

"Religious Liberty 'The Best Blessing' America Has, Baptist Immigrants Say"

For distributing the Bible and sharing the gospel in the Soviet Union, Aleksei Kharlamov's great-grandfather was sent to Siberia and never heard from again. His grandfather and father both were persecuted for being Baptist pastors. Growing up in post-Soviet Moscow, Kharlamov was called a cult member for being a Baptist. That family history enhances his love of America's religious liberty. "This freedom makes this place so unique," said Kharlamov, pastor of Russian-speaking Spring Church in Bay Area Moraga, Calif.

Since arriving in the U.S. 10 years ago, Kharlamov has gained special love for America's liberty and its resources to send missionaries to every nation on earth. "You cannot do it in Germany," he said. "You cannot do it in Australia or China. But you can do it here in America."

For Vietnamese Pastor Chuyen Tran, religious liberty led to salvation. Growing up in Vietnam, he practiced ancestor worship under a communist regime. . . . Life changed when Tran fled Vietnam as a refugee. "When I was in a refugee camp in the Philippines, a Southern Baptist missionary named Doug Kellum witnessed to me and many friends," he said. "We accepted Christ and were baptized in a creek in that refugee camp before our refugee resettlement in the U.S."

Thanks to religious liberty, Tran said, "Vietnamese churches were started in more than 35 states with more than 170 churches and more than 230 pastors. Many of us only became Christians after we came to America, and we are very grateful to God and to the American people for giving us this freedom and opportunity."

"If liberty increased a little bit," he said, Christians in other nations "could be missionaries to the nations, which right now is practically impossible" for many. As Kharlamov put it, "That's what I love about this country: the great mission to help people, equip people and send them back to places to spread the gospel."

Baptist Press Special Report. 3 July 2025, www.brnow.org

This Week At FBC Sunday's Sermon

The Worthy Lamb

John 12:12-19

Pastor Brandon Smith

March 29- April 4th

Sunday		Palm Sunday Youth Sunday
Thursday	6:00p	Pickleball
Friday	6:00p 6:30p 7:00p	Celebrate Recovery Dinner Good Friday Service Celebrate Recovery
Saturday	8:00a 10:30a	Men's Breakfast Children's Easter Event

Allergy Sensitivities: Please be mindful of those with allergies to scented products and kindly refrain from using perfumes, colognes, or fragranced lotions prior to attending FBC events. Thank you.

Want to stay updated with events, sermons, and more?

Download the FBC App today! Easily submit prayer requests and connect with our church family. Scan the QR code to get started!



WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

A Pattern of Love to Follow – "It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (John 13:35). Loving His own "to the end" would involve the display of the cross. This would be truth lived out because Jesus taught, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). He models His own words. He establishes a pattern of love to follow. Let us love like Jesus remembering the exhortation to, "Respect all people. Love the believers as you would love your family. Obey God as your master. Respect the king" (1 Peter 2:17).





When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd was looking for a political conqueror to fix their immediate earthly problems. But Jesus was on a much different mission. Join us this Palm Sunday as we look past the palm branches to discover the truth of the Passover Lamb and the true King who came to save our eternal souls.

Pastor Brandon Smith

Missionary of the Week: Reach Beyond

Please pray for their ministry, staff members, and missionaries as they continue to try to reach the difficult places around the world. They ask for God to open up even more ministry opportunities for them in 2026 and that God's will would be done in everything they do.

NCA Ministry of the Week
NCA Executives

Prayer

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17). Those who possess Christ truly possess new life. “The old is gone, the new has come!” We have new interests and desires and grace enabling us to respond to the upward call we have received in Christ (See Philippians 3:14). Pray our church leadership, church staff, and our entire church family will remain focused on fulfilling our high calling.

Giving Thanks



Popular culture seeks to make us disciples of social media. Let us choose instead to be disciples of King Jesus, helping others discover only Jesus can be a person's "all in all." Let's celebrate the robust response to the relaunch of the personal Prayer & Impact list last Sunday! The FBC Prayer Team has already begun praying for the individuals listed on the cards. Hope has a Name!

WHAT'S COMING UP AT FBC

Awana Grand Prix will take place on Sat, Mar 28, with registration at 11:00a and the Green Flag at 12:00p. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Daryl and Carrie Heizelman.

SHE Event Sophia's Table: On April 12 at 6:30p a panel of wise, faithful FBC women will share perspectives on both the joys and challenges of women's experiences. To submit a question for Sophia's Table, please use either this QR code or the boxes located throughout the church.



Help fill Easter Eggs for the **Kid's Easter Event** at 1:30p on Thursday, April 2, in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall. Put donations in the box by Miss Elaine's office. **NO** peanut candy please.

Calling All Teens in Grades 7-12: Child Evangelism Fellowship is accepting summer missionary applications through April 15. The experience includes an intensive training camp on June 3-10 and opportunities to serve in children's ministries throughout the summer. Learn more and apply at ndcef.com/go-training.

Children's Easter Outreach Event for children in Preschool-5th grade accompanied by parents or guardians will be held on Saturday, April 4, from 10:30-11:30a. This is an excellent outreach event, so invite friends who will experience the joy of the Lord through fun Kid's Easter music as well as a colorful, exuberant Gospel message geared not only for children but also applicable to their parent(s). The event starts in the Sanctuary with music and stories and ends Downstairs with an Easter Egg Hunt. Grab the opportunity to share the real meaning of Easter in a kid-friendly way!

Save the Date: On **May 2**, FBC will host a retirement celebration for Elaine Carlson, our amazing Children's Director. More information to follow.

Positions Open: If you are interested in becoming either the next FBC Children's Ministry Director or the Custodian, pick up an application and submit it with your resume to the Church Office.

THIS MORNING AT FBC

- Nursery**
Staffed for kids through 36mon
9:50a and 11:05a
- Pre-school/Kindergarten**
Sunday School - 9:45a
- Children's Ministry**
Sunday School - 9:45a

- Children's Church - Ages 3 - 5**
Room 101/102 - 11:00a
- Middle/High School Ministry**
Downstairs Lounge - 9:45a
- Young Adult Ministry S.A.L.T.**
Room 106 - 9:45a
- Adult Ministry**
Sunday School - 9:45a

CONTACT US

First Baptist Church Office 701-852-4533/office@fbcminot.org Hours: 8-5 Mon-Thur/ Fri 8-12		
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Find details for each ministry at the Information Booth in the Foyer, at fbcminot.org, or at the Church Office.