



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarter

November 2017

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*And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."  
Luke 10:2*

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

**Laboring the Fields:** Jesus said, "*The harvest is plentiful but the workers (laborers) are few*" - *Matthew 9:37; Luke 10:2*. Have we ever notice how the quality of service has deteriorated over the years. There seems to be plenty of work to do, but no one really wants to do it. I specifically remember going into Burger King one Saturday morning to get breakfast and saw that the express line was extremely long. So I decided to go inside and discovered the line inside was just as long. I was quite surprised at what I saw; there were only two workers, both of whom were managers. So I asked myself where were the other employees. Imagine seeing one worker trying to prepare the food, while another one was taking all of the orders, for over 30 people. There was, indeed, plenty of work to be done, but a shortage of workers. This is the example Jesus is expressing to His servants. The Earth is God's garden, which is filled with so many different kinds of fields. According to *1 Corinthians 3:9*, people (we) are the fields of God, and the people need a lot of tending to, but there are so few workers in the fields. Why are there so few workers?

Man's definition of a laborer is someone who does an unskilled job, usually working with their hands. However, in God's eyes, Laborers serve on a much more important level. God teaches, trains, mentors, coaches, guides, leads, and educates His laborers.

Let us explore why God deems Laborers as a unique position in His kingdom.

According to *1 Corinthians 3:6* a Laborer is involved in planting and watering. Planting is putting or setting something in the ground for growth. It is a Laborer's duty to plant the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the hearts of non-believers. Watering is pouring or sprinkling water over an area of the ground, in order to encourage plant growth. It is not enough to tell someone about Jesus, but we are supposed to inspire and reassure others about God's love and Jesus' sacrifice. It is a continuing process. We must always continue teaching and preaching God's Word to everyone, believers and non-believers alike, consistently, and continually.

According to *1 Corinthians 3:10-11* a Laborer lays the foundation and builds on that foundation. The foundation is the lowest load-bearing part of a building. The purpose of a foundation is to hold up and hold together anything that we build upon it. If properly built, a foundation can withstand the storms of life above it, and the shifting of the sand beneath it. "A strong foundation helps us to withstand abuse, mistreatment, and the oppressions of life."

Laborers are crucial in the Kingdom of God. They are the ones who live down in the trenches, facing the battles head own. Laborers are called to fulfill a particular and special need. A Laborer is a Disciple enthusiastically involved in the practice of evangelizing the lost and/or establishing the saved. "Yes, the harvest is plentiful, and the laborers are few. Are we laboring for God? If not, who are we working for?"

# MISSION'S MESSAGES

Saje N. Allen: Teen Missions International



Panama San Blas Islands

June 17-August 4

**Mission Organization:** Teen Missions is a pioneer of the concept of providing short-term missions experience for teens. The first teams went out in 1971 and since that time over 50,000 North American youth and an additional 80,000 national youth have assisted with a variety of evangelistic and building projects with over 200 established missions in over 110 countries.

Teen Missions project time on the field (for teens) runs for four to five weeks allowing many work teams to complete significant projects. Two hundred dollars of each North American team member's support cost is built in to donate to the host mission overseas to buy building materials. A portion of each team member's support is used to help sponsor a national teen in an overseas Boot Camp. Each team member is truly making a difference as a summer missionary through work, evangelism, and financial support for local ministries and training.

There were 20 teens and three leaders on my team. It was a very diverse group: two from Minnesota (including me), California, Pennsylvania, Florida, Beijing-China, Alberta-Canada, Nairobi- Kenya, Maine, Vermont, Nebraska and Texas.

**Training for the Mission Field:** I spent approximately nine weeks on the mission field this summer. My mission trip began with two weeks of the Lord's Boot Camp.

**The Lord's Boot Camp:** begins at Teen Missions' rugged 200+ acre training facility and is a no "pamper camp". Teens like me learn teamwork on the Obstacle Course and experience each training activity as a team. Training in basic construction, evangelism, music, drama, and spiritual and practical survival skills are required. Specialty teams receive focused training using drama, choir, clowning, motorcycle, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) , audiovisuals (film teams), sports and/or medical missions. Some teams may receive additional cultural training for travel to sensitive countries and/or cultures.

**My Boot Camp Experience:** We camped in tents the entire time and woke up around 5:00 a.m. for roll call. For roll call, we all go to the flagpole (American) to say the number issued to us so we were accounted for. Afterwards we ran the Obstacle Course. Each aspect of Boot Camp develops character traits necessary to handle the challenges of mission life. Elijah's Chariot, Books of the Bible: as a team, we had two minutes to put together a wall made of wood ammo boxes. Each box had a book of the bible on the side. Only three team members could talk but we all needed to be willing to do our part.

Each part of the obstacle course tests our ability to follow instructions, work together, work within boundaries and support one another: Wilderness Wondering: a two-hundred-yard run through the woods, Mount Sinai: we had to work as a team to move huge culverts, and the Slough of Despondence, a rope swing over the swamp, are examples. There was emphasis on teamwork throughout the training. Each aspect of the obstacle course teaches endurance and courage.

# *MISSION'S MESSAGES*

Biblical themes represented all of the obstacles. For example, The 12 Disciples, objective is to recite the 12 by name. The 5 D's of the Devil, Jacobs Ladder, The Red Sea, and The Wall of Overcoming Fears. Following the obstacle course, we had breakfast, did devotions and went to classes. Bedtime was 10:00 p.m.

When Boot Camp was over there was a candlelight Commissioning Service. Following this service, youth and leaders depart for their specific projects.

## **Saje, how did boot camp affect your spiritual growth and character development?**

It got me into the word a lot more. It helped me to know what is important in life and taught me not to complain about the little things.

## **What type of team projects were you involved with?**

Construction, we helped put in windows at the pastor's church. Using puppets, we did evangelism with children in schools.

## **How did you prepare each day for your personal responsibilities as a team member?**

We had devotions every day for one hour and team devotions for a half hour.

## **Identify two areas of spiritual growth that you focused on this summer?**

I got a lot closer to GOD by reading my bible and studying by myself. In addition, I saw many people, even Christians that needed help.

## **How does Teen Missions prepare youth to return home and share their mission experience?**

Through the process of debriefing. It last for four days, we learn how to share what God has done in our lives. We also learn how to share information about our mission experience, and how to get involved in a local church and youth group.

Saje, thank you for accepting the invitation from the Mission Committee to report on your summer trip.

Mission Committee

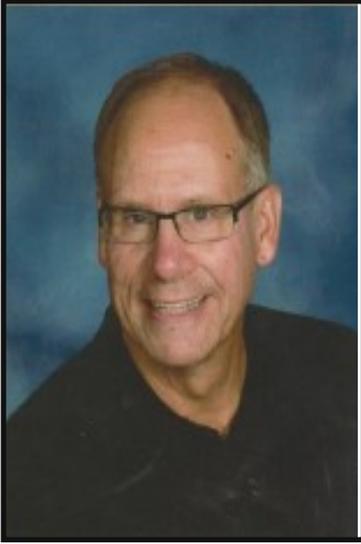
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## **Abraham Hierlmaier Prepares for the Mission Field**



I have been accepted to join Avant Ministries in Western Asia as part of a Business for Transformation team. Avant Ministries, located in (USA) Kansas City, Missouri and (Canada) Winnipeg, MB was formerly Gospel Missionary Union, founded in 1892. Your prayer support is appreciated. And pray for open hearts. As I work to complete my financial requirements, pray that God will provide financial partners that are willing to make that commitment.

## *Word from our Pastor*



### ***A Grateful Heart***

There's a simple chorus I love to sing over and over again. It's entitled, "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart."

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

As we sing this chorus we are reminded of every blessing we have in Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 1:3 it says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." We have so much to be thankful for in Christ. We have the forgiveness of our sins. We are God's children. We have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside us. We have the promises of God in His Word. We have an eternal home in heaven, to just name a few of the spiritual blessings.

One of the themes in the book of Psalms is giving thanks to the Lord. Psalm 100:4-5, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy *is* everlasting, And His truth *endures* to all generations.

**When we realize all that we have in Christ, we need to constantly thank Him even when we don't feel like it. It's so easy to take things for granted and develop an ungrateful heart. As we approach the season of thanksgiving, Let us give thanks with a grateful heart.**

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