



## Does God Care About Our Church?

### [Revelation 2:1- NLT](#)

“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven gold lampstands: “I *know* all the things you do. I have *seen* your hard work and your patient endurance...”

As I was reading from my *Life Application Study Bible*, I came upon a side note section titled, “Does God Care about Your Church?” This caught my attention...especially since we are approaching our 5<sup>th</sup> month without a pastor! This is what the Bible commentator said...

1) First of all, the commentator observed that Revelation 2:1-3:21 addressed seven *real* churches. That is, Jesus told John to write about specific people, places, and events. He did this because Jesus was *concerned about* and *working in* the specific issues and individual people of each church. Conclusion: our Savior *knows* and *cares about* *our* people, *our* location, and He is *working in* the specific events happening at *our* church! We can rest assured then, because our Lord *knows*, *cares about*, and is *working in*(and on!) our pastor situation!

2) Next, the commentator noted that each individual church letter addressed that specific body's strengths and successes. Conclusion: Jesus *KNOWS* our strengths and our successes! He *knows* “all the (good) things” we “do,” and He has “*seen* (our) hard work and (our) patient endurance” in our pastor-less situation!

3) Third, the commentator explained that in each letter, Jesus personally addressed the weaknesses and failures of that church. Moreover, the letters told them *how to correct* their weaknesses...so they could be better equipped and prepared to serve Him better! Conclusion: Jesus corrects *us* (through His Word—His Letter to *us*) so *our* church is better equipped and prepared to serve Him! As He works in us, He is also preparing *us* for our new pastor!

4) Furthermore, the Bible commentator noted that believers are God's vehicle for changing the location they are *in*...and the *world*. Conclusion: *The local group of believers* with whom *we* worship and serve and live are God's vehicle for changing *our* city...and *our* world! We need live like followers of Jesus as we wait for our new pastor!

5) Finally, in each letter, Jesus tells each specific church of the *coming reward* for those who live for Him. Conclusion: We at FBC, Newman will be victorious by believing in Christ, persevering, remaining faithful, serving Him, and *living* as Christ's followers...as we wait for our new pastor!

Believers of FBC, Newman, rest assured: our Lord Jesus cares about *our* specific church! Moreover, He is *working* on us, and He is working on our pastor-less situation! Put our local body in His hands, trust (and ask for) His Word to shape and change and unify us, and *know* we will be victorious through 1) believing in Christ, 2) persevering, 3) remaining faithful, 4) continuing to serve, and 5) *living* as followers of Jesus!

## A MISSION 2018 UPDATE

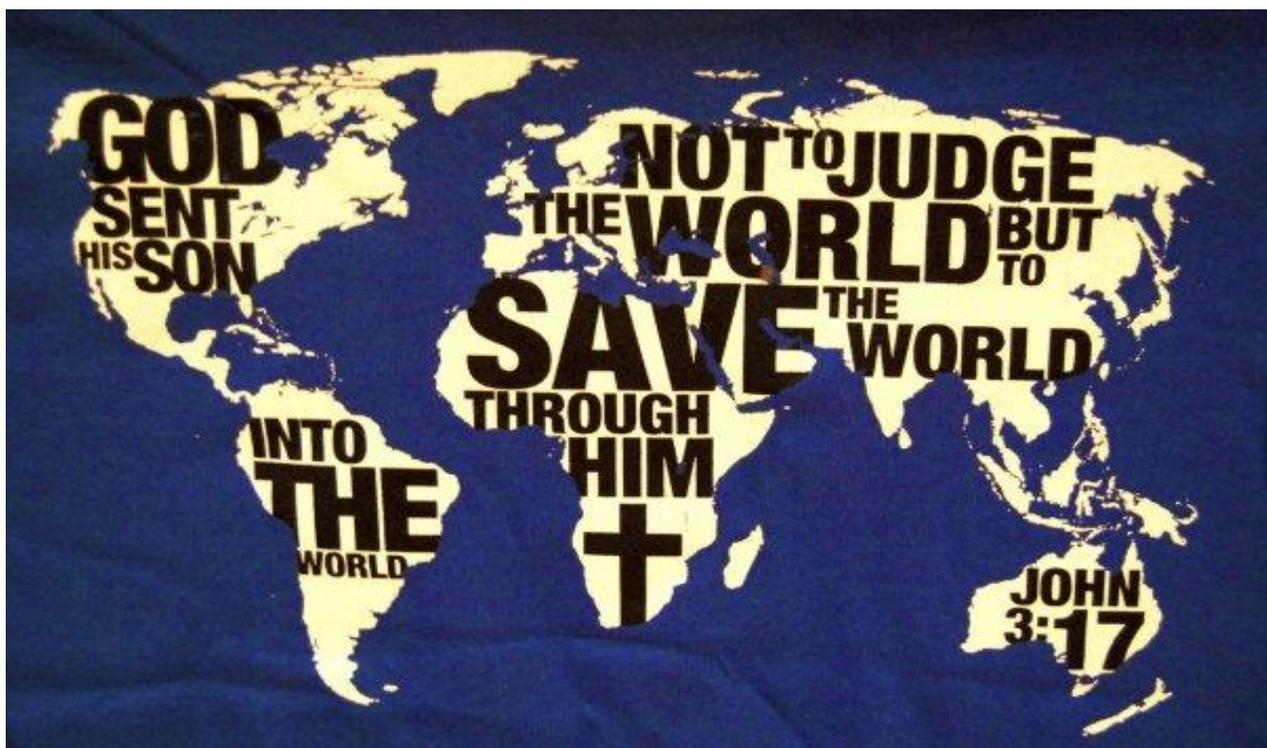
This past January the congregation approved a new designated offering, *MISSION 2018*, with an objective of raising \$17,500 to send one or two mission teams internationally in 2018 if possible, and no later than 2019. Early this month we will surpass the \$2,500 mark which is one-seventh of the way there. That's enough to get 2-5 members to and from their international destination depending on where that destination happens to be. Alternatively, that's enough to support 1 – 4 members while they are on mission depending on the location and duration of the trip. Now it is time for an update on what's been happening, and what will happen this summer.

The Mission Committee has evaluated the results of the forty surveys it received, and with the help of church members at a Mission Emphasis Night, seven criteria have been established by which to evaluate potential mission trips. They are: (1) opportunities for sharing the Gospel; (2) opportunities for providing needed service; (3) personal safety for the participants; (4) experience of the sponsoring agency; (5) sponsorship by a Southern Baptist or closely related denomination; (6) overall cost of the trip; and (7) per person cost of the trip.

A rubric for evaluating potential trips combining and placing variable weight value on each the seven criteria has been prepared to assist in that evaluation, and beginning with its July meeting, the Mission Committee will be sifting through potential trips. Remember, our primary emphasis is on a trip that maximizes the opportunities of bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the lost as opposed to merely providing for physical needs of a people group. The goal is to have two trips fully meeting the established criteria to bring before the congregation at the Annual Family Meeting in November with the congregation then selecting the trip you are led by God to select.

We will be looking at trips from one to two weeks duration, trips to all continents, trips that are both rigid and flexible in scheduling, and trips that are designed for teams of varying sizes and age groups. We thank you for the financial support of this endeavor thus far. More importantly, we ask for your continued prayers as we research and evaluate mission trips and their sponsoring agencies. Pray for our being granted the wisdom and discernment necessary to make sound recommendations to you this fall.

Your Mission Committee



### JUST WHAT IS THE CVBA?

The current budget of our church, as it has our budget for the past couple of decades, calls for ten percent of tithes and offerings received to be dedicated for what is known as "The Cooperative Program." I've written previously how this goes to support the evangelistic efforts of the International Mission Board (IMB), the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and the California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC). Those three organizations are supported by seven percent of our offering, while the other three percent goes to the Central Valley Baptist Association (CVBA). It is with these voluntary offerings from churches within the association that its activities are funded.

So let's take a look at just what the CVBA is... My short answer may surprise you. The CVBA is **YOU**, it is me, and it is all the members of the 73 Southern Baptist churches in the counties of Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne, along with the southernmost parts of San Joaquin County. It is an association of churches

dedicated to the multiplying of disciples through effective evangelism and discipleship, and the multiplying of congregations through effective church planting. Those of you who came to hear Gary Graham back in April got to hear a part of the story of church planting. Those of you who choose to participate in the "Feeding Those Who Feed Us" migrant outreach in Patterson and/or Westley this summer are personally engaging in that multiplying of disciples. Last year, the CVBA contributed \$700 toward your Mission Committee's sponsorship of that migrant ministry in Patterson, and this year it is actually sponsoring the migrant ministry in Westley.

But the CVBA is much more. It also works to strengthen ministry participation through pastoral and lay development, encouragement, and support. The Pastoral Health Team evaluates areas of need as to the health of pastors, and helps pastors through pastor cluster groups, seminars, retreats and mentoring. And it does all these things and more, through God's Grace, on a budget of just under \$125,000 for this year. I am acutely aware of this figure as I currently chair the CVBA Finance Committee.

Serving Him, Carl Hughes

**"DROP-IN THE BOX"  
ITEMS FOR  
OPERATION CHRISTMAS  
CHILD**  
**June—Toys**  
**July—Clothing Items**  
**August—School Supplies**  
**September—Games &  
Puzzles**  
**October—???**  
**November—Packing Party**

*JUNE IS "TOYS MONTH"*



Let's fill the  
box in the  
foyer as  
many times  
as we can  
this June!!



*FOR OPERATION  
CHRISTMAS CHILD*



*So bring in your new toys for this awesome ministry,  
but remember not to include war-related items such  
as toy guns, knives or military figures.*

**June 2017**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Every Sunday:</b> ( <i>Nursery Care Provided</i> ) 8:45am Sunday school in English 10:00am Worship Service in English 10:45am Sunday school – en español 12:00pm Worship Service – en español 6:00pm Evening Service Awana – ( <i>September to May</i> )				<p align="center"><b>For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11</b></p>		
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				Men's Group – 7pm		
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Missions Committee Mtg. – 4:30pm <i>Mission Emphasis International Potluck &amp; Speaker – 6pm dinner 7pm speaker Dr. Linda Berguist</i>			Bible Study en Español – 6pm Mid-Week Bible Study & Youth – 7pm	See 06/01		<i>Pastor Cruz reserved the church for Quinceanera – 2pm to 7pm</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
			See 06/07	See 06/01		
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<i>Father's Day</i>  NO Eve Programs			See 06/07	See 06/01		
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
Service at San Luis Care Center – 2pm			See 06/07	See 06/01		<b>Greeter:</b>  <i>Janet Pertuit</i>