



December 2, 2018

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see the Pastor after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with the Pastor, or call the church office.

Announcements

Wednesday Night

This week's menu features **Chili!** Please sign the list in the hall if you are joining us. While you're at the bulletin board, go ahead and sign up for the Christmas Banquet on **December 12!**

Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, and Carols

We'll have this special service to officially begin the holiday celebrations during tonight's Evening Worship, in the Fellowship Hall! Bring homemade (or store-bought) cookies and other goodies to share!

Poinsettias

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in honor or memory of someone, please contact Janice Donaldson in the office.

Joy Class

The Joy Class will **not** meet this Tuesday morning, **December 4**, because of the run-off election. All ladies are invited to their Christmas Party at 10:00 a.m. on **December 11**. See Jeanie Groover for details.

Senior Saints

Just a reminder of their weekly visitation ministry on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. There is Bible Study Thursday, **December 6**, at 10:00 a.m.

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This Week at FABC Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Adult Choir Practice	4:00 p.m.
Christmas Choir Practice	4:45 p.m.
CCC&C!	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Dinner - Chili	5:45 p.m.
Awana & Youth	6:30 p.m.
Prayer & Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Thursday

Senior Adult Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

FABC Deacons

Shawn Champion	433-0098
Mickey Fell	920-4557
Ron Fowler	901-409-8628
Jimmy Kicklighter (CH)	355-5616
Jack Moore	547-5000
Billy Morris, Sr.	398-1038
Kelly Stanford	441-2151
John Sumner	658-4186
Michael Walker	655-2497
Ric Zittrouer	210-0344

10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

* Opening Chorus & Greeting

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Words are on the back of the bulletin

* Call to Worship

Micah 4:2

* Hymn #152

“Lo! He Comes with
Clouds Descending”

Prayer of General Confession

Revelation 5:8-14

Special Music

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

You can follow along on p. 6

Scripture Reading

Acts 26:1-18

Bobby DeLoach

Receiving of Tithes And
Offerings

* Hymn #89

“Angels, We Have Heard on
High”

Message

Bob Dimmitt

Fools & Foolishness

Ecclesiastes 10:5-15, Ecclesiastes #50

* Hymn, to right

“Doxology”

Old Hundred tune

* All those who are able, please stand.

6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Refer to the

Christmas Carol Sing Along

booklet for all the

readings and

music tonight!

Responsive Reading

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“Away in a Manger”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Responsive Reading

“Joy to the World”

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

“The First Noel”

“O Holy Night”

Devotional

Bob Dimmitt

* Hymn, below

“Doxology”

Owens tune

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings
flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen

A.M. Notes

Fools & Foolishness

Ecclesiastes #50

Ecclesiastes 10:5-15

Solomon has pointed out and emphasized the troubling reality of death, the certainty of death, that death is unavoidable and so life is unpredictable.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-14

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Ecclesiastes 10:16-20

4 terms identified by AB Simpson

These men are guilty of in _____

In _____

In _____

In _____

....death is a part of this world until God renews all things through Christ.



Upcoming Seasonal Events

Sunday, December 2

Cocoa, Cookies, & Carols
Fellowship Hall * 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 8

Sacred Harp Singing: Selections for Christmas
Piano Overflow Room * 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11

Joy Ladies Christmas Party
Jeanie Groover's House * 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 12

Christmas Banquet
Fellowship Hall & Gym * 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 14

Senior Saints' Christmas Party * Meet at church at 4:30 p.m.
Young Adults' Christmas Party * 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 17

Youth Caroling
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18

Senior Saints' Tour of Christmas Lights

Sunday, December 23

Adult Choir Cantata: "The Glory of Christmas"
Sanctuary * 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service
Sanctuary * 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve Activities
Fellowship Hall * Details TBA

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Sacred Harp Singing: Selections for Christmas!

The Savannah Sacred Harp Singers will meet on Saturday, **December 8**, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the piano side overflow room. Loaner books are available. Join them! You might hear a favorite Christmas carol sung in a way you haven't heard before!

Called Congregational Meeting

There is a called congregational meeting on Sunday, **December 9**, at 5:45 p.m. to vote for new deacons. The nominees are Joe Morris and Jay Rowe.

Joy Ladies' Christmas Party

They will have a get-together at the home of Jeanie Groover, 100 West Gazebo Lane, Tuesday, **December 11**, at 10:00 a.m. All ladies are invited. Contact Jeanie if you have any questions.

Christmas Banquet

Our annual Christmas Banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, **December 12**. PLEASE SIGN UP! It's a wonderful meal for a very reasonable price. Details at right.

Military Bible Sticks

Bible believing churches nationwide are making a significant impact with God's Word to the largest generation of unchurched Americans existing today! How? By providing Audio Bibles in the form of Military BibleSticks to our Troops. Please consider contributing to this valuable ministry! We are taking donations specifically for the Bible Sticks today.

Weekly Catechism Question

Question #81:

Which is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

Answer:

The eighth commandment forbids whatever would unjustly withhold or diminish a person's possessions or attainments.

Scripture:

Malachi 3:8; Ephesians 4:28;
Romans 13:7



Annual **Christmas Banquet**

**Wednesday,
December 12
7:00 p.m.**

Menu will include
Prime Rib, Barbecue,
Ham, Vegetables and
Desserts.
\$7.00 per adult,
\$4.00 per child over 3,
and no family need pay
over \$25!

Music

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Divinum Mysterium)

1. Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be
He is Alpha and Omega
He the source the ending He
Of the things that are that have been
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore

2. O ye heights of heaven adore Him
Angel-hosts His praises sing
Powers dominions bow before Him
And extol our God and King
Let no tongue on earth be silent
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore

3. Christ to Thee with God the Father
And O Holy Ghost to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be
Honour glory and dominion
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore

CCLI Song # 4780029

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius | Henry Williams Baker | John Mason Neale | Theodoricus Petrus

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Articles

The Story of Iran's Church in Two Sentences

By Mark Howard

Mark Howard works with Elam Ministries, an organization founded in 1990 by Iranian church leaders with a mission to strengthen and expand the church in the Iran region and beyond. Mark also serves on the advisory board of Rooted and has a chapter in *Gospel-Centered Youth Ministry* (Crossway, 2016).

Everyone loves a good story. As Christians, we especially love stories that tell us how, when all seems lost, God makes a way.

One such story is about the church in Iran—and it's one of the greatest stories in the world today.

It's a simple story that can be summarized in just two sentences: Persecution threatened to wipe out Iran's tiny church. Instead, the church in Iran has become the fastest growing in the world, and it is influencing the region for Christ.

As simple as it is, such an amazing story is worth examining deeper.

Growth Amid Persecution

The Iranian revolution of 1979 established a hard-line Islamic regime. Over the next two decades, Christians faced increasing opposition and persecution: All missionaries were kicked out, evangelism was outlawed, Bibles in Persian were banned and soon became scarce, and several pastors were killed. The church came under tremendous pressure. Many feared the small Iranian church would soon wither away and die.

But the exact opposite has happened. Despite continued hostility from the late 1970s until now, Iranians have become the Muslim people most open to the gospel in the Middle East.

How did this happen? Two factors have contributed to this openness. First, violence in the name of Islam has caused widespread disillusionment with the regime and led many Iranians to question their beliefs. Second, many Iranian Christians have continued to boldly and faithfully tell others about Christ, in the face of persecution.

As a result, more Iranians have become Christians in the last 20 years than in the previous 13 centuries put together since Islam came to Iran. In 1979, there were an estimated 500 Christians from a Muslim background in Iran. Today, there are hundreds of thousands—some say more than 1 million. Whatever the exact number, many Iranians are turning to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

In fact, last year the mission research organization Operation World named Iran as having the fastest-growing evangelical church in the world. According to the same organization, the second-fastest growing church is in Afghanistan—and Afghans are being reached in part by Iranians, since their languages are similar.

Three Changed Lives

The testimonies of Iranian men and women who've come to Christ are powerful. Kamran was a violent man who used to sell drugs and weapons. One day, a friend 7

gave him a New Testament. After reading for five consecutive days, Kamran gave his life to Jesus. When his family and friends saw his transformed life over the ensuing months, many of them also came to faith. A church now meets in Kamran's house.

Reza was a *mullah* (a Muslim scholar) who hoped to become an *ayatollah* (a Shiite leader). One day, while studying at an Islamic seminary in Iran, he found a New Testament that had been boldly left in the library. Out of curiosity, he picked it up and was deeply shaken. Over time, he fell in love with Jesus. Today Reza is a trained church planter serving in the Iran region.

Fatemah's earliest memories were of being raped by her brothers. At age 11, she was sold in marriage to a young drug addict who abused her and then divorced her when she was 17. Upon returning home she was raped again, until she decided to leave. On the streets she heard the gospel preached, and she trusted Jesus. In time, she married a Christian man. As they were receiving training in evangelism and church planting, Fatemah felt called to go back home and witness to her family. Her entire family repented and gave their lives to the Lord. The first church Fatemah and her husband planted was in her childhood home.

I've had the privilege of hearing Kamran, Reza, and Fatemah share their stories. I've heard countless other testimonies that are equally remarkable. Each one is a painful and yet marvelous celebration of the gospel's beauty. Each one is a powerful reminder that despite trials and persecution—perhaps *because* of the suffering—the gospel of Jesus shines and the church of Jesus grows.

Story God Is Writing

We're living in a time when many Christians are suffering for their faith, particularly in Islamic contexts. People often react by preaching fear and hatred of the Muslim world. Yet the apostle Paul reminds us that we are to "rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" (Rom. 12:12). This is our call.

And the story God is writing for Iran reminds us that we have every reason to rejoice and remain confident in our sovereign Lord and the power of his gospel. Jesus will build his church. It's a promise (Matt. 16:18).

I ask that you would keep the people and nation of Iran in your prayers. Please pray for:

- Many more Iranians to give their lives to Christ.
- Endurance and joy for Iranian Christians suffering in prison for their ministry—many have testified to sensing the prayers of the global church while imprisoned.
- More trained leaders to serve as evangelists, church planters, and pastors to disciple the many new Iranian believers.

Persecution threatened to wipe out Iran's tiny church. Instead, by God's mighty hand, his church is growing rapidly. Praise him! ❖

Missionary of the Week

Mario & Elizabeta Kushner
Croatia

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a while since we wrote which shows you how busy were our summer and fall months. We actually have so many things to share with you, that I thought about sending two or three consecutive updates, but I will condense it into this one update instead.

First of all, after the renovations we did to our worship hall with the help of our

Northern Irish brethren, we were gifted new chairs. With funds donated by Dundalk Baptist Church (Ireland), a small Baptist church near us, and our Baptist Union, we were able to purchase chairs which make the room look great, and our church services much more comfortable.



At the start of the summer we had our first public outreach event — a short jazz concert in the middle of the main square of Virovitica, where we had three musicians from the US play for a little over an hour and during which the gospel was preached to many who were passing by or sitting in surrounding cafés.

The summer ended on a less pleasant note: A dear member of our church (Mirko — one of the original faithful four of which I wrote previously) has passed away and I conducted my first funeral. It was a good opportunity to preach Christ to lost people, even if it was a sad one.

Another sad event was a departure of a family — a young couple with a child has decided not to attend anymore, because they did not want to be a part of a baptist church. When they started attending, they hoped we would change the name of the church and its governing model. The way they suddenly left was a little shocking to the rest of the church, but no major issues came from that.

Thankfully, as the months started getting foggier and colder, God has encouraged us with a few new faces. Please pray for a young woman named Isabella and another woman named Sanya (who was fostered as a child by the previous pastor).



Starting in September, as the academic year started, my schedule got filled up with many lectures and seminars. Besides my regular teaching ministry with the Theological Biblical Academy, I got to travel to Leskovac, Serbia to teach a seminar on the topic on which I did my Master's Thesis and to Split, Croatia to teach an overview of the General Epistles.

The trip to Serbia was very hard on my health, as it took me 18 hrs to get there by train and bus. Since my return I have been having high blood pressure with the accompanying symptoms.



Finally, just two days ago, we had a one-day conference about the future of the Reformation in Croatian churches. It was attended by 26 people from 9 churches, and some of our regular unbelieving guests. The teaching was about the 5 principles of the Reformation (“5 solas”).

Serving Christ,
by ministering to His Church,
Mario and Elizabeta Kushner

Please pray for:

- salvation of our unsaved friends, neighbors, family members, and church visitors (Isabella, Sanya, Milosh...)
- the growth in maturity of all the members of BCVT
- the physical health of the ill and elderly members of BCVT
- strengthening of our relationships within the church
- our marriages and families
- the financial needs for the building renovation
- Elizabeta and me — for protection, direction,

Sunday School Classes & Descriptions

Adult

- “Revelation” - Organ Side Overflow
Room: Matt Coleman
- “Chronological Survey of the Bible” -
Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
- “Church History” - Youth House: Steve
Posner
- “First Songs of Christmas” - Room 28:
Tamera Smith, Women’s Class

Students & Children

- Babies - Room 3: Kay Stanford & Sandra
Bridges
- 1s & 2s - Room 24: Michael & Ruth Klein-
peter/Danny & Kamee Roberson
- 3s & 4s - Room 25: Emily Wise, Susan Su,
Donna Martin
- Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade - Room
200: John & Pam Humphrey
- 3rd-6th Grade Boys - Room 202: Ric
Zittrouer & Richie Mills
- 3rd-6th Grade Girls - Room 204: Mary
Ann Fowler, Amy Horton
- Youth Guys - Room 206: Tim Wade,
Bobby Deloach, Shawn Champion
- Youth Girls - Room 207: Sona Bailey,
Jessica Dimmitt, & Lauren Wade

There is infinitely more evil in the least sin, than there is in the greatest misery and/or affliction that you can ever possibly experience; yes, in fact, there is more evil in the least or smallest sin than there is in all the troubles that have ever been experienced by the world, even more than all the miseries and torments of hell itself...the least or smallest sin can only be washed away and removed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Thomas Brooks

Bible Reading Schedule

December 2018

	1	2 Corinthians 9-11
	2	2 Corin. 12 - Galatians 2
	3	Galatians 3-6
	4	1 Thessalonians
	5	2 Thessalonians
	6	1 Timothy 1-4
	7	1 Timothy 5-6
	8	2 Timothy (1-4)
	9	Titus & Philemon
	10	Hebrews 1-5
	11	Hebrews 6-9
	12	Hebrews 10-11
	13	Hebrews 12-13
	14	James
	15	1 Peter
	16	2 Peter
	17	1 John
	18	2 Jn., 3 Jn., Jude, & Rev 1
	19	Revelation 2-5
	20	Revelation 6-10
	21	Revelation 11-15
	22	Revelation 16-18
	23	Revelation 19-22
	24	Luke 1-2
	25	Luke 3-5
	26	Luke 6-8
	27	Luke 9-11
	28	Luke 12-14
	29	Luke 15-18
	30	Luke 19-20
	31	Luke 21-22



O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant;

O come ye,

O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!



Video and audio recordings of the
messages are available for listening or
downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

For Hearing Impaired

If you have difficulties hearing, we have listening aid devices available. Ask any of the ushers, or the technician in the sound booth, if you are in need of one of these devices.

Nursery December 2

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Carolyn Blanton, Lauren Wade

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Ashley Strickland, Jordan Keller/
Emily Wise, Lilly Horton, Allie Mills

6:00 P.M.

Gena Russell, Haley Bull,
Bethany Humphrey

Nursery December 9

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Donna Martin, Beth Lewis

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Karrie & Lindsey Walker/
Aaron Waite, Linnea Posner

6:00 P.M.

Sona Bailey, Cindy Dimmitt,
Shawn Champion

Ushers December 2

10:30 A.M.

Billy Waters, Johnny Bridges,
Reggie Brown, Bucky Lanier

6:00 P.M.

Jimmy Donaldson, Dean McCraw

Ushers December 9

10:30 A.M.

Jimmy Kicklighter, Jack Moore,
Mike Morris, Danny Roberson

6:00 P.M.

Cole Morris, Kelly Stanford

Sunday Greeters - December 2

Janice Donaldson, Leasa Brown

December Lock-Up Deacons

Jack Moore, Billy Morris, Sr.