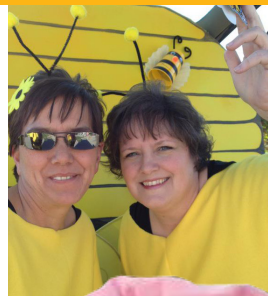


# FIRST words

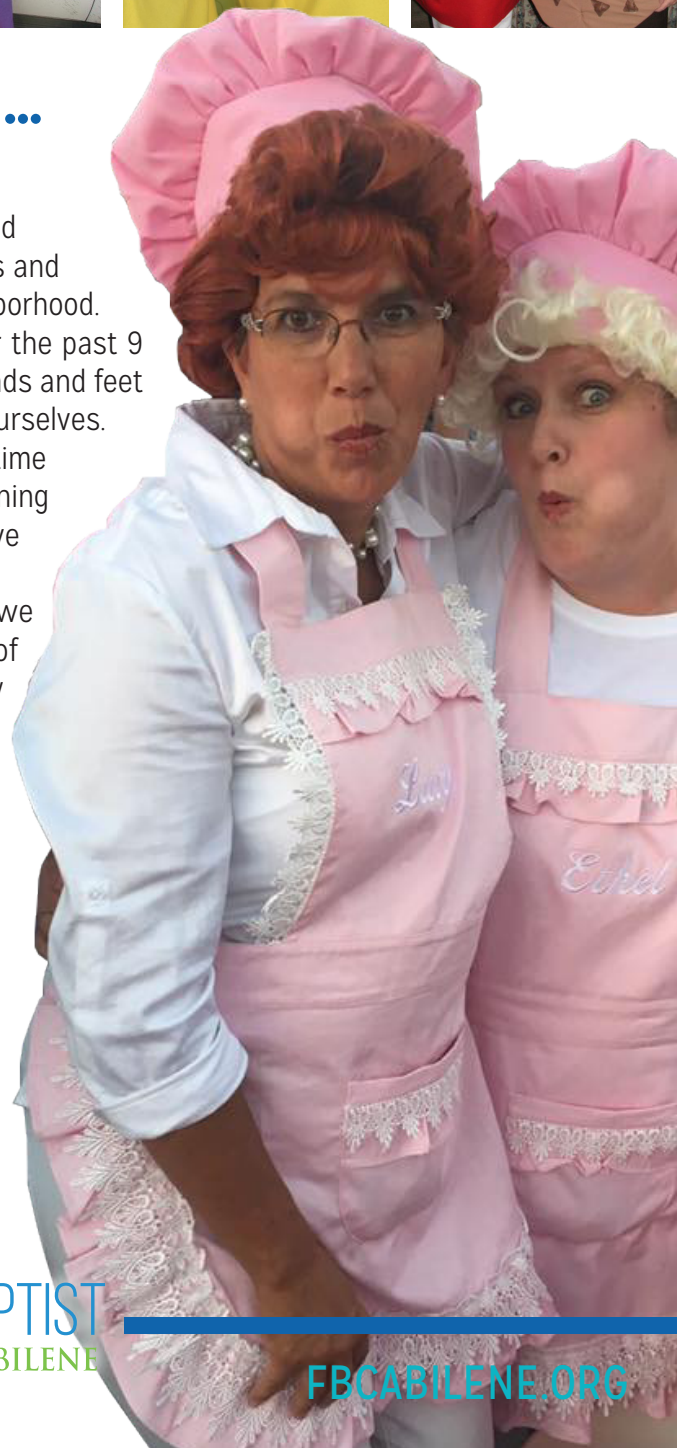
TO REACH PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST & TOGETHER BECOME MORE LIKE HIM



## JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN...

by Betty Coffey and Beth Young

In the book of Mark, Jesus said to the disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel." To some this might mean going into other countries and being a missionary, but we can be disciples in our own town and neighborhood. We have felt this calling as we have participated in Trunk or Treat over the past 9 years. What does it mean to be a disciple? To us, it means being the hands and feet of Jesus in our own parking lot. As a disciple, we are called to give of ourselves. We do this through our offerings of money, time, or talent. We give our time and talent to allow younger parents the opportunity to enjoy a nice evening with their family as they participate in Trunk or Treat. The joy we receive from each smiling face is well worth the time and effort we invest. We enjoy putting effort into our costumes and themes for our trunk. When we get hugs from the children we know we have been the hands and feet of Jesus. First Baptist Church has provided a safe environment for not only our children, but for the children in Big A, the students of Martinez Elementary, and for the children in our community. This is one small way we can give back to our church and our community. The gratitude we have felt through serving at Trunk or Treat has changed an ordinary opportunity into a blessing. We hope this will inspire you to participate in this neighborhood event which reaches hundreds of children and their families and allows you to be the disciple Christ has called you to be. Red, brown, yellow, black, and white they are precious in his sight...Jesus loves the little children and you can too by giving of your time, smiles, and candy to all who come by your trunk.



**Trunk or Treat - Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in south parking lot

Decorated Cars/Trunks & Volunteers needed!

OCTOBER 2017



FIRST BAPTIST  
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# words

## FOR THE JOURNEY

**Dr. Phil Christopher**  
*Senior Pastor*

### UNLOCKING THE BLESSINGS OF GENEROUS LIVING...

Let me tell you two stories. Last fall, we gave every member of the congregation the book, *The Blessed Life* to explore the power of generosity. We even labeled the book with your name so that you would pick up your copy and hopefully read it and apply it.

Story one. One person picked up the book and returned it in the mail with a card that said, "No thanks." I am not sure of the person's objection. I had said that I did not agree with everything in the book, but I believed it would open up possibilities of generosity, realizing the first fruits or 10% of our income belongs to God, which goes to the church, God's storehouse. (Malachi 3:8-10) I was stunned someone would go to such an extent to return the book. When I opened up the package and saw the book and note I was sad. I wondered what made him or her so angry.

Story two. This person owns a small business. At times he has struggled to get by. He doesn't make a salary, but works off commission. He shared the difference the book has made in his life about trusting God, especially in his finances. He even bought the audio tape of the book to listen as he drives to work. He has not received some financial windfall for his giving, but God has abundantly provided for him in so many ways – I wish I could tell the ways he has been blessed.

Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you...." I realize some of you are shaking your heads. Phil, are you proposing a gospel of prosperity? We give to get, right? I realize there are well-meaning preachers who teach about this kind of selfish motivation. Give to God and you will get more – what a deal.

We do not give for a "get-rich" scheme. How do you think God feels when people get excited about giving to God's

Kingdom purpose as they think about what they can get out of it? As Robert Morris says, "Do you think God ever says, 'Boy if only my people would start giving so they can get more stuff or buy a summer home.'"

God doesn't want us to catch a vision of getting. He wants us to catch a vision of giving. This goes way beyond our money. Jesus says in Luke 6:37-38, "If we give forgiveness, we receive forgiveness. If we do not condemn, we will not be condemned." If you give forgiveness, an abundance of forgiveness will be given back to you. As you give and sow love, you will receive an overflowing harvest of love. We call this the principle of reciprocity and a fundamental principle of the Kingdom of God. As the Bible says, "We will reap what we sow."

Last fall, we gave you *The Blessed Life*. We hoped to help people have a heart transplant. We seek to raise up a new generation of generous givers who will discover the blessed life. It is true that when we give, God gives back. However, that is not our motivation for giving. Giving is the way to imitate our wonderful Father. I hope during October you will revisit the principles of *The Blessed Life*. If you do not have a copy of the book, it will be available in the Welcome Center. October will be the season for us to discover The Blessed Life, even as we see the change of the seasons....

How can God change you this fall?

Phil

# FBC UNIFIED MISSIONS OFFERING 2017

*"Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ"*

Seven Mission Offerings Combined into One

**Goal: \$67,000 – Year to date: \$30,239**

Please continue to pray about how you can be involved in reaching our FBC Abilene Unified Missions Offering goal of \$67,000. These offerings bring together seven different mission offerings, which literally reach around the world.

*What is the Unified Missions Offering?*

The Unified Missions Offering provides members of First Baptist Church a way to impact the world with the message of Christ through consistent missional giving. You can give through the Unified Missions Offering envelopes, placing your offering in the offering plate, or bringing it by the church office.

*How will your dollars grow God's kingdom?*

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions Offering - **50%**

Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions - **15%**

Community Transformation - **12%**

Baptist World Aid - **9%**

BGCT World Hunger - **9%**

BGCT Disaster Relief - **3%**

Lawrence Trott Offering for Associational Missions - **2%**

# SENIOR ADULT DAY AT BCBA

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

9:00 a.m. and ending after lunch

Cost: \$8 per person at registration

Come and enjoy The Hinkle Family, who have been ministering for many years using their unique talents to serve the Lord as they sing, play, and speak. Their special ministry is to the elderly in nursing homes, retirement centers, and senior centers. They count it a privilege to travel for the Lord, evangelizing and encouraging folks to a closer walk with God.

To attend Senior Adult Day and ride the FBC van, RSVP to Jeannie at 675-8107 by Wednesday, October 4. The van will leave FBC parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

## LLL

The October LLL luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 17, at noon in the FBC Dining Room. The speaker this month will be Nancy Patrick. Nancy and Mike are long-time members of First Baptist. This past March, Nancy began a weekly senior adult fitness class, and she will speak on the importance of physical fitness for seniors. The fitness class meets at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays in University Place and is open to all senior adults at no charge. Currently, there are 15-20 who regularly attend the class.

Masonya will provide lunch at the cost of \$5 per person, followed by Nancy's presentation. Please make plans to attend for an enjoyable lunch, program, and fellowship.



## HABITAT HOUSE:

Thank you to our volunteers for your hard work on the Habitat project! Future build days in October are the 15, 22, and 29 starting at 8:00 a.m. at 4317 Congress Street.

Please contact Rebecca Hunt in the missions' office at (325) 675-8112 or [rebecca.hunt@fbcabilene.org](mailto:rebecca.hunt@fbcabilene.org) if you would like to sign up.

October Missions Emphasis

***Individually Wrapped Candy for Trunk or Treat***

Please bring your donations by the Missions' Office. For more information, please contact

Rebecca Hunt (675-8112 or [rebecca.hunt@fbcabilene.org](mailto:rebecca.hunt@fbcabilene.org)).



# GENEROUS LIVING

by Mike Greenfield

Last year, the church provided each family a copy of the book, *The Blessed Life*. The basic premise of the book is that the first 10%, or first fruits, belongs to God. We, as a church, believe the Bible to be the word of God and the Bible is very clear about what our relationship to our financial resources should be. We are to tithe (one tenth of our resources) to God through the local church. According to the Bible, that is the starting point. The Bible also talks about offerings which are also given to specific causes at specific times for specific reasons. Those are separate and above the tithe. Then there is support given to other worthy causes that God brings into our paths. These are worthwhile and many of them are Christ-centered and do great Kingdom work. So, as you think about your tithe, offerings, and support, here are some thoughts that might help.

Your tithe goes to support the ministry budget of the church. When talking about the ministry budget, sometimes those numbers can be a bit overwhelming. Just the mention of \$3,289,732 is almost too much to handle. However, that is the number needed to do all that we feel God is calling us to do in 2017! So, I decided to try and make it a little bit easier to picture just what that figure represents. So, imagine for just a moment that you have in your hand a crisp new \$100 bill. It has the new design with all of the colors and that great picture of Ben Franklin. Now, if you were to give that \$100 bill to the church, here is how it would be divided up.

\$5 of it would immediately go to Global Missions as we help with work around the world. \$3.15 would be used for all of the programming at City Light. \$2.15 enables us to broadcast our Sunday worship services on TV. \$4.84 helps GLO, \$2.86 to Counseling, and \$4.90 for the FLC. All of those figures are a part of the budget section called Missions and Evangelism and along with many more items; they would be \$30.01 of the \$100.

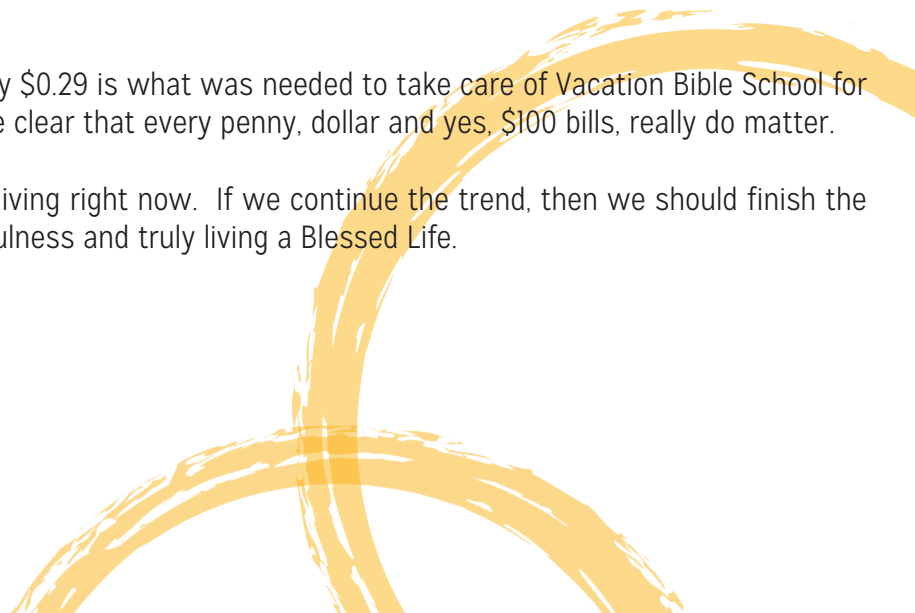
\$3.89 would keep the lights burning and A/C running by paying the electric bill. \$0.59 for water, \$0.25 for gas, and \$3.19 for insurance on the buildings in case we have another hail storm! Altogether, the maintenance area would receive \$16.40 of the \$100 to take care of the church property and the folks who do that on a daily basis.

It may not seem like much, but in an effort to provide education about missions for our children as well as adults, \$0.25 would help with that area. Only 2 pennies are needed for the GA literature, but those 2 pennies are really important.

To provide for all the work that falls under Dr. Christopher, \$5.53 are used to cover that area. \$3.33 for Media and Communications, \$3.17 for the Preschool ministry, of which \$0.63 enables all the programming to be covered in that area. \$0.22 covers First Friends Preschool, \$2.65 is set aside for the Children's Ministry, \$3.82 for Youth, and \$2.09 for Emerging Adults. On the adult side of things, \$3.31 covers the working age adults, \$1.50 for the seniors. Music, which includes the children's choirs, would receive \$6.91, and \$0.56 is needed to take care of all the food service items. Discipleship and Leadership Training need \$0.57, the finance office uses \$2.71 and the administration area would get \$6.55. To cover all of the personnel benefits, \$10.41 is needed of the \$100.

So, when you look at that \$100 bill and think that only \$0.29 is what was needed to take care of Vacation Bible School for 2017, or that \$0.17 would cover DiscipleNow, it is quite clear that every penny, dollar and yes, \$100 bills, really do matter.

We are in excellent shape in regards to the budget giving right now. If we continue the trend, then we should finish the year making budget! That is the result of your faithfulness and truly living a Blessed Life.





# LEGACY GRANDPARENTING SUMMIT 2017

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## FINDING MY PLACE AS A CHRISTIAN GRANDPARENT

by C.V. Blake

In November of 2016, I attended the first Legacy Grandparenting Summit in Frisco, TX. For three days, I was reminded of some things I already knew, but I also learned about our great responsibility as grandparents from a Biblical perspective. The next **Legacy Grandparenting Summit will be at Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, TX November 2-4**. Among the speakers will be Tony Evans, Steve Stroope, and Tim Kimmel. More information can be found at [www.summit.legacycoalition.com](http://www.summit.legacycoalition.com).

### A Vital Role

For years, I have heard people talk about how wonderful their grandchildren are, how fun it is to have them over, and how nice it is to send them home. I've heard people say, "If I had known how good grandchildren are, I would have skipped having children and gone straight to grandchildren." You've heard all of these and more. I believe my role as a Papa is vital. My role is different than others. Some grandparents have the children in their home full-time. They are the parents. Others grandparent from great distances. The geography and family dynamics may be different, but the importance of our roles is clear.

*"One generation commends your works to another..." Psalm 145:4*

*"Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation." Joel 1:3*

*"Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." Deuteronomy 4:9*

What if my influence is more than just to play and pray, but it extends beyond my life into the next three generations? I am continuing a legacy which did not begin with me and will not end with me. Here is an enormous thought: I must continue the race even after I hand the baton to my children, because my influence extends 150 years beyond my life. The influence of a grandparent in the life of a child is second only to that of the parents. If this is true, it means that in addition to playing and praying I must tell my story of salvation.



# ACTING IN *love*

## HURRICANE HARVEY RESPONSE

Thank you so much for being a church who cares and prays for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. You have given over \$26,000 towards relief efforts and hundreds of dollars more in supplies brought to the church. These gifts have supported CBF Disaster Relief, Texas Baptist Men, FBC Disaster Relief, immediate response supplies, clean-up supplies, and tools to help with cleaning out homes. There is still room to do more in financial gifts and supplies if you have not had the opportunity to give. But, know that you are making a difference by giving and soon by going.

During the week of September 19-22, John and a mud-out crew from FBC Abilene worked at Templo Bautista in South Houston, Texas. Templo Bautista is a small church affiliated with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Serving on the mud-out crew were: John Moore, Joyce Daffern, Tommy Cunningham, Charlie Jowers, Roy Jones, and Jim Jones. The mud-out crew worked hard to clean out the church, rip out the dry wall and insulation, and bleach it all down to kill any mold. Another trip is planned for November 3-5. Please let us know if you are available on those dates by contacting Rebecca Hunt in the missions' office at [rebecca.hunt@fbcabilene.org](mailto:rebecca.hunt@fbcabilene.org), or 675-8112. Please continue to pray for those affected by these disasters. Thank you for being a church who cares.







## GIVING SO OTHERS CAN GO

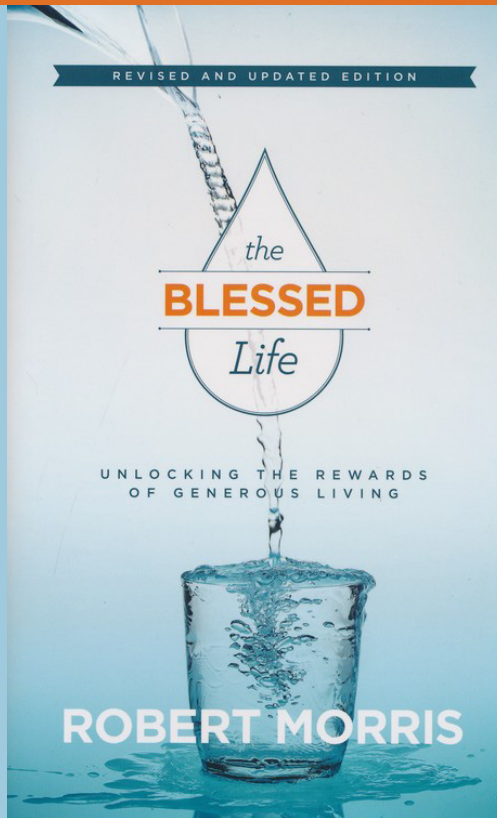
The following article is written by Hunter and Mary, CBF Field Personnel to Southeast Asia. They are currently on furlough until March and are residing in one of the church owned mission houses. Due to security reasons, we are limited in some of the information that we can share, but we are not limited in how we can support and pray them. What does the support of the FBC family for the Offering for Global Missions accomplish? For hundreds of field personnel through the years, it has meant that we have had endless opportunities to bear witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ, to seek transformational development, and to cultivate beloved community. That work has occurred on six continents in more cities, towns, villages, and hamlets than any of us could name. Through you, lives have been changed – eternally.

To put a couple of names to these efforts, we (Hunter & Mary) would like to introduce you to John and Bell (aliases). John and Bell grew up in a Bramong (our people group) village, but came into relationship with Christ as young adults. They now spend their time reaching out to their friends and family – not always a safe activity. Historically, the local church has had little to do with the Bramong as they are a minority group in the country and are often misunderstood. With an intimate knowledge of the Bramong and a love and understanding of the local church, they are making strides in bringing the two together. They are also providing a safe house for young Bramong girls who are at risk of being trafficked. John is pastoring one of the first churches composed of Bramong believers. It is our honor to be able to walk with them to provide guidance, encouragement, and support.

For a good portion of our 20 years on the field, FBC Abilene has included us among its family. We give thanks on every remembrance of you. Because of you, we have been able to fulfill God's call by providing support to the efforts of those working to stop human trafficking, secure land and human rights for the poor, and secure health care and educational opportunities for migrant workers and their children. We have also assisted in development projects: cattle and chicken farming, selling honey, and providing preschool education for children in the largest slum area in the country. Your generous support to the Offering for Global Missions makes a difference in the lives of thousands of people around the world. Please pray and see if God would have you join this work by giving to the Offering for Global Missions. If you would like to know more about us or our work, contact the church office for more information. Again, thank you.

# THE BLESSED LIFE

Our desire is that every family in the church have a copy of the book, *The Blessed Life*. If you have not received a copy or need another one, you may pick one up in the Welcome Center at any time. Our prayer is that you would read, reflect, make applications, and ask questions if needed.



## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

**October 1, 10 years**

**Nebra Peters**

*Office Manager,  
Ministry of Counseling*

**October 1, 3 years**

**Angela Mowery**

*GLO Teacher*

**October 1, 3 years**

**Krystal Smith**

*GLO Teacher*

**October 1, 3 years**

**Maria Veracruz**

*GLO Teacher*

**October 14, 8 years**

**Corinna Lomeli**

*Custodian*

**October 22, 33 years**

**Mike Brown**

*Custodian*

# EVENT CALENDAR:

## OCTOBER

- 1 Parent Summit
- 6-7 Fresh Grounded Faith  
Women's Conference  
@ Pioneer Drive Baptist Church
- 8 Foundation Board  
Personnel Committee
- 10 CBF Breakfast Meeting
- 11 Committee on Committees  
Buildings & Grounds Committee  
Fields of Faith
- 15 Budget Committee  
Missions Committee
- 17 LLL  
Finance Committee  
Deacons' Meeting
- 18 GLO Board  
Church Conference
- 20-21 Middle School Retreat
- 25 Trunk or Treat  
Hospital Visitation Team

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

*September 2017*

<b>Budget</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Required	\$242,000	\$2,282,311
Given	\$235,232	\$2,250,382



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
CHURCH • ABILENE

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325-673-5031