



Observations on “Vacation” in the North

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

Since we got back from our Alaska mission trip, (it was no vacation, I assure you), people have asked, “What was it like up there?” It was the same as here, only different.

The weather was nice. If you wear a short sleeve shirt, when the sun goes behind a cloud, you will get chilly. If you wear a long sleeve shirt, when the sun comes out, you will be a little too warm. It can rain, but didn’t. We had a bear (in town) try to get in our dumpster. We saw a moose jogging through the neighborhood we worked in. The people were friendly, and most were hard-working. They are at once self-reliant and a few are self-destructive.

The big difference for us is, of course, the church. The way church is perceived and valued up there is much different (although Texas is moving in the Alaska direction). In Alaska, the church exists on the periphery, just on the veneer of the Alaskan culture. It has never become a part of most people’s lives and the calculations of where they will spend their time and energy. To put it in church-growth language, there really isn’t much of an *organic* church in Alaska. Many churches were started and populated by military people, mainly from the South. They attracted and reached out to—of course—mainly military people from the South. Sixty-eight years later, native-born Alaskans (who are neither military nor from the South), see no point in church, certainly a church that does not look like them. So in my limited understanding, I see that the great weakness of the church in Alaska is that has no roots, no attraction, and no value to most folks up there. Selling (Southern) church to Alaskans is kind of like selling refrigerators to Eskimos. The best analogy I could come up with is that Alaskans are no more interested in church than most of us are in a casino. It’s just not a part of our lives.

It seems we face much the same problem: no one is interested in church. Why should they be? What has church (this one included) ever done for them that has any eternal value?

There, of course, is the problem. It’s not about church. It’s about Jesus. It’s about sharing Jesus with others. It’s not about programs. It’s not about music. It’s not about anything but Jesus and making Him known. It’s about your life coming into contact with other lives, and planting seeds. And then watering those seeds. And seeing them grow and flower.

The Great Commission only knows of going and making disciples, not making churches. The problem isn’t the church. It’s that Jesus isn’t being lifted up, in order that HE may draw people unto himself. Could it be that you have been lifting up an institution instead of its Founder? How many have you invited to church, and how many have you invited to Jesus? Could it be that we love our church when in fact, we are called to love Jesus and one another and the lost?

I know that many of the people of Alaska have the wrong idea about what church is and what it means. Could that be one thing we have in common with our friends up north?

—Bro. Kevin

The Mission at Brady, June 3-4 and 10-11, was a big success and made a difference in the lives of several Brady families and individuals.

Rod Young and Lynn Munden represented FBC, along with a number of other volunteers. Lynn provided this update:

We worked on 12 houses and had around 300 different volunteers over the two weekends.

We are already looking forward to next year’s project, and we will hopefully be able to work on more houses next summer.

We are in the process of writing grants and seeking donations from local churches and organizations.

The Board of Directors is revamping the application for assistance form, actually listing the tasks that we can perform outside of the houses. This will hopefully make it easier for applicants to decide what they want/need to be done to their house.

RA Camp, June 9-10, at the Elliotts’ retreat center on the San Saba River, was a great time for the 6 fourth and fifth grade boys who attended. Charlie Elliott, Jerry Caraway, and Jeremy Couvillion provided a fun Christian camping weekend.

Navajo missions, June 24-29. Betty Smith served along with a group from Fort Worth at Red Valley, AZ. She worked primarily with a Backyard Bible Club in Lukechukai..

Summer Missions Reports

Vacation Bible School, July 9-13, ministered to about 83 children, preschool through 5th grade.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way. A special thanks to Melanie Couvillion for serving as director and to RaNon Caraway for doing so much of the behind-the-scenes work.

Charlie Elliott presented the plan of salvation to the older children on the last day and 15 precious souls accepted Jesus.

An evening to do follow-up visits with VBS children has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, at 6:30. Please plan to help with that and reach out to a child and his or her family.

Melanie shared this thought in her report to the church the Sunday after VBS:

Growing a garden takes planting and cultivation to yield a crop. Follow-up is the cultivation step that follows the planting done during VBS and Day Camp in the Park. The extra dose of a loving invitation can greatly enhance the results of these two great outreach efforts.

Day Camp in the Park, for children in 1st-6th grades was held July 17-21. The Rec Team from FBC Midland led this fun and meaningful camp at Richards Park every morning. Some of our youth served as counselors-in-training and met with the Rec Team in the afternoons.

The camp registered 151 children during the week. On D-Day—Decision Day—on Thursday, 49 children responded to the presentation of the Gospel and accepted Jesus.

Youth camps: A large group of our youth attended Youth Camp at Mt. Lebanon Encampment, July 2-7.

As this newsletter goes out, Gabe and a number of youth are serving as counselors at the Family Camp at Paisano Encampment.

Gabe’s column, with a summer update, will return in September.

Still to come: McKenna Brandenberger will be going on a two-month mission trip to Uganda beginning in September. She will be working in an orphanage.

If you would like to help with her expenses, you can give a donation through the church office. Also, McKenna is selling T-shirts as a fundraiser.

Summer Babies in the FBC Family

Emma Kate Williams

Born May 13, 2017, in Lubbock

8 lbs 0 oz, 21 inches

Parents: J.P. and Lauren Williams of Lubbock

Grandparents: Jon Paul and Alicia Williams of Brady and
Chris and Dixie Peebles of Lewisville



Lyla Beth Woodard

Born June 1, 2017, in Fredericksburg

6 lbs 12 oz, 20 1/4 inches

Parents: Brad and Linsey Woodard

Sister and brother: Laney and Blane

Grandparents: Dennis and Laquita Johnson of Midland and
Jim and Sharon Woodard, also of Midland



Tyler Jace Gerstenberger

Born June 29, 2017, in San Angelo

6 lbs 7 oz, 19 inches

Parents: Ty and Erica Gerstenberger

Brother: Larry Gerstenberger

Grandparents: Robert and Cynthia Reeves of Brady, Pam Edmondson of Kerrville
Great Grandfather: Robert Evans of Brady



News from Godly Impressions Preschool and Child Care
by Holly Stewart, director

It's that time of year again—the start of a new school year. It makes me want to smell a bouquet of freshly sharpened pencils! Our official first day for the 2017-2018 school year will be Tuesday, Sept. 5. Our ocean-theme Open House and Parent Meeting will be on Sunday, Aug. 20. We are looking forward to “sea”-ing all the new faces and “whale”-coming them to our “school.”

If you would like to be involved in Godly Impressions in any way — by substituting, by reading to our children, through monetary donations, or some other way — please let me know. And, of course, we covet your prayers as we pour into our future generations.

In His Service,
Holly Stewart
Godly Impressions

*“Connecting kids to the love of Christ
through Godly impressions”*



August 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Shawnte Virdell	3	4 Destani Roberts	5 Tess Warren Brian Owen
6 Melody Huckins Carl Brandenberger Hannah Bishop	7 Charlie Douglas	8 Grace Class meeting, 4:00 VBS Follow-up visits, 6:30	9 Glenda Middleton	10	11 Kirk Vinson Food Pantry food distribution, 9:00-12:00	12
13 Deacons meeting	14 Triple S, noon	15	16	17	18 Jessica Medrano Alma Davis	19
20 Preschool open house and parents' meeting Business meeting	21 Jefferey Davis Tony Groves	22 Matthew Paradise	23	24	25 Scott Martin Jackie Harper	26
27	28 Triple S, 5:30	29 Kaleigh Bishop	30	31		

Food Ministry Report July 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Families: 119Adults: 135Children: 32Adults over 65: 43 Food distribution day for this month is August 11 from 9:00-12:00. All volunteers are welcome and needed. The Food Pantry donated 250 pounds of meat to help with the meals for the work camp youth group from Houston in June.	Weekly Events Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:50 Morning Worship 6:00 Bible study Monday 4:00 Prayer meeting at Mary Ballew's Wednesday 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church 6:00 Adult prayer meeting Thursday 9:45-12:00 Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart, sorted, and stored 2:00-3:30 Dorcas quilting ministry Greeters for August Aug. 6 Billy Whitaker Aug. 13 Virgil & Glenda Middleton Aug. 20 Welman and Becky Bauer Aug. 27 Victoria Norrell Deacons on call in August Jerry Caraway 792-8671 Randy Bedwell 210-213-2132
Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM <i>Sunday morning:</i> live broadcast at 11:00 AM <i>Weekdays:</i> Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM August devotionals will be done by Tina Young, Janis Groves, Lisa Remini, and Kay Holloway. Thank you!	

Lake Ivie Baptist Association events
Heaven's Gates Hell's Flames
A Theatrical Presentation of the Gospel
FBC Mason, 325 E. College
3 nights of production
Sunday July 30 – Tuesday August 1
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Free Admission,
Childcare Provided

August 6-9 Rochelle Baptist Church VBS and Revival

August 8 Associational Missions Banquet @ Glory Road Cowboy Church at 5:00 pm

August 13 Glory Road Cowboy Church Back to School Bash

Where is Glory Road Cowboy Church?
Take Hwy 158 out of Ballinger, toward Bronte, go approximately 5 miles, turn left on FM 3026, go about 1 mile, cross over FM 2111, go 1/2 mile, turn in gate on your left. Call Keith at [325-456-0928](tel:325-456-0928) if you need help finding it. .

Pray without
ceasing. . .

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

- 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
- McKenna’s mission trip to Uganda

Louise Baker
Sherry Cox
Leann Crim
Susan Davenport
Daltyn Farris

Casey Flake
Linda Granberry
Holly Groves
Janis Groves
Tony Groves
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Charles and Jerry Jordan
Janie Lowery
Mike Lowery
Gary Matula
Betty McMillan
Harold Nesbitt
Carol Newport
Mike Pagett
Gwen Ragsdale
Dillon Roberts
Paul Sanders
Edith Slaughter

Joe Solis
Tinsley Thompson
Jackson Tijerina
Jane Tomlinson
Marvin and Sue Tucker
Jack and Susan Turk
Mackie Jo Walters
Tess Warren
Joyce Wilson
Kay Dawn Wilson

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 Jo Haynes, Marilyn Evans, David Bishop, Peggy Lohn, Mindy Gober, Lyla Bivens, K.Y. Owens, and LaVern Smith Huffman.

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*

Dear Dorcas Quilters Group,

Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt that Raylee received at preschool graduation! It was a lovely surprise and we will cherish this incredible gift for many years to come!
God bless,
The Keyser family

Our sincere thanks for your hard work and your consideration of our preschool graduates! The quilts were so beautiful and very appreciated!
Godly Impressions Board of Directors
Susan Turk, Carol Bedwell, Victoria Norrell, Ida Owens
Crystal Slaughter and Holly Stewart

Dear FBC Members,
Words cannot express the feeling in our hearts for your thoughtful support, generosity, and prayers for our family during this difficult time in our lives. It deeply touched our family and will always be remembered with love. We just want you to know that the acts of kindness and Christianity have not gone unnoticed. We appreciate the time and thoughtfulness it took to prepare meals, bring paper goods and breakfast items. Please continue to pray for our family, the journey has not ended.
With thankful hearts,
The Jennings Family
Curtis, Genna, Jace, Joel, Joy, Jack, and Jett

To the Grace Class at FBC Brady—
Thanks so much for your generous donation for our summer work camp. We love Brady and had an amazing week.
I so much appreciate your love and support!
In Christ,
Steve Cragg
Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, Houston