

# FBC CONNECTION

CONNECTING THE LIFE AND PEOPLE OF FOOTHILL BIBLE CHURCH



## There and Back Again: Josh & Michelle Powell

BY JONATHAN SCHAAP

Isn't it amazing how God is sovereign over all things? Isn't it amazing how He orchestrates all those things for His glory and good purposes? Isn't it amazing how He is working in all of our lives yesterday, today, and forever? Isn't it amazing!

Josh and Michelle Powell continue to marvel at God's goodness and have quite the story of how God brought them together and to FBC. They are parents to 4 children - Jedidiah, Jirah, Judah, and Joanna (you may notice a pattern) and have been at FBC for just under a year now. Their story begins much earlier however...

Michelle grew up in Nevada to then, non-believing parents. Christ saved her at a young age - she actively desired more godly education, gobbling up sermons and attending youth group; and eventually, God put it on her heart to attend a Christian college in New Zealand. One small obstacle re-

### WHAT'S INSIDE

#### Ministry Focus

JOSH & MICHELLE  
POWELL

#### New Member

JENI WOZNY

#### Marriage Announcement

ELIJAH &  
NATHALIE ROYBAL

#### Father & Son Beach Camp 2022

*Continued from pg. 1*

mained however, about \$25,000... After some initial fundraising requests and much prayer, the week of the deadline to come up with the funds had arrived, and Michelle had basically resigned herself to the fact that she would not be going. However, she randomly (not really) ran into the mother of a youth group friend who casually asked her where she was planning on going to school. Michelle mentioned she wanted to go to New Zealand but didn't think it was going to happen due to a lack of funds. The woman asked Michelle how much she was short. Michelle said about \$25,000. The woman offhandedly and nonchalantly offered to pay it (after first confirming with her husband) like it was no big deal! Michelle was stunned.

Suddenly, she had only a few days to pack for the long journey that would affect the rest of her life. Even though Michelle's quest (to the land where Hobbits, elves, dwarves, and orcs were filmed) was not to destroy the One Ring of Power in the fires of Mount Doom in the land of Mordor, a ring was definitely in her future.

Meanwhile, Josh grew up in New Zealand to Christian parents. However, after a convicting conversation with a friend

who mentioned to Josh that he did not know he was a Christian (even though Josh claimed to be one), God really began to work on Josh's heart. Josh decided to leave behind some of his wayward living and to follow God's calling in his life. Eventually, this led to a desire to attend a Christian college,

and Josh ended up at Shepherd's Bible College.

One might think that Michelle instantly fell in love with a local New Zealander at Shepherd's Bible College upon arrival, but this Kiwi love story ripened over time. Josh still fondly remembers the first time he saw Michelle... It was in the parking lot. Josh immediately knew that she was the new American girl just by the way that she carried herself; and at that moment, Josh knew that there was something about this girl and sought to pursue her. He was too timid at that moment to approach her but kept her on his radar.

At that time, Michelle was being discipled at the time by Nigel Shailer and his wife Sareena from FBC Murrieta (Nigel pops up alarmingly frequently and at just the right time, much like Gandalf, in their tale). Josh asked Nigel if he could ask Michelle out, to which Nigel replied "Go ahead and ask her out, but she'll

say no."... and he was right. The events leading up to their first date involved a lot of Michelle saying no, Josh interpreting her denials as "not yet" or "you're saying there's a chance", some hideous green shorts, and the obstacle of another man occupying much of Michelle's time.



Josh pursued Michelle persistently, respectfully, and in a godly way, and she finally acquiesced to a first date. It didn't take long for God to do a work in her heart to make her realize that Josh was the man that God had ordained for her.

*Continued on pg. 3*

*Continued from pg. 2*

The saga continues... God was orchestrating a magnificent puzzle to bring them here to FBC Upland. Josh began pursuing many different forms of employment, but eventually ended up in ministry as God began to make that call clear to him. Early on in their marriage, Josh was hired on as a youth pastor at a church in Auckland, New Zealand. Josh and Michelle loved and served this local body but as time progressed they were praying for a release from this place due to issues involving the sufficiency of Scripture which had began surfacing in the church. Long story, short... Josh ended up reaching out to Nigel Shailer once again (now serving at FBC Murrieta- see how he pops up often) who encouraged them to come to California!

Josh and Michelle moved to California and ended up staying at FBC Murrieta for approximately six years, plugging in and growing spiritually, grateful for God's grace in giving them experience of serving in a healthy church that they had been desiring for so long. Josh got involved in TC (Training Center) at FBC Murietta, made many connections and learned more about his spiritual gifting.

Josh was also employed by a local business, Sportstek Medical (run by a couple of elders at the church). As he helped this business grow God revealed to Josh his gifting in administration. During this time the call to ministry remained on Josh's heart and in his prayers. Josh had formerly met with Art (the human LinkedIn) back in 2019 about a business/administration position at FBC Upland which seemed to be a perfect fit, however for the Powell family was the wrong timing. In the 2 years from 2019 to 2021, this job position was refined, with the addition of the new Training Center at FBC, and made available again when Luke Rhee moved to Idaho. God's timing is always perfect. God was working through every detail, job, and

relationship along this epic journey.

We are overjoyed that Josh and Michelle ended up at FBC Upland, their new church home! Josh is excited to serve in an administrative capacity here and to see where God will lead them next. Make sure to introduce yourself to the Powell family. Have them over for coffee and bikkies (cookies)! Welcome to FBC Upland, Powell family!

*Photos by Lucas Roybal*

## **New Member: Jeni Wozny**

BY JULIA BUEHL



To be used by God in any way He sees fit has been a privilege for Jeni Wozny. The love she has for people as she sees them as an eternal soul is so evident in her life. When a person comes to a realization of the sovereignty of God in their lives, even in every detail, there is a sense of awe and willing submission to His perfect plans. For Jeni, she has seen in many ways how God has loved her and or-



*Continued from pg. 3*

chestrated the details of her saving faith, ministry opportunities, and career choice. She continues to be amazed in the ways God has chosen to use her in her family, in her job as an elementary school teacher, and on short term missions trips.

Having been raised in church with two parents who love the Lord, Jeni became a Christian from an early age, but it was during the time she was regularly attending Grace Community Church after college that she saw sin in a new way and came to a deeper appreciation for the loving sacrifice of Christ on the cross for her sin. “Only if I know the depth of my sin can I know the depth of Christ’s love for me”. Out of this realization, Jeni has developed a passion for children to know the gospel and know that their sins can be forgiven so they might have eternal life! The many ways over the past 15 years that she has used every opportunity to share these precious truths with children would astound the average Christian.

As a student at Biola studying elementary education with an emphasis in intercultural studies and a minor in Bible, God was preparing Jeni for greater things. In the time since completing college, Jeni has served overseas in Madagascar, South Africa, and six months in Ukraine in a city that has been affected by the current war. In Ukraine in 2006, she volunteered with Christian camps for children, taught English at the Bible college, visited orphanages and some street children, visited the hospital for kids with cancer, etc. In 2008, she also spent 5 weeks in Crimea ministering to kids from an orphanage and helping at a Christian camp for those kids.

As a teacher, Jeni has worked in 6 different schools over 15 years teaching 3rd to 6th grade in Los Angeles county. Her mission as a teacher is to speak truth into the lives of children, to pray with parents and co-workers, and show them how much God loves them. Every opportunity to share about Jesus in a public school has its potential negative

consequences but Jeni sees God’s grace as He has made a way for her to share her faith. “This is where God has me for this time to make an impact” and she submits to God her fate as she boldly tells others about Jesus. She taught for 10 years at a Christian school and saw that these children from Christian homes needed to hear the gospel as much as the public school children as they learn of saving faith and not good works to obtain salvation. She acknowledges she is only a messenger for God and that it is God who saves people, counting it a privilege to be used by God.

Jeni moved back to Phillips Ranch in Pomona to live with her mother after her father passed away when she had the opportunity to teach at the local elementary school near her mom’s house (and the elementary school Jeni went to as a kid). God granted her and her mom, brother, and sister precious time with her dad before he passed away from cancer in December 2020. She witnessed first-hand in the last year of his life how the Bible grew in great importance for him as he and her mother read and studied daily from the New Testament. Jeni’s mom, a retired school teacher at a school in Phillips Ranch, taught 1st grade. When Jeni took the job as a 6th grade teacher in this same school, Jeni was assigned those same students whom her mother taught five years prior! What a beautiful circle of continuing the work her mother began those years ago. Jeni’s brother and his wife are now full-time medical missionaries on the mission field overseas and have two small children, whom Jeni adores.

Jigsaw puzzles, board games, hanging out with friends, being outside in God’s creation, hiking, and playing volleyball are a few activities Jeni enjoys when she is not at work. You may have seen Jeni at AWANA as she served this past year as a leader with the 5th and 6th girls. If you have the opportunity to meet Jeni, you will find a refreshing sincerity and kindness. We are blessed to have her as a member of our church!

*Photo by Lucas Roybal*

## Marriage Announcement: Elijah & Nathalie Roybal



On December 12, 2021, Eli Roybal and Nathalie Iannetta were united in marriage. Micah Lugg officiated as friends and family gathered at Luce Loft in downtown San Diego for an afternoon wedding and evening reception.

Eli and Nathalie met at FBC where they had attended Crossroads together since 2017, FBC's ministry for single young adults. They got to know each other in small group and at family beach trips. Both were attracted to each other's commitment to Christ and willingness to serve

in the church. Nathalie shares, "Through dating we saw that we loved each other's company and had many of the same interests and future goals. As we have been married our goal has been to glorify Christ through our marriage and make our home a place where the gospel is of highest value."

Nathalie works for Claremont School District as a classroom aide in adapted physical education for children with special needs. Eli is employed as a firefighter/paramedic for La Verne Fire Department. The couple are in the Faria small group and serve together as ONE28 leaders. You can also find them serving Sunday mornings with Eli playing piano on the Worship Team and Nathalie in Kids Ministry. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Roybal!

*Photo by Vers The Maker*

## Father & Son Beach Camp 2022



"Unless the Lord build the house,  
those who build it labor in vain"

Psalm 127:1

*Cont. on pg. 6*





*Continued from pg. 5*

Building Men to Lead and to Serve was the theme for this year's Father & Son Beach Camp. Over 150 fathers, sons and grandsons spent three days and two nights at San Clemente State Beach Campground from April 1st through April 3rd, 2022. Among the activities for the weekend were eating great food, fellowshiping around the fire, singing worship songs, and listening to teachings which delved deeply into God's Word.

Pastor Taylor opened the weekend by laying a foundation in defining what a man of God is. Daniel Nakamura spoke about "Fireproofing", Nick Marino on the importance of "Being On Site", Mike Harris concerning "Maintenance", Jim Herndon with wisdom for "Remodeling", Chad Costello about "Design", Paul Roybal addressed "Angle of Contact and Sharpening Your Tools", Sam Maldonado on "Security", and Steve Shwetz with "Finishing Touches".

*Photos by Lucas Roybal*

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