



February 2018

First Baptist Church of Clewiston

Before I came to Christ, or what I refer to as my heathen years, I came to know what it was to have a lot and also what it was to be in want. So, when I came to Christ, I instantly had a heart for the needy. Monica and I took some steps of faith that made others question our sanity. We literally laid everything on the table to be used by our Lord to further the Kingdom. In every need, we looked for a way that we might help. The need was and is overwhelming. Yet, doing what you can do is enough, even if you have nothing! Because we learned quickly that God does great things with nothing. Besides, most of us in North America are better off than the rest of the world.

As a matter of fact, in North America, we enjoy a standard of living that is unknown in most human history. Forty percent of the rest of earth inhabitants live on two dollars a day. Exasperatingly, the pain is felt here as well. From inner city ghettos to Appalachia, poverty inflicts great pain and despair on our fellow citizens. Furthermore, this great divide between the "haves" and "have-nots" poses an even greater crisis for North American Christians.

When Monica and I became believers we took very seriously the command throughout scripture to have compassion for the poor. We saw it as part of our job description, according to Matthew 25:31–46. We opened our home as therapeutic foster parents to over 60 young people based on 1 John 3:17 "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" Monica began her journey into psychology on the foundation that we are to do more than feel bad for the down trodden. She clearly had a gift from God based on the fact that people would come out of the blue to seek her counsel. So, we prayed and committed the long journey to the Lord. We planned and worked. She worked at Cracker Barrel, worked at summer camp and went to college full-time, while helping raise a family in order to meet the commitment that we made to God. She graduated with honors at her bachelor level and master's level and her work at the doctorate level is ground breaking. It is true that I am bias, however, there is no exaggeration. She has always given the glory to God, having experienced the difficult journey; there is only one explanation. . . God did it!

Of course, there is no one size fits all and no one is called to do everything. But everyone is called to do something. How is God pulling at your heart to fulfill this biblical mandate? Some are called to be hands on, in the trenches while some are called to financially support the work of front line workers. The fact is that every Christian has their own set of gifts and talents and responsibilities for influencing the course of history as we fulfill the biblical mandate to help the poor.

There is certainly no shortage of work to be done. Christians can work in churches and parachurch organizations. Some work through public policy to bring about change. Some simply minister as individuals. Regardless, the poor, like the rest of us, have a wide range of physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs. Therefore, appropriate interventions include a vast array of developmental needs. Frankly, people are complex and need every body to play their part in an effort to become healthier. Ask yourself this month, "Am I spending time on needless things when that time could be better spent fulfilling the scriptural mandate to help those in need?"

Pastor Mike

February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship	5	6	7 12 PM XYZ Luncheon 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry (Revive)	8	9	10
11 8:30 AM Sonrise Cafe 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship (Revive with us) 12:15 PM Finance Com- mittee Mtg 6 PM Deacons' Meeting	12	13 6:00 PM Gideons' Meeting	14 6:30 PM Bible Study/Church Conference 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship with Lord's Supper	19 President's Day	20	21 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	22	23	24
25 8:00 AM Brotherhood Breakfast 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship	26	27	28 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry			

XYZ Program & Luncheon

XTRA YEARS OF ZEST

Senior Adult Fellowship
Wednesday, February 7

12:00 PM

February Nursery Schedule Sunday Morning 3 Yr. Old/ Pre- K

02/04 - Lydia McClusky & Dylan Gilde

02/11 - Yamile & Eileen Perez

02/18 - Monica & Dakota Brennan

02/25 - Rossy & Daniela Porras

Sun Rise Cafe

Sunday, February 11

8:30 AM

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast before Sunday School.

February Birthdays

02/01 - Carlette Redish

02/03 - Delores Duncan

02/07 - Rick Shearer

02/18 - Eileen Perez

02/19 - Mary Pullen

02/23 - Nadia Galiano

02/28 - Myrtice Sutton



Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 PM
& Sunday, February 11 at 11:00 AM

The Revive Band from Word of Life will be leading a time of group singing and special music with our youth and children on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 PM. On Sunday, February 11 they will be with us for our morning worship service. A love offering will be taken up on Sunday, February 11 to help cover the costs of the ministry. Come and be blessed.

Dear FBC Family,

I just want to thank you all for the prayers, cards, gifts, meals, visits and words of encouragement on my journey to wellness. It's just one trial while on this road called "Life" and I thank you for making it easier.

"Giving Thanks In All Things"; even this.

Love,

Lorina Scheffler