

# THE GREAT COMMISSION



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

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FALL 2018

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have COMMANDED you; and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

Matthew 28:19-20

*Serving Around the World*

## Encountering Operation Christmas Child

by Jill Satterwhite

When my family joined FBCP, we were completely mystified by hundreds of plastic shoeboxes that appeared one fall. Too busy, I promised myself that next year I would figure out what that was all about. When the shoeboxes mysteriously appeared again, I grabbed two on my way out the door. Hubby has to get involved too, right?

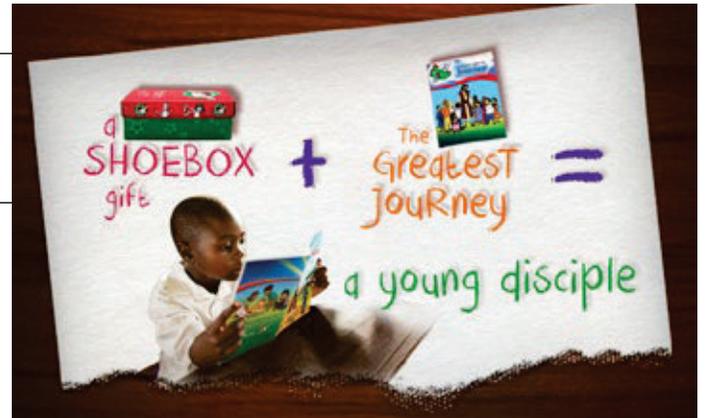
At home, I opened the shoeboxes and found a brochure identifying the project as Operation Christmas Child. With Google's help, I discovered that OCC collects gift-filled shoeboxes and distributes them to children who have been affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease in over 100 countries.

Ok, so this sounded a lot like other projects my family had been involved in giving food, toys and coats to the less fortunate at Christmas. Just these children were overseas.

But, as I continued to read, I realized donating a shoebox isn't anything AT ALL like donating food or bikes to local organizations. The food and the bikes that we donated to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ were delivered without any mention of Jesus Christ. The people who received the food and bikes had NO IDEA they were donated by Christians. They didn't hear Jesus' name.

OCC shoeboxes are delivered to Christian pastors trained in how to clearly explain the Good News to children. With parental consent, pastors invite children to a party at the church. At the party, a skit with music and dance presents the good news of Jesus Christ.

After the party, the pastor distributes the gift filled shoeboxes which are a complete surprise to the children and their parents. The shoeboxes symbolize God's gift of



Jesus Christ. It is a gift freely given, but it must be accepted. With the shoebox, a colorful booklet entitled "The Greatest Gift" is distributed explaining the gospel in the child's own language.

Every child who receives a shoebox hears the Good News and receives "The Greatest Gift" booklet. Furthermore, children about 6 years and older are invited to return to the church to attend "The Greatest Journey" which is a 12-week discipleship course to deepen their understanding of Christianity and their faith in God.

We were hooked. This was about way more than a gift-filled shoebox. This was about telling children around the world about Jesus. This simple shoebox would not only bring temporary joy but could also bring everlasting salvation. OCC isn't about putting a truck or doll in a child's hand; OCC is about guiding a child to put their hand in Jesus' hand.

That first year, Jim and I packed 2 of FBCP's 386 shoeboxes. Thanks to Margaret Bell, we volunteered at the Atlanta Processing Center. A few months later, I joined OCC's Area Team and learned far more than I can convey here.

Now, five years later, FBCP members are anticipating sending over 3,000 shoeboxes. Our members continue to pack individually as well as collectively at our Packing Party.

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Our elementary children have a blast at the November Go-Kids event learning about international missions and packing their own shoeboxes. A group regularly makes the trip to Atlanta to help inspect literally millions of shoeboxes for international shipping.

In Romans 10:14, Paul said “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” About 1 in 6 children who receive a shoebox accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior. This year, step into Operation Christmas Child – or step further - and help a child encounter Jesus.

**OCC:**

**Want to get involved?**

Jill Satterwhite: 850-982-2027

Barton Starr: 561-601-6213

Judy Leatherwood: 850-450-5440



### Operation Christmas Child - SAVE THE DATES

**October 21:** Sunday, Shoeboxes will be available. If you want yours earlier, ask Jill, Judy or Barton.

**October 24:** Wednesday, come have dinner and learn about Dr. Snyder's OCC experiences.

**October 31:** Wednesday, the deadline to reserve a spot for the OCC Processing Center Trip to Atlanta.  
Drop in room S-208 between 4:00-7:30 p.m. to lend a hand preparing for the packing party.

**November 9:** Friday, GOkids in the ROC.

**November 10:** Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Church-wide Operation Christmas Child Packing Party in Chipley Hall.

**Sunday, November 11:** Deadline to turn in your personal shoeboxes.

**Friday, November 30 & Saturday December 1:** Trip to OCC Processing Center in Atlanta.

*Serving Around the World*

**Ministry Spotlight: Russia Mission Trip**

The 2018 Russia Mission Trip began with several twists to our normal routine. Our dates were altered because of the World Cup. Our team leaders, Steve and Mary Baker were unable to make the trip due to health issues. Barbara Overman received her Visa so late that she flew to Russia a day later than the rest of the team.

Despite the difficulties, we had a very positive and effective week. We were excited to share Sunday worship with the church in Krasne Selo. We then shared six days working together with our Russian family to provide baseball camp, arts and crafts and a teen girls group. We had religious visas that allowed us to share Bible Stories and the plan of salvation with children who had not heard the Good News. We had a record number of children in attendance. These programs result in bringing more people into participation in the local church.

This is an excerpt from the September Newsletter sent to us from Pastor Vlad Kasianov:

*"Dear friends. I hurry to report to you about blessed fruits of our joint work. After the summer camp 16 new children and teenagers have come to our church. Three children go to younger group of Sunday school, ten children go to the senior group, three teenage girls go to youth meetings. We are very much inspired these results and we are grateful to you for your work and prayers. We ask you to pray about that all these children continue to go to church. Also pray please for their parents, that we could construct with them the friendly relations and tell them about Jesus Christ... I have asked Steve about that next year for we could carry out baseball at the beginning of August. We plan to make it from July 29 to August 3. We invite you to be our general team next year! Our youth and all community says hello to you warm!"*



I am so thankful to the FBCP family for giving us the opportunity to work with and to encourage our Russian brothers and sisters as they share the gospel on the other side of the world.

*Susan Hughes*

## Serving Around the World

Guatemala  
Haiti  
Liberia  
Russia  
South Sudan  
Operation Christmas Child

## CALENDAR OF MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### 2018

**Challenger Award Dinner** | December 3 / December 4  
**Homeless Dinner** | December 8

### 2019

**Haiti** | February 9-15, June 1-7, July 27-August 2, October 19-25

### MONTHLY

Prayer at Weis Community School on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. Meet in front of the school.

## Serving Our Community

## Ministry Spotlight: Homeless Ministry

**F**BC Homeless Ministry has been helping the homeless community for years by providing a meal throughout the year at Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen. From BBQ chicken, fried fish, and even Vietnamese fried rice and eggrolls, meals are cooked and served to well over 100 guests at each dinner.

This ministry does more than serve a hot meal to the homeless and less fortunate; it serves the love of Jesus Christ through our actions, words and fellowship. God was glorified when one of our deacons saw past the homeless shell that had engulfed a man and saw one of God's children living inside and brought that spirit to the surface with the help of many others in our church. That person was our own faithful member Steve Mamer, who recently graduated to heaven.

*"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well'—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."* James 2:14-17

The FBC Homeless Ministry plans and executes an annual Christmas luncheon for the homeless community on our campus in Chipley Hall. The luncheon provides a traditional Christmas meal and stockings filled with toys for the girls and boys. During the event our pastor shares a Christmas message to well over 300 guests and 100 or more volunteers. The afternoon includes musical entertainment and Christian fellowship to demonstrate the love of our Father. We offer free haircuts, winter clothing and other necessities.

*"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

Luke 14:13-14

If you would like to serve the needs of the homeless community, please contact Quoc Vuong at [kimandquoc@hotmail.com](mailto:kimandquoc@hotmail.com) or 850-528-7665.

## Serving Our Community

Disaster Relief  
Florida Baptist Children's Home  
Foster/Adoption Ministry  
Health and Hope Clinic Volunteer  
Prison Ministry  
Royal Family Kids Camp/Club  
Samaritan Hands  
School Mentor Program  
Weis Community School



*Our Homeless Ministry team serving at Loaves and Fishes*

## Ministry Spotlight: Fellowship of Christian Athletes

The Vision of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes. Our goal for achieving this mission is to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church.

### FCA impact reporting for 2017-2018:

#### Total Commitments to Christ:

National - 49,959 Local - 742

#### Total Bibles Distributed:

National - 169,815 Local - 1,117

#### Certified School Campuses:

National - 14,521 Local - 93 (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton)

#### Total Number of Staff:

National - 2,100 Local - 5

Last year FCA gathered in Chipley Hall on the campus of First Baptist Church for nine ministry events for athletes and coaches from our community; 3,345 attendees were fed, entertained, and their sport highlighted. When the gospel was presented we had over 750 faith commitments!



FBCP will be hosting the annual Challenger Award Banquet for fall sports on December 3 and 4, 2018. To serve alongside FCA at this event, please contact Mike Killam at [mkillam@fca.org](mailto:mkillam@fca.org).

*Thank You First Baptist Church Pensacola for partnering with FCA for 49 years.*



### Missions Committee: Meets First Wednesday of Each Month

John Hodges, Chair

Blake Benge (FBCP Staff), Joey Boles, Karen Brantley, Lori Kizziah, Virginia Lovell, Ali Ohler, Tara Rollins, Steve Shell (Chair-elect of Deacons), Doug Sprague, Barton Starr, Sharon Thompson, Quoc Vuong (Chairman of Deacons)

Submit a request for funding by the 23rd of the month: [shorturl.at/nEYZ4](http://shorturl.at/nEYZ4)

Missioner Scholarship request by the 23rd of the month:

[www.fbc.org/PDF/mission-scholarship-app.pdf](http://www.fbc.org/PDF/mission-scholarship-app.pdf)



The Great Commission

Missions Newsletter

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