my childhood, **one of the brightest lights in those early years was Royal Family Kids Camp.** It wasn't just a place to play or pass time—it was a place where I felt truly seen. I felt special, genuinely loved, and I experienced compassion in its purest form. From the silly games to the wild adventures, every moment at RFK Camp wrapped me in joy. But more than that, the camp made me realize something powerful: even when life felt dark or confusing, there was a whole group of people out there—praying for me, cheering me on, caring deeply. That truth has never left me.

One memory stands out above the rest: the tea party. It was my very first one. I felt like royalty. **For a little girl who hadn't had many moments to feel truly special, that day meant everything.** It wasn't just a tea party—it was belonging.

Years later, I had the honor of returning to RFK, this time as a Camp Counselor in Training (CIT). I had always dreamed of coming back to give what was once given to me. But I never imagined how much more I'd gain. The experience was eye-opening. I got to peek behind the scenes and truly understand the heart and effort poured into each detail of camp. Being a CIT brought challenges, but it also brought joy that words can barely describe. Whether it was their first or third time at camp, seeing someone holding a sign with their name on it filled them with a sense of being wanted and welcomed. **And I knew exactly how they felt—because I had once been that child.**

As a camper, the birthday party had always been one of my favorite memories. Now, standing on the other side of the doors, waiting for the kids to enter, **I felt something I'd never felt before: complete joy.** I couldn't wait to see their faces as they received their gifts. Their happiness brought back a flood of my own memories. It was then I realized—I had come full circle. More than anything, I hope my time as a CIT made a difference. I hope the painted nails, the silly hairstyles, the facemasks, the tea parties—they all whispered to each child: You are loved. You matter. You're never alone. I pray that the memories we made together stay with them forever, just like mine have. Because even though they may not realize it now, there's a whole group of people out there praying for them, cheering for them—and always caring. ~ Cali Ann

Royal Family Kids Camp: Impactful Stories of Joy, Healing, and God's Promises

This summer marked the **11th year of Royal Family Kids Camp (RFK)**—a week dedicated to giving children who have experienced relational trauma a chance to laugh, heal, and encounter the love of Jesus.

We welcomed **50 campers**—surrounded by **70 caring volunteers** who shared God's love in every moment. This year's theme, **Jeremiah 29:11**, reminded each child that God has good plans for their lives, even when their stories have been marked by pain.

Throughout the week, campers explored **wisdom, courage, teamwork, and God's truth**—through songs, Bible stories, and powerful moments of connection. They kayaked, rode a riverboat to the springs, danced at a birthday party for everyone, made s'mores, and even enjoyed a concert by Christian rapper **Diego Fuller**. The star-studded **Talent Show** was a highlight for many.



RFK is a beautiful picture of the **Big "C" Church in action**—this year, **15 churches** were represented among our volunteers, all serving together with one purpose: to glorify God by loving His children well.

One of the most touching moments this year came when **Morgan**, a long-time volunteer, was reunited with her former camper **Cali Ann**—now serving as a **Counselor-in-Training**. "She was sassy and fun back then," Morgan said, "and I love that she came back to make sure other kids had the same awesome experience she did."

Looking for an opportunity to serve in our Foster Care Ministry? **Contact Amy Floyd at japm@att.net or call her at (850) 418-1939.**



From Strangers To Siblings: What Royal Family KIDS Means To Our Family

Fifteen years ago, **our journey into foster care and adoption began** with the arrival of our first two daughters—Hunter, now 15, and Lainey, 12. At the time, we believed our family was complete. But God had other plans. In 2019, He placed a new calling on our hearts—foster care. That's when Reagan joined our family.

Reagan came to us as the youngest of three siblings, each placed in separate foster homes. It was heartbreaking to know they were apart. Then **we discovered Royal Family KIDS Camp (RFKC)—and everything changed.**

For the first time since entering foster care, Reagan was reunited with her brother and sister through RFKC. For one precious week every summer, our daughter got to be a sister again playing, laughing, and just being a kid with the people who mean the most to her.

But the impact of Royal Family KIDS didn't stop there.

We came to realize that this camp wasn't just a break for foster parents. It was a life-changing experience for children who so rarely get to feel special, safe, or celebrated. **The level of care and attention that goes into RFKC is extraordinary**—where kids aren't just taken care of, they're treated like royalty.

For children who often receive the bare minimum—whether it's clothes, food, or attention—RFKC flips the narrative. They are showered with love, personalized gifts, and unforgettable moments. Boys who rarely have strong male role models are mentored by counselors who invest deeply in them. Girls are celebrated for their uniqueness and strength. **Each child leaves feeling valued, cherished, and more confident in who they are.**

Because of RFKC and their year-round support programs like IGNITE Tutoring and Saturday Art Camp, we've watched our children transform. Kids who once struggled to read are now on the A/B Honor Roll. They are thriving—in school, at home, and in their hearts.

In 2023, something beautiful happened. **What began as three separated siblings became a permanent bond. We officially adopted Reagan, her sister Cassidy (now 12), and her brother Kaden (10),** uniting them with Hunter and Lainey. Today, we are a family of seven, woven together not by blood, but by love, faith, and the grace of something bigger than ourselves.

Royal Family KIDS didn't just reunite siblings. They helped us become whole.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who makes RFKC possible. You're not just giving foster kids a week of camp—**you're changing lives, one child, one family, one miracle at a time.**

With gratitude ~ Julie



MedAdvance 2025: Healthcare Missions Opportunity

The greatest problem in the world is not hunger or a lack of clean water. The greatest problem in the world is not disease or pandemics, or even death. **The greatest problem in the world is that billions of people all over the planet are facing these challenges without the hope of the gospel.**

God is using people with medical skills like yours to open doors for gospel transformation through church-planting, discipleship, and training. **MedAdvance 2025 is an opportunity for healthcare professionals, students, and church leaders to come together to learn more about healthcare missions.**

Register Now at www.imb.org/healthcare/

Dates: August 21-23, 2025

Location: Providence Church in Raleigh, NC

Cost: \$250 includes registration and meals. Students qualify for a reduced rate of \$99

Space is limited!



Backpack Buddies: Feeding Hope, One Bag at a Time

As the school year came to a close this May, **Backpack Buddies wrapped up its 16th year of fighting weekend hunger** for children in our community—and what a powerful year it's been. This past year, our ministry served two elementary schools—C.A. Weis Elementary and A.K. Suter Elementary—where the need was great and the impact was greater. Each weekend, we delivered food to:

- 300 children and 123 families at Weis Elementary
- 35 children and 15 families at Suter Elementary

That's over 330 children and more than 135 families every single weekend who received not just food, but compassion, consistency, and care.

This ministry is fueled by love and teamwork of the volunteers, school staff, and the incredible youth leaders at First Baptist Church of Pensacola (FBCP). This school year alone, **over 10,000 food bags were packed**—each one thoughtfully prepared with kid-friendly meals and snacks to help bridge the gap from Friday to Monday.

It's a big job—but this team makes it look easy. From shopping and sorting to packing and delivery, every step of this ministry is done with love. And once our containers are filled, we pause to do something even more important: we pray. We pray for the children and families receiving these bags. We pray for their physical needs, yes—but also that they might come to know the love and hope of Jesus through this simple act of kindness.

The need doesn't stop—and neither do we! Hunger doesn't take a vacation. For many children, school is the only reliable source of food. **Backpack Buddies exists to make sure weekends aren't a time of uncertainty**, but a time when children feel full, cared for, and remembered.

This fall, **we will begin our 17th year of ministry**, and we're asking you to help us carry this mission forward.

How You Can Help:

- Sponsor a child – Just \$60 provides a child with a weekend food bag for an entire semester.
- Donate – Make checks payable to FBCP with "Backpack Buddies" in the memo line, or give electronically (be sure to designate it for Backpack Buddies).
- Volunteer – We always welcome new hands and hearts! Packing, delivery, and prayer support are all vital parts of our mission.
- Pray – For the children, for their families, and for our team as we prepare for another impactful year.

If you'd like to get involved or have questions about giving, please **contact Jennifer Daniel at gatormom79@aol.com or 850-572-0856.**



God Is Moving: A Story of Deaf Discipleship in Pensacola & Beyond, by Peter Dublin

First Baptist Church of Pensacola has assisted this ministry for several years with various community evangelistic outreach events. We asked the Dublin's to share about their ministry.

We've seen God move in powerful ways over the past year—both right here in Pensacola and across the world in Mauritius—through ministry with the Deaf community. **Simple obedience has led to life-changing impact**, and we're excited to share just a glimpse of what He's been doing.

Harvest Moments in Pensacola: At our 3rd annual Surf Camp, more than 50 Deaf individuals from Mississippi, Mobile, Crestview, and Pensacola gathered for a day of surfing, laughter, and gospel-centered connection. For the first time ever, this event was fully Deaf-led—from surf lessons to storytelling about Jesus.

That day sparked something special. Seeds were planted through authentic conversations and shared experiences. The very next weekend, several campers came to a birthday gathering in our home. Two guests from Mississippi—even though they aren't yet followers of Jesus—told us they plan to keep coming back to learn more. The harvest is ripe!

Through ongoing micro-church gatherings, we've seen spiritual growth, new friendships, and an outpouring of faith. Seven Deaf individuals have been baptized, and lives are being transformed through the power of the gospel.

Discipleship Expanding in Mauritius: On the other side of the world, a Deaf disciple-making movement is starting to take root in Mauritius. In just the past nine months, 14 Deaf individuals have given their lives to Jesus. Even more encouraging—they're now sharing the gospel boldly and leading small groups on their own.

We've begun using a new method of sharing the gospel called **Visual Vernacular—a "wordless gospel"** that uses expressive storytelling through gestures and imagery. For the Deaf community, this approach connects deeply—beyond language, straight to the heart.

Will you join us in prayer for the following needs?

- We are asking God for a larger home to serve as a house of ministry and mission that acts as a church and training hub
- We are looking for support for a Deaf Couple in Ministry
- Pray for Harvest Festival 2025 - We're trusting God to cover travel, lodging, meals, and a Thanksgiving dinner for 150-200 people - many who are unchurched and spiritually hungry.

Want to Get Involved? Please pray with us, give as you feel led, and consider sharing this story with others who may want to join the mission. To learn more, **connect with us directly—p.dublin@big.life, Cell 850-272-3572, or VP 850-332-1018.** We'd love to share how you can be a part of what God is doing in the Deaf community near and far.



A Heart Awakened In Salt Lake City: My First Mission Trip by Ruth Oaks

This year I had the chance to experience my first mission trip in Salt Lake Utah. **Our group was blessed with several intellectual minds, caring spirits, and driven individuals, all of which were vital to the success of our mission.** We were tasked with assisting the local church, Valley Light, in spreading the Word to an overwhelmingly unreached people.

Getting to experience the Mormon culture and witness to several individuals was one of the most amazing yet stressful tasks I have encountered. Going into this trip I had several expectations set for myself, many of which were not upheld. Originally this was disappointing to me, I was not fulfilling what I had come to do.

But throughout the week I realized that I was attempting to excel in something that was not based to my strong suits. **I began to focus on what I was excelling at and acknowledged that I could help in other ways that would become beneficial to more success in the future.**

From my short time there I witnessed an immense number of broken families, hurting individuals, and mainly, a lost community. **Observing this city brought a greater awakening to what the rest of the world is experiencing,** it made me realize...

How many people truly have never heard the gospel? How many are living in what they have been brought up to think is true?

If a city like Salt Lake is so deeply unreached, **it challenges me to consider just how urgent the need is in places where the gospel has never been heard.**

This trip was ultimately inspiring and encouraged me as well as others to pursue Utah and other communities.



The Church Library: One of First Baptist Church of Pensacola's Best-Kept Secrets

Did you know that nestled within the walls of First Baptist Church of Pensacola is a rich resource many may have overlooked? **Since 1928, our church has been home to a library** filled with a wide array of books designed to support and encourage us in our spiritual journey.

This library, established nearly a century ago, continues to be a quiet cornerstone of learning and growth. **It features a thoughtfully curated collection for both adults and children, with topics ranging from theology and Christian living to missions and biographies of faithful servants of Christ.**

Whether you're interested in exploring the lives of missionaries, deepening your understanding of the gospel, or introducing your children to stories of biblical heroes, the FBCP library has something for you. **It's more than just a collection of books—it's a treasure trove of faith-building tools.**

Best of all, checking out materials is completely free for church members. It's a wonderful way to grow in knowledge, be inspired by the testimonies of others, and strengthen your walk with Christ. Next time you're at church, **take a moment to visit the library. You might just discover your next favorite book—and be encouraged in your faith journey along the way.**

Library Hours:

- Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - Noon
- Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - Noon and 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
- Thursday 9:00 a.m. - Noon



Florida Baptist Disaster Relief: When Listening Becomes a Ministry

By Jessica Lippincott

On a recent trip with Florida Baptist Disaster Relief, I was reminded that ministry isn't always about having the perfect words—it's often about simply showing up, listening, and loving well. I joined the team on our second day in the field, where we met a homeowner—a woman in her 50s who had experienced deep loss and expressed a mixture of spiritual beliefs. While our team handled the physical work, my teammate Marty and I spent over an hour listening to her. She knew Scripture, claimed faith in Jesus, but also spoke of numerology, reincarnation, and spiritual ideas from multiple religions. We shared where we differed, gifted her a Bible, and prayed with her before leaving. Later, she texted a long message thanking us for our kindness and calling us "disciples of Christ." I left feeling flustered, unsure if I had done enough—but reminded that sometimes presence speaks louder than persuasion.

Then came another challenging visit. A note on the next work order read, "homeowner is a Wiccan." As we arrived, the occult decorations were unmistakable. Despite initial hesitation, we worked on clearing the storm damage and eventually spent two hours talking with the homeowner. Her life story was filled with pain, rejection, and searching. She too accepted a Bible, allowed us to pray for her (though reluctantly), and thanked us for simply listening.

Both encounters left me emotionally drained. In Sarasota, hearts had been more open—this time, resistance was high, and I felt spiritually unprepared. But then I remembered our team devotion from that morning: the story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery. He didn't condemn her. He offered mercy. On our final day, we served an elderly grandmother whose faith was evident. As the team carefully removed dangerous trees from her property, her gratitude flowed in tears. She sat on her porch afterward reading the notes we'd written in the front of her new Bible.

Through these experiences, I was reminded that God works in all types of soil—even rocky, resistant ground. Our role isn't to force fruit to grow, but to plant seeds in love and let God do the rest. I'm thankful for our team, for God's provision, and for the reminder that listening can be a powerful form of witness.

If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, contact FBCP Baptist Disaster Relief at DR@fbcp.org



Upcoming Mission and Ministry Serving Opportunities

- **CA Weis Backpack Buddies**
- **Church To Church Food Ministry**
 - Packing Days: 8/22, 8/23
 - Distribution Days: 7/19, 9/13
- **Foster Care Ministry**
 - Volunteers are needed for the following:
 - Royal Family Kids Club: Runs September - May
 - Ignite (Tutoring): Tuesday's starting in September-May
 - Breakfast with Santa: In December, sponsored by First City Church, serving 1,000 families and children in our four-county foster care area
- **Kairos Prison Ministry Training** - Training starts Thursday, July 10th at Cokesbury United Methodist Church at 5:30pm. Meetings are weekly each Thursday through July. For more information, contact Doug Mott at motthome@att.net.
- **Max-Well Respite Center** – Pray as this organization closes and restructures. Pray for these displaced families.
- **Men's Prison Ministry** – Bible Study every Thursday
- **Mission Conference** - Med Advance - 8/21-8/23
- **Mission Trip to Liberia** - Light Evangelism Ministries, 7/10-7/21
- **Mission Trip to Alaska** - Girdwood, Alaska - 7/23-7/30
- **Mission Trip to Longmont, CO** - Connection Church Outreach, 10/1-10/6
- **Operation Christmas Child** – Workdays: 7/8, 7/24, 8/5, 8/22.
- **Park Place Prayer Walk**
- **Samaritan Hands Ministry** – Monday thru Thursday, 9-11:30am
- **Sewing For Jesus Ministry**
 - Meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Monday of each month
 - Comfort & Joy Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 1st Monday and the 2nd and 4th Friday each month.
- **Sunday School Classes** – Palafox Market Outreach
- **Sunday School Classes** – Prayer Walk Palafox
- **Youth Outreach** - Various events

Stay in the know by visiting www.fbcp.org/events



FBCP Missions on Social Media

Want to keep up with the Mission and Ministry opportunities at First Baptist Church of Pensacola and see what God is doing locally and across the globe through our church?

Follow FBCP on Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fbcpensacola>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/fbcpensacola/>

Join our Mission and Ministries Group on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fbcmissionsandministries>

Missions Testimony

Bringing Light to West Valley: Reflections From Utah, by Jabin Bonelli

This summer marked my second year on the Utah Mission Trip, and once again, it left a lasting impact on my heart. Our team partnered with Valley Light Church, a small but growing Evangelical church in West Valley—an area in Salt Lake County where Bible-believing churches are few and far between.

Throughout the week, **we shared the message of hope in simple but meaningful ways**. Early in the week, we canvassed neighborhoods with door hangers inviting families to Valley Light. Later, we helped run the church's booth at a local festival, drawing in crowds with balloon animals and warm smiles—an open door to invite people to something far more lasting.

One encounter at the booth stays with me. A mother approached with her daughters, one of whom was deaf. What began as a casual conversation quickly turned into a moment of raw vulnerability. She told me she had left the Mormon Church years ago after suffering abuse and rejection, only to return recently in search of stability. She shared heartbreaking details—an abusive ex-husband, church shame, a daughter who keeps running away, and a current husband recently deported. **Her pain was deep, her hope misplaced, and my heart broke as I listened.**

With tears in my eyes, I shared the truth of the Gospel—the love and grace found only in Christ. We prayed together, and in that moment, I saw how desperately people need the real hope we carry.

This trip reminded all of us just how spiritually lost many in Utah—and around the world—truly are. We saw firsthand the grip of works-based faith and the emptiness it leaves behind. As we left, the question on my heart was clear: **How can we, as believers, not go and share the joy of Christ with a world so desperate to hear it?**

Missions Committee Highlights:

April 2025 Meeting

In April, funding was approved for True North Church in Girdwood, AK, Connection Church in Longmont, CO, and one missions trip scholarship was awarded.

May 2025 Meeting

In May, the Missions Committee awarded funding for two IMB missionary programs (North Africa, Middle East), support for One More Child, and Light Evangelism Ministry to support their evangelism and project efforts during the upcoming Mission Trip.

June 2025 Meeting

In June, the Missions Committee awarded three mission trip scholarships, funding for transportation needs for the Utah and Liberia Mission Trips, and the IMB Senders Summit. Additional funding was also approved for Light Evangelism Ministries for their most urgent needs.



FIRST MISSIONS PARTNERSHIPS

