

# FSBC *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH EL DORADO KANSAS

MAY 2021

## Youth

Congratulations to our three seniors!!! They have worked hard to achieve this momentous time in their life. Join me in congratulating Ryan Luehrs, Jeffrey Thomas and Johnathan Thomas!!!

Our youth will have their final Wednesday night meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have a youth lock-in on June 25<sup>th</sup>. All youth going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up are welcome to

come! July 21<sup>st</sup> we will meet at Sonic for Shake night. We will have our kickoff in August and more details for the summer plans will be coming up in the newsletter each month.

July 26-30 is camp, and we want more youth to come! If you have not signed your youth up, please do this ASAP!

**Enter camper information at this link:** [knscbevents.org/sscamper](https://knscbevents.org/sscamper)  
**Your Group ID is: W411435**

Our youth group supports a boy through ChildFund. His name is Yeabsira Abza. We refer to him as Yeaby. His birthday is 3/14/2009 and he lives in Ethiopia. We send correspondence back and forth and pay \$36 a month to help him attend school, meet his basic needs, and allow him to have the opportunity to hear about Christ. We challenge you to support someone too!!!

Please pray for our youth as they daily meet challenges in every area of their life!



### Current Church Schedule

#### Sundays:

- Sunday School Classes **9:30 am**
- Worship **10:45 am**
- Women's Bible Study **6 pm**

#### Mondays:

- **2nd Mondays** of the Month, Women on Mission lunch **Noon**
- Prayer meeting **6:15 pm**

#### Tuesdays:

- Men's Group at Spangles **6 am**
- Celebrate Recovery **6:30 pm**

#### Wednesdays:

- Bible study **6:30 pm**

# Operation Christmas Child

Thank you all who brought in hygiene items this past month. If you forgot, you still can because we aren't packing boxes until November. During May we are going to focus on collecting toys. We need good quality toys for boys and girls ages 2-14. Some ideas include balls, cars & trucks, small tools, jump ropes, dolls (baby, Barbie, etc.), and play dough.

I found a website that has good quality soccer balls and pumps at a great price. They even give a discount for ordering for OCC! If you would like to donate toward the purchase of some soccer balls, contact me. Thanks in advance for what you donate. Remember that every box we pack is an opportunity for a child to hear about the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

Here are some encouraging stories about how God used Operation Christmas Child this last year:

In 2020 a ray of hope and joy broke through the clouds of fear and darkness. 2020 caught everyone by surprise. But not God. He's known about COVID-19 and the trials and challenges of this unprecedented year since before the beginning of time. He has always had 2020 vision. And we are thankful that part of that vision included using Samaritan's Purse to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth through Operation Christmas Child, even in a pandemic year!

With the novel coronavirus spreading sickness and fear, children needed hope now more than ever. Were there challenges? Yes. Over 100 of the countries we worked in this year were locked down in March. *"But with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)*, and we saw God work time and again all around the world opening doors wide to usher in Good News and great joy!

If any place can be called the end of the earth it's Wotje—a tiny atoll that is part of the Marshall Islands in the North Pacific. This summer, 340 children—most of them orphans—

attended a festive Operation Christmas Child outreach event and received gift-filled shoeboxes. Many of them didn't know what a gift was until they lifted the lid of their box. "Through the gifts you can see the brightness in their eyes and the excitement they see when they discover that someone really loves them," one ministry partner said. "It's the love of God in a tangible way. You feel it right there in front of them in their hands. They are overwhelmed."

Throughout the Pacific, we saw God powerfully at work. In Guam, local pastor Andy Loos reported "seeing salvation come not just to one or two children, but to whole families through Operation Christmas Child."

The same proved true on Palau where the first shoeboxes in that country were handed out. Rengesuul Yobech, our field representative of the region, was overwhelmed by what he saw and was deeply appreciative. "I want to thank all of the people who pack shoeboxes," he said. "You are touching many lives. God is doing a great work through you." In all, shoeboxes were distributed on over 200 Pacific islands in 2020!

We also witnessed God move mightily in South Asia where half of the unreached people groups in the world live. The Lord opened the way for us to visit 55 of these groups and proclaim the Gospel among them. In one extremely poor community the people lived in patchwork huts. Children had no shoes and wore rags for clothing. There were no schools for them to attend. They had never received a gift—until they opened their shoeboxes! "The joy on their faces was incredible," a ministry partner said. And many of the boys and girls enthusiastically responded to the Gospel. As a result, a door is now open to the Good News in these regions so that *"those who have never been told of Him will see, and those who have never heard will understand" (Romans 15:21 ESV)*.

COVID-19 presented many challenges, our National Leadership Teams around the world prayed and found creative solutions to bring hope to

children! Shoebox distributions may have looked a little different this year, but the same powerful message of the Gospel was shared.

In Thailand, there was a mandatory lockdown, and it looked like shoeboxes weren't going to be delivered. But over 4,000 of God's people in that country prayed for doors to be opened for Operation Christmas Child. And they were! Circumstances changed and the government was able to cancel the lockdown so that outreach events could be held. The result? Over 8,000 children responded to the Gospel and accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior!

Lockdowns did occur across the globe and make it difficult for children to gather together. In Mexico, ministry partners brought kids together through an online prayer group. Over 200 believing boys and girls participated and prayed for the needs around them and for the children who would receive shoeboxes. Watch a portion of their inspiring prayer group, and you'll discover anew why Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14)*.

In other places, like Paraguay, where large gatherings weren't permitted, our national leadership teams and volunteers found creative ways to minister, including wearing masks and going door-to-door to share the Gospel and hand out shoeboxes in a safe way. In one difficult-to-access country, a large outreach event was planned, but it was canceled when the government restricted public gatherings. "I was so disappointed," a ministry partner said. "But God had a better plan, because we now had a chance to have socially distanced visits with the children right in their homes, tell them the Good News, get to know them better, and talk with their parents."

There are many more stories of God's goodness that I will share in the next newsletter. Thanks again for all your donations to help pack shoeboxes that share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Karen Leibbrandt



# Pastor's Pen

Greetings Church! Love you Church!

As I write this article I am soooo stressed out! This is for the MAY newsletter. MAY!!?? Typically one of the busiest months of the calendar, I am stressing just *thinking about what is coming! I have to think ahead to the fifth month of a year that just started?*

Well, fortunately, I have had some thoughts lately that tie May's events together for me. So, please forgive me my sentimental musings this first half of the article.

May's calendar is best known for Mother's Day and graduations and I have been thinking lately about someone who ties them together in my heart: my mom who has graduated to eternal life. I miss her. There have been many moments lately that I wish she were still with me filling all the precious holes in my life she once filled. Caregiver. Love-giver. Encourager. Celebrator. Life was just sweeter with her in it.

While two of our boys are graduating high school this year and plans are being made to celebrate them, my thoughts recently wandered to wishing my mom could celebrate with us. But she has no desire to come back from her graduation of a better kind to dabble again in the affairs of life here! Alas, I am resigned to miss what was, celebrate what is, and long for my own graduation to come!



Part 2:

Something unusual is happening in El Dorado! It may be leading to something completely unlike anything I have ever seen but have longed and prayed for. A couple of weeks ago a lady from a church in town suggested to a fellow pastor that the pastors in El Dorado should hold a big revival meeting. And believe it or not, pastors are saying yes to working together. They're saying yes to creating an event context for the Holy Spirit to do something so big that none of us get the credit. (Shocker, I know!)

Could this be what we have been praying for? There has been prayer for true revival in this town for several years. A couple of years ago God led me to start praying for people to start asking the question, "Why is my life not going the way I thought it should go and God do you have anything for me?" For the last year and almost a half I have been praying with a small group of pastors every other week for a great movement of God in our city that has nobody's name on it but Jesus'. No pastor's name, no Church's name, but only Jesus' name. We have prayed for something so extraordinary to happen that no one can explain it except that God showed up. Could this be it?

Will you join me in finding out? Will you join us in prayer? If this is going to be a God-sized, God-only effort then the foundation will be prayer. Lots of prayer. Deep prayer. We pastors have already decided that we will have several city-wide prayer events leading up to any revival meetings. Our first prayer rally is 6:30 pm on Sunday, June 6, and will be held at First Church of the Nazarene. Our church offers a Monday night prayer meeting at 6:15. If you get together with a prayer partner, please add this project to your list. When you pray at dinner, please include revival once in a while. As the revival meetings get closer, we will have more and more prayer events and suggestions.

# MAY 2021

<b>25</b> 6 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Sue Mohler, Johnie & Donna Gragg	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Jackie Jackson, Rebecca Tharp
<b>2</b> 6 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>3</b> Barry Mohler	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm CR	<b>5</b> Last Kid's Club & Youth Group for summer	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Vicki Edwards, Steve Rhodes	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Brenda Long MOTHER'S DAY  NO WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>10</b> Noon WOM Luncheon	<b>11</b> Glenna Wise 6:30 pm CR	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Johnathan and Jeffrey Grad Party 6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall	<b>15</b> Joe Leibbrandt, Pat Leibbrandt Ryan Grad Party 2-5 pm at the Luehrs'
<b>16</b> Newsletter articles and dates due GRADUATION SUNDAY NO WOMEN'S STUDY	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Ben Leibbrandt, Joe Reinert 6:30 pm CR	<b>19</b> Zach Thomas, Zara Thomas	<b>20</b> Nancy Wright 6:30 pm VBS Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Jerry Dewitt
<b>23</b> Terry Stephens 6pm Women's Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Ashleigh Frye 6:30 pm CR	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> David and Lisa Crook 5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Mackenzie Boender
<b>30</b> Julie Hill, Ray Roberts, Lilly Thiessen, Lucy Thiessen 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>31</b> Memorial Day	<b>1</b> 6:30 pm CR	<b>2</b> Ray & Char Roberts	<b>3</b> Kendall Lemaster	<b>4</b> Madylanne Wint	<b>5</b> VBS "Day Camp" 12:30-5:30 pm, Potluck dinner following

## May Events

**6:00 Sunday Nights Women's Bible Study (NONE ON THE 9th OR 16th)**

**Tuesdays 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Step Study**

5th—Last Kid's Club and Youth Group for summer

9th—MOTHER'S DAY

NO POTLUCK OR "A-TEAM" this month

10th—Noon WOM Luncheon

14th—Johnathan and Jeffrey Grad Party 6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall

15th—Ryan Luehrs' Grad Party 2-5 (at the Luehrs')

16th—Newsletter articles and dates due, GRADUATION SUNDAY

20th—6:30 pm VBS Meeting

27th—5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting

31st—Memorial Day

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st—Jackie Jackson, Rebecca (Becky) Tharp

3rd—Barry Mohler

7th—Vicki Edwards, Steve Rhodes

9th—Brenda Long

11th—Glenna Wise

15th—Joe Leibbrandt, Pat Leibbrandt

18th—Ben Leibbrandt, Joe Reinert

19th—Zach Thomas, Zara Thomas

20th—Nancy Wright

22nd—Jerry Dewitt

23rd—Terry Stephens

25th—Ashleigh Frye

27th—David and Lisa Crook

29th—Mackenzie Boender

30th—Julie Hill, Ray Roberts, Lilly Thiessen, Lucy Thiessen

# JUNE 2021

<b>30</b> Julie Hill, Ray Roberts, Lilly Thiessen, Lucy Thiessen 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>31</b> Memorial Day	<b>1</b> 6:30 pm CR	<b>2</b> Ray & Char Roberts	<b>3</b> Kendall Lemaster	<b>4</b> Madylanne Wint	<b>5</b> VBS "Day Camp" 12:30-5:30 pm, Potluck dinner following
<b>6</b> 6:30 pm City-wide prayer event at the Nazarene Church	<b>7</b> 6:15 pm Prayer	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm CR	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Kelly Davidson, David & Christine Baca	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 6 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>14</b> Susan Fyffe 6:15 pm Prayer	<b>15</b> Frank Wartick 6:30 pm CR	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Nathaniel Hill, David's anniversary as our Pastor	<b>18</b> Joseph Reinert	<b>19</b> David Hill
<b>20</b> Johnie Gragg 6 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>21</b> Jeremy Thiessen 6:15 pm Prayer	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm CR	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting	<b>25</b> Molly Thiessen Youth Lock-In	<b>26</b> Frank & Opal Wartick
<b>27</b> Sophia Baca 6 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>28</b> Brenda Sherman, Tyson & Penny Neilsen 6:15 pm Prayer	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm CR	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Caleb Deets	<b>2</b> Avery Milligan	<b>3</b>

## June Events

Sundays 6 pm Women's Bible Study  
 Mondays 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting  
 Tuesdays 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery  
**No Wednesday Night Children or Youth Bible Studies**  
 5th—VBS "Day Camp" 12:30-5:30 pm, Potluck dinner following  
 6th—6:30 pm City-wide prayer event at the Nazarene Church  
 20th—Newsletter Articles Due, No items received after 8 am, June 22nd will be printed  
 24th—5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting  
 25th—Youth Lock-In

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd—Ray & Char Roberts  
 3rd—Kendall Lemaster  
 4th—Madylanne Wint  
 10th—Kelly Davidson, David & Christine Baca  
 14th—Susan Fyffe  
 15th—Frank Wartick  
 17th—Nathaniel Hill, Pastor's "Anniversary" Here  
 18th—Joseph Reinert  
 19th—David Hill  
 20th—Johnie Gragg  
 21st—Jeremy Thiessen  
 25th—Molly Thiessen  
 26th—Frank & Opal Wartick  
 27th—Sophia Baca  
 28th—Brenda Sherman, Tyson & Penny Neilsen



# Volunteer Rotation

Date	Bus	Children's Church	Nursery	Counters
5/2	Deb/Cindy	Christine, John & Molly	Kat & Jeffrey	Mehaffey, Diane & Glenna
5/9	Sandy/Dianna	Christine, John & Molly	John B., Norma	Mehaffey, Laura, Norma
5/16	Deb/Cindy	Christine, John & Molly	Joe & Deb R.	Mehaffey, Ulala, Penny
5/23	Sandy/Dianna	Christine, John & Molly	Glenna & Hope	Mehaffey, Shawn, Susan
5/30	Sandy/Terry	In Services	Janna & Hannah	Mehaffey, Diane, Deb
6/6	Deb/Cindy	Deb & Joe R.	Keith & Allison	Rod, Laura, Glenna
6/13	Sandy/Dianna	Deb & Joe R.	Rod & Brenda	Rod, Ulala, Norma
6/20	Deb/Cindy	Deb & Joe R.	Sandy & Diane	Rod, Shawn, Penny
6/27	Sandy/Dianna	In Services	Dianna & Gloria	Rod, Diane, Susan

