



**FBC KARNES CITY**  
 LOVING GOD, LOVING YOU

# THE ANCHOR

*“so we do not drift away”*

Vol 1, Issue 6, November 2010

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## *A Heart Condition...*

Have you noticed as you live life how very cyclical it is? There are times of growth and times of stagnation. Times of joy and times of sorrow. Times of community and times of walking alone. Times of crisis and times of opportunity. As I reflect on all that I've seen in our church over the past few months, I can see how we are going through a cycle as well. This summer was a time of great activity and growth spiritually. People were challenged and changed in many ways. As a church, we pursued God we saw Him do amazing things beyond our ability like the 414 project, 95 kids in VBS, wonderful youth and children's camps and lots of personal growth through Sunday School and FBC University. It was an exciting time, and then fall came. And with fall came school, sports, and a hectic lifestyle that often made it hard to keep God at the center of all that we are and do. Throw in various medical and family emergencies and you find us where we are today, in a part of the cycle where things are not as exciting and it isn't always easy to sense God or His direction for our life.

It is in times like this that we are faced with an important decision to make. In the midst of life and all the crises we face, will we forget all that we have experienced and gone through with God and try once again to make our way through this world on our own power and wisdom, or will we use this season to confirm in our hearts what we already know, that God still rules and to trust in Him in the midst of every circumstance? We see this same question being asked of Jesus in the Bible. In Luke 4 we see Jesus experience the great joy of being baptized and starting His earthly ministry. And what immediately follows? A time of testing in the desert where Jesus had to decide who He would follow and trust in. Jesus' choice was to rest in and trust God in all seasons both good and bad, and to follow Him aggressively to the end. Now that wasn't easy for Jesus. As a matter of fact, it led Him to the cross, but it also kept Him right where He belonged in the center of God's will.

My question then for you church is, what are you choosing in this time? As life gets busy and full and crises erupt all around you, are you finding yourself trusting more in yourself and your own abilities trying to handle and fix all that is going on in your life? Or are you finding yourself daily becoming more and more dependent on the sufficiency of our God? My hope and prayer for us is that in this time we would push in even closer and deeper in our relationship with God. That we would learn to let Him be enough for us when we are overwhelmed and in over our heads. That we would rely on Him when we are exhausted and can't go on. That we would trust Him when we can't see which way to go or what to do. As we continue to grow an intimate love relationship with Jesus, we must get to the point where we can not just say but truly believe that God can and will guide and provide for us. Mature disciples do not let circumstances determine the state of their relationship with God. They expect that everything they go through pushes them farther into God's arms. How will you respond in this season?

### **Weekly Schedule**

#### Sunday:

SS	9:45
Worship	11:00
FBCU	6:00
Youth	6:00
Choir	7:30

#### Wednesday:

Awana	6:00
Prayer Meeting	6:30

### Prayer List



Spiritual Growth  
 Unity as a church  
 The 414 Project  
 Africa Trip  
 Youth/Children's  
 Minister

### **Monthly Memory Verse:**

**John 15:9**  
*As the Father  
 has loved me,  
 so have I  
 loved you.  
 Abide in my  
 love.*



## Announcements & Upcoming Events

\*\* WMU would like to thank the church for giving to the special offerings last month. The church gave \$1018 to the Mary Hill Davis offering and \$418 to the World hunger offering.

\*\* We are hosting the Community Wide Thanksgiving Service this year on Tuesday November 23 at 7:00. There will be punch and cookies served after the service.

\*\* The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the following Friday. We hope everyone enjoys time with their family and look forward to seeing everyone back on Sunday for the morning worship service. Then our annual "Hanging of the Greens" is on Sunday Night.



Thanks to all who were a part of our Deacon Ordination service and potluck lunch. We had a great time of celebration as a church. Please remember these two new deacons as well as those who have served for years as they seek God's desires in leading His Church.



### **What FBC University Means to Me**

Before attending our first course, "Experiencing God" and now our second course, "The Disciple's Cross", I did not know what I did not know. Unbeknownst to me, I was but a kindergartner in my walk of Christianity. I have been "saved" since December 28, 1977, but I did not "attend a church with believers" on any but a short term basis. Last year, I started going to FBC. I joined the choir, got baptized and started going to Prayer Meeting (Wednesday night). One would THINK that I would get better in my walk. Well, one would be wrong. Sure, I did some things I didn't do before and didn't do things that I had done. These "works", though, were small and halting steps.

Then, I joined the FBC University - I guess the Holy Spirit moved me, because "I" wasn't that enthused about it... My attitude has changed, though. I know more about God, Christ and the Holy Spirit than I had in thirty-three years! It was as if I was asleep at the starting line, making no progress. That's changed, now, though. Am I a super-duper Holy Roller? No, but I AM more informed about how God REALLY works. You know, you can SAY, "I'll please God by putting an extra twenty dollars in the collection plate" or work on a project that has all the trimmings of real charitable work, but guess what? It may not be what God wants - so how does that "rock your world"? Or it may be what God wants, but He doesn't want YOU

to work on it! How do you get to know the truth? Get educated! Read your Bible everyday (John 8:31-32), pray mightily (John 15:7), fellowship with believers (John 13:34-35) and share the Good News (Gospel) with non-believers (John 15:8).

"Sure," you say, "that's easy for you..." How is that? As I said before, I was asleep for 33 years - you think I just woke up one day and had all the answers? No, I sought God. He placed the FBC University in my path and convicted me, through the Holy Spirit, to sign up and ATTEND. Each week has been a revelation. Is it all happiness and light? NO! I have cried more in this year than I have in my previous fifty. I've been up and I've been down. I've been tempted to toss it all. But guess what? Through the Word, prayer, and fellowship, I have persevered through Christ who strengthened me (Luke 9:23). There's NO way I could have done this by myself.

I guess I would consider myself in First Grade, now. I've got a long road to travel, but I've got great traveling companions (all of you) and a great leader, Jesus. Will I wobble and fall and sin on occasion? Of course, I'm "broken" as Brother Kevin always says. But I know the steps on how to get up, dust myself off, and get back on the road. In closing, I'd like to say that I love you all and am glad to be on this journey with you! (with apologies to Brother Kevin)  
Cheers  
~ Gordon Lawson



The WMU would like for our church to know that we have an angel among us who is working non-stop to help us with the construction of the Witnessing Dolls that are to go to Africa. I received a letter from her that I would like to share with you.

Charlene Anderson's daughter, Terri Porter, writes, "I hope the dolls are up to your and mom's standards. I have enjoyed making them. I took her fifteen that are for Africa and have another 40 bodies cut out and just waiting for heads. Mom gave me enough material for the heads so I will bring the rest of the dolls the next time I come. They go really fast and I have my little system that works for me and I enjoy it. I try to pray for each doll as I sew, that the child who receives this doll will understand it's meaning and accept Christ. I hope all who handle the dolls will do the same and there is no telling what God can do through these little dolls in the hands of our missionaries. Thank you for allowing me this blessing of making a small contribution towards your African goal. I will make more if the WMU would like me to. I know some of the ladies do not like to sew, but I do. It is so hot here that I stay inside as much as possible and I need things to do. I had been praying for something to do for the Lord way out here and he answered."

God has blessed us with someone who loves the Lord and wants to help and support our project in such a special way.  
~LaVon Johnson



### Sound Bites



*But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? -Galatians 4:12*

Whenever I approach my personal worship time, I am constantly reminded of how much God has done for me, and how there is nothing I can do for myself when it comes to my salvation. Lines from songs like: "A thousand times I fail, still Your mercy remains; O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be; You're beckoning me to come and just be a child at Your feet seeing my need for Thee; and Child of weakness watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all." I love that God has given people over the years such thoughtful words and such beautiful melodies to remind me that I constantly have to depend on Him if I want to have life to the full.

**Announcements:** 1) If you or your kids would like to be involved in the Christmas Cantata, there is still time. We meet on Sunday evenings at 7:30, 2) There are not enough words to thank Mrs. Nora Kuhnel for her years of dedicated service to church and to worship services. If you have been blessed by her music over the years, please don't hesitate to tell her so; I know she's been a blessing to me! 3) Please be in prayer for ways we can connect better in worship both here at home and when we travel to Africa next summer.

~Nathan Jones

### **Stewardship**

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Received</u>
Month:	11,705.14	15,415.69
Year:	117,051.40	146,900.34

\*\*Includes 4 out of 5 weeks

I hope that everyone is as excited as I am that our church is participating in God's work in South Africa. It is just an all around wonderful opportunity. As Christians, we want to walk close to Christ by always being in his word, praying for guidance and direction, and loving and praying for others. When we are obedient, God will open up great opportunities for a believer as well as His Body of Christ -- the church.

When I heard the idea of going on a South African mission trip, I got really excited and wanted to go. As I was in prayer with God regarding going on the trip, I knew there needed to be obedience: obedience so that I may glorify God. I most definitely don't want to go over there and make God look like a fool because I was a fool for not picking up my cross daily.

While I am over there in Africa, I want to show God's love through the love He has shown me. I hope to see lives changed and people come to know Christ.

If anything, we go and plant seeds as well as water the seeds that have been planted by other missionaries.

Through this experience, I pray that God will break me and mold me to be the person who He wants me to be. To become a Disciple, one has no fear in sharing God's word or sharing their testimony with non-believers. I know that the Holy Spirit is already working within me. I have become a better husband, father, friend and follower of Christ.

This mission trip is different and a bit scary. If we remain obedient in Christ, I have total faith that when we land over there, the Holy Spirit will consume us and we will know exactly what to do.

Please continue to pray for us as we prepare to jump on board with God in doing something much bigger than what we are.

~Jason Lum



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## November Birthdays

- |     |                  |     |                 |
|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 9-  | Beatrice Wishert | 25- | Laquita Gibbens |
| 9-  | Stephen Kotara   | 25- | Austen Camber   |
| 9-  | Kirby Haertner   |     |                 |
| 11- | Ray Tiemann      |     |                 |
| 11- | Tricia Kunschik  |     |                 |
| 13- | Johnny Gilley    |     |                 |
| 14- | Joi Davis        |     |                 |
| 15- | Karl Kersh       |     |                 |
| 16- | Tiphonie Short   |     |                 |
| 23- | Amy Gross        |     |                 |

