

March Monthly Missions Update

Missions Director Jesse McCain

Welcome to FBCA's Monthly Missions Update. Hopefully February was a month where you found rhythms with work, school, and life after the holidays and transitions of January. As God has invited you to respond to the gospel and join him in his kingdom and his work, consider how you can invite your neighbors to celebrate Easter and Christ's resurrection with you. Check out news from the MEC and our partners below!

The Missions and Evangelism Commission

First Quarter Missional Emphasis

Invitation – Early on in Jesus' ministry he is quoted as saying, "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." (Mark 1:15) The coming of Jesus not only revealed God to people, it also extended an invitation to repent and believe because God was near. God was not simply something to be comprehended. God was worth turning away from what was broken/corrupted in one's life and believing in him as someone who is faithful, good, and true. Jesus invited people to leave what was sinful and to live out of belief in the good news of God's kingdom.

As FBCA approaches Resurrection Sunday, the MEC asks that the congregation invite people to celebrate Easter with them. Believers have an opportunity to invite neighbors to join them for a meal or to invite them to join us for worship on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and his defeat of sin and death. This event which has changed our lives can also become the context for showing hospitality and love/care which reflects God's love and care for us. Our prayers and time with our neighbors matter to our God. **Be on the lookout for materials (cards/signs with information about Easter Sunday) to share with neighbors and invite them to Easter Sunday. Perhaps even consider opening up your home to those around you, especially those who may not have heard the good news of Jesus.**

Two Partner Trips for 2024.

A trip to Austria is taking place over Easter, **March 27 – April 2**, where a team will come alongside **Linz Baptist Church** in hosting a retreat to encourage and affirm each other in seeking God and living missionally. **Jesse McCain, Justin Raymer, and Alice Ling will be representing FBCA on this trip.** Justin will be a great resource and addition to the team, especially because of his work with refugees and immigrants in the ESL classes during the week here at FBCA. Justin's work with For The Nations DC and ESL classes makes him a great resource to the trip. His experience is relevant because Linz Baptist Church consists of refugees and immigrants upwards of 50%.

A Trip to **Rodeo Grande, Nicaragua with Food for the Hungry** will happen **June 15 - 22** and will be **led by Jason Edminster**. The trip will be FBCA's second trip to the community and provides an opportunity to meet sponsor children and build relationships with people in the community. The team will also seek to support, encourage, and affirm the Food for the Hungry staff in the area which is much needed. A Team is currently being put together.

Passports/Interest – If you are interested in the trip with Food for the Hungry, I would appreciate you letting me know! June will be here before we know it. Additionally, anyone who needs to apply/renew their passport for this trip should go ahead and get that done as soon as possible.

Let me know if you have any questions, want more information about our partners, or want to talk about missional relationships.

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Missions Update

Mercy Ministry – The Mercy Ministry at FBCA continues to provide relief/assistance for those in need in our community. Because of donations to the Mercy Fund, FBCA was able to help several in need of rental assistance and others with groceries. The Counseling Center also continues to offer support for those in our community navigating difficult relationships and situations.

For the Nations DC (FTN DC) – FBCA volunteers and ESL staff took advantage of Valentines Day to celebrate with ESL students and share about God's love. ESL students at FBCA are increasing in the Spring Semester upwards of 100 students. FTN DC will need volunteers to help out with childcare and teacher assistance. If interested in helping out, check out their website and let Jesse know!

<https://ftndc.org/volunteer/>

Sanctity of Life Ministries – SLM continues to walk with young families in our community as they make difficult decisions. They have several orientation events coming up in the following weeks. These are good opportunities to hear about the work of the organization and find ways to get involved. They are also hosting a Blooms and Babies Brunch March 16 where testimonials are shared, and attendees are able to join SLM families over a meal. Find information for volunteering/orientations and the brunch below!

<https://www.slmgetinvolved.org/volunteer>

<https://www.slmgetinvolved.org/blooms-and-babies>

***Prayer Prompt**– Please join the MEC and I in praying for God's continued work within our church, community, and world. Ask God to provide opportunities for FBCA and its partners to share about the work God is doing among us and the good news of the gospel.

****Ask God to continue using Thimar LSESD within the MENA region. Ask for God to work among native believers/churches and to build up endurance/perseverance to stay and bear witness to the light of Christ within Lebanon and the Middle East. Pray that God's spirit would lead believers to seek out the good work God has prepared for them.**

Go in Peace – Jesse