



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

## A LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS



As a church, we have been reading through the book of Acts and Isaiah this summer. At the beginning of Acts, Jesus, proclaims to his disciples that they will be his witness “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Later, we see the Gospel being preached to Jews “from every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:5) and then being declared to Gentiles (Acts 10-11). It is clear from this that the message of salvation in Jesus is a message for all people every where.

Reading the book of Isaiah alongside Acts makes it clear that this idea of salvation for all people was not something new that came along during the time of Jesus. Isaiah 9 talks about how the Messiah will make glorious the “land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations” and will bring light to those who have previously walked in darkness. Later in the book, this theme is repeated with the Messiah being declared as “a light for the nations” (Isa. 42:6; 49:6).

The newsletter this month is focused on the mission-

ary families that our church supports. These families are dedicating their livelihood to ensuring that the Light of the Nations is declared to the ends of the earth. But even those of us who stay here in Fairdale can keep this truth front and center in our hearts as we go about our day. We can be ready and willing to speak the truth of the gospel to our neighbors, we can pray for our missionary families, and we can help support and encourage them as they spread the light of salvation throughout the nations.

# Good News From a Far Country

Josh Greene | Pastor

It sure has been hot lately. Walking outside for even just a brief few minutes will cause you to begin sweating. If you find yourself out in this heat for any extended period of time, then you know how nice it is to come back inside for a cold drink. A cold drink on a hot day is so refreshing. Proverbs 25:25 understands this truth, stating, “Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”

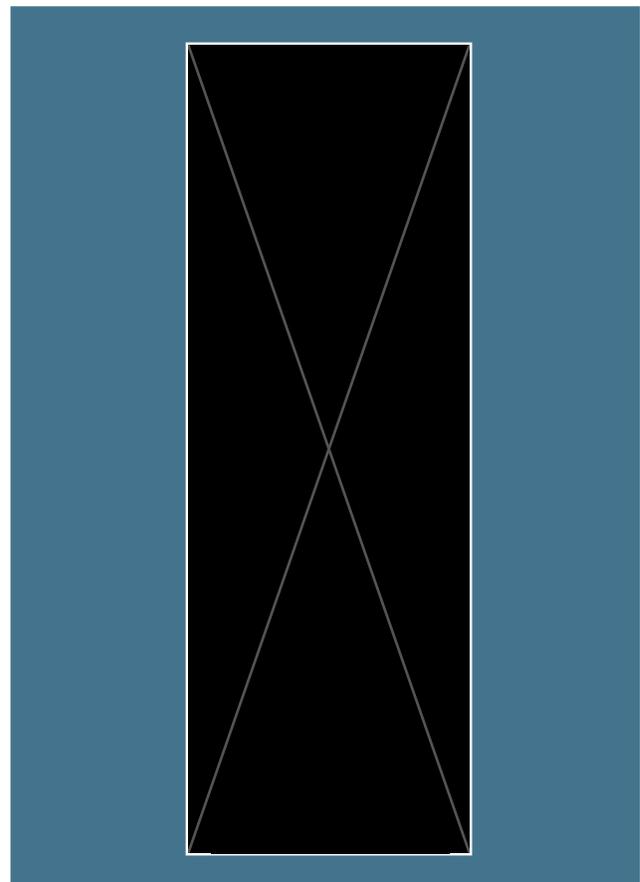
Over the next month, our church will send out our second missionary family of 2025. And over the remainder of this year, we will be finalizing plans to send out a third missionary family. Lord willing, they will be leaving in 2026. There are many emotions that come with sending out missionaries. Our church family has been processing these emotions for about the last year. On one hand, it is all so happy and good. People are going to serve the Lord. The church is supporting and sending out people. And on the other hand, it is sad. We miss them. We think about them regularly. We wish we could see them. The emotions that come with sending missionaries are real.

But there is a big blessing that comes with it. A source of joy and encouragement that I had not considered - receiving the monthly updates/newsletters. We are at the point now that our church family (and the entire support team) is receiving a monthly newsletter from our missionary families. And these are so good. I get excited when I see them show up in my e-mail inbox. They have information about how they are adjusting and feeling. They have cute little updates about their kids and home lives. They have fascinating information about the gospel ministry being done there. They have personal updates that continue the relationship. They contain so much encourage-

ment! In a beautiful way, they continue the healthy relationship between the sender and the sent.

As I read these newsletters, I feel my life and soul and faith refreshed! These newsletters are “good news from a far country,” and they come to us “like cold water to a thirsty soul.” We thank God for the newsletters our missionaries send us! If you are a part of FBCF and you are not receiving the monthly newsletters that our missionaries are sending out, then I encourage you to get signed up right away. They are such a blessing and source of refreshment.

Use the QR codes here or contact the church office to sign up.



# Encouragement and Prayer for our Missionary Families

**Chris Harrod | Director of Missions**

**A** little over four years ago, the Hoovers, Hughes, and Elizabeth and I met together in classroom 1 after church to encourage each other, pray for one another, and talk about our desire for international missions (over some Jimmy Johns of course). At the time, none of us had kids and moving overseas was something in the future we were each aspiring to.

Fast forward to four years later and the Hoovers are now in Southeast Asia, the Hughes are moving to Japan this month, and we are in the process of moving to North Africa. Along the way, we've been able to continue meeting together every other month to continue that encouragement, grow in friendship, and pray for one another. Those times have been so meaningful to us. Without fail, every time we wrapped up, we would all comment about how encouraging our time together was. It drew us closer to the Lord, grew our excitement to take the Gospel to the nations, and grew us closer together as friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

A couple weeks from now on July 20, we will be commissioning the Hughes as they are being sent to Yokohama, Japan. While they are here and before they go, I'd like to ask you to take some time to intentionally consider the Hughes family: How have they been an encouragement to you as your brother and sister in Christ? How have you seen them grow? What are some ways they've faithfully served our church? How can you encourage them as they make this next step into where God is leading them? Paul tells the Thessalonian church in 1 Thess. 5:11 to "encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing."

As we encourage them, let's also pray for them as they go. Pray that the light of the Gospel would be spread through them, so many Japanese people would know and believe in Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14 are good verses that you can pray through, that they would be true for Robbie and Briana:

*"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*



The Hughes will have a farewell party on Saturday July 12, from 2-5 p.m. at the church. If you are able, please make an effort to come and spend some time with them!

# Reminders

## **Summer Schedule Changes**

*No Midweek Bible Studies or Sunday Evening services in July*  
Men's and Ladies' Midweek Bible Studies Resume August 6 & 7  
Sunday Evening Services Resume August 10

**Morning Playdate | 10:00 a.m.**  
July 15 | August 19 | September 16

**Hughes Commissioning Service | July 20**

**Prayer Breakfasts**  
Men's - July 19 - 8:00 a.m.  
Ladies' - July 26 - 9:00 a.m.

## **Answers in August**

We will be looking at what the Bible says about Israel and how believers should relate to Israel today. Join us Sunday evenings on August 10, 17, & 24 for teaching and then on September 7 for a Q&A and discussion session with the pastors.

**Church Suppers Resume | August 13**

**24 Hours of Prayer | August 15 & 16**

**Men's Ministry Dinner | August 26**

# Church Staff

