

fpcNEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

August 2017 Volume 51-08

Right at Your Door: the Whole World!

By Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

This month, our focus will be on global missions. In worship and Sunday school classes for all ages, we want to find our place in the story the Triune God is telling in the world. And we want to consider what place we have in telling that story. Our God is on a massive redemption project. He intends to take the news of his atoning victory to the ends of the earth. And he purposed to make that Gospel known person to person to person. Through us.

We only know Jesus because someone told us about him. There's no other way. But God did not have us told in order for us to keep our mouths shut. The news of his all-redeeming love cannot stop with us. He sends it on. Through his church.

From the beginning the Gospel has been about reaching the world. "You shall be my witnesses," Jesus told his disciples. "Here in Jerusalem. Then throughout Judea. Then even up among the Samaritans. And then to the end of the earth." The gospel has always been about the world. Every human being is in the sphere of the church's concern and mission.

As Presbyterians, we know that salvation is a gift. We know that faith is a gift. We only know Jesus because God chose to make him known to us when he did. We understand we have been called to

Christ by God himself. But such election is not unto privilege. Such election is unto service. Anytime in Scripture God called someone, he also sent that person to others. If we know Jesus, we have been sent. That's a Biblical fact!

With a global perspective, the task can seem daunting. But God has given us a special place in Baton Rouge. The world comes to us! Thousands of graduate students from around the world attend LSU. Leaders who will return to their countries. What if they met Christians who loved them? What if they encountered Christ's people who welcomed them into their homes? What if they found out we would be friends with them? Most international students are never (never!) invited into an American home. What if Christ's people changed all that?

This month, we are considering the Big Story of God's world redeeming love, and our place in it. We will also be discovering how we can participate without ever leaving our city. Check out all the details in this issue.

I love to be on the journey with you!

Gerrit

International Friendship Partners by Valerie Gastinel

The Lord is sending the world to the church and the church to the world. During the last year we had visitors attend worship services with us from Nepal, Thailand, China, Taiwan, Egypt and Iran. It was the first time for each of them to visit a Christian church service. How amazing is that?!

What a privilege God is giving us to welcome and be conduits of his love to the nations here in Baton Rouge. As LeeAnn Kozan shared, "It is exciting to see the heartfelt joy on the faces of our international friends as they interact with the love of Jesus."

Fifty to sixty internationals, and sometimes more, are attending our monthly gatherings which serve as a bridge for our people to meet, interact and befriend internationals in our homes. We cherish these opportunities to show genuine hospitality and love. After a recent gathering, Mitzi Barber asked, "Are they always so thankful and tell you thank you over and over again?" Yes! Some words used to describe our gatherings are warm, peaceful, family, happy, relaxing, love, beautiful, inviting, fun, joyful. They love and appreciate coming to our homes and being included in regular family activities.

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AUGUST CALENDAR

LSU Prayer Walk	Aug 5
Open Air Ministries	Aug 6
Moving Up Sunday for Children	Aug 13
Global Missions Conference	Aug 19 & 20
9 am and 11 am Worship Only	Aug 20
Sunday School Mixer	Aug 27
College Student Lunch	Aug 27

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Office Closed	Sept 4
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IN MEMORIAM:

- July 6, 2017 - Kathy Crabtree
- July 13, 2017 - Chad Hargon
Son of Louise and Gee Gee Hargon
- July 17, 2017 - Yvonne Watts
- July 19, 2017 - Howard Richards
Father of Doug Richards
- July 20, 2017 - Katie Gaspard
Niece of Jaci and Ray Gaspard
- July 25, 2017 - Jack Sieberth
Father of Jim Sieberth
- July 27, 2017 - Bart Bennett, Jr.

BAPTISMS:

July 9, 2017 - Logan Paul Schell
Parents are Erin and Chad Schell

BIRTHS:

- July 17, 2017 - Jude Henry LeBlanc
Parents are Eryn and Paul LeBlanc
- July 26, 2017 - Michael Fowler
Parents are Lauren and Blake Fowler
- July 27, 2017 - Olivia Miranda
Parents are Deborah and Gustavo Miranda

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

Sanctuary flowers serve to honor a departed loved one or celebrate with thanksgiving cherished people or events. The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary . . .

- Aug 6** . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bailey Rachel Guidry by her family.
- Aug 13** . . . to the glory of God in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Gustave Spaht and Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall Shaw given by Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Gill, Mr. William Marshall Shaw, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Gustave Spaht II and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Holden Spaht.
- Aug 20** . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley by David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.
- Aug 27** . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

Discover Your Place In the Story

The Global Missions Committee is excited to present August as Global Missions Month. Sunday school will focus on God’s plan for spreading the Gospel, the Missions Conference (August 19 & 20) will have two internationally known speakers, Children’s Ministry will have a children’s conference, we’ll have a church-wide lunch with internationals, and there will be opportunities for you to participate in global missions. It’s all about *discovering your place in the story*.

Sunday School

Sunday school classes will get a jumpstart on the global missions theme beginning July 30. Both the children’s and adult’s classes will follow the Center for Mission Mobilization’s Xplore workbook on July 30, August 6 and August 13.

Missions Conference 2017: August 19 & 20

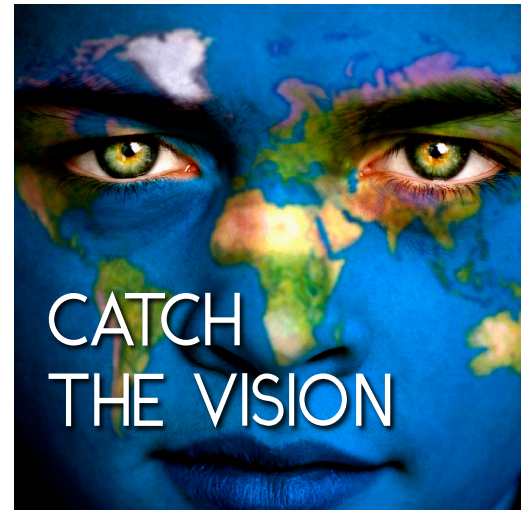
It is exciting to have not one, but two internationally known speakers at the Global Missions Conference. Our prayer is that hearing from them will inspire you to participate in global missions yourself.

Steve Douglass is President of Cru International and Cru. Douglass came to ministry after graduating from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard Business School. Over more than four decades of service, he has held many positions, including Executive Vice President of Cru. He is the author or coauthor of several books, including *Managing Yourself, How to Achieve Your Potential and Enjoy Life, How to Get Better Grades and Have More Fun* and *Enjoying Your Walk with God*. His daily radio program, *Making Your Life Count*, airs on 800 stations.

Greg Livingstone is Senior Associate for Missions Advancement with World Outreach. Widely recognized as one of the greatest mobilizers of global workers to the Muslim world, Greg was influential in founding Operation Mobilization and Frontiers, and served as North American Director of North Africa Mission. After spending 50 years among Muslims, Greg is back to his favorite endeavor for Christ’s Kingdom: recruiting leaders and team members for new church-planting teams “where there is no church.”

Catch the Vision: Catch the Adventure Children’s Conference

Children are very much a part of this year’s conference. While it may seem impossible to



reach the entire world with the message of Jesus, boys and girls don’t have to do it alone. Properly equipped and relying on the strength of the Holy Spirit, Mission: Impossible becomes Mission: Possible! We’ll have a children’s track teaching the same messages the adults are hearing.

International Friendship & Food Festival

Having fed your mind and spirit, feed your body with delicious and unique food from around the world! And while you’re at it, make some new friends with internationals from around the globe living right here in Baton Rouge. Our International Friendship friends and partners, along with some members of First Presbyterian, will provide exotic food from Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Come hungry, and enjoy a relaxing time getting to know these wonderful guests of our country!

The conference is free but we do need to know how many children and adults will attend. Please register by August 14. Details and registration are online at fpcbr.org/missionsconference2017 or at the Connection Center.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 19

- 9am-Noon: Sessions 1-2
- Noon: International Friendship Food Festival

Sunday, August 20

- 9 am: Contemporary Worship
- 10.10 am: Session 3
- 11 am: Classic Reformed Worship
- 5.30 pm: Session 4

Sunday School Mixer, August 27 by Darin Travis

I often hear people say, "I want to know God better" and "I want to get more involved in the church." One of the easiest practical steps to grow in each of those statements is to get involved in Sunday school. Our Sunday school classes are an incredible place to be taught from God's Word in an intimate environment. Each week beginning at 10.10 our gifted teachers open God's Word in such a way that it isn't simply a head exercise, but a journey into community with God and others. Has it been a while since you have attended a Sunday school class? If you have never attended, do you know which of our current 9 classes to try? Join us on Sunday, August 27, during the Sunday school hour between the 9 am and 11 am services for our "Sunday School Mixer." The reception room will have representatives and a few attendees from each class hosting an informal meet and greet to tell you more about themselves and the class that they lead. We would love to see you join in!

**She's Done It Again!**

Age just doesn't matter to Mary Elizabeth Norckauer. At 92 years old, Mary recently competed at the 2017 Senior Olympics in the women's 100 meter race for 80 to 100 plus year olds. She came in second with a time of 33.21! LSU's Bernie Moore Track and Field Stadium was the scene for an exciting race between Mary, a 101-year-old and an 82-year-old. Congratulations Mary! You've proven to us all the importance of staying active.

Calling All Men!

Children's Ministry is calling men to participate in the spiritual nurture of our elementary students by teaching Sunday school for grades 1-5. Whether you are a dad, uncle, grandfather or just a brother in Christ willing to share the gospel with our kids, we need you! You will be hearing from us soon. In the mean time, if you feel called to join us on this journey please contact Audra Cato (audra@fpabr.org) or Jaime Carnaggio (jaimc@fpabr.org). We will fully equip you for this role. The new academic year kicks off with promotion Sunday on August 13.

*Train up a
child in the way
he should go.*

Back to School at Buchanan Elementary!

In a few short weeks, the school bell will ring, ushering the teachers and students at our adopted school back to class. As we have in years past, First Presbyterian Church will be there to support our friends at the school. Our congregation has been dedicated to helping and serving the students and teachers through a variety of ways. Won't you consider joining us this year and get in on the fun? We are looking for Reading Friends, Storytime Readers, Teacher Encouragers, Special Events Helpers and Classroom Volunteers to help in this ministry. For more information on these opportunities, stop by the Connection Center or contact Laura Shaw (225.278.1929 or laura@fpabr.org).

Sing "Messiah" with the Chancel Choir by Steve Rushing

After a short summer break the Chancel Choir will return to its regular schedule in mid-August. Our first rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, August 16 at 7 pm.

This Christmas, the choir will present George Frederic Handel's "Messiah" with orchestra and soloists. While many churches present only the Christmas portion of this renowned work, we will offer the whole Christ story through Scripture as set to the music of Handel. The presentation is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, December 7 and will strive to tell Christ's story to the greater Baton Rouge community through this magnificent musical setting.

We would love to fill the chancel with as many First Presbyterian singers as possible. Please consider joining us. Singing is indeed praying twice: once through the language of Scripture and once through the musical language. You will be blessed by this experience but moreover you will bless others and share in telling the greatest story ever told.

A detailed rehearsal schedule is coming soon. Please contact Steve Rushing (steve@fpabr.org) if you would like to join us.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP @
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN****COME WORSHIP WITH US!**

7.45 am Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

AUGUST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

August 6

2 Corinthians 1: 1-11

August 13

2 Corinthians 1: 12-22

August 20

Global Missions Sunday
Text to be determined
9 am and 11 am worship only

August 27

2 Corinthians 1: 23-2: 11

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor

Whitney Alexander
Associate Pastor of Missions

Josh Maddin
Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry

Barry Phillips
Ministry Executive

Jim Solomon
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

Darin Travis
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Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287

www.brchristiancounseling.com

Got a Mission or Ministry?

Every year, the Session Income Allocation Committee receives applications for one-time funding of innovative, inspiring, Christ-glorifying, gospel-sharing ministries.

If you know of or are involved with a ministry whose primary objective is to proclaim Christ and extend the love of Christ to those in need, please submit a grant request. Ministries that have been the beneficiary of the SIAC grants include Gardere Community Christian School, Angola Prison Ministry, Heritage Ranch and many more.

This year's submission dates are from September 4 until October 2. Applications are available online at fpcbr.org or by contacting Jaci Gaspard (jaci@fpcbr.org).



International Friendship Partners *continued from pg.*

Our constant prayer is that God will bring those to us who are spiritually hungry and us to them. God is answering our prayers. We have 30 internationals registered for a Friendship Partner or Family and 12 currently waiting to be matched with an American Friendship Partner. Consider becoming a friendship partner, friendship family, host or prayer partner and register on our church website.

LSU will be home to close to 2,000 international students this 2017/2018 school year. Three quarters of them are graduate level students; the brightest and best from their countries. Many are visiting scholars. Will you help us welcome them? Our next gathering is during the mission conference Saturday, August 19 for the International Friendship and Food Festival in the gym. Plan on staying from 12-2 pm for a taste of international food and friendship.

Outcry Concert, August 24

Jesus Culture. Lauren Daige. Bethel Music. Martin Smith. Chad Veach. Local Sound. The August 24 Outcry Concert at Raising Cane's River Center will be an exciting gathering of talented Christian artists. Tickets available at outcrytour.com.



LSU PRAYER WALK

Saturday, August 5
8.30-9.30 am
Meet on the front steps of the
LSU Union at 8.25 am.
Prayer guides will be
provided.