



FSBC *Messenger*

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST
CHURCH EL DORADO
FEBRUARY 2023

Operation Christmas Child

February is a month when people celebrate love due to Valentine's Day. Through OCC, we have the opportunity to show God's love in a tangible way by packing shoeboxes. Our goal this year is to pack 200 boxes (aka gospel opportunities). In order to do this, we need to start collecting items now and praying for God to help us provide. This month we are collecting accessories. Please see the shopping list below for ideas. Also, don't forget to pick up any hats, gloves, or scarves that you may see on sale.

Here is an article about a couple of teens who are sharing God's love with kids in their community through OCC's Greatest Journey discipleship program.

Young People Play Vital Role in Suriname's Shoebox Outreach

Suriname bills itself as the greenest country in the world, boasting that forests cover 93 percent of its land. Wherever you turn, from the coastal capital to the dense inland jungle, it's true that the nation seems to burst forth with innumerable flowers, bushes, vines, and trees.

Such vibrancy seems to characterize the Operation Christmas Child project in Suriname as well. Earlier this year, a Samaritan's Purse team met with two of Suriname's youngest Operation Christmas Child teachers—both in their teens—who were busy sharing the Good News with their peers. Young, committed leaders teaching other young people how to follow Christ is a wonderful indicator of growth. Spiritual fruit is coming, by God's grace.

Charahja, 15, grew up in a Christian home, and her mom, Abigail Singotiko-van Broekhoven, now serves as the national discipleship coordinator for Operation Christmas Child in Suriname. Charahja received her own shoebox gift years ago and remembers it fondly.

"I was overjoyed," Charahja said. "I got really long socks. I was excited about that because when it gets too cold, my bones start hurting."

She began following Jesus quite young and has been accompanying her mother to outreach events and The Greatest Journey discipleship classes for years. She started by working with the younger siblings of children in her mother's course. Then Charahja more formally shadowed her mother while teaching. "Doing Operation Christmas Child with my mom makes me very happy and I like having my mom close to me," she said. "She teaches me a lot of things. I kind of have her as my role model."

Finally, Charahja received official training last year and began solo-leading The Greatest Journey with students at her grandfather's house.

February OCC shopping List

Sunglasses
Elastic hair bands
Necklaces
Bracelets
Ball caps
Head bands hair bows, clips
Bandanas

This year she continued teaching and helping to lead Operation Christmas Child outreach events. Charahja's faith is personal, dynamic, and infectious. "Jesus is my best friend," she said. "I talk to Him every day. When I have a problem, I close my door and start talking to Him."

She wants her students—and everyone in Suriname, she says with youthful enthusiasm—to be saved and cultivate their own relationship with Jesus Christ. "My prayer for the students that I teach is that they will accept Jesus in their life as Savior and friend and find happiness in Christ."

As she teaches The Greatest Journey course, she focuses on ongoing spiritual growth, encouraging her peers to live out their faith in word and deed. "Acting like you're a Christian and [just] saying you're a Christian are two very different things," she said. Ultimately, she hopes they will take the Good News to all their friends and relatives.

Charahja spends a lot of time with her mom planning and preparing to teach. But, she's quick to point out—with great maturity—that "we need to pray, so God can lead us through it."

She understands that God is the focus of Operation Christmas Child—the content of our message, yes, and also the One who gives strength to pack, process, ship, teach, and disciple. "If we don't include God in Operation Christmas Child, it won't be successful in any way," she said.

What does Charahja's mother think of all this? "It really means a lot to me to be able to teach The Greatest Journey together with my daughter," Singotiko-van Broekhoven said.

"When a child teaches a child," Singotiko-van Broekhoven said, "it has a bigger impact." As young people see and know what their peers are going through, they are better equipped to know what to say to them, she said.

"The children are even better disciples than us, because of their boldness."

Isha: Overcoming Difficulty, Sharing God's Word

Isha, 19, has been helping to lead Operation Christmas Child outreach events since she was 16. Working alongside her mom, Usha Budha, the two are eager to reach boys and girls in their community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"I'm very happy," Budha said. "It was my wish all along that my children would do this with me."

As Isha leads scores of children in singing and dancing to Christian songs, her face beams. She then transitions to sharing the Gospel message—the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, delivered at a child's level. She invites the youngsters to The Greatest Journey course, and then they move to the distribution of Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts.

Isha tells them, "Jesus is with you in every circumstance." It's a truth that she learned through a difficult experience.

A little over two years ago, Isha's face was badly burned in a kitchen accident. Doctors said healing would take a year. "The moment I saw my face, I said, 'No, I can't live like this.' I just wanted to give up." The following weeks were a dark time for her.

But Isha's mom encouraged her and cared for her. Her mom told her, "Jesus will heal you."

The process went more quickly than doctors imagined. By the next shoebox outreach cycle, Isha was leading events. "I love children, I didn't want to give up," Isha said.

Now she continues to be a big part of the Operation Christmas Child team in her area of Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname.

"It was wonderful," she said after an outreach event this March. "I was very nervous. I thought maybe I would be scared, but no, it was wonderful. Yes, it was great."

"It means a lot to me," Isha continued. "Any chance I have to share God's Word or bring more children to Jesus, I will do that. I love to do that."

Please pray for Charahja, Isha, their mothers, and all who help lead Operation Christmas Child in Suriname. Shoebox gifts are headed their way soon! Pray for the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of boys and girls—and their parents, friends, and relatives—across this South American nation in the months to come.

It is so encouraging to see youth/teens teaching and discipling children as part of Operation Christmas Child. Thanks for your generosity.

Karen Leibbrandt

Pastor's Pen

Greetings Church! I love you Church!

Do you remember the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19? He's in a cave hiding from Jezebel and suddenly the word of the Lord came to him, asking what Elijah was doing there. Elijah whined about being the only one left and scared for his life. God replied, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the Lord's presence." (So Elijah did and God passed by.)

First, Elijah experienced a great and mighty wind but the Lord was not in the wind. Then the mountain shook by earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After that, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. "And after the fire there was a voice, a soft whisper." And Elijah knew God was in the whisper and got ready to hear from God. Then God told Elijah what to do.

I wonder, how did Elijah know that God was in the whisper and none of the loud displays that a powerful god would be expected to accompany? I think that Elijah was well-practiced at knowing what God's voice sounded like. The Word of the Lord had come to Elijah many times, even immediately before and after the whisper. He and God had enjoyed many conversations. Elijah must have developed a keen sense of not only the words God had given him but the tone which He had used. He must have learned to recognize that when the world of chaos was raging, the only thing to pay attention to was the whispers of God, for His way is perfect, good and all that matters. There was likely an inaudible, undramatic stirring in his soul that allowed Elijah to know what he was hearing was from his faithful God.

A couple of months ago, I heard an interview with Christian pastor and prolific author, Max Lucado. He was discussing the progressing world events and troubles. He is of the opinion that the times would indicate that Christ will be returning soon. He proffered of God's people experiencing increased difficulty to navigate the coming trials. He was asked what God's people were going to do in those tough times. He said that it is going to be vitally important for people to be able to listen to the Spirit of God.

That prediction grabbed my attention. Would I be able to sense the leadings of the Spirit of God with enough familiarity and clarity that I could know what I needed to do for me, my family, and our church? It was and is a probing question! I am not sure I am fully ready for that kind of sensitivity to God. Don't I pray? Of course, I do! But often, my prayers are more my list, presented to God, rather than stopping to listen. I say my prayers, but I don't



think I listen in His presence often enough to know that I have heard from God.

Whether or not the times get worse, I have decided that I want to learn to listen better. Like Elijah, I want to be able to ignore the noise and know it when God speaks. I am doing some studying on prayer and will be

practicing what I learn. I then hope to offer to you, church, the lessons and training we all need to be ready for those days. I have a feeling that if we can learn this, we won't need to worry about tomorrow and we will encounter mighty works of God in the here and now.

Pastor David Crook

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd—Matthew Wint

3rd—Cory Gill

5th—Vicki Peacock

8th—Tyler Luehrs

9th—Tyson Nielsen

15th—Dan Sherman, Trenton Davis

17th—Marty Kincade

21st—Joanie Baker

25th—Aidan Davis

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

6th—River Horner, Mary & Gene Herrmann

13th—Joey Simpson

15th—Jenny Frye

18th—John Brickley

20th—Lexi Simpson

Member Spotlight



Member Highlight Questions:

1. What is your Name?
2. How long have you been a member of FSBC El Dorado?
3. Tell us a little about your family.
4. What is your day job, or how do you spend your time when you are not with us at FSBC?
5. What is your passion for service, what areas are you currently serving?
6. What can others do to help serve in those ministries?
7. What is your favorite Bible verse?
8. What is your testimony?

My name is Paula Moore. I joined FSBC a year and a half ago. I am a mom to two, Denver and Meghan. Both of my kids have expanded my family with spouses and grandchildren. I have 4 grandkids; Eden age 6, Maggie age 12, Hudson age 15, and Owen age 17. Half of my family lives in Florida, so I get to visit them often. I also have fur babies; Betsy, an old mastiff mix, and Hope, a two-year-old Boxer, who I have begun training to be my service dog.

I am a retired kindergarten teacher, and have always felt the call to teach children. This past fall, I accepted the call to become the

Children's Ministry Director here at FSBC. What a blessing in my life! I love to teach children about our Savior and His love for them. I have been blessed with wonderful teachers and helpers for the children, but we can always use more volunteers. If you have felt the call to serve with the children, please let me know and we can find the place for you! (Unashamed promotional plug here... VBS will be June 5th-9th. We NEED you!)

When I have free time (hah!), I enjoy reading and researching. I like sewing, crafting, organizing things, and baking and decorating sugar

cookies for family and friends. I have been a follower of Jesus Christ most of my adult life. He has been so patient with me as I learn to honor him in the best way possible in my life.

My favorite verse is John 10:27, *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."* (NIV) It is a personal decision of saying "yes" to His invitation. He will never force us; it is not a command. Because we are each unique in personality, our relationship with Jesus and paths we follow will never be the same. However, we each have an important role to play in His plan!

Youth



We are going to WINTER JAM!!!! February 17th will be a great night of food, fun, fellowship, and JAMS!!!

We will meet at the church at 4:30. Let me know if you want to be a chaperone that night!

Lisa Crook
Youth Leader

The Deacon's Corner

Happy New Year! God has blessed us with a new year of challenges and excitement. I hope you find yourself anticipating what God is going to do in 2023. As I preached on January 1, many Americans look ahead to the new year with dread. After all, 2022 might not have been your greatest year. In fact, it might have been downright crummy. It is all a matter of perspective, isn't it?

In my sermon, I shared three practical things that you can choose to focus your energy upon for this new year. Those things are: Being a Disciple, Being a Peacemaker, and Being a Servant. I would like to emphasize the idea of being a disciple. Have you ever noticed that the word disciple is a root word within the larger word discipline? When we think of the word discipline, we tend to think negatively just like we do when anticipating the new year. The idea of discipline makes me think of training. One may think of training in the physical sense, such as exercising and dieting, but discipline can also be a mental exercise. Maybe it is time to discipline our way of thinking.

As mentioned earlier, we can have a negative outlook about this new year because of our perception of how the past year went. God wants to get ahold of our minds to refocus our perspective. Instead of dwelling on the problems, the difficulties, or the missed opportunities of 2022, God would have us focus on Him and His ongoing Kingdom work. Don't get me wrong. This is not as easy as just flipping a switch. Remember, it takes DISCIPLINE. Here are a couple of suggestions for things you might do to help with the whole perspective and attitude adjustment.

First, spend time alone each day with God in personal Bible Study. A read through the Bible plan is a great way to kick off the new year. In addition, God, like any friend, wants to spend time with you. Do you want to spend time with him? Your Bible study time is that quality time that allows you to interact with God. You can pray and meditate upon the scriptures, but most of all, allow God's Holy Word to lead you in the direction He wants you to go.

Second, look for new areas that God might be calling you to serve. We were not designed to be pew sitters. God has a job for each and every one of us. May your new attitude about the new year be found in a ministry opportunity within our church body. If this short summary resonates with you and you are seeking ways to improve your attitude about 2023 and ways to serve the body of Christ, any member of the deacon body would be happy to visit with you. We will be happy to assist you in finding ways to serve God's Kingdom.

Rod Luehrs
Chairman of the Deacons

February Events

- 10th—Foster Parent's Day Out
(Friday Before Valentine's Day)
- 11th—Celebrate Recovery Summit, Enid, OK
- 12th—NO Potluck, "A-Team" (BYOL)
(2nd Sunday of each month)
- 16th—Newsletter Items Due
5:30 Facilities Team Meeting (3rd Thursday)
- 17th—Winter Jam
- 18th—10-12 Bread of Life Food ministry
- 20th—President's Day Office Closed
- 24th—6:00 pm Valentine's Banquet

March Events

- 3rd & 4th—Man Up Conference
- 5th-9th—Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer
- 12th—Daylight Savings Time begins
Potluck, "A-Team" (2nd Sunday)
- 13th-18th—Spring Break (Local Schools)
- 15th—No Programs
- 16th—Newsletter Items Due
5:30 Facilities Team (3rd Thursday)
- 26th—VBS recruiting Sunday
(Last Sunday of March)
- 24th—SCASB Executive Board Meeting
- 25th—Spring Cleaning Day

FEBRUARY 2023

			1	2 Matthew Wint	3 Cory Gill	4
5 Vicki Peacock	6	7	8 Tyler Luehrs	9 Tyson Nielsen	10 Foster Parent's Day Out	11 CR Summit, Enid, OK
12 12:30 "A-Team" (BYOL) (NO Potluck)	13	14	15 Dan Sherman, Trenton Davis	16 Newsletter Items Due 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	17 Winter Jam	18 10-12 Bread of Life Food ministry
19 Building Reserved	20 President's Day Office Closed	21 Joanie Baker	22	23	24 6:00 pm Valentine's Banquet	25 Aidan Davis
26	27	28	Wednesday Night Meals 01/18 Donna G. 01/25 Janna 02/01 Cindy Rhodes 02/08 Deb & Laura 02/15 Donna Gragg 02/22 Janna			
			Wednesday Night Meals 1st Wednesday—Cindy R. 2nd Wednesday—Laura L. & Deb S. 3rd Wednesday—Donna Gragg 4th Wednesday—Janna D. 5th Wednesday—Deb R. & Karen L.			

Date	Bus	Children's Church	Nursery	Counters	Date (Wed nights)	Bus MONITOR (Steve R. Driver)
1/22	Sandy & Cory	Ms. Paula	Glenna W., Keith A.	Johnie, Glenna, Laura	1/25	Cory
1/29	Steve & Cory	NONE	Gloria T., John B.	Johnie, Deb, Penny	2/1	Cory
2/5	Linnie & Cory	Brickley	Karen L., Rod L.	Deb, Laura, Rod	2/8	Cory
2/12	Deb & Cory	Brickley	Dianna S., Joe R.	Deb, Diane, Shawn	2/15	Cory
2/19	Sandy & Cory	Brickley	Keith A., Deb R.	Deb, Glenna, Susan	2/22	Cory
2/26	Steve & Cory	NONE	Janna D., Steve R.	Deb, Ulala, Laura	3/1	Cory



Stay Connected

Mary Mehaffey
C/O Kathy Seley
628 Perry Lane
Robinson, TX 76706

Larry Herbel or
Walter Shepherd
C/O Diversicare of Sedgwick
712 N. Monroe Ave
Sedgwick, KS 67135



MARCH 2023						
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Mary & Gene Herrmann	7	8	9	10 Man Up Conference	11
Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer						
12 Daylight Savings Time begins Potluck, "A-Team"	13 Joey Simpson	14	15 Jenny Frye No Programs	16 Newsletter Items Due 5:30 Facilities Team	17	18 John Brickley
Spring Break						
19	20 Lexi Simpson	21	22	23	24 SCASB Executive Board Meeting	25 Spring Cleaning Day
26 VBS recruiting Sunday	27	28	29	30	31	

Date	Bus	Children's Church	Nursery	Counters	Date (Wed nights)	Bus MONITOR (Steve R. Driver)
3/5	Linnie & Cory	Reinert	Diane G., Cindy R.	Rod, Johnie, Penny	3/8	Cory
3/12	Deb & Cory	Reinert	Johnie G., John B.	Rod, Deb, Laura	3/15	Cory
3/19	Sandy & Cory	Reinert	Donna G., Dianna S.	Rod, Diane, Shawn	3/22	Cory
3/26	Steve & Cory	NONE	Julie H., Keith A.	Rod, Ulala, Susan	3/29	Cory

FSBC Kid's Ministries

First Southern Baptist Church
200 Oil Hill Rd, Eldorado, KS 316-321-3465
Bus 316-452-3599 Ms. Paula 316-258-6596

SPREAD THE LOVE!

1 John 4:7
"Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God."

Before long, you will be celebrating Valentine's Day. So ask yourself, "What would Jesus do for Valentine's Day?" Do you think Jesus would send His mom a pretty card? Maybe He would make her a card out of construction paper. Maybe He would get chocolates for all His disciples. Or maybe, just to show how much He cares about them, He would sit down and eat with them. Jesus would ask them how they were doing. He might tell them a funny story or pray for them as He listened to some of their problems. Jesus was a master at seeing things most people couldn't see. People who were hurting, lonely, and sad were the kind of people Jesus loved to be around. He knew if He could show them kindness and compassion, He could show them God's love. The Bible says, "God's love drives away all fear." The love that comes from God isn't some kind of mushy romantic love. It's a love that gives you peace and puts a smile on your face. There are kids in your school and in your neighborhood who don't have much to smile about. No one is asking them over to play. No one is hanging out with them at recess. No one is saying anything nice to them. They are lonely and in need of a friend. What would Jesus do on Valentine's Day? Jesus would be a friend to the boy or girl who seems to have no friends. Jesus gave away love by doing something to put a smile on people's faces and making them feel special. There's no better role model than Jesus. Do what Jesus would do this Valentine's Day! Help Him love someone who really needs it!

In His Service,
Paula Moore

Instill a Deep Love for the Bible

These age-appropriate guidelines from Children's Ministry Magazine will help you tailor the Bible's message to your children as they grow.

Ages 2 to 5 Preschoolers' attention span is only two to 10 minutes. They learn by touching objects and through repetition. Paraphrase Bible accounts and highlight only main points.

Ages 6 to 9 By this age, children's attention span is 10 to 20 minutes. They think concretely and focus on people's actions. Provide more details, and then let kids share a Bible passage in their own words.

Ages 10 to 12 Most preteens have heard many Bible accounts often. They need to know, "So what?" Offer modern-day applications, because kids learn more when they see how God's Word applies to them personally.

We would love to have your student join us for Children's Church on Sunday mornings, 10:45-Noon. This month our theme is SNOWFLAKES!

God made us beautiful with no two of us alike!

Psalms 139:14

Share God's Love Letter with Children

Today we equate communication with texts, posts, emails, and other digital media. But God uses his Word, the Bible, to communicate truths about his Son Jesus, who is also called the Word (see John 1:1). It's never too early to help children dive into the Bible—God's ultimate love letter. Best of all, you don't need a theology degree or teaching credentials to help your kids love Scripture. Take these simple steps to spark a passion for God's Word.

Find age-appropriate resources. Look for books and materials that build spiritual development at your child's interest and reading levels. Take advantage of local and church libraries, online resources, and experts at Christian bookstores.

Read the Bible to children and let them see you reading it. Use your one-on-one reading time to read from God's Word. Also model a love for Scripture by letting kids see you read, discuss, and live it regularly.

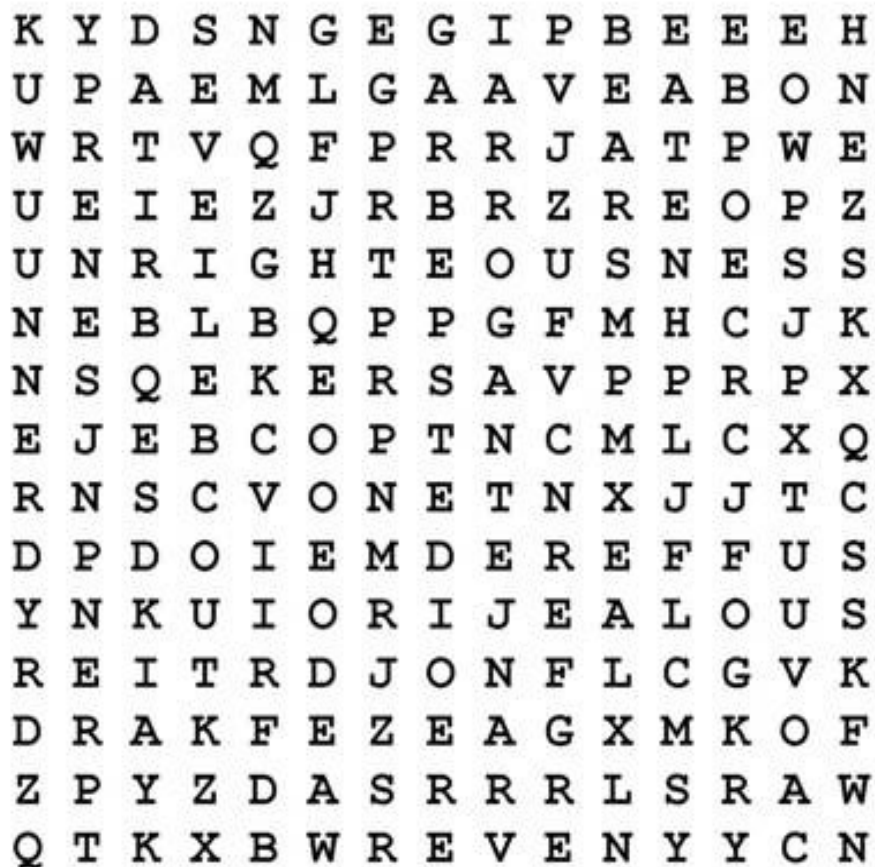
Partner with your church. Parents and churches can work together to help children discover Jesus' message of love and salvation. Talk to your pastor and Sunday school teachers for ideas about nurturing your children's growing relationship with Jesus.

Adapt as your children grow. Watch for cues that children have outgrown Bible storybooks. Preteens might prefer using a Bible app on their phones. After reading with older kids, ask questions that encourage them to dig deeper into God's Word.

Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



K Y D S N G E G I P B E E E H
U P A E M L G A A V E A B O N
W R T V Q F P R R J A T P W E
U E I E Z J R B R Z R E O P Z
U N R I G H T E O U S N E S S
N E B L B Q P P G F M H C J K
N S Q E K E R S A V P P R P X
E J E B C O P T N C M L C X Q
R N S C V O N E T N X J J T C
D P D O I E M D E R E F F U S
Y N K U I O R I J E A L O U S
R E I T R D J O N F L C G V K
D R A K F E Z E A G X M K O F
Z P Y Z D A S R R R L S R A W
Q T K X B W R E V E N Y Y C N

Is **PATIENT**

Is **KIND**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

Does Not **BRAG**

Is Not **ARROGANT**

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

Is Not **PROVOKED**

Does Not Take Into Account A
Wrong **SUFFERED**

Does Not Rejoice In
UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

REJOICES With The Truth

BEARS All Things

BELIEVES All Things

HOPES All Things

ENDURES All Things