



by **Jeremy Davis** // Minister to Students and Families

This past summer, our Student Ministry was able to take a group of fifteen students and adults to Heart Butte, Montana to serve on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. To say that it was a life-changing trip, would be an understatement. Students were able to help build a fence on a horse ranch that is part of a local ministry, cook a meal for the community, paint inside a community center, clean yards in the community, and lead a Bible club for the children on the reservation.

One of the most impactful parts of the trip was seeing the extreme poverty and living conditions for many of the people. We were able to participate in a “cultural night” where one of the local leaders shared about the history of the Blackfeet Nation. We all walked away from that night with a new perspective about the mistreatment of the Native American people throughout our country’s history. The experience helped us realize how the once proud and strong Blackfeet Nation ended up where it is today.

One of the highlights of the trip was being able to spend the first day in Glacier National Park. Seeing the beauty in God’s creation was a powerful way to start off our time serving in Montana. We are so grateful for First Baptist Church and all the many people that made this trip possible. In almost 20 years of Student Ministry, this trip is definitely one of my favorites.

Our students at First Baptist are truly remarkable, and trips like this are making a huge difference in their spiritual formation. In the summer of 2020 we will be taking an even larger group to the Bahamas to help with the rebuilding process after the recent hurricane. Thank you so much for all that you do to make trips like this possible.



### CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

**LEM, Liberia** | April 20

**Royal Family Kids Camp** | June 7-12

**Bahamas (Youth)** | July 4-10

**Russia** | Summer 2020

### MONTHLY

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

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

John Hodges, Chair

Blake Bengé (FBCP Staff), Matt Johnson, Lori Kizziah, Ali Ohler, Steve Shell (Chairman of Deacons), Barton Starr, Glen Strange, Sharon Thompson, Stephanie White

#### Submit a request for funding by the 23rd of the month:

[www.fbc.org/mission-initiative-form](http://www.fbc.org/mission-initiative-form)

#### 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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
500 North Palafox Street  
Pensacola, FL 32501-3998  
(850) 433-5631 • [www.fbc.org](http://www.fbc.org)

# THE GREAT COMMISSION



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE N° 5

FALL 2019

*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

## Operation Christmas Child Special Report: Togo



That Sunday, between two mango trees, Bernard began participating in The Greatest Journey.

Through the lessons, he learned that Jesus died for his sins. Because of this, Bernard decided to receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. “I started worshipping God that day,” said Bernard.

All 15 of the shoebox recipients participated in the 12-lesson discipleship course. With each lesson, the number of children in the class grew as the shoebox recipients invited friends and family to hear about Jesus.

### New Church Rises from The Greatest Journey

By late morning in Kopegan, Togo, people arrive at Eglise Baptiste de la Resurrection for Sunday services in an open-air sanctuary. Most have traveled by foot in their best clothes, walking several miles of dirt paths through rows of sorghum and maize crops. A few latecomers show up on the backs of motorcycle taxis as the music begins to blast through large speakers.

A little more than a year ago, the church started in a small, shaded space between two mango trees. It’s all because Operation Christmas Child shoebox recipients invited their friends and family to hear the Gospel at The Greatest Journey discipleship classes.

The evangelistic outreach to this remote village began with area Pastor Ransome Kwami Tomety, a small team of church leaders, a collection of Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, and a lot of prayer and faith that God would do something miraculous.

A group of 15 children responded to the church’s invitation to a special Operation Christmas Child event. There, they heard the Gospel, received shoebox gifts, and were invited to learn more about Jesus through The Greatest Journey.

### Immediate Impact

Bernard, one of the shoebox recipients, didn’t hesitate in his desire to know more about Jesus. “The following Sunday I went to church,” he said.

“Soon we were the size of a small church, so we decided we should start a regular congregation,” said Pastor Ransome. The 15 shoebox recipients graduated from The Greatest Journey and are part of the core church group, which currently totals almost 50 children and adults.

Bernard, now 16, and the other children who are part of the new church are seeing God use their testimonies to change the lives of their parents and other family members. Bernard’s father, mother, and older sister all have started attending church with him.

Pastor Ransome said that by reaching children with the Gospel, it opens doors to reach their communities.

“New things are happening every day in this church,” he said. “God is transforming every aspect of people’s lives.”

**The 4th Annual Operation Christmas Child Packing Party was a great success! We packed 3,855 shoeboxes. Thank you to each of you who packed shoeboxes.**

**Thank you to Chick-Fil-A for providing lunch!**

## More about Operation Christmas Child

**Pick up a shoebox now to fill with your family!** This is a great way to introduce your children to the concepts of giving and spreading the gospel. Use a "Follow Your Box" label to track your shoebox as a lesson on world geography with the children.

Shoeboxes are available at the following locations around the church campus: Welcome Center Atrium, Children's Atrium, in front of Chipley Hall, and in the Sanctuary Foyer.



**DEADLINE TO TURN IN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17.**

**Process shoeboxes at the Atlanta Processing Center!** We are volunteering at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Atlanta on Friday, December 6 (4:00-10:00 p.m.) and Saturday, December 7 (2:00-10:00 p.m.) You may volunteer either day or both days. We have room for 25 people each day. Volunteers must be 13 or older. If you want to join us, please contact Jill Satterwhite at [jsatterwhite@nwflaw.com](mailto:jsatterwhite@nwflaw.com) or at 850-982-2027 no later than Sunday, November 17.



### Bombas Sock Donation

Usually, FBCP is on the giving end of things. Not always. Recently, Bombas blessed our church with 2,500 pairs of truly great socks. Take a moment and visualize Twenty-Five Hundred pairs of socks. That's roughly equivalent to giving each person who attends a FBCP Sunday service a pair of socks – for three Sundays in a row!

The Bombas company was founded to create a high quality sock for homeless ministries. Bombas aims to make a positive impact by donating a pair of socks for every pair sold. We are excited about distributing these high quality socks at Weis Elementary School, at the homeless luncheon, through Samaritan Hands and through Operation Christmas Child. Please remember Bombas socks when doing your Christmas shopping (Bombas.com)!

## Serving Around the World

### Light Evangelism Ministry - Liberia by Mark Dahn

### School Construction Work Resumed!

After sitting out for almost a month in search of construction lumber, the Lord has provided some lumber and building materials. Work on the school construction has begun and our contractors are executing their duties. Floor beams, steel framing, molding blocks and elevation of walls are all currently in progress. We started late but we have almost half the walls standing. Praise the Lord!

### Short and Long-term Missionaries Needed

We are in need of short and long-term missionaries to fill large roles at LEM in Liberia. If you have found yourself in a season of retirement, please consider this opportunity. Areas to serve: Christian school, clinic, with the church-evangelism, training and teaching, ground and construction work projects.

### Evangelism at LEM Christian School

Mrs. Eunice Dahn began visiting the clinic and sharing the Gospel three weeks after our arrival while Mark worked construction and ministered to students in our Christian school. On November 30-31, 2018, 18 out of 51 students in our 11th grade class accepted the Lord as Savior after Mark taught their Bible class and extended invitation for salvation. On November 2, 2019, Eunice led five of our dormitory girls to the Lord. Yes, God is working! The Lord has saved nearly four dozen people since we took a leap of faith to persist in carrying out this effort.

## Light Evangelism Ministry continued...

### Sponsored Students

We believe that our sponsors will be delighted to know and see that their sponsored students are in good health on LEM campus. They are healthy and are learning with joy. You are helping LEM to bring up beautiful children.

### 2020 Medical Mission Trip

Please sign up for our April 20, 2020 medical mission trip in Liberia, West Africa. This mission will be an exciting opportunity you will never forget. LEM will be hosting a team of 12 people including doctors and nurses. This trip will last for two weeks - we welcome you to come for one or both weeks. Please send us an email ([gnmedahn@juno.com](mailto:gnmedahn@juno.com) or [nshdm1960@gmail.com](mailto:nshdm1960@gmail.com)) if you are interested.



### LEM Prayer Requests

Short-term Missionary teacher/nurses  
Medical mission trip in June 2020  
Staff, teachers and parents  
Additional supporters

## Serving Around the World

### Russia Mission Trip by Steve Baker

In late July a team of twenty, sponsored by our church, travelled to Krasnoe Selo, a small town of 50,000 residents approximately 20 miles south of St. Petersburg, Russia, to work with the Evangelical Church – Baptist of Krasnoe Selo. This was the 13th trip to Krasnoe Selo and the 17th to the St. Petersburg area. Every day our team played baseball with children ages 8-17. Three games were played with 25-40 children in each game, divided by age groups. Over 100 younger children attend VBS sessions in five tents set up in another part of the field. Additionally, in the last few years we have daily sessions for older teenage girls led by young women on our team who teach them about God's love, self-esteem, self-worth and living Godly lives in a difficult society. Thirty plus teenagers attend.

Every day the baseball players and VBS attendees hear Bible stories from our Russian friends and the Gospel from members of our team. The children love the attention from the Americans and eagerly await our arrival every day. The small group setting allows us to really connect with the children. Due to the hard work of the Pastor and its members, the Church has a great relationship with the local government and each year the Mayor and/or his first assistant come to greet us and welcome us to their town.

This year we even made the front page of the local weekly newspaper the week after we left. A picture of the VBS children with the flowers they had made one day accompanied an article on the front page. The headline over the picture described the flowers made by the children as "Flowers of Peace." The article described how the Americans teach "Christian values and moral principles."

Our trip is multifaceted. Most importantly, we want to share the gospel with the children who participate and with adults who walk past our field. We want to support the church in its missional outreach. Over the last two years the church has been building a foundation for the church it wants to plant in Gorelovo, a small village approximately 5-10 miles from Krasnoe Selo. They have held a baseball and VBS camp there each year the week after we left. Two weeks after we left the church had a Fun Day for 80 of the children from the community who attended with a number of their parents. Puppets shared the Gospel with the children. Finally, this trip encourages those who go to grow in their faith.

