



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST / 2023



Have you ever wondered if you can stop being saved? Is it possible for someone who has trusted in Jesus and genuinely been converted to stop believing and decide that he doesn't want to follow Jesus any longer? Do you know people in your family or in your life who seemed to be faithfully following the Lord at some point in the past but no longer lives for God? Can you think of people who were regularly with us worshipping and serving as members of our church who have not gathered with us for months or even years? How should we think about them? What does the Bible say about people in that situation? Should you be worried that one day you

may fall away from the Lord? I am looking forward to taking an in-depth look at these questions and others as part of our Answers in August series this year. We will spend the next four Sunday evenings discussing the idea of Eternal Security (sometimes called the "Perseverance of the Saints" or "Once Saved Always Saved").

On August 5, we will think about what Christians throughout history have thought about this topic as well as what Baptists and other types of churches think about this today. We will spend August 12 thinking about the whole message of the Bible and what it has to say about the idea of Eternal Security. On August

19, we will look at some specific Bible passages and think through how we understand them in light of the Bible's overall message.

We will have time for questions at the end of each night, but we will also devote the full hour on August 26 to taking your questions. On that night, all 4 of your pastors will be on the stage ready to address whatever questions may come up.

If you are new to our church or if you are not a regular Sunday evening attendee, let me encourage you to be here for this series. We are only asking for 4 Sundays, and I am convinced that it will be worth this small commitment!

# Rest and Renewal: Thoughts after Sabbatical

## Josh Greene | Pastor

Thank you so very much for the wonderful gift of a two-month sabbatical.

Over the last three months, I have learned a lot about rest and sabbath and pace-of-life and boundaries.

It is a gift from God and a special relationship for a church to lovingly ask their pastor to take a break and step away for a season. This sabbatical was a break that I did not know I needed. I now know that I needed it in a large and serious way. God in His kind providence allowed the timing of everything to be so good that many things worked out well. For that I am humbled and grateful.

I am also immensely grateful to God for our other three pastors. Pastor Matt, Pastor Jake, and Pastor Wamble are faithful servants of Jesus, and they shepherd the flock well. They are also good preachers. What a blessing it is to me and to our church to have 4 united pastors. I am thankful to them and for them!

In this stage of life, I am learning a lot. I am learning a lot about myself and my limitations, capacities, and weaknesses. God has reminded me repeatedly that Paul had an issue he struggled with, and that Paul prayed for God to take it away. God's response to that prayer request was "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9) I am learning that I must live totally dependent on God. That is a good thing! I can only be a good pastor to our

church if it is God's power enabling me. May that always be the case for His glory!

There is a short phrase from the Bible that I want to leave you with - "**Jesus often withdrew...**" (Luke 5:16). It was the morning of Thursday, June 15th that I was home resting during my sabbatical break, and I was reading through the Gospel of Luke. This short statement hit me like a sledge-hammer - **Jesus often withdrew!**

I love being around people. I especially love being around you people. FBC Fairdale people are so life-giving to me. God uses our church family to energize me.

But God used that verse to teach me that I need to learn to withdraw some. If Jesus did it, then I too need to do it. And I am learning that. I am learning more and more about rest and sabbath and pace-of-life and boundaries.

And so now here I am post-sabbatical with a renewed appreciation for our solid, healthy church! God is working in us! Thank you for supporting me through my weaknesses. Thank you for being patient. Thank you for loving my family.

May God give us many more years together! To God be the Glory!

## BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

This month, let us pray for our families and community as school starts.

Pray that:

- Teachers & staff would be strengthened and encouraged as they return to work.
- Christian teachers & staff would have opportunities to be a light of Gospel love and truth in their schools.
- Our students would work hard and be kind to others.
- Christian students would have opportunities to share the Gospel with their classmates.
- Parents would prioritize discipling their children in the midst of busier schedules.
- Our church would be an encouragement and support to the schools through our various church ministries and personal involvement.

# God at Work Around the World!

**Chris Harrod | Director of Missions**

After 4 years, our church finally had the opportunity this year to return to Ecuador and to Camp Chacauco. We were able to take a team of 25 people with us, and for many of us (including myself), it was our first time going to Camp Chacauco. It was such an encouraging and exciting trip. We were in Ecuador for only a week and a day, but we got to witness great things that God is doing and had the opportunity to partner with believers from around the world.

There are a three things that I want to mention, that I think will encourage and excite you:

1. God is working in Ecuador and the believers we met are strong in their faith. We got to worship together with several churches on Sunday morning for a combined worship service. We all shared how we see God working in our lives and how he is working in the world, and this was a really encouraging and refreshing time. Believers in the church were all sharing ways they are thankful to God, in similar ways that people in our church would say! We also got to worship with them, observe a baptism, and take the Lord's Supper together. What a refreshing and powerful reminder it was that believers all over the world worship the same God, who is just as faithful and good to them as he is to us.

2. We got to see many kids hear the Gospel and some come to profess faith in Jesus! Almost 200 kids came to Camp Chacauco for the week, and all of them had the opportunity to hear the Gospel, memorize Scripture, see the love of God through believing adults, and watch skits of Old Testament

Bible stories (narrated by Scooby Doo of course). Our team helped out the staff by washing dishes, serving food, sweeping and cleaning, and spending time with the kids. It was so good getting to serve the kids and show them the love of God. At the end of camp, the Gospel was shared clearly to the kids, and around 25 kids told the staff that they wanted to follow Jesus. Please be praying for these kids, that the gospel seed planted in their hearts would have deep roots and would change their lives.

3. Our church should be encouraged by and thankful for the team that we sent. Everyone on the team, both old and young, came ready to serve and represented our church well. Throughout the week, even through sickness and difficulties, everyone on the team displayed a servant's heart, a great attitude, and a desire for the kids at Camp Chacauco and the people of Ecuador to hear the Gospel. It is such a great thing that our church in Fairdale, KY can come alongside the church in Patate, Ecuador to worship and serve God together.

Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support for our team and for Ecuador. While the team we sent got to witness God's work among the nations first hand, the rest of our church praying throughout the week played just as critical of a role in the spread of the Gospel. Please continue to pray that the Gospel would continue to spread throughout Ecuador, and that many more people would believe in Jesus, especially the children that heard the Gospel and have not yet believed.

