

FSBC *Messenger*

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2021

Operation Christmas Child

It is time to start collecting items to pack our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoeboxes. We will have our packing party in November, but we need to start collecting now:) During this month, April, we will focus on collecting Personal Care items: toothbrushes, hair brushes/combs, bars of soap, wash clothes, reusable plastic cups/water bottles, deodorant, and band aids. These are just a few examples of what we are collecting. Remember NO LIQUIDS! There will be a plastic tub in the church foyer for you to drop your items in. You can always donate money towards these items as well. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Leibbrandt. Thank you for all your help in making it possible to pack boxes that share the good news and great joy of Jesus!

Here is a story from last year's distribution:

CHILDREN ON A REMOTE ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC RECEIVE SHOEBOX GIFTS AND THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

The small island of Enubirr has no electrical power and no airport. Located in the central Pacific between the Philippines and Hawaii, Enubirr is part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and home to just over 1,000 people. Most residents work on the neighboring island of Roi-Namur, which is leased to

the U.S. government as a military base. Four churches dot the island—though, sadly, many lack a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

In early December 2020, a team of four set sail for Enubirr aboard Cloud Nine, a 57-foot ketch filled with 30 cartons of Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. For six-and-a-half hours, the boat rocked across the sea until the team had traversed the necessary 40 miles with their precious cargo.

On Cloud Nine were Scott and Katie, a husband-wife missionary team to the Marshall Islands, as well as Jim, a Fijian, and Frank, a Marshallese. Once they landed on Enubirr, they were joined by volunteers as well as four representatives from local churches who would host an Operation Christmas Child outreach event.

Kids Embrace the Gospel

Even though it was 85 degrees and extremely humid, 293 children gathered under a covered patio and waited patiently for the action to begin while parents huddled around the edges.

"We had a time of prayer prior to the event," Katie said. "As we prayed, we just had this feeling to expect something amazing, so we were excited to get started."

The team began with some Marshallese songs and then performed a skit before presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the eager crowd using colorful posters supplied by Samaritan's Purse. Next, the shoebox gifts were handed out, along with The Greatest Gift Gospel booklets.

One boy at the festive event was Randy, a

12-year-old boy who loves to play soccer. He desperately wanted a soccer ball of his own. But the most popular sports throughout the Marshall Islands are basketball and volleyball. His mother had diligently searched for a soccer ball to buy for him, but she was unable to find one. But God knew the desire of Randy's heart. When he lifted the lid of his shoebox, Randy was thrilled to find a soccer ball and pump of his very own!

"One of the local pastors, Antonio, said that this shoebox, for many, is the first gift that these kids have received that is just theirs," Scott said. "They don't have to share—that is a big deal!"

But as delighted as the outreach team was to see the children enjoying their gifts, they were even more excited and thankful to God for the spiritual fruit that came a short time later. "At the end of the program," Katie said, "we did an altar call where 131 kids accepted Christ!"

Samaritan's Purse has provided the churches on Enubirr with resources to teach The Greatest Journey discipleship course, which is specifically designed for shoebox recipients. The four congregations are excited to use and distribute the materials—especially the Bibles that are given to children when they graduate from the 12-lesson course.

"I strongly believe in the power of the message that The Greatest Gift offers and the followup of The Greatest Journey," Katie said. "Operation Christmas Child is not just a 'give a gift' kind of program; it offers the gift of salvation, which we have seen over and over again impacts a whole community. We even had adults come up to us afterward and tell us how much they appreciated the message."

Katie and her team are excited about what God will do in Enubirr in the months ahead. "We are praying that we hear stories about transformation in the youth over the next year due to The Greatest Journey," she said, "and what the kids can learn by having a true relationship with Jesus."

200 Islands and Counting

Life in the Pacific can be gorgeous yet austere.

"What I really want people to understand is that many of the islands in the Marshall Islands are ones you cannot reach without a boat," Katie said. "People live very remotely and isolated. They have supply ships that come and visit them sometimes three times a year to pick up their copra and handicrafts and they then trade the money they make for rice and canned food that they cannot get on their own island."

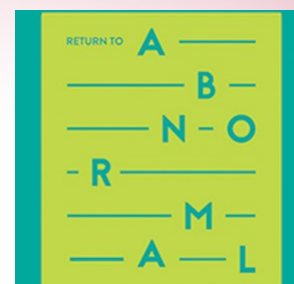
In 2019, Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham launched a Pacific Islands Initiative to bring shoebox gifts and the Gospel to remote places like Enubirr. So far, more than 120,000 children on more than 200 islands have received a shoebox packed full of toys, school supplies, and hygiene items—and the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!

What Katie witnessed in Enubirr is true of people on islands throughout the Pacific: "They live without many things and are still overjoyed to have visitors come and share the Gospel."

Please pray for Christ's light to shine brightly on these islands through Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, given in Jesus' Name.

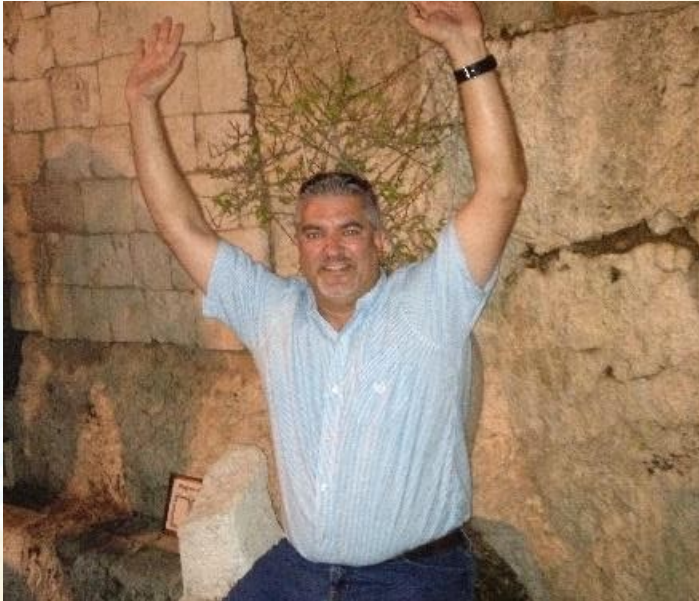
Youth

This summer youth who have completed 6th-12th grade can go to Super Summer with us July 26-30. The speaker will be Ryan Fontenot and the musician will be Matt Atherton. The theme, Return to Abnormal, will be helping students realize we are not supposed to be like the world but to be different. It will be a week full of fun, fellowship, worship and bible study, and not a lot of sleep!!! See Lisa if you or your student would like to go. You can call or text her at 785-207-7189 or email her at busylee4@yahoo.com.



Pastor's Pen

Greetings Church! I love you Church! Happy Easter Church!



Several years ago I was privileged to be able to have this picture taken in the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.

While the location is almost certainly NOT the exact historical location of Jesus' empty tomb, the Garden Tomb is a majestic place to read scripture, meditate, worship, and celebrate our Risen Lord! Its key attraction is, of course, a tomb that was cut into a rock cliff. The tomb, excavated in 1867, had no remains or any expected, customary markings of any named person to have been laid within. The features of the tomb bear much resemblance to the biblical description:

⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean, fine linen, ⁶⁰ and placed it in his new tomb, which he had cut into the rock. He left after rolling a great stone against the entrance of the tomb. – Matthew 27.

You can see behind the rock on which I sat a ledge which served as a trough to roll a heavy stone into place to cover a tomb.

However, we do not have to find the exact location of Jesus' tomb to feel confident that Jesus did, indeed, rise from the dead. There is no ancient anomaly more verifiable than the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! (Come witness the wrestling associated with one piece of evidence at the Easter Sunrise Service at 7am at the bandshell in Forrest Park!) Matthew records it plainly in Chapter 28:

28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they became like dead men. ⁵ The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." — Matthew 28

Oh what a scene! Such mourning! Then such confusion! Then such celebration! "Where oh Grave is your victory? Where oh Death is your sting?" Death has been defeated! Victory belongs to Christ!

That's why my hands are raised!

APRIL 2021

28 Children's Easter Program 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	29	30 Deacon Davis, Jessica Zumalt (Ann) 6:30 pm CR	31 Jeremy & Molly Thiessen	1	2	3
4 Ulala Prewit, Tom & Vicki Edwards Easter 7:00 am Sunrise Services 8:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Services & Children's Easter Egg Hunt NO WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	5 Donna Gragg	6 Caiden Williamson, Mackenzie Balsinger 6:30 pm CR	7	8	9 Karley Faudere	10
11 2pm A-Team 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	12 Grady Rumsey	13 6:30 pm CR	14	15 Jessica Hayes	16	17
18 Newsletter articles and dates due 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	19	20 6:30 pm CR	21	22 Dwayna Todroff 5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting	23	24
25 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	26	27 6:30 pm CR	28 Sue Mohler, Johnie & Donna Gragg	29 Veloma Hill	30	Jackie Jackson, Rebecca (Becky) Tharp

Bus Coordinator: Sandy Dewitt 316-621-1858

Nursery Coordinator : John Brickley 316-371-1898

Information Published is the best information I have at publication time. Please contact coordinators with any questions.

Date	Bus	Children's Church	Nursery	Counters
3/38	Deb/Dianna	Karen	Keith & Allison	Deb S., Penny, Ulala
4/4	Deb/Cindy	Janna & Gloria	Dianna, & Julie	Deb, Diane & Glenna
4/11	Sandy/Terry	Christine, John & Molly	Chance	Deb, Laura & Rod
4/18	Sandy/Dianna	Christine, John & Molly		Deb, Ulala & Penny
4/25	Deb/Cindy	In Services		Deb, Shawn & Susan

MAY 2021

25 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	26	27	28 Sue Mohler, Johnie & Donna Gragg	29	30	1 Jackie Jackson, Rebecca (Becky) Tharp
2 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	3 Barry Mohler	4 6:30 pm CR	5 Last Kid's Club and regular youth group for summer	6	7 Vicki Edwards, Steve Rhodes	8
9 Brenda Long MOTHER'S DAY NO WOMEN'S STUDY	10 Noon WOM Luncheon	11 Glenna Wise 6:30 pm CR	12	13	14	15 Joe Leibbrandt, Pat Leibbrandt 2 pm Food Packing and delivery
16 Newsletter articles and dates due GRADUATION SUNDAY NO WOMEN'S STUDY	17	18 Ben Leibbrandt, Joe Reinert 6:30 pm CR	19 Zach Thomas, Zara Thomas	20 Nancy Wright	21	22 Jerry Dewitt
23 Terry Stephens 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	24	25 Ashleigh Frye 6:30 pm CR	26	27 David and Lisa Crook 5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting	28	29 Mackenzie Boender
30 Julie Hill, Ray Roberts, Lilly Thiessen, Lucy Thiessen 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	31 Diane Foster					

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Date	Bus	Children's Church	Nursery	Counters
5/2	Sandy/Dianna	Christine, John & Molly		Mehaffey, Diane, Glenna
5/9	Deb/Cindy	Christine, John & Molly		Mehaffey, Laura, Rod
5/16	Sandy/Dianna	Christine, John & Molly		Mehaffey, Ulala, Penny
5/23	Deb/Cindy	Christine, John & Molly		Mehaffey, Shawn, Susan
5/30	Sandy/Terry	In Services		Mehaffey, Diane, Deb

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

4th—Ulala Prewit, Tom & Vicki Edwards
5th—Donna Gragg
6th—Caiden Williamson, Mackenzie Balsinger
9th—Karley Faudere
12th—Grady Rumsey
15th—Jessica Hayes
22nd—Dwayna Todroff
28th—Sue Mohler, Johnie & Donna Gragg
29th—Veloma Hill

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
31st—Diane Foster

April Events

6:00 pm Sunday Nights Women's Bible Study (NONE ON EASTER)
6:30 pm Tuesdays Celebrate Recovery Step Study
4th—7:00 am Sunrise Services, 8:15 Breakfast, 10:45 Worship Services & Children's Easter Egg Hunt
11th—2 pm A-Team
18th—Newsletter articles and dates due. Items received after 8 am Wednesday the 21st will NOT BE PUBLISHED
22nd—5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting

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 for and regular youth group summer
9th—MOTHER'S DAY
NO POTLUCK OR "A-TEAM" this month
10th—Noon WOM Luncheon
15th—2 pm Food Packing and delivery
16th—GRADUATION SUNDAY. Newsletter articles and dates due, Items received after 8 am Wednesday the 19th will NOT BE PUBLISHED
27th—5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting

