

## THE POINT OF NO RETURN

There are endless books entitled "Point of No Return". This phrase conjures up in our mind a sense of finality. We understand, up to a certain point, we have the ability to make our own choices but once we cross over a defined barrier there is no going back. This concept, *the point of no return*, is emphasized in the song "I have decided to follow Jesus". In fact, the refrain includes the phrase, "no turning back, no turning back".

One of the subtle concepts embedded in this phrase is commitment. Once a person decides to go in a certain direction they've committed, there is no going back. Naturally, people do not like to be harnessed or forced to make decisions, especially where they cannot change our minds. Someone once said, "a man with one watch knows the time; a man with two is never quite sure." The Apostle James laments over the double minded man because his loyalty is divided making him unreliable and unstable in all of his dealings. Harry Truman once said, "Some questions cannot be answered, but they can be decided."

This introduction leads me to a larger point I want to make about decisions and commitment. The Bible is chock-full of narratives, where people are forced to decide or commit because they'd come to *the point of no return*. The first example is found in Matthew 19:21. Jesus encounters a man who had walked a prosperous path, he had attained many riches. Apparently, not being totally satisfied with his possessions he asks our Lord "Master, what good deed must I do to possess eternal life?" This one question led this man to *the point of no return*. Jesus retorts by saying, to possess eternal life you'll have to completely relinquish your earthly possessions, and follow Me. Though the man did not have all the facts about what it would cost to follow Jesus, he had enough information to make an informed decision, he committed not to follow.

In contrast, we discover a similar narrative relating to another encounter Jesus had, this time with a woman. This example is found in John 4, where Jesus is found waiting at a well with expectation to meet a woman who was desperately thirsty for water. After a brief discussion about cultural taboos and norms Jesus confronts her about her need for living water. Unbeknownst to her, Jesus was leading her to *the point of no return*. After our Lord finished explaining the obvious differences between "well water" and "living water" this dear woman had to make a choice, she either had to commit to accept the "living water" Christ offered her or decline and die in her sins. Praise the Lord, this narrative ends completely different than the previous example. In verse 15 we discover her decision, "Please, sir," "give me this water!"

It's been said, "If we are neutral on spiritual matters, eventually we'll find ourselves operating against heaven." Christians, of all people, should possess deep convictions, for if Satan controls our will he will control our outcomes. Yet, if God controls our will, then He will control our destiny. We must hold on to Psalms 37:5 (NLT) "Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you."

At those points in our life, when we have to accept a "no return" policy with our choices, may we be decisive in our decisions to obey Christ, and His word. May we not be like the folks who say, "My decision is maybe, and that's final!" Psalms 19:14 (NLT) *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

With love from above,

Pastor Tim



## CSB Disaster Relief Training Event

First Southern Baptist Church San Lorenzo

Saturday, September 10, 2016 - 8:30 am

### Why is our church hosting the Disaster Relief

**Training event at our church?** Volunteers who desire to participate in Disaster Relief efforts must complete D.R. training courses offered exclusively by the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Who should sign up?** This event is for new and returning volunteers needing certification, recertification and or additional training.

**What training is available at this event?** Though the disaster relief training is exhaustive, not every area of training will be available at this event. The classes for certification offered at this training will include:

- **Orientation/Operational Stress First Aid - OSFA**
- **Administrative Assistant** - Working under the direction of a White or Blue Cap leader responding to a D.R., the Administrative Assistant manages on-site office procedures and other tasks as assigned. Computer skills are necessary. Bring laptops, tablets and or smart-phones.
- **Cleanup and Recovery** - Training includes various kinds of debris removal, temporary repairs and site cleaning to restore structures to life after a disaster.
- **Mass Feeding** - Through classroom and hands-on training, volunteers will learn to prepare and serve meals during disaster deployment.

Individuals completing the course will receive Disaster Relief identification along with a yellow hat and shirt. These items will identify you as an affiliate of the Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief team.

**How much does it cost?** The cost is \$50 before Sept. 5th and \$70 after.

For more information please see the flyer and sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the fellowship hall.



## Operation Christmas Child

Here is an opportunity to join thousands of others to make a child's Christmas something special. Everyone's participation is vital, so we want to thank those who participate in this worthy cause, in advance for your help.

Here are the items that need to be purchased:

- **Toys** such as dolls, stuffed animals, cars, puzzles, jump ropes, etc.
- **School Supplies** books, pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, coloring books, etc.
- **Non-Liquid Hygiene Items** toothbrushes, bar of soap, washcloths, combs, etc.

If not purchasing, donations will be accepted by putting your contribution in a pink envelope and marking it OCC. We'll need an additional \$7 for shipping each box.

For more information please see Chery Hanna.

## Afghan Backpack Event

On August the 13th, several folks gathered to stuff school supplies into over a hundred backpacks for the Afghani children in Fremont. This event was sponsored by our **Woman on Mission's** group and Tim Fortescue; Tim is a local Afghani missionary.

May this expression of love shine the light of God's truth into the hearts and minds of those children receiving one of these backpacks. We also pray for Tim and the work he is doing among this people group.

## Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform

**Devon Henesley** - Grandson of Jean Johnson  
**Branch** - Navy **Rank** - Chief  
**Assignment** - Japan

**Brandon Woolworth** - Nephew of Chery Hanna  
**Branch** - Air Force  
**Assignment** - Tucson, Arizona

**Megan Hines** - USNA - Pastor Tim's Daughter

**MIDN** - Megan Hines - 2nd year  
**1 Wilson Rd.**  
**P.O. Box 12610**  
**Annapolis, Maryland 21412**



**First Southern Baptist Church**  
 15503 Usher Street  
 San Lorenzo, CA 94580  
 church@fsbcsl.org  
 (510) 276-3688

**Sunday Services**

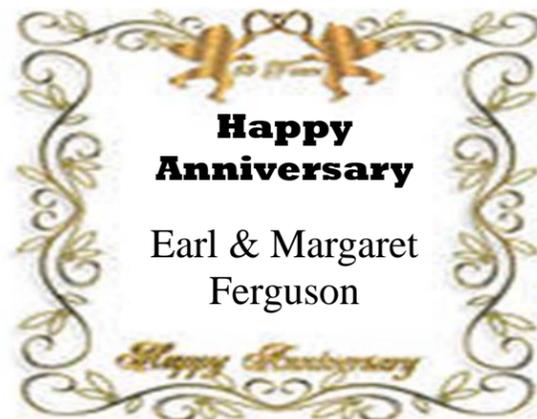
Sunday School 9:30 am  
 Morning Worship 10:45 am

**Wednesday**

- Dinner - 5:00 pm  
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm  
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm



1st - Sean Kelleher  
 2nd - John Fellows  
 4th - Elliott Seigal  
 6th - Ken Hillard  
 17th - Bonnie Swyers



10th - Disaster Relief Training - 8:30 am  
 11th - CMO Mission Game Night - 6:00 pm  
 12th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am  
 17th - Women on Mission - 10:00 am  
 22nd - Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm  
 24th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am



**First Southern Baptist Church**  
**Newsletter**

**Glorifying God ~ Loving One Another ~ Reaching the World**

**Pastor: Tim Hines**

Volume 4 Issue 9

www.fsbcsl.org

September 2016



**Matthew 4:18-20**

*As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.*

Why give to CMO: To fulfill the Great Commission by cooperating with other California Southern Baptist Convention churches to reach the 33 million unsaved Californians for Christ. That 33 million represents almost nine of 10 Californians!

CMO state goal for 2016: \$430,000

Amount given to CMO in 2015: \$430,330.32 (101.25% of \$425,000 goal)

Amount of CMO used to support California mission projects: 100%

Total 2016 CSBC Cooperative Program budget: \$6.8 million

Year offering started: 1942 Goal in 1942: \$1,000

Amount given in 1942: \$832.70 from 22 churches

What types of projects does the CMO support?

- ◆ Starting new churches
- ◆ Evangelism projects such as block party trailers for associations
- ◆ Disaster Relief ministries
- ◆ Migrant missions for the more than 20 state-operated migrant centers
- ◆ Local projects sponsored by CSBC associations