



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter

May 2017

*For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away. Song of Solomon 2:11-13*

## **WELCOME!**

Welcome to the second issue of the First Baptist Church Missions Newsletter. This letter provides church information from different mission ministries of First Baptist. It continues to recognize some of our local, national and international missions ministry, as well as shares information from First Baptist Church.

## **Forecasting the Seasons:**

It is the belief that the reason we have spring and summer is because the earth moves closer to the sun, and the reason we have autumn and winter is because the earth moves away from the sun. The earth spins at the same rate of speed, moves in the same direction, and travels the same path year around. During the year, the earth tilts from one direction to another. When it tilts some of us will experience a change in the seasons. And with each change of season, we plan what we are going to do.

When we look in the book of Genesis, we notice that the seasons have always changed. Genesis 8:22 says *“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”* The seasons have a significant purpose in God’s creation. We can take each season of the year and see how they relate to our spiritual lives:

During spring the plants grow, animals procreate, trees and flowers bud, and insects return to the warm air. In our very own lives, we may blossom, prosper, grow, feel anew, and even become excited by God’s blessings. In the book of Deuteronomy we learn what spring time can feel like in our lives. Deuteronomy 28:12 tells us *“The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.”*

During the summer, heat, rain storms, tornados and hurricanes take center stage. Is there anyone who has not faced a storm in their lives? In the book of Psalms, we learn that God only has to speak the words and the storms in our lives will disappear, Psalm 107:29, *“He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.”*

Although many people like autumn, it does bring its own sense of sadness: flowers die, trees lose their leaves, animals and insects go into hibernation. During this season of loss in our lives, God is very descriptive in the book of Isaiah. He provides hope by letting us know *“the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever”*. Isaiah 40:8.

And there is winter. In some places, it is harsh, bitter, unwelcoming, and creates a scene of lifelessness for its inhabitants. Even when times like these enter in our life, God has a word that we can trust and stand by. Ephesians 4:31-32 says *“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

No matter what plans we make in our lives, the seasons are unpredictable. And regardless of what season we are in, we should never forget about God. From a season of prosperity to a season of disparity, He is and always will be our provider, comforter, and sustainer. The seasons will change many times during the course of our lives, but the Word of God never changes.

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## *MISSION'S MESSAGES*



### *Ponemah: Pastor Brian Leitz*

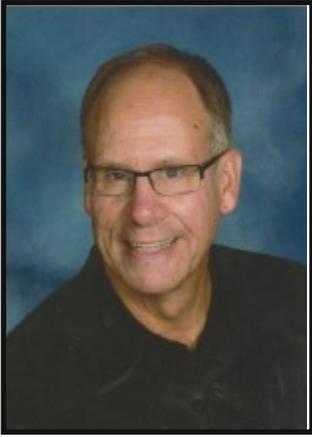
The First Baptist Church youth group has been involved in the Ponemah ministry on a regular basis since the summer of 2015. The youth group spends the second Sunday of every month teaching Sunday school and building relationships with about 12 to 15 children ranging in age from 3 to 17. Our focus through this ministry is to build lasting relationships and share the love of Jesus Christ. We teach a Bible lesson, sing songs, and then spend the remainder of our time sharing in their lives. There have been relationships formed over the past two years which has opened the door to discussions about the love of Jesus Christ. There have been difficulties at times as some of the children resist our lessons, but God is good and we trust that he has a plan for those moments as well. The one regret is that we don't get to spend more time in Ponemah. We live far enough away that weekly visits are not an option throughout the school, but summer offer more opportunity.

Throughout the summer the chapel in Ponemah hosts churches from around the country to join in the ministry by doing a Vacation Bible School for the children in the area. The First Baptist youth group participates in the activities by welcoming the churches in and encouraging the youth and staff in their ministry opportunities. We participate in a couple of the day's activities to further build relationships and we assist in an end of the week picnic where the children and their families are welcome to attend. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know the elders in the community and share the love of Christ.

Recently the youth group praise and worship team lead music during the Sunday service in Ponemah which was an amazing opportunity and blessing for our young people. The youth group is hopeful that they will be able to lead an entire service at some point this summer which would include music, sermon, and children's ministry. We are excited to be a part of this ministry in Ponemah and are looking forward to many more opportunities to share the love of Christ up there with our beautiful neighbors to the north.

### *Ponemah: Pam Harris*

## *Word from our Pastor*



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