

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt

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Announcements

Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, Cakes, Candy, and Carols!

Our annual kick-off of the Christmas holiday season is tonight! Please join us at 6:00 p.m. for this fun night of singing favorite carols and enjoying holiday treats. Invite family and friends, and bring something sweet or savory to share!

Sign up for the Christmas Banquet!

The Christmas Banquet is on Wednesday, **December 10**, at 6:30 p.m. Menu is Prime Rib, Ham, Vegetables, and Dessert. \$7.00 per adult, \$4.00 per child 4 years and older. Three and under are free! No family need pay more than \$25. **Sign up in the hall!**

Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, the menu is **Chili**. Supper is at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club is at 6:20 p.m., Youth is at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study is at 6:45 p.m. Sign up in the hall for the meal!

Old Savannah City Mission Lunch

Tom Keller will preach and serve lunch to those at the Old Savannah City Mission on Saturday, **December 6**. Travis and Ginna MacMillan, and Dennis Brittingham are scheduled to help.

Missionary Visit

We are excited that retiring missionaries Carlos and Sandy Rios will be with us during a joint Sunday School hour on Sunday, **December 7**. Make plans to be here to see the report on their decades of ministry together, and what the future holds for them!

Choir Practice

Next Choir Practice is Sunday night **December 7**, at 5:00 p.m. Singers, please be working on your own with the practice aids provided! It's coming together!

Elders' Meeting

Monday, **December 8**, at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Micah 5:2 Pew Bible p. 779

Greeting

(When singing begins, please make your way to your seats and sing along!)

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings—name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.
Count your blessings—name them one by one;
Count your blessings—see what God hath done;
Count you blessings—name them one by one;
Count your many blessings—see what God hath done.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #83, bulletin p. 7

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Prayer of General Confession Tom Keller

Psalm 32:1-2 Pew Bible p. 462

Hymn #92, bulletin p. 8

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-45 Taylor Pelton Pew Bible pp. 855-856

Hymn, bulletin p. 9

"Fullness of Grace"

Message Bob Dimmitt

The Patibulum Matthew #110 Matthew 16:24-27, Pew Bible p. 822

Hymn, bulletin p. 10

"Doxology"

A.M. Notes

The Patibulum Matthew #110 Matthew 16:24-27
Jesus has just spoken about His suffering and death, now He mentions the taking up of a cross, denying yourself and following Him.
Discipleship requires more than a casual desire to follow Jesus.
The verb " <u>let him deny"</u> is not <u>maybe</u> or <u>might</u> but speaks of a definite obligation, an absolute necessity to deny self.
Take up your cross is a reference to the death march
Denying self is not the same as self-denial
The concept (taking up your cross) should never be cheapened by applying it to enduring some irritation or even a major burden
A cross is something that requires us to deny our way of doing things and to choose God's way of doing things.

You Mind if I Look Over these Crosses?

C.L. Saylor

Well, here I am, Lord. You said "Take up your cross," and I'm here to do it. It's not easy, you know, this self-denial thing. I mean to go through with it though, yes sir! I'll bet you wish more people were willing to be disciples like me. I've counted the cost and surrendered my life, and it's not an easy road.

You mind if I look over these crosses? I'd kind of like a new one. I'm not fussy, you understand; but a disciple has to be relevant these days.

I was wondering—are there any that are vinyl padded? I'm thinking of attracting others, see? And if I could show them a comfortable cross, I'm sure I could win a lot more. Got to keep up with the population explosion and all.

And I need something durable so I can treasure it always. Oh, is there one that's sort of flat so it would fit under my coat? One shouldn't be too obvious.

Funny, there doesn't seem to be much choice here. Just that coarse, rough wood. I mean that would hurt. Don't you have something more distinctive, Lord? I can tell you right now, none of my friends are going to be impressed by this shoddy workmanship. They'll think I'm a nut or something. And my family will be just mortified.

What's that? It's either one of these or forget the whole thing? But Lord, I want to be your disciple, I mean, just being with you; that's all that counts; but life has to have a balance, too. But you don't understand—nobody lives that way today! Who is going to be attracted by this self-denial bit? I mean, I want to; but let's not over do it. Start getting radical like this, and they'll have me off to the funny farm. Know what I mean?

I mean being a disciple is challenging and exciting and I want to do it; but I do have some rights, you know. Now let's see—no blood—OK? I just can't stand the thought of that, Lord... Lord? Jesus?

Now where do you suppose He went?



Report

It has been an exciting few months in Adventure Club. We are seeing new faces, which is always fun and is an answer to prayer! The Clubbers are learning SO many verses, many are learning three verses each week! We've encouraged them to write down their verses. This helps them learn and it confirms that they are studying and preparing during the week, and that's always a good study help. They are taking great notes from the Bible Study, and they can use them in the review weeks. At the end of each 5-week session, we schedule a review. These reviews always bless my heart. This is a time where questions, many very difficult, come from lessons we have covered during the past session, and to hear these 3^{rd} through

6th graders get them correct, almost perfect. I would like to thank our parents who remind and encourage their children to study each week, for our Leaders who come every week to help our clubbers, our Bible study teachers who are diligent in preparing lessons, for those who teach our clubbers hymns and songs, for our game director who plans fun, group games that allow those athletic clubbers and those not so athletic, to enjoy this time. This also teaches good habits with belonging to a team. I would like to thank our church for financially supporting our Adventure Club. Thank you also to those who pray regularly for all those involved in our Wednesday night program. Please continue to pray for us and if you have family members or neighbors that are not involved in a children's program on Wednesdays, please invite them or ask them to call the church office with any questions.

Janice Donaldson

Continued from p. I

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, **December 9**, at 6:00 p.m.

Special Called Meeting

There is a Special Called Members' Meeting on Sunday, **December 14**, at 5:30 p.m. for our Deacon Election. Nominees are Eric Horton, Napoleon Martin, Taylor Pelton, and Michael Walker. Members, please plan to come! This will be followed by Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m.

Two Caroling Opportunities

The church is going Christmas Caroling to homes of our more elderly folks and everyone is invited! If you'd like to join us, we're loading up the bus on Monday, **December 15**, and Wednesday, **December 17**, at 5:30 p.m. There are no regular Wednesday activities on December 17.

Lifeline Screening

These folks will be using our Fellowship Hall for their health screening tests on Thursday, **December 18**. We have a few vouchers for free tests. See Dawn in the office if you would like one of these vouchers.



Christmas Cantata Presentation

The Adult Choir will present Light of Christ, Born for Us on Sunday, **December 21**, at 6:00 p.m. Please join us!

Christmas Eve Service

Our Annual Christmas Eve Communion service is Wednesday, **December 24**, at 5:00 p.m. Come and worship!

Christmas Office Closed

The office will be closed Thursday and Friday, **December 24 and 25**, for Christmas.

New Year's Eve Game Night

Wednesday, December 31, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Details to come!

Important Upcoming Events



Novembe	er:
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30	cocoa, corree, cookies, cakes, candy, & carois	6.00 p.111.		
December:				
1-3	Trip to Myrtle Beach			

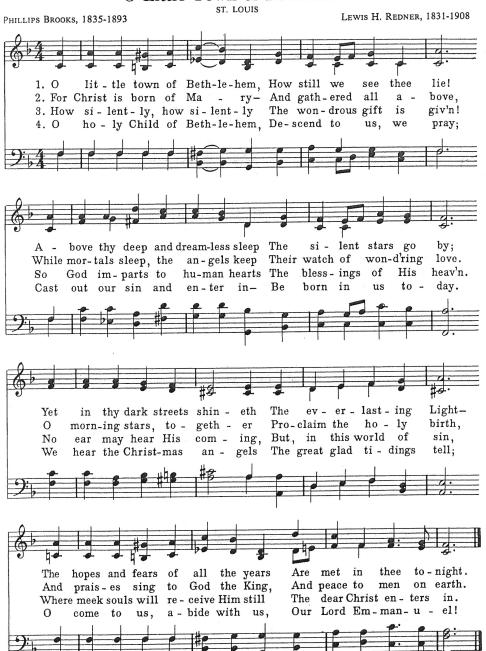
1-3	Trip to Myrtle Beach	
3	Youth & Adventure Club Christmas Parties	6:30 p.m.
6	Old Savannah City Mission with Tom:	
	Travis & Ginna MacMillan, Dennis Brittingham	11:00 a.m.
7	Carlos & Sandy Rios sharing in Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
8	Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
9	Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
10	Church Christmas Banquet	6:30 p.m.
12	Young Adult Christmas Party	TBA
15	Christmas Caroling	5:00 p.m.
16	Joy Class Christmas Party; covered dish and gift excha	nge 11:00 a.m.
17	Christmas Caroling (No other Wednesday Activities)	5:00 p.m.
18	Lifeline Screening in Fellowship Hall	
21	Cantata: Light of Christ, Born for Us	6:00 p.m.
24	Christmas Eve: Office Closed	
24	Christmas Eve Communion Service	5:00 p.m.
25	Christmas Day: Office Closed	
31	New Year's Eve Game Night	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

January:

1	New Year's Day: Office Closed	
4	Kendra Stanford sharing in Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.



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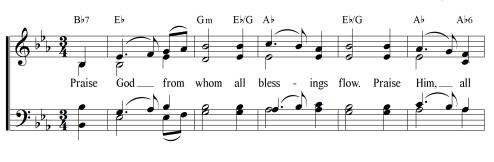


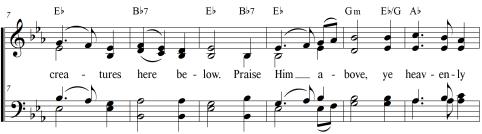


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Doxology

Jimmy Owens







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Articles

Ten Things Every Child Needs to Hear from a Parent: A Reflection from Genesis 49

By Pastor Sean Whitenack

Every parent carries hopes for their children. We dream of who they'll become, what they'll love, how they'll live. But the most powerful thing we give our children isn't simply opportunity or even advice. The most powerful thing we give them is our words.

Genesis 49 records Jacob's final conversation with his twelve sons. At the end of his life, he gathers them close and speaks to each one. His words aren't sentimental or generic; they are honest, personal, and forward-looking. Some are painful reminders of actions that left permanent consequences. All of them are spoken so these twelve tribes would know what to pursue and what to avoid. Jacob names strengths, confronts weaknesses, and ties their future to God's promises.

From this we hear a father who uses his words to shape his family for generations. Our words carry that kind of power. From his example we can see ten things every child needs to hear—things we should be sure to communicate to our children.

- 1. "I have so many hopes for you." Jacob's words look forward—he tells his sons what will come "in days to come." Every child needs to know their parents see a future for them—not a scripted plan, not an easy plan, but a God-centered hope. Tell them your greatest dream is faithfulness, not mere success.
- 2. "I'm proud of you." Genesis 49:28 shows Jacob's aim in his words: he blessed each son. Affection accompanies instruction. Every child needs to know you see potential in them, even if they aren't living it out as much as they could. Don't assume they know it—say it plainly. Even a teenager who rolls their eyes still wants to hear, "I'm proud of you."
- 3. "Guard your heart against sexual sin." Reuben's failure with sexual temptation cost him deeply and rippled through generations. Every parent should take the power of sexuality seriously. Have the awkward conversation. Help your children see that purity protects intimacy and faithfulness brings peace. What you say early may spare them heartache later.
- 4. "<u>Don't let anger write your story</u>." Simeon and Levi's uncontrolled fury brought years of trouble to their descendants. No parent wants anger to ruin a child's life. Talk openly about how resentment poisons relationships. Refuse to model contempt; show kindness and patience with family and strangers; practice repentance when you lose your temper. Show them that real strength is self-control.
- 5. "<u>Take responsibility—the world needs leaders</u>." Judah's life wasn't spotless, but he grew into leadership by owning responsibility. When others hid, he stepped forward. Tell your sons and daughters that leadership isn't about charisma or popularity; it's

about courage and care. When they take ownership for their choices and the good of others, call it out and bless it. This is the path of God's blessing. It may bring difficulty, but it results in the blessing of a meaningful life.

- 6. "Keep going—trust God to carry you as you trust in Him." Joseph's story is perseverance: betrayed, forgotten, falsely accused—yet made fruitful through hardship. Our children need to know that pain doesn't mean abandonment. When they stumble or suffer, remind them that <u>perseverance</u> is faith in motion.
- 7. "Work hard and serve well." Issachar's life was marked by steady, quiet labor—not glamour, but faithfulness. In a world that prizes ease, our children need to hear that diligence and humility matter. Hard work builds character and serves others; it's how we love our neighbors in ordinary ways.
- 8. "<u>Use your gifts for good</u>." Jacob noticed unique strengths—Zebulun's business sense, Asher's abundance, Naphtali's creativity. Parents should do the same. When you see your child's gift—math, speaking, serving, organizing, artistry—name it. Then help them see how it can serve others. <u>Gifts grow best when pointed toward God's purposes</u>.
- 9. "Remember what really lasts." Jacob's burial instructions were not nostalgia; they anchored his family in God's promise of home. Tell your children that comfort and possessions fade—but faith, integrity, and eternity endure. Help them live for something bigger than the next goal.
- 10. "<u>You are deeply loved</u>." Everything Jacob said—even the hard words—flowed from love. Every child needs that same certainty. Make sure your words communicate affection as clearly as instruction. Love spoken consistently becomes the soil where faith and confidence grow.

Bringing It All Together

When Jacob finished speaking, Scripture says he "was gathered to his people." His words outlived him. They became part of Israel's story—a legacy of blessing, warning, and faith.

You don't have to wait until the end of your life to speak words that last. Begin now. Write a note to your son or daughter. Have a conversation that's overdue. Name a strength. Gently warn about a weakness. Speak a word of hope.

Most of all, point them to the One who speaks the truest words over us—the God who calls us beloved, forgiven, and His own, who proved His Word by sending His Son. When we've heard His voice, our words gain new power to bless, build, and guide.

Let's be parents whose children remember not just what we did for them, but what we said to them—words that helped them find their way home. �

obody wins the war against sin and/or persecution in the blink of an eye or in a single circumstance. It's something we'll be engaged in constantly, for the rest of our lives. We're going to have to die daily—we need to die daily because we're not recovered addicts. We're recovering addicts, and what we're addicted to is ourselves—our selfishness, our desires, and our safety.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Men in the Image of Women and Women in the Image of Men

by Tim Challies

God made men and God made women. God made men distinct from women and women distinct from men. God made men and women equal in worth and value while also making them distinct in some purpose and function. It's all obvious stuff, this—obvious matters of differences between the sexes.

Yet a core conceit at the heart of this difference is that men tend to believe they are superior to women while women tend to believe they are superior to men. Or to perhaps frame it a little more pointedly, men tend to believe the qualities of masculinity are superior to the qualities of femininity while women tend to believe the qualities of femininity are superior to the qualities of masculinity. Though we know God created us to live in complementarity, we tend to live in opposition.

This being the case, much of the strife between men and women, often seen most visibly in the relationship of a husband and wife, is related to a husband believing his wife should behave a bit more like a man while his wife believes her husband should behave a bit more like a woman. Both believe this would be for the best.

As an example, consider the way a mother relates to her child and the way a father does. When that child trips and gets a little scrape on his knee, a mother may feel tremendous compassion and want to carefully tend to the wound. A father may pick him up, put him back on his feet, and say, "You're okay! Walk it off!" This can introduce tension between them since each can consider their response objectively right and the other's objectively wrong. But probably it simply reflects masculinity and femininity—maternal nurture and paternal toughness. If that's the case, wouldn't this be a feature of God's distinction to be embraced rather than a bug to be resented?

Or consider the classic critique of the way a man so often springs into action or at least quickly posits a solution when his wife describes a problem. Yet in his wife's mind, she may not be asking him to solve her problem but rather listen to her heart. She wants to be heard more than she wants the situation to be fixed. Again, shouldn't we see both desires as God-given and worthy of celebrating rather than allowing them to become a source of frustration or superiority? Shouldn't they lead us to marvel at the way we are intricately and wonderfully (and complementarily) made rather than wish for total conformity?

I'm sure we could multiply examples in the home, the church, and broader society. The point, though, would stand—that men are often frustrated by the intractable ways in which women are not like men, and women are often frustrated by the ways in which men and are not like women. Yet there is a trick to it, I'm convinced. Were we to get what we want in our worst moments, we would despise it. A man may think he wants his wife to be more masculine but he would dislike her if she actually was. A woman may be convinced her husband would be easier to love if he was more feminine, but she would not respect him if he was.

As always, we do best to accept God's design and to embrace it with confidence rather than reject it with frustration. As Christians, we speak often of the reality and the goodness of God's design. We believe this in theory. But the differences between men and women—differences that were deliberately designed by God—allow us to practice what we say we believe. For the fact is that God has created men and women to be complementary instead of identical—to be gloriously and wondrously distinct. ❖

Missionary of the Week

Kris & Nina Brackett Grace Ministries International - Atlanta, Georgia

Dawn reached out to Kris and Nina Brackett last week, as it had been awhile since their last email update. She received this response:

Greetings Dawn,

I had a report typed up and ready four and a half weeks ago as Nina and I embarked on a trip together that has lasted all the way until today. In the rush to prepare, pack, and then in the many meetings and changes in location since then, I never got it sent off.

We give thanks for the opportunity that we have had:

On October 19 after preaching at Faith Community Church in Woodstock, Nina and I headed for the airport.



October 20-23 we were in Timisoara, Romania for the The Masters Academy International European regional summit.

From there we traveled to London (Oct 25-Nov 3), where we visited the training center and met with the M.Div. students for TMAI Europe as they studied Biblical Geography in preparation for a study trip in April to Israel. This week-long geography class also included a visit to the British Museum to see the key items there that relate to the Biblical lands.

From London we traveled to Manila where we visited the Training center in Manila and participated in the TMAI Asian regional summit.

We also spent a week with Nina's family in Manila. She hasn't returned there since her grandmother passed 18 years ago. We were in Manila from November 4 to November 15.

On November 16, we headed to Budapest to meet with other senior missionaries in Europe to discuss shepherding and strategy for the European region.

Finally, after a month and a day, we are on our way back (currently over the Atlantic). God has been good and the ministry opportunities and the people we have met and friends we have seen have been wonderful. We did struggle with sickness

and Nina's asthma has been giving her a hard time as we have been in so many different places along the way. But we are looking forward to getting back.

Through the end of the year, I have a large project that I am working on with all of our training centers to standardize their academic programs. This requires a lot of reviewing of curriculum and coordinating a lot of international zoom calls as each school has their program peer reviewed.

We were also delighted with the news just before we left that our oldest daughter is expecting her second child and our middle daughter is expecting her first. Of course, we are thrilled with this news

Nina continues to meet with three ladies from our church in Croatia, and one missionary wife in Bosnia to encourage them to help them become better equipped for women's ministry.

Please thank the church for their support and encouragement as we continue to serve the Training center in Croatia through continued transitions, help prepare men for gospel ministry across Europe, and aid other training centers to develop or refine their academic plans as the ministry of TMAI continues to expand and grow.

In Christ,

Kris and Nina

Nursery November 30 Babies:

Donna Martin, Ceci Sheffield, Susan Su

Toddlers:

Cindy Dimmitt, Rebekah Helmick

Preschoolers:

Jim, Heather, & L'Ili Schraeder

Nursery December 7 Babies:

Carolyn Blanton, Jan DeLoach, Kayla Duero

Toddlers:

Janice Donaldson, Cindy Wise Preschoolers: Rachel Beatty, Amy Keller

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons



Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, Cakes, Candy, and Carols	6:00 p.m.

Monday

Myrtle Beach Trip crowd leaves 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Myrtle Beach Trip crowd returns Midday Supper: Chili 5:30 p.m. Adventure Club 6:20 p.m. Youth 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study: Practical Sanctification 6:45 p.m.

Thursday

Senior Adult Bible Study: Isaiah 10:00 a.m.

Saturday

Lunch at Old Savannah City Mission: Travis & Ginna MacMillan, 11:00 a.m.

Dennis Brittingham

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for November: Joe Morris, Bill Bailey Lockup Deacons for December: Rick Zittrouer, Reggie Brown

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

The Law of Moses:

Survey of 613 Laws Fellowship Hall: **Bob Dimmitt**

Romans video series:

W. Robert Godfrey, Ligonier Youth House: Steve Posner Gym Overhang: Union with Christ Tom Keller

Children and Students

Babies Room 3: Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges Toddlers Room 24 Donna Martin, Deborah Focht Pre-K Room 25: Dustin & Emily Herb K. 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John & Pam Humphrey Room 202: Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Boys 3rd-6th Grade Girls Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton

Youth Guys & Girls Room 206: Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion,

Avalon DeLoach

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