

# CONNECT MAGAZINE

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FIRST LUBBOCK  
worship. transform. serve.

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER





**YOU WIN**

**WORSHIPPING WITH  
AWARENESS**

*"Do not neglect hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2)*

A worship service is not only an acknowledgement of God's reigning glorious presence, and a means of being drawn closer to his presence (James 4:8), but it is also the opportunity to be aware of those who are present with us, especially those who are our guests. In this, our church family has passed the test with flying colors; at least, according to the test of an unnamed individual who created a scale by which he measured the churches he visited and how welcoming they were to him as a guest.

The account of the gentleman is that he visited 18 churches on successive Sunday's in a large metropolitan area. His stated purpose was to observe how he would be received by those within the congregation with whom he crossed paths. For objectivity sake, he followed the same protocol each Sunday. He would arrive early, mill around the foyer, enter the sanctuary, take a seat near the front, and prior to the service starting, return to the foyer area by another aisle before, once again, returning to his seat, where he remained until the end of the service.

The man said he dressed nicely, smiled at those with whom he made eye contact, asked individuals where he might find a restroom, others where he might find a cup of coffee, and people of various

ages what program and bible study opportunities were available. Having developed a predetermined scale by which he would note the receptivity of each congregation, he then awarded points on the following basis:

- 10 Returned smile
- 10 Exchange of names
- 100 Conversation over coffee
- 200 Introduction to another worshipper
- 2000 Introduction to a pastor
- 3000 Invitation to lunch

On this scale, his data revealed that 11 out of the 18 churches earned fewer than 100 points. Five actually received less than 20. He correctly concluded: "The doctrine may be biblical, the sermon uplifting, but when a visitor finds no one cares whether they are there or not, they're not likely to return."

One of the prevailing comments I have heard over these many years is how warmly you greet and welcome those who are guests in our worship services. Out of curiosity, I took a letter written to me by a guest, where she went on effusively about the experience of her family upon their visit to First Baptist, and calculated that our church scored over 2,300 points, according to the scale above.

What you do well, we must continue to do, especially in this age of fear and suspicion. The start of a new school year is just a few weeks away. For many, a new school year is not unlike the New Year of January 1—a time of resolutions and fresh starts. With that can come an influx of visitors, who will be our guests. When people care enough to visit, we must care enough to make them welcome. Our building can be daunting to the uninitiated. When you see an unfamiliar face, or bewildered look, in the parking lot, foyer, hallways, or sanctuary, smile, introduce yourself, and ask if you can help them find something.

According to the scale of the anonymous pollster, you have already won the "welcoming" contest. Win More!



**BOBBY DAGNEL**

PASTOR



# NEXT YEAR STARTED LAST MONTH

One of the things that I've found interesting in working in College Ministry is that the school year doesn't start in August, it starts in May. As soon as the previous school year ends, our team begins planning for the upcoming year. It becomes not only a discipline of being prepared but also a time to celebrate in advance what God will be doing in our ministry over the next 12 months. We trust that God has empowered us to engage with college students in eternal matters. We trust that we have been given students to nurture, love, and push towards looking more and more like Jesus. None of this can be taken lightly. None of this is done haphazardly. Through prayer, strategizing, and brainstorming we spend the entire summer anticipating what God is going to do in our students.

This summer we engaged with over 250 incoming freshmen through Red Raider Orientation who expressed interest in our ministry and church. We also added to our Instagram following by a few dozen. This will allow us to engage with students who might not engage in any church ministry right away but desire the community that comes with that later in the semester.

This upcoming semester we plan to offer opportunities for people at all stages of faith. We will have large events aimed at outreach and engaging new students where the pressure is low, and the "fun" is high. We will have evangelistic

opportunities for students to hear the gospel preached for the first time. We will have discipleship opportunities for those who know the Lord and desire to grow in a deeper relationship with Him. We trust that regardless of the outcomes, the Lord will be glorified through all this planning and preparation.

There is nothing more enjoyable for me than engaging face to face with students, but while we anxiously wait for the arrival of students on campus, we will continue to seek the face of Jesus in prayer and preparation. The rest is up to Him. If you want to engage with our college ministry, the best way to do that is to pray diligently for our staff, volunteer leadership, and our students. We know that God is doing something eternal in our ministry and we'd love to have you come alongside that as a prayer partner. If you are praying for our ministry, make sure to let one of us know, it is always such an encouragement to our team to know we aren't on this journey alone.



**EVAN HENSON**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR  
UNIVERSITY LIFE



# KICKOFF SUNDAY

**AUGUST 20**

## FIRST LUBBOCK COLLEGE MINISTRY WELCOME WEEK

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**SUNDAY AUGUST 20 - THURSDAY AUGUST 24**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>KICKOFF SUNDAY - LIFEGROUPS AT 9:30, WORSHIP AT 11:00, LUNCH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP.</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>.99 CENT STEAK NIGHT</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>CHURCH SEARCH AND WORSHIP ON THE LAWN @ URBANOVSKY PARK</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>PIZZA AND VOLLEYBALL @ URBANOVSKY PARK</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>KICKOFF BLOCK PARTY</b>

## WHAT IS THE WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY?

As a ministry, God has given us a compelling and yet daunting task to facilitate bold and corporate yet tender and intimate worship experiences in our worship center and on livestream each and every week. We see this calling as both privilege and responsibility. Over the past year we have crafted Purpose, Mission, and Vision statements that help define our calling as worship leaders.

### **PURPOSE**

We exist to provide life-changing, Jesus-centered worship gatherings

### **MISSION**

We empower current and future worship leaders as we pursue excellence through discipleship.

### **VISION**

Utilizing the unique gifting of our lead worshipers each and every Sunday, we aim to serve as a catalyst to inspire and challenge our church family to be on mission where our feet are 168 hours each week.

From these statements we derived the Core Values that further define what drives the Worship and Arts Ministry at First Lubbock:

***Inspiration through excellence. Service Instead of Applause. Discipling hearts and gifts***

If you would like to sing with us, we have opportunities at both our 8:15 and 11:00 services. At 8:15 we have a choir that meets most every Sunday morning at 7:45 in the worship center. We rehearse the anthem for the morning and share it with our church family later in the service. And then at 11:00 we have vocal team that meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the worship center to prepare for leading our church family in musical worship. If you are interested in serving on either of those teams please contact Ken Draughon (Ken@FirstLubbock.org) for more information.

If you would like to play an instrument with us we have several opportunities for you to serve as well! We have an orchestra that

accompanies our 8:15 choir most Sunday mornings and once a month our orchestra plays in the 11:00 service. In addition to our orchestra we also have a band (drums, percussion, guitar, keyboard, and more) that plays every Sunday at the 11:00 service. If you are interested in serving in our orchestra please contact James Moss (James@FirstLubbock.org) and if you are interested in serving in our 11:00 band please contact Jonny Hughes (Jonny@FirstLubbock.org) for more information.

We also have several opportunities every Sunday morning at both services to serve in our media ministry. We are always looking for people who are interested in working a camera, operating lights,

projecting slides on the screen, and much more. If this is something that interests you, please contact Ken Draughon (Ken@FirstLubbock.org) for more information.



**KEN DRAUGHON**

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR  
MUSIC & WORSHIP







With Youth camp and Mission trip in the rearview mirror, First Lubbock Youth has much to look forward to. As we kickoff our fall programming we are partnering with parents differently this upcoming semester by using a youth version of GC2 Press (Baptist Way Press) for youth Sunday School. This will put all our adults as well as all our youth (6th-12th grade) on the same curriculum, which we believe will be instrumental in unifying our family education programming and creating conversations in the car or at lunch. This is another avenue for parents to engage with their students in Scripture. I am excited to work alongside parents this upcoming school year in nurturing this generation for ministry.

We have also developed a yearlong plan that promotes putting scripture into action through daily service. Alongside our Sunday School and midweek curriculum, we have created monthly service opportunities for our students to get involved in the mission of our church while fostering a heart that

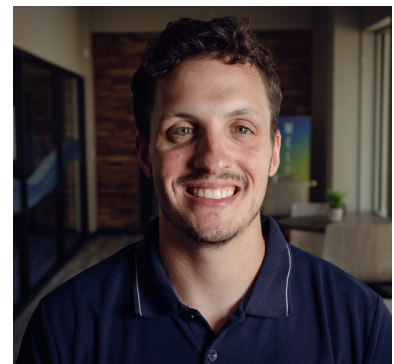
wants to live the way Jesus lived. This includes our annual Family Service Day, monthly service events during Midweek across the city, and other amazing service opportunities we have planned for the year. Youth are not just the future of the church; they are an integral part of the church today. We recognize the importance of including young people in the life and mission of the church, valuing their perspectives, insights, and contributions. By investing in youth ministry, the church ensures the continuity and vitality of the faith community. Our goal is to cultivate in teenagers a joyful desire to worship the Lord, be discipled, serve the body, and to minister to the community.

These things happen because of mature believers who invest in the lives of young people, guiding them, encouraging them, and sharing the truth of God's Word. Youth ministry thrives when youth have intergenerational relationships that nurture their growth as a disciple of Christ. Through intentional discipleship, we can inspire and equip the next generation to walk

in faith, overcome obstacles, and embrace the incredible journey of following Jesus.

From our fall TTU Watch Party to our Family Serve Day, events are strategically planned to create connection points. From them, leaders develop relationships and trust that can move mountains and change the trajectory of the lives of our youth.

Come to our Welcome Home event on August 13th during the Sunday School hour and meet your student's teachers as well as hear dates and plans for youth ministry at First Lubbock!



**SAM AKIN**

MINISTER OF STUDENTS





Did you know the average time per play in an NFL game is just 4 seconds? That's 'blink-and-you-miss-it' fast! Imagine two teams lined up prior to the snap: it's critical that every single player be in position, know their route, and be prepared for what's about to happen. Each split second matters for a lineman to make or miss a block, a receiver to find a gap, or a quarterback to fire off a pass.

Similarly, the fall season at First Lubbock tends to come upon us quickly and happens fast. So fast you might miss it, or not be prepared for it. I am excited to share with you the opportunities this new semester bring at FirstLubbock. I'm also hopeful that you'll take

some time to prepare for this new semester. Preparing could mean looking specifically for a new way to be involved. It could be starting to think now of who you might invite to a future event lined out in this magazine. It might be as simple as putting some dates down on your calendar so you don't accidentally miss one!

Like football, we usually view time broken up into smaller pieces. A game is made up of a sum of the plays, each built upon the last one. Similarly, our lifetime is a collection of moments. While each one matters significantly, they are also connected. I want to encourage you because I believe we have some great momentum right now as a

church. God has been doing some incredible things among us and I believe he has more in store for us. Lean into the new things coming up and prayerfully ask and expect God to use our church and ministries to further His Kingdom.



**JUSTIN HAMBY**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR  
YOUNG ADULTS & FAMILIES





# SERVE WITH US!

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**JERRY RAMIREZ**

MINISTER OF GLOBAL INITIATIVES

The Global Initiatives Ministry at First Lubbock and our non-profit, Serve LBK, had no shortage of mission opportunities this summer. From our recurring mission initiatives at Lubbock Impact and Fiesta Domingo, to planned mission trips to Houston and Pueblo, Colorado, to surprise mission opportunities in places like Perryton, we have been doing our part to be the hands and feet of Jesus to not only the people in our community, but beyond our city limits. As we transition from Summer to Fall, our chances to serve won't diminish, so I wanted to let you know of ways you can partner with us over the next few months and beyond!

## **RECURRING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

**St. Benedict's Chapel** – Each week our church serves at St. Benedict's. Volunteers are enlisted to serve through our Sunday school classes.

**Fiesta Domingo** – First Lubbock will be serving at Fiesta Domingo on August 13, September 10, October 1, and November 5. Signups for each date will be made available at [firstlubbock.org/serve](http://firstlubbock.org/serve) over time.

**Weekend Snack Bags** – We will be resuming our Weekend Snack Bag ministry in August. Be on the lookout for chances to help pack snack bags for the food insecure families in our community.

## **CHRISTMAS STORE – DECEMBER 3**

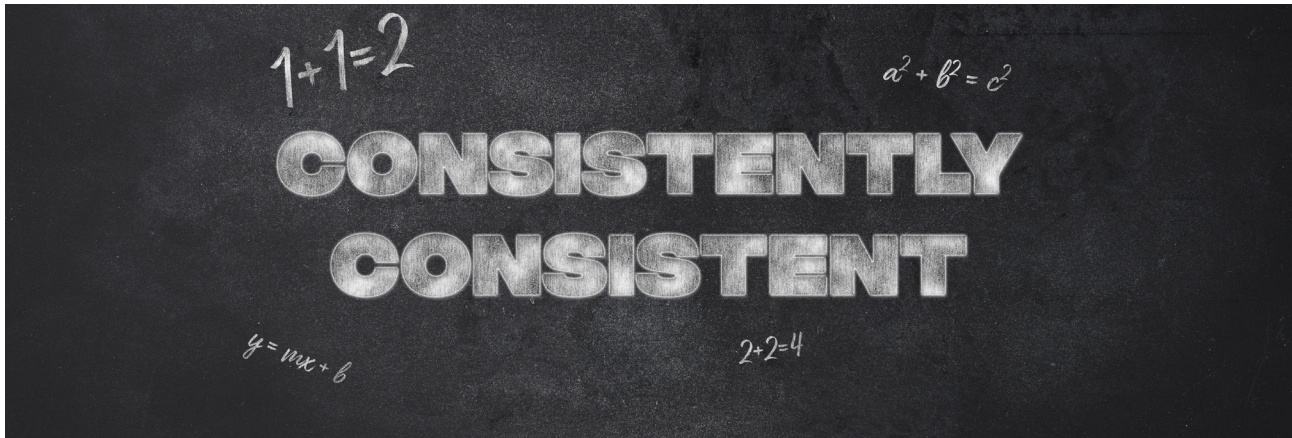
Mark your calendar for our annual Christmas Store! The Christmas Store is our chance to help local families provide Christmas gifts for their families. We'll need volunteers to host our families, work in different parts of the Christmas Store, and wrap presents.

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN 2024**

**Medical Mission Trip to Belize** – January 14-19 we will be traveling south to help the people of Belize. Final price for this trip is TBD. Signups will be made available at [firstlubbock.org/serve](http://firstlubbock.org/serve)

**Kenya Mission Trip** – From May 25-June 1 we will take a team to Kenya to partner with an orphanage and to work at a school in a small community in Kenya. Final price for this trip is TBD.

These serve opportunities are only a snapshot of what to expect over the next few months. We can't wait to partner with you as we serve this community and the world.



Not long ago I read this statement, "Wouldn't it be nice if life were as stable as a math problem?" To be honest, it sounded a little odd to me at first, but after thinking about it for a while, I realized that this concept really speaks to me. Two plus two equals four no matter what day it is, this will never change and that's something I really like. I like organization, having a solid plan, and having fair warning before anything major comes my way. You get the picture – I like to be in control! Some may see that as a negative trait, others may think it is impossible, but I on the other hand often do not understand why anyone would want it any differently.

However, as life "happens" to you, eventually you come to terms with a hard fast reality, change is a fact of life. Sometimes we open the door and hurry it in like a highly anticipated guest. Other times we ignore it, pretend like it does not exist, and drive

ourselves into a frenzy with worry about how it will wreck our life as we know it. Change comes in all shapes and sizes; it can be stressful, or it can be exciting; we can spend countless hours trying to figure out what caused it, or we can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that it happened. God's promise in Romans 8:28 always brings me such peace amid uncertainty and change.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The stability and consistency that we long for is only found in God. We will never be able to create this on our own no matter how organized we are or how well planned out we try to make our life. God knows all, He does not change, and He is faithful to His promises. We can rest in the assurance that God is never surprised or caught off guard

when we face any circumstance. He has our best interest at heart and can make the most beautiful picture out of all the broken, mismatched pieces of our lives.

As school starts, new activities are added to our calendars, friendships often change, and family circumstances may look different than they did at the start of summer. God knows, He is with you and will carry you through it all. We can rejoice in every new day; not because life is good but because God is always good.



**TERESA PORTER**  
KIDS MINISTRY DIRECTOR



# EXCITING NEW SCHOOL YEAR



A new school year is upon us and once again First Lubbock has an opportunity to serve our community! Wolffarth Elementary school is a school in the heart of the Arnett Benson neighborhood or Lubbock ISD and we are actively looking for mentors for the students at Wolffarth through Kids Hope USA!

At Kids Hope USA, we believe that all kids matter to Jesus and that the church is uniquely called to care for children in our community who would benefit from another caring, reliable relationship with an adult. Research shows that the common factor in determining a child's future success is if they have stable, committed, healthy relationships with adults in their lives. Through church/school partnerships, mentors stand alongside parents, teachers, principals and counselors to ensure that these students are

valued and loved. Through a Kids Hope USA's mentor program, 1st - 6th grade students meet once a week for one hour with a mentor – someone who is there just for them. This one-on-one attention of another caring and consistent adult in a student's life makes a massive difference!

In a proven mentoring program like Kids Hope USA, the school plays an essential role in serving the children of the community. The school provides opportunities for students to enjoy and look forward to their time with their mentor, without concerns about transportation or scheduling. While after-school community programs can work and support kids, a school-based approach empowers kids to thrive during the school day. This model breaks down barriers and makes the program accessible to all students attending the school.

By getting involved with Kids Hope USA, you can take your next step in helping to provide love and support for students right here in our city. If you would like to apply to become a mentor or you would like more information about this special program please email Kathryn McMillan ([Kathryn@firstlubbock.org](mailto:Kathryn@firstlubbock.org))



**KATHRYN McMILLAN**  
DIRECTOR OF KIDS HOPE USA



I want to introduce you to two women Lois and Eunice. You may know them but in case you don't here is a little back story. Eunice is the mother of Timothy, as in the Timothy of 1st and 2nd Timothy. Lois is his grandmother. We only get a brief mention of these women in scripture. Paul writes in 2 Timothy 1:5, "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also."

Lois and Eunice were a mother and grandmother who simply lived their lives. They too had long to-do list of monotonous tasks that had to be done. Their to-do lists may have different tasks than yours but I'm sure we can all agree that it feels never-ending. However, in the glorious mundane they created an immeasurable kingdom impact.

Timothy went on to be Paul's close friend and trusted travel companion. He then became a leader in the church and led others to the saving grace of Christ. Lois and Eunice's lives are testimonies that nothing in a woman's life is more important than a personal and vibrant faith modeled before others. They are a reminder to us that our lives are created by God for a purpose and our actions affect our children, family and friends. Whenever you feel discouraged that the unseen work

you do day in and day out has no kingdom impact, call to mind Lois and Eunice.

God has a plan and purpose for your life, and even when everyday feels the same, there are seeds being planted in the lives of those around you. Those that look to you to try to understand your joy in the monotony. Those that want to know how you can smile at times to come because your hope is in Christ and not this world. Those that look to you and see your open hands to others in need. Use your everyday tasks as opportunities to produce gospel fruit. Our women's ministry and events we have are meant to help you in becoming a woman of great faith like these... So come be a part of these things!



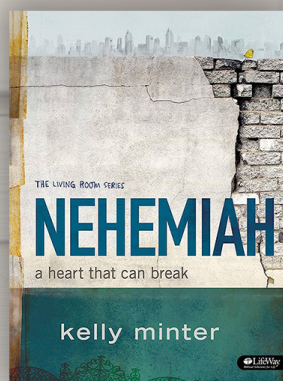
**KACI HILTON**  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY  
COORDINATOR



# Women's Day-treat

OCTOBER 14TH

## WOMEN'S FALL BOOK STUDIES



THIS FALL WOMEN OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR EITHER OF THESE 7 WEEK STUDIES BEGINNING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6. WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US!



There are many ways for us to communicate information to the 55+ family. We speak audibly (so most can hear), we actually still use the US Mail to send you cards and letters, we send text messages, send important events through email, and we actually convey much information through personal contacts. All of this is done so that you might know what has been planned to enrich your Christian walk with God as a part of His family. I just hope that you are hearing some of these messages.

I know from personal experience that you have no chance of understanding something if you do not hear the information given. Also, I have been told that sometimes I hear, but I do not listen! I cannot comprehend information if I am not paying attention to the person sending the message.

So, what about you? Are you listening for the various opportunities that are provided for you to grow in Christ? I want you to gain the information and get involved! We have over 300 55+ active members and for this I am very thankful. I meet often with the Sunday School leadership in order that we can stay focused on ministering through His word and following up on those who have physical issues. Recently we almost filled the Ford Chapel with our first Hymn Sing. The Spring Fling was well attended and received. If you are not participating in these events, it must be because you are not hearing about them.

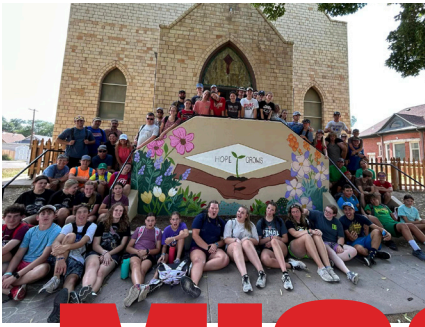
For the last months of 2023 we have planned many special meetings designed for you to gain fellowship with the other believers and to grow spiritually. Please begin to work on your

hearing so that you will not miss out on these events. "And He answered and said unto them, 'my mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God and do it'" Luke 8:21. I will be looking forward to growing closer to the Lord with you. I promise to smile at you, talk to you and encourage you along the way. So, if you hear what I hear from His Word – let's do it!



**TIM THORNTON**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF  
PASTORAL CARE & 55+ ADULTS





# MISSION 168

This summer, First Lubbock took forty-two youth and twenty-three adult leaders to Pueblo, CO for a week. It's called Mission 168 because there are 168 hours in a week. 168 hours for us to worship the Risen Savior. 168 hours to serve Him and love others. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul advises Timothy, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." Our students did exactly that in Colorado.

We primarily worked with Scott Godinez to make improvements to the building that will soon become home to Lake Avenue Community Church. Scott is a former intern at First Lubbock, has served as a youth pastor at Cornerstone Church in Lone Tree, CO and at Belmar Church in Lakewood, CO, and is now the lead pastor of a church plant through North American Missions Board.

Throughout the week, our team painted rooms, ceilings, trim, doors,

handrails, and some incredible murals. We installed carpet in several rooms and vinyl flooring on the sanctuary stage, installed kitchen countertops, built fences, updated electrical work, and repaired drop ceilings. We also cleaned and organized, mowed the lawn, and trimmed trees. The building improvements will allow a new congregation to grow and serve the city of Pueblo, but it also gave us opportunities to share with individuals walking by the property who were interested in what we were doing and why.

Each day, groups also worked offsite at a variety of locations throughout Pueblo. We helped clean, organize, and stock a food pantry, entertain children with a giant slip 'n slide at a daycare, organize clothing and staples at a pregnancy center. Other groups cleaned facilities at a soccer complex, restocked the donations closets, cleaned floors, and painted a storage closet at the administration building for a domestic violence

shelter. Everywhere we went, our students showed kindness and the love of Christ through their actions.

We also had fun together and built community within our youth group. Students played games and laughed while getting to know friends in other grade levels with whom they might not otherwise have much connection. Most importantly, we saw God move mightily! He used a group of kids to make a lasting impact in His Kingdom work in southern Colorado and set an example for us all in how to be the hands and feet of Jesus.



**STEPHANIE KING**  
PROJECT COORDINATOR

# Everything You Do

When Jesus arrived in the community of Sidon in Mark chapter 7, He met a deaf man with a speech impediment. The Greek word Mark used to describe this particular impairment was the word, "mogilalos," and it is only used once in the whole of the New Testament. In fact it only shows up once more in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, this time selected by Isaiah. Well now, we can't pass up an opportunity to compare these two texts.

To describe the arrival of God's servant Isaiah says, "He will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak (mogilalos) will sing for joy!" He goes on to list all of the restorative actions of the Lord, but I can't help but to stop and meditate on the gift of voice. Though sin once silenced the stammering lips of Adam's desperate sons, now hope breathes air through the woodwinds, peace fills the bellows of the brass, and faith is the bow on the strings, each in perfect harmony for joy's orchestra to burst out the mouth of those given new life by King Jesus.

The deaf and mute man in Mark 7

was healed by Jesus, and he couldn't hold back from declaring the glory of his Lord. Even those in the community around this healed man said of Jesus, "Everything He does is wonderful!" A centuries old Prophecy was fulfilled before their eyes and in their very own mouths as God's Servant was establishing The Kingdom.

Inspired by this story of God's Kingdom breaking into earth, I wrote a song for our church to sing. You can check out the lyrics on the next page as we join with the choir of our faith ancestors: Jesus, everything You do is wonderful!



**JONNY HUGHES**  
WORSHIP & ARTS  
ASSOCIATE



# EVERYTHING YOU DO

SOMETHING HAS CHANGED THE SCENERY LOOKS A THICKER SHADE OF REAL  
THE PATTERNS ARE FLIPPED, THE TEXTURES OF LIFE HAVE GOT A DIFFERENT FEEL  
KINGDOM REVEALED  
THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN AND WHAT CAN IT DO BUT KNEEL?

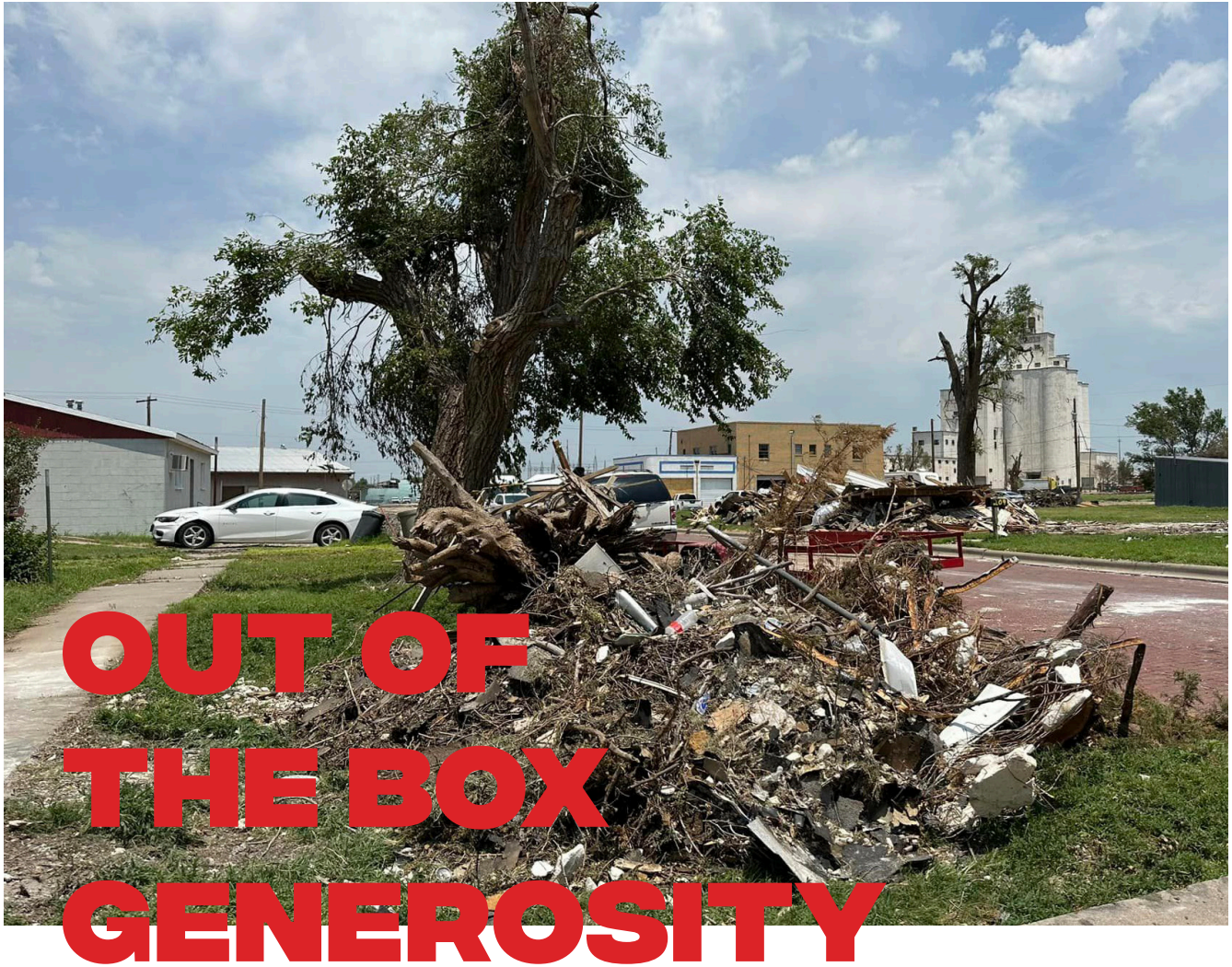
THE HEALING YOU BRING, THE GRACE IN YOUR VOICE, THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF YOUR  
LOVE  
THE JUDGEMENT WAS MINE, THE PUNISHMENT YOURS, GOD'S HOLY, RIGHTEOUS SON  
SIN IS UNDONE  
I CAN'T HOLD IT IN, I CAN'T EVER SAY ENOUGH

YOU BREAK BREAD TO FEED THE HUNGRY  
YOU'RE WONDERFUL  
YOU MAKE BEAUTY OF UGLY  
YOU'RE WONDERFUL  
YOU SPOKE LIGHT INTO THE NOTHING  
YOU RAISE THE POOR AND LOWLY  
EVERYTHING YOU DO IS WONDERFUL

YOU BREAK CHAINS TO FREE THE PRISONERS  
YOU'RE WONDERFUL  
YOU MAKE PRIESTS OUT OF SINNERS  
YOU'RE WONDERFUL  
YOU SPOKE PEACE INTO THE TREMORS  
YOU RAISE THE TRUE BELIEVERS  
EVERYTHING YOU DO IS WONDERFUL

EVERYTHING YOU DO IS WONDERFUL  
YOUR POWER AND YOUR LOVE WORKING IN THE WORLD  
LAME FEET ARE WALKING AND MUTE TONGUES CAN SING  
DEAF EARS ARE HEARING AND BLIND EYES CAN SEE  
DEATH IS RETREATING AND BROKEN HEARTS ARE BEATING  
EVERYTHING YOU DO IS WONDERFUL

"EVERYTHING YOU DO," BY GATHERLBK IS STREAMING ON ALL DIGITAL PLATFORMS  
JULY 28, 2023.



I have the opportunity and privilege to witness generosity from our church members on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis. Many of our church members give to the storehouse tithe weekly, monthly, and yearly. Their generosity shows itself when someone goes above and beyond the expectation of the tithe with gifts of kindness, service, giving extra dollars or time.

Last month I was privileged to travel

to Perryton, Texas with a team from First Lubbock to assist in relief after the devastating tornado that set down in their town ten days earlier. When we arrived, we saw not only the destruction that nature had released on that community but hundreds of people being generous with whatever gifts God had given them.

We set up at First Baptist Church Perryton where their members

had already staged a base where people could be fed, receive water and supplies, and get directions to help with the many tasks that still needed to be completed. They were organized, well supplied, and ready and willing to face whatever opportunity was ahead of them. We often hear about people rising the occasion after a disaster. This site was no different. Texas Baptist Men had also set up at the church and were doing a great work with the



second team on site and preparing for a third. Samaritan's Purse and a couple of other groups designed to assist in times of trouble were also there. What caught my eye was the "out of the box" generosity.

Jerry and Ryan had gone to Perryton to assess the needs and make a plan for our team. They received a list of needs that included everything from socks and duct tape to animal food and diapers. First Lubbock responded quickly and supplied large amounts of everything on the list.

The church had set up tables in their utility barn, where we were also fed, that had pretty much everything you might need as you worked on a given task. Everything on the tables had been donated. There were over-the-counter medical and first aid supplies, cases and cases of water, electrolyte powders to add to your water, sunscreen, hand sanitizer, and even Roloids. There were energy bars, snacks, candy bars, and gum. Pretty general stuff, right? But someone even donated three Stihl chainsaws. There were also battery chargers for phones and any size battery you might need. We also saw cooling neck wraps, Igloo coolers, and air mattresses. There were brooms, shovels, and other landscaping tools, all donated, all very much needed.

Another ministry there was called Mercy Chefs. They respond to disasters all over the world to feed people. They had set up in a different

church parking lot and would cook meals, good meals, for anyone and everyone involved in the disaster. While we were there, they cooked around 400 meals at lunch and dinner every day. Local groups would then pick up the meals and distribute them to the people in need and to volunteers.

There was a man from Clovis, NM that showed up the day after the tornado touched down. He brought a brand-new track skid steer on a trailer and proceeded to do whatever anyone needed, moving rubble, or tearing down structures that had been damaged. After working a couple of days, he needed to return to Clovis and get back to his job, but he left his skid steer and trailer there for anyone to use as long as they needed it. He said to give him a call when they were done, and he would come and pick it up.

Countless community members took off work or put their businesses on hold to organize relief, operate machinery, clear rubble, and minister to those in need. Other groups, like ours, showed up from nearby towns and faraway cities to help in any way they could.

We talk about being on mission where our feet are, and we saw many people doing just that. They also had their heads on swivels to see what might be needed before it was needed. We also saw people reaching deep into their pockets above and beyond what they might

do on any given Sunday to meet the needs of the victims as well as the volunteers. They also gave of their time and talents. Disaster relief doesn't keep an eight-to-five schedule. They worked, and when they were tired, they worked some more.

At First Lubbock, we respond well to the needs of others when disaster strikes or when the needs of individuals are made known to us. Thank you for that. Thank you for giving to the storehouse tithe and for going the extra step and being generous. I love my church.

My challenge coming away from that opportunity is to continue to be on mission where my feet are and to keep my head on a swivel. I need to look outside the box and meet the needs of those around me, being creative and inventive in the multitude of ways I can serve those around me. What is your challenge?



**DEAN JOHNSON**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

## LOOKING AHEAD

### AUGUST

6	SEGWAY RETREAT	23	55+ BOWLING
13	WELCOME HOME SUNDAY	23	NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH
13	WOMEN'S MINISTRY BACK TO SCHOOL BUNCO	24	MOSAIC KICKOFF
15	55+ GAME DAY	26	MEN'S BREAKFAST
18	KIDS MINISTRY NIGHT @ HOLLY HOP'S	27	COMMUNION WITH WATERMELON AND ICE CREAM IN THE PARK
20	KICKOFF SUNDAY	30	MIDWEEK COOKOUT

### SEPTEMBER

4	OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY	19	55+ GAME DAY
6	MIDWEEK LAUNCH	22	ALL CITY WORSHIP
12	55+ MOVIE IN LOWRIE HALL	24	HYMN SING & COMMUNION IN THE CHAPEL
15	COLLEGE BARN DANCE		
16	MEN'S BREAKFAST	27	55+ BOWLING
17	PRETEEN PLUGGED IN @ MAIN EVENT	29	KIDS NIGHT OUT

### OCTOBER

7	KIDS MINISTRY NIGHT @ THE CORN MAZE	20	PRETEEN PLUGGED IN @ THE ODOM'S
7	55+ COWBOY BREAKFAST	20	COLLEGE FALL RETREAT
8	THE LISTENING ROOM	21	DISCIPLESHIP COLLECTIVE TRAINING
11	55+ BOWLING		
14	WOMEN'S DAY-TREAT	21	55+ FALL FELLOWSHIP TOUR
15	FAMILY MINISTRY BLOCK PARTY	26	KIDS NIGHT OUT
17	55+ GAME DAY	29	FAMILY DEDICATION SERVICE
		29	COMMUNION IN LOWRIE HALL

### NOVEMBER

4	COLLEGE NIGHT @ THE CORN MAZE	20	LAST DAY FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
5	TIME CHANGE SUNDAY		
11	MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BLACKSMITH	23	THANKSGIVING
		26	ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY
13	OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION BEGINS	29	55+ BOWLING
		30	LAST MOSAIC OF THE SEMESTER
14	55+ GAME DAY		



# EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US &  
YOUR CONTINUED HARD WORK!**

**35 YEARS    JOSE LUNA - 11.14.1988**  
**15 YEARS    JERRY RAMIREZ - 09.01.2008**

**WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN:  
APIRL, MAY, JUNE & JULY**

**Joined by Baptism or Profession of Faith**

Brady Baack  
Tatum Blount  
Paige Crawford  
Annabeth Davis

Ellen Harlien  
Taryn Porter  
Ridley Scheckel

**Joined by Letter or Statement of Faith**

Amy Grantham  
Michael Grantham  
Brian Klein  
McKaye Klein

Maclaine Mauney  
Zane Mauney  
Brad McMahan  
Macy McMahan

Doreen Reedy  
Bryce Vickers

**FIRST LUBBOCK  
BUDGET AS OF  
JULY 23**

**BUDGET REQUIRED YTD**

**\$1,503,132.07**

**BUDGET RECEIVED YTD**

**\$1,356,335.58**

**GLOBAL IMPACT MISSIONS GOAL**

**\$182,450.00**

**GLOBAL IMPACT MISSIONS RECEIVED YTD**

**\$56,154.51**

**LANDMARK RECEIVED YTD**

**\$4,996.00**

**ARE YOU WANTING TO  
BECOME A FOLLOWER OF  
CHRIST?**

**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT BECOMING  
A PART OF OUR CHURCH  
FAMILY?**

**DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER  
REQUEST?**

**DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO  
TALK TO?**

**TEXT: FLRESPOND  
TO 833-571-3475**

**WE'D LOVE TO TALK  
TO YOU TODAY!**



**First Baptist Church**  
2201 Broadway  
Lubbock, Texas 79401