



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2017 newsletter

FBC Brady, TX
325-597-2956
<http://fbcbrady.org>
Vol. 18, No. 11

Peace on Earth?

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

“Peace on Earth.” Yes, it’s that season again. When we quote the eternal Scriptures from lyrics of Christmas carols, give them the lifespan of the holiday and then put them back in the boxes of Christmas decorations. This is the season when the birth of Jesus reminds us of how it could be, how it should be, but never actually is. “Prince of Peace” must mean something other than what we think it means. Let’s be honest—this has never been a world of peace. All of history seems to have been made and defined by war and violence. The rise, maintenance, and fall of kingdoms and nations have never been accomplished by anything other than war and violence. Nations neither merge nor do they separate with a handshake. And it’s no better when we scale things down from international to inter-personal. People use violence in ALL arenas to get what they want and call it “peace”.

You and I are no better than our (least) favorite tyrant or regime. The victor always declares and then defines “peace”. If we can get our way and silence the other(s), then yes, we have “peace.” We confuse/trade our victory with/for God’s peace.

What we really have (and I guess are satisfied with), is Jer. 6:14. “They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious.” Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.”

What we really have, friends, brothers, and sisters, is a world, institutions, and a life held together with band-aids. We self-diagnose, self-medicate, self-delude, and self-deceive. It’s not just that we are lousy doctors, we are quacks: prescribing solutions and treatments that at best, do nothing but allow the rate of death to continue, and at worse speed it up. On top of that, we are dishonest. We know we have not chosen or offered the best solution. But nobody wants to undergo surgery, amputation, or chemo, do they? Just slap a Snoopy band aid on it, call it good, and go in peace.

We are content to limp along and call it health, just as we are content to endure and commit violence among ourselves and call the intervals between them “peace”. I hope you enjoy the season. I hope you are agents of peace. I hope you “First, do no harm.”

God help us to be tired of the band-aid we put on our sickness and call it health. God help us to find a better definition of “peace”. And above all, God give us a better understanding of the power and expectations of the Prince whose peace it is.

Peace to you (God’s peace, that is).

Bro. Kevin



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

National Goal: \$160 million
Local Goal: \$3,000
Week of Prayer: Dec. 3-10

Welcome new members

By baptism

Jace Jennings

Awaiting baptism

Abigail Rodriguez

Who was Lottie Moon?

Lottie Moon was born in Virginia on December 12, 1840. She was named Charlotte Digges Moon, but everyone called her "Lottie." She grew to be a cultured and educated woman. In 1873, she obeyed God's call to go to China to share the gospel.

Lottie spent most of her years in Tengechow and P'ingtu, China. She wore Chinese clothes and lived like the Chinese people. The Chinese people respected Lottie. Her missions work won many Chinese to Christ.

Lottie loved the Chinese people. She often made personal sacrifices to help the Chinese. When there was not enough food for the people, Lottie gave away her food. She ate so little that she suffered from malnutrition. She was very sick. A missionary nurse was bringing her home to the US to see a doctor. But Lottie died on board a ship in the harbor at Kobe, Japan. She died on December 24, 1912. She was 72 years old.

Christmas Choir

FBC Christmas Choir will sing special music during morning worship on Dec. 17. The selections include:

- “Still, Still, Still”
- “Hold Me, Rock Me”
- “He Is Born!”
- “My Lord, What a Morning”
- “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Food Pantry Christmas reception Dec. 8

The annual Food Pantry Christmas reception will be on Friday, Dec. 8, during regular food distribution from 9:00 to noon.

We need lots of Christmas goodies—cookies, cake, pie—to share with our Food Pantry friends on this special day. Fruit trays and veggie trays would also be good for those who can’t have sugar.

Please bring your donations to the church kitchen that morning, or leave them the day before clearly marked for Food Pantry Christmas. Thank you!

Preschool Playground is under construction

Godly Impressions Preschool, with the approval of the church at a recent business meeting, is constructing a

new playground in the area on the east side of the Family Life Center.

This project is funded by money given as a designated gift and by a \$10,000 grant from the G. Rollie White Foundation.

All state requirements for licensed child-care playgrounds will be met. Preparation work includes digging trenches and laying pipe to drain rain water coming off the FLC roof. Six inches of pea gravel will cover a large part of the play area, with a hard surface on another part for the children to use for their riding toys. A metal cover will provide shade. Playground equipment and a fence will be built.

Operation Christmas Child

Our church donated 72 shoeboxes of children’s gifts to Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to all who were part of this mission project.

Youth News

by Gabe Rios, Youth Minister

Hello to all the Brady and surrounding area youth (grades 6th-12th) and to your parents! The purpose of this section of the FBCB Newsletter is to let you know of upcoming events and the accomplishments of our youth.

YOUTH GROUP WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Kids are allowed to begin arriving at the church/ family life building right after school! We open at 3:30pm so all kids, middle school and high school, are welcome to come and do homework, play video games, play in the gym, outside, or play board games etc... At 6:30pm we eat a great meal together and around 7pm we head back to the youth room for worship and a lesson. Youth group ends at 8pm, so please make the proper arrangements to get home on time and PLEASE invite your friends from school to come join us.

Food is taken care of by Stephanie McKay, Matt Popnoe, Lynn Munden, Jeanagayle Behrens, Victoria Norrell, and Jerlene Smith and we are very grateful! If anyone is interested in helping out with the youth or special events call or text Gabe @ [830-391-4367](tel:830-391-4367).

Recurring events:

*Sunday Night Hoops - every Sunday night starting at 7:30pm the gym will be open to high school age and up, to come fellowship and play some basketball. We have been averaging 20-25 a Sunday and would love to have you! Occasionally we will also play during the week on a Tuesday or Thursday at 7pm. Text Gabe to get updates on when the gym will be open.

Upcoming Events

Christmas theme dinner will be December 13th this month!

Christmas Movie Night!
December 20th

Firework stand
We will be working the stand again December 26th-January 1st!

Summer Camp - July 1st-July 6th
The dates have just been announced. \$50 dollars to hold your spot. Nick Gainey will be the worship band and Mike Satterfield will be the speaker.

IMPORTANT –

If a Wednesday is not listed here as a special event or as “no youth,” we are having a regular youth night.

If there are any concerns that you as students or parents may have please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your prayers and support.

God bless,
Gabe Rios

Godly Impressions

Connecting children to the love of Christ through Godly impressions.

“Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord,” Luke 2:11. This is the Bible verse that all of our preschoolers will be memorizing this month in preparation for the coming of our Savior.

We are so very, excited about the Christmas season, and we have many adventures planned for this month including a ride on the Polar Express in our PJs and hopefully a visit from Santa Claus.

We will perform a Christmas program on Friday, Dec. 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend and then enjoy our birthday party for Jesus which will follow in the fellowship hall.

We will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Monday, Dec. 25. In January we will “blasting off” into the new year with a study about space.

From all of us at Godly Impressions, we wish you a joyous holiday season!

In His service,
Holly Stewart, director
Crystal Slaughter, assistant to the director
Staci Norvell, Jessica Evans, Genisha Spencer, Maricella Villarreal, Drea Torrez, Krissy Morton, Dana Walker, Mary Ann Wilton, Kwana Cole and Jennifer Asbill, caregivers



Keith's Corner

by Keith Simpson, Lake Ivie Baptist Association Ministry Director

“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:6-11 KJV)

This earth-shattering news did not make any headlines. CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC and FOXNEWS failed to report on this history-making event. The Jerusalem Times and the Nazareth News did not see fit to report a baby's birth, in a stable, with only animals gathered around. This was probably not the only baby boy born during this time, so it was no big deal. The parents were relatively unknown, except in their own hometown. No one paid attention to the matter: UNTIL, an angel appeared to the shepherds in the field, not to the great palaces of the world, but to common outcasts of society, those who spent their time in the lowliest of professions, and those who were barred from worshipping in the temples, simply because they were considered unclean.

Yet, this one solitary baby that was born in a very obscure place and in a very unique manner was to change the world, not just in His days, but for all eternity. This one solitary life set in motion the way for ALL men to come to eternal life through belief in Him, who was and is God's only Son.

Yet, nowadays, it appears that we want to remove all mention of Jesus and His purpose of coming to the face of the earth, and no longer hold Him in the high esteem to which He is entitled. We have removed prayer from public schools, removed the Ten Commandments from all public places, we are trying to take any mention of God out of the Pledge of Allegiance and off our monies. We have come to the point in our society where we think we don't need, nor do we want, God involved in any of our society. Let us never forget that Christ is the Reason for the Season. Without Christ in Christmas, we are only left with “mas”, wanting more.

Therefore, let me be the first to say, “MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR” to one and all. May you continue to keep Christ in Christmas! This is the beginning of several events around our association and area. The Millersview “Cowboy Christmas” will be held on December 3 at 3:00 p.m. with cobbler and cowboy coffee, followed by a musical presentation in the church to be followed with a meal at the Community Center. On December 5, the Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment is having their Dinner Theater at 6:00 that evening. You may call the camp at 325-784-5821 or go to their website which is heartoftexasencamp.com where you can register and find further information. They will only be taking the first 300 registrants, so hurry and register. They are asking for a donation of \$20 per person.

From the Associational office, Kimberly and I want to wish each church continued success in 2018, and encourage you to contact us if we/or our teams can help you in any way. We have teams in place that are willing to help facilitate trainings, etc. for any church that asks.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
IN HIS LOVE AND SERVICE,
Keith

Upcoming Events!

December 2017

3rd Cowboy Christmas at Millersview BC
3:00 Dutch Oven Cobbler
4:00 Music Program with
Dinner to Follow
4th Brady Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at El Flamingo
5th Christmas Dinner Theatre,
6:00 at HOTBE - \$20 Donation
11th Coleman Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Hidalgo's
14th Cowboy Church Bunch Gathering
Christoval BC - 6pm
18th Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Beefmaster
21st - 26th LIBA office will be closed

January 2018

1st Happy New Years!
1st - 2nd LIBA Office Closed
8th Coleman Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Hidalgo's
8th Association Meeting,
Paint Rock
5pm Executive Board
6pm Meal
6:45 Dr. David Hardage
15th Ballinger Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at Beefmaster's
22nd Brady Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 at El Flamingo's

**Please continue to be in prayer
for our pastor-less churches:**

El Cordero, Santa Anna

First Baptist Church, Winters

First Baptist Church, Eden

Hords Creek Cowboy Church,
Coleman

*She will bear a son, and
you shall call his name*

Jesus
for he will
save his people
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

*For unto you is
born this day
in the city of David a*

Saviour
which is
Christ the Lord.
- Luke 2:11

Compelled

2017 Week of Prayer for International Missions

December 3-10, 2017

Here's a preview of missionary stories highlighted for the Week of Prayer.

Day 1

It takes Radford and Sarah Bagby* weeks of hiking just to get to unreached villages in the mountains of Nepal, much less stay long enough to build relationships and share the gospel. It's long-haul kind of work, but the Bagbys say they are in it to stay.

Day 2

Most people don't think of Muslims when they think of Russia, but Moscow has more Muslims than any other city in Europe. Christian workers there are investing their lives to befriend and share Jesus with them.

Day 3

For Jared and Tara Jones, prayer has been a lifeline to break through the tough soil of Japan. After Tara's dad prayed for a strategic partner for them, the couple met a Japanese pediatrician who asked them to start a church in her office.

Day 4

How do you reach a city of 28 million? A team of missionaries would love your prayers as they try to change the world through Mexico City.

Day 5

They've faded from the news, but refugees from North Africa continue to risk their lives to get to Europe—and oftentimes find no life there at all. Seth Peyton* and others in Europe are trying to meet them there with hope.

Day 6

Shane and Lindsay Mikeska didn't originally feel called to London. They wanted to go to an unreached corner of the world. But now in the city, they find they have the world at their fingertips.

Day 7

Many pray for miracles and for God to give dreams and visions to those who don't yet follow Him. Missionaries worldwide are seeing God answer those prayers in extraordinary ways.

Day 8

Whether you're in your car, gathered at your kitchen table, or sitting on your sofa, you can fiercely and fervently pray for God to guide missionaries who are working to push back the darkness.

**Names changed*

From Missions Mosaic, December 2017, p. 11

December 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Jessica Castillo Jackie Maxcey	2
3 Deacons meeting Millersview Cow- boy Christmas, 3:00 Cheyenne Huckins Robin Cook	4 LIBA Fellow- ship breakfast, 8:30, El Flamingo	5 HOT Baptist En- campment dinner theater, 6:00	6 Mary Ballew's Christmas gather- ing, noon	7 Freddie Perales	8 Food Pantry food distribution and Christmas recep- tion, 9:00-12:00	9 Lois Patton
	Week of Prayer for International Missions, Dec. 3-10					
10	11 Triple S, noon RaNon Caraway	12 Charles Jordan	13 Youth Christmas theme dinner	14 Camille Sparks	15 Jerry Caraway	16
17 Christmas Choir will sing this a.m. Business meeting Maurice Mallow	18 Roy Guthrie	19	20 No AWANA Youth movie night Gwen Bush Claire Bishop	21 James Ridout Josh Day	22 Preschool Christ- mas program, 11:00 Cooper Bean Kannon Kirk	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27 No Awana Rita Estes Isaac Escobar	28 Mary Ann Wilton	29 James Mallow Reno Alonzo	30 Ed Weber Laney Woodard Raegyn Virdell
		Youth Fireworks stand, Dec. 26-Jan. 1				
31 New Year's Eve						

Food Ministry Report

November 2017

- Families: 112
- Adults: 115
- Children: 37
- Adults over 65: 29



Food distribution day for this month is December 8 from 9:00-12:00. This will be the annual Christmas Reception for our Food Pantry friends. If you would like to contribute Christmas goodies, please bring them to the kitchen that morning or the day before. Thank you!

The **Lottie Moon** mailboxes will be in the west hallway during the Christmas season. If you would like to “mail” cards to fellow church members, simply put them in the appropriate boxes. A donation box will be there for you to make a gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in place of postage.

Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM
Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

December devotionals will be done by Tina Young, Judy Oden, Bobbie Williams, and Becky Elliott. Thank you!

Deacons on call in December

Jim Smith
597-0740, cell 456-4921
Charles Ramsey
792-7955

Weekly Events

Sunday	
9:45	Sunday School
10:50	Morning Worship
6:00	Bible study
7:30	Sunday Night Hoops, FLC
Monday	
4:00	Prayer/devotions at Mary Ballew's
Tuesday	
6:30	Christmas Choir practice
Wednesday	
7:00 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church
5:30-7:15	Awana, Missions Organizations (will not meet 12- 20 or 12-27)
6:00	Adult prayer meeting
6:30-8:00	Youth group
Thursday	
9:45-12:00	Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart, sorted, and stored
2:00-3:30	Dorcas quilting ministry



Pray without
ceasing. . .

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid,. I bring you good news of
great joy that will be for all the people.”
Luke 2:10

- our nation’s leaders
- our members in the nursing homes
- our homebound members
- the lost and un-churched in our community
- Brady children & youth
- Our Sunday School
- Our preschool
- AWANA

Terry and Serena Alexander
Louise Baker
Wendy Barley
Deryl Bishop
John David Bishop
Frieda Chew

Sherry Cox
Fayrene Easley
Mike Easley
Linda Granberry
Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Charles and Jerry Jordan
Leroy and Jo Keese
Janie Lowery
Mike Lowery
Betty McMillan
Harry Mitchell
Carol Newport
Mike Pagett
Lois Patton
Dillon Roberts
Edith Slaughter
Roy Smith
Tinsley Thompson

Jackson Tijerina
Jane Tomlinson
Marvin and Sue Tucker
Jack and Susan Turk
Mackie Jo Walters
Tess Warren
Ed Weber
Kendyl White
Jane Whittemore
Hayden Wilson
Joyce Wilson
Kay Dawn Wilson
Tammy Wilson
Jane Wortham

In military:
Jon Bradshaw
Howard Brown
Brandon Haymon

Talisha Hendley
David Hernandez
Jose Lopez
Moses Marmolejo
Concho Moore
Brandon Pfannenstiel
Jace Telford
Joseph Telford
Jonathan Torres
Alisha Slone
Wes Stark
Daniel Virdell
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the
families of Don Williams
and Randy Offield.

The newsletter is available on the
church website: fbcbrady.org. A link
can be sent to your email address each
month; just send your address to Becky
Martin: becky@scottmartin.net.

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FIRST BAPTIST
C H U R C H

*Be knit together
by strong ties of love.
Colossians 2:2*

Because of your part-
nership in the gospel
from the first day until
now, being confident
of this, that He Who
began a good work in
you will carry it on to
completion until the
day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:5-6



Happy Birthday, Mary!

Mary Ballew celebrated her 97th birthday on November 8. There was a group of ladies at her home on that Monday for prayer and goodies. Mary has lived in the area for many years and has opened her home every Monday at 4:00 p.m. to anyone that would like to pray or have Bible study. Mary’s husband passed many years ago and her daughters and other relatives live out of town. Mary has been an inspiration to more people than we can count and has had some bumps in the road but is still going strong. She is always ready to talk and counsel anyone that needs her. We wish her many more years of happiness and service.

Mary and her husband started a Church in Sweetwater many years ago and she and her family were honored at the Sweetwater church on Sunday, November 5. We wish her many more fruitful years. Everyone that meets her will love her forever.

article and photo by Bobbie Williams