

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

October 12, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 9

Pastor's Word

The word is "stop"! Stop - to cease movement.

We need to "stop" before proceeding.

Recently I attended a pastor's retreat in Northern California. The road leading to the camp had two sections that were under repair. So, the two-lane road became a one lane road in these two sections. Both required drivers to stop before proceeding.

The first section had a stop sign with a stop light. After stopping at the stop sign you needed to wait until the light turned green before proceeding. This was because you could not see the end of the lane from where you had stopped so you needed to wait until it was clear. The second section had a stop sign and a sign which read "Stop – proceed when clear". Because from where you stopped you could see the end of the lane and see if any cars were coming! In both sections you had to stop before proceeding.

Stop before proceeding is wise counsel. There are times when we need to do this. This is true in an individual's life and in the life of the church.

One thing the Covid pandemic has caused us to do is stop. God wanted us to and wants us to stop before proceeding. We were lost in our busyness. God wants us to recenter our life and the church on Him. He wants us to reconnect to His purpose, mission and agenda, not ours!

We must not go back to what it was like before the pandemic, especially since it wasn't working. Insanity has been defined as "doing the same thing over and over expecting different results." It's tempting to think you can keep doing what we did before the pandemic, but it would be insane to do so! If we think we can just pick up where we left off we would be wrong in our thinking. Let me repeat for importance... God stopped us for a reason, we need to proceed with caution and clarity.

We need to stop before we proceed and do a few necessary things:

1. We need to **stop and pray**, seeking God, humbling and surrendering our will to His.
2. We need to **stop and listen** and hear His voice and then respond in obedience.
3. We need to **stop and watch** for how and where He is working.
4. We need to **stop, pray and proceed** in joining Him in what He is doing.

"Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life. You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail."

Proverbs 19:20-21 NLT

Pastor Jerry

RE-ENGAGE
CALIFORNIA MISSION OFFERING

Thank you to all those who gave to the California Mission Offering last month.

October Verse of the Month

*Do your best, prepare for the worst—
then trust God to bring victory.*

Proverbs 21:31 MSG

First Southern Baptist Church

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Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

A Pinned Note from the Pastor's Wife



It's time for **Operation Christmas Child**

Since 1993 Samaritan's Purse has delivered shoebox gifts in over 160 nations and territories including more than 50 hard-to-reach countries. There are three distinct ways you and I can be a part of this ministry.



1) PRAY

- Pray for the worldwide ministry of Samaritan's Purse as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift.
- Join their Prayer Network. Sign up at SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/PRAYWITHOCC

2) GIVE

- Pack a shoebox!
- A \$9 donation per shoebox helps with project costs such as collecting, processing, shipping, training local churches, and producing **The Greatest Gift** gospel booklets.
- Support the Greatest Journey Discipleship Program. It takes \$6 to support a child in this program. Give via SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/TGJ



3) VOLUNTEER

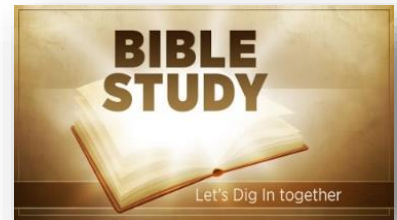
- Short-Term Volunteer
- Project Leader
- Year-Round Volunteer



Our church family will have OCC shoeboxes and labels available starting Sunday, October 17th. Our final collection Sunday will be November 21st. Completed boxes can be dropped off at the church office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday – Friday, or at church on Sundays.

*"Every shoebox is an opportunity to reach a child with the gospel. Every shoebox gift is designed to be unique, representing how special each child is to God. This is our opportunity to fill each shoebox with quality gifts – including school supplies, hygiene items, toys, and other fun items – for a girl or boy, ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Adding a personal note and photo often mean the most to a child. God can use the gift of a shoebox to open hearts to receive His love. Local Christians then distribute the gifts during outreach events, telling the children about **God's Greatest Gift, Jesus Christ.**"*

ALSO, we will be having a churchwide packing party on Saturday, November 13th at 11:00 a.m. If you have items you would like to donate please let me know through the church office. So **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**



Opportunities available at FSBC to study God's Word together:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. both in-person and on FB

Women's Friday morning Bible study is on break until early 2022.

JOIN US

For more information call the church office at 784-1641.

Follow us on the church's Facebook page at **First Southern Baptist Church:**

- "Worship and Word" broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays by Pastor Jerry; upon viewing you are encouraged to **Share** and **Like** so that it will be available to your friends on FB



- Also, "Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Jerry" broadcast at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

New opportunity happening at FSBC



Dates and time still to be determined but if you have lost a loved one and want to navigate the grief process then this is the group for you.

Watch our FB page, announcements on our broadcasts as well as Sunday morning worship for upcoming information on this group.

As it says in the song, **"This is where the healing begins..."**

North American Mission Board

Prayer Calendar – October 2021

Anders and Jessica Snyder

Church Replanter

Calvary Church Nampa

Nampa, ID



Pray for grace and boldness to make Jesus non-ignorable in Nampa and to the ends of the earth. Pray for a culture of missionary disciple-makers to take root and multiply.

Michael and Janet Koontz

Chaplain

Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Roane County Sheriff's Office

Harriman, TN



Pray for the men and women of the Roane County Sheriff's Office. Pray for wisdom and strength in these difficult days for law enforcement. Also, pray for our church, that we continue to find new ways to minister to our law enforcement and community.

James and Desireé Westbrook

Church Planter

Realm Church

Oakland, CA



Pray for us and our church to abide in Christ and bear much gospel fruit. Pray we walk in wisdom, continuing to grow in love of Jesus, our neighbor, speaking the truth in love and sharing the gospel. Pray for continued provision, growth, health and revival in the city of Oakland.

Gene and Amanda Collins

Church Planter

True Life Community Church

St. Charles, MO



Pray that the gospel speeds ahead in our community, that disciples are being made and that True Life Community Church is known for our faith and love for one another.

Gerald and Symara Waters

Church Planter

Proclamation Community Church

Philadelphia, PA



Pray for the physical, emotional, spiritual and financial health of our family. Pray our church will grow in a sincere love for the Lord, the Word and the lost in our community.