

September 2023

# The Trumpet

“The trumpet shall sound...and we shall be changed”  
(I Corinthians 15:52)



Volume 16 Issue 9

## Pastor's Pen

Our Lord said in Matthew 11:28-29, “*Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...learn of me...and you shall find rest unto your souls.*” These comforting words from Jesus represent a tremendous shift in man's relationship with God when compared to the Old Testament.

The dispensation of the Old Covenant was that of distance. When God appeared, even to his servant Moses, He said, “*Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from thy feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.*” (Exodus 3:5); and when He manifested himself upon Mt, Sinai, one of the first commands was to set bounds about the mount so his chosen people couldn't touch it (Exodus 19:12). Both in the sacred worship of the Tabernacle and the Temple; the thought of distance was prevalent. The masses of people did not enter the outer court, the priests were the only ones to go into the inner courts and the High Priest was the only one to enter the Holiest of Holy. He did that only once a year, following a specific ceremonial cleansing.

The lesson to be learned was that sin was so utterly loathsome to God that it caused a chasm in our relationship with him. The divide was so wide that man could no longer come into his presence. But then Jesus came and everything changed. No longer was man commanded to go but, instead, compelled to come. The idea of distance was replaced with nearness. What sin divided, the cross united.

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The love of God reached down to man in the incarnate deity of Jesus. Our stain of sin has been washed away by the blood of Christ. The cross has provided a bridge and now the joyful proclamation of God is, “Come unto me...”. The lesson is now that safety and refuge can be found in the presence of God. We come by the way of the cross, grow through sanctification, and draw near through experience. How great and marvelous are the works of our Heavenly Father! We are reminded in John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world that he gave his*

*only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have eternal life."*

May your heart will be filled with love, joy and praise for the blessing of Jesus Christ; through whom we have access to God.

In His Grip,  
Pastor Jim

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## Deacon Family Ministry

The goal of the Deacon Family Ministry is to join with the Pastor in ministering to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of each church member and regular attending family. To meet this goal, we have assigned specific families to each deacon to ensure all are served.

Standing beside and working with the deacons are the Family Ministry Partners. The Family Ministry Partners enable the church to minister to all with just a handful of deacons. It is the sincere hope of the deacons and the Family Ministry Partners that you feel free to call on us if you or anyone in your family is ill, in the hospital, or faces a tragedy. At the same time, if there is great joy or triumph you would like to share, we would love the opportunity to rejoice along with you.

The deacons are extremely grateful that Thomas and Codi Baszler, Chip Brigham, and Amos and Kathleen Payton have all agreed to become Family Ministry Partners in the Deacon Family Ministry. We would also like to thank Chris Boesl, John and Shannon Crowe, Lyle and Grace Ferch, Eric and Mary Grohs, Eric and Jessica Nagel, and Don and Janet Nesbitt for their continued service as FMP's.

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## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry formed by Franklin Graham that takes Christmas gifts and the Gospel to underprivileged children all over the world. We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes in November. Each month we will highlight a different item to bring in. For September please bring in school supplies.

# **PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD**

## **APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER**

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### **The State of the Church**

As we near the end of the first quarter of the twenty first century where does the church of Jesus Christ find itself? There can be no question that it is reeling from the impact of the forces of evil. Everywhere we turn there are new manifestations of the work of Satan. Who would have thought even twenty years ago that we would have “transgender males” competing in women’s athletics. Even more disturbing is that there are professing Christians who support transgenderism. In addition, many professing believers deny essential doctrines of the faith. At the heart of the problem is a rejection of the sufficiency of scripture. It is said that although the Bible is God’s word it is not enough for where we are as a culture. Those who have deserted the faith say things have changed and we must change with them. Indirectly this says either that God lacks the ability to give us what we need or that for some reason He has failed to do so.

This is not to say there are no Christians who hold both the inerrancy and sufficiency of the Bible; there certainly are. But every day that passes the number that do seems to be decreasing. Young people go off to college and encounter very intelligent professors who not only are not Christian but are actively involved in trying to undermine and destroy the faith of their students. Incredibly, this is true of institutions that call themselves Christian colleges and universities.

Preaching in many churches is at best ineffective because sermons are not drawn from the God breathed scriptures. There is no power in messages that do not have the word of God as their foundation. Churches and denominations that used to be solid are now at best wishy washy. When God is recognized as the author of the scripture, when its sufficiency is affirmed and when its truth is proclaimed from the pulpit hearts are changed and lives are transformed.

The overwhelming probability is that things will get worse. We must be prepared for very difficult lives; we must be prepared for overt persecution. Most of the rest of the world is in a more difficult situation than we are. For example, in Germany parents are not allowed to home school their children. We still can but you can be sure that the enemies of the faith have as one of their targets eliminating home-schooling. Millions of parents across the country have joined the home school movement to keep their children from being indoctrinated by the government schools. We must do everything we can to retain our freedom to educate our children at home. Sadly, there are parents who would homeschool but cannot afford to. Another example is free speech. We have within certain limits the ability to say what we want. You cannot cry fire in a crowded theater unless there is a fire

but you can talk about what you believe is right behavior. This is not a right that Canadians have. The government there controls what people can say and in Canadian churches you may not criticize homosexuality without being arrested. Free speech is just one of many things we must strive to retain.

The teaching of sound doctrine is another area where the church is weak. Doctrines such as the Trinity are no longer taught and are rarely understood except in the most superficial way. The risk of losing people because we teach what the scripture says on any given subject is one we must take. Jesus never failed to do that and many times became the author of the church shrinkage movement. We must be more concerned with building sound Christians than we are with the size of our churches. Our Savior spoke of the high demand placed on believers in their commitment to Him. Coming to Christ may and sometimes does mean we will be rejected by friends and family. Do we love Jesus more than our parents or our spouse or our children? He said we must.

If the church is as bad off as it is then what hope is there? The hope is that God is still at work. Jesus said that He will lose none of those the Father has given Him so when we evangelize we know that we will see some come to faith. Though a man or woman is dead in their trespasses and sins the Holy Spirit will make many alive when the Gospel is preached. We can then with confidence share the truth with unbelievers. No greater joy comes to us than when we tell someone about Jesus and they embrace Him as Savior and Lord. Most things we do have little if any lasting benefit but a soul saved in response to our sharing has eternal benefit. The angels in heaven rejoice when even one is saved. That is as true today as it has ever been.

Also, when we work to build up each other in the faith the church is strengthened. Sunday School is one of the most important tools we have for bringing growth both in number and strength. Children should be attending every week unless they are ill. If the family is away they should find a church and attend. Parents need to promote the faith at home. Bible reading and study are essential for kids to grow as Christians. The Awana program on Wednesday evening is a wonderful way for children to learn scripture. The Holy Spirit can use those memorized verses throughout the life of an individual to keep them from sinning and to have scripture to share both in evangelism and in defense of their Christianity. The vast majority of those who come to faith do so when they are young. While the Bible does not tell us why one obvious reason is that the younger one is when he or she becomes a Christian the longer that person has to serve the Lord in this life. So no matter the difficult times in which we live, no matter all the problems we see in the church the faithfulness of every believer matters. It is that faithfulness that will hear Jesus say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 2 All Church Brunch Picnic (9-1)
- 4 Labor Day - No MDO - Offices Closed
- 9 Air Force Appreciation Day
- 12 Ladies' Bible Study (9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.)
- 12 Deacons' Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 19 Ladies' Bible Study (9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.)
- 21 Nominating Committee Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 26 Ladies' Bible Study (9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.)
- 30 Church Work Day (8:00 a.m. - Noon)

### Finance Committee

The work of the finance committee is to oversee the expenditures of the church. That does not mean that we have to approve every nickel and dime that is spent. At the annual congregational meeting the church makes decisions on how much will be spent in any given area. Whether it is electricity or salaries amounts are stipulated and do not require special approval during the calendar year.

Naturally, there are times when unforeseen expenses arise that do require special approval. Modest amounts are handled during the year by the finance committee but larger amounts are brought to the church at regular or specially called business meetings for congregational approval.

The main work of the committee comes in the preparation of the annual budget. Eric Nagel, Martha Hazelbaker, Doris Laffoon and Bob Neubauer have intensive meetings where every item in the budget is considered. We have been functioning well with each member bringing their perspective to the deliberations. The result is a well thought out budget which is presented to the congregation for approval. As we get to the fall of each year we would also solicit input from the membership. If you see a need or have some ideas you believe would help please feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Bob Neubauer  
Chairman



## Children's Ministries

Thank you for the Gift of Camp! Thank you for investing in our children and teen; your gift meant so much. A total of 14 people went to kids' and youth camp this year because of your generosity as a church. Lives were changed for all eternity! Two of our young people got saved (one at kids' camp and one at youth camp). In addition, all of our young people who attended were challenged to live a life sold-out for the Lord.

The way so many stepped up to help financially, even if we don't have kids or teens of our own, shows what a loving church family can do to invest itself in its children.

We were especially encouraged by the enthusiastic campers as they returned. One of the youth pastors from another church says he always wants camp to be the best week of the year for those teens attending. One of our girls said, "Well, he sure succeeded." One of our boys at kids' camp said on the Sunday he returned from camp that he already missed it! Some of our kids are already stepping out in faith, and letting the Lord stretch them. Ask the adults who went, too. We've heard wonderful things from them, about how they were personally blessed. They thought they were just there to serve and chaperone, but God worked powerfully in their hearts, too. Everyone agreed that they all want to return and take more of our church kids and teens.

Thank you for everyone's help in getting our young people to camp. We especially want to thank James Postelnick, Molly Weaver, Sara Postelnick, and Fernando Solis for serving as cabin leaders.

As we look forward to next year's camps, please be in prayer about being a cabin leader! If you go you'll be glad you did!

Michele Ring



(Deacons article continued from page 2)

If you have any questions about the Deacon Family Ministry or are unsure of who your deacon and/or Family Ministry Partner is please feel free to contact me or the church office.

God Bless,  
Jim Clark Deacon Chairman

## Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



While teaching children about world religions a teacher asked her children to bring a symbol of their faith to class the next day. The first child said, "I'm a Muslim and this is my prayer rug." The second child said, "I'm Jewish and this is my family's Menorah." The third child said, "I'm Roman Catholic and this is my mom's rosary." The fourth child said, "I'm Greek Orthodox and this is an icon of my patron saint." The fifth child said, "I'm Baptist and this is my casserole dish."

A burglar broke into a home. As he was looking around he heard a voice say "Jesus is watching you." He turned on his flashlight, saw a parrot and asked his name. Moses, said the parrot. "Who would name their parrot Moses" the burglar asked? The parrot replied, "The same people who named their German shepherd Jesus."

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 Zelia Taylor  
2 David Heath III  
3 John Harper  
8 Donald Hampton  
9 Hattie Baszler  
9 Bob Neubauer  
13 Katie Blalock  
15 Anna Sisson



22 Carol Ellis  
24 Keith Sisson  
26 Julie Miller  
28 Adeline Bates  
28 Sophie Thompson  
28 Mark Williams  
29 James Postelnick

2 Jonathan & Sarah Sanchez



4 Blake & Lindsey Rosebaum

## Early October Birthdays

2 Jim Clark  
4 Jane Jacome

2 Jenaya Miller