

# FBC CONNECTION

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CONNECTING THE LIFE AND PEOPLE OF FOOTHILL BIBLE CHURCH

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## Ministry Focus: CROSSROADS

by Julia Buehl

### Our Mission

“Striving to mature in Christ so that we might humbly invigorate the church to live out the gospel.” Crossroads, the college age group at Foothill Bible Church, is dedicated to upholding this mission statement. Composed of young adults, Crossroads is a forum for corporate worship, growth in maturity, and fellowship. Bernie Cestone, the elder overseeing this ministry, shares, “As the name suggests, this age group faces a number of decisions which are highly important to their lives. As the leaders in Crossroads, we get the opportunity to speak some Biblical truth into their lives through teaching, Bible study, small groups, one-on-one discipling and perhaps most importantly by example.” Here is where the rubber meets the road. Ones’ core beliefs are examined and put up against the truth of God’s word in a setting that is conducive to openness. Bernie says that God has blessed him with 75 years

of life and he counts it a privilege to share some wisdom acquired over those years with the younger generation. One selfish benefit he gets is that running with the young helps keep him young.

As a graduate from The Master’s Seminary, Luke Rhee has a desire to use his education for ministry among the young adults. He has an affinity with this age group as he himself came to faith less than a year before entering Claremont McKenna College as a freshman. He found FBC was a solid Bible teaching ministry with a senior pastor who invested personally in the lives of the young men and that was what grew him in his faith during those foundational years. For Laura, she sees herself as an older sister to the young ladies, and takes advantage of the way

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Luke (holding Daniel) and Laura Rhee, Bernie Cestone, Emily and Nathan (holding Michaela) Bugbee Photo by Lucas Roybal



*Crossroads Christmas Party. Left to right: Eliza Cobb, Maria Flores, Brittany Herndon, Ally Bohler, Ellyn Milosch, Emily Cobb. Bottom right: Chris Chan. Photos by Bernie Cestone*

*Crossroads continued from page 1*

God made women relationally to teach and model a life not driven by pop culture.

What motivated Nathan and Emily to serve in this group? “Life was comfortable for us but I felt like we were doing a lot of taking. We settled into marriage and work and felt we were on the sidelines.” Jumping back into the fray to be servers not just takers would be hard; acknowledging that they may come out beaten and bloodied but know it would be worth it. Emily adds that this was a good opportunity to be stretched, not the most comfortable, because she has been given so much.

When you walk into the Fountain Cafe on a Wednesday evening, you will see up to 30 young adults all there for one purpose: to meet with like-minded people who share similar struggles and circumstances. Not all are college students, as some are on a career path or just trying to find out where they fit in the adult world of today. To be sure, each one has made the conscious choice to be associated with the name of Christ and seek to be sanctified through these four avenues: worshipping through song, Bible-based teaching, small group discipleship, and fellowship. Let’s take a closer look at what happens here.

## **Worship through Song**

Bold and strong voices fill the Fountain Cafe each week as these young people sing the refrains of hymns that confirm their faith, as well as praise songs to bring glory to their Lord and King. The Crossroads ministry has several young musicians that bring the songs of our faith to the group; some lead the singing, some play piano, guitar, or keep rhythm on various instruments, but all work in unity to “Let the Amen ring from His people again.” Yes, this is a talented group of musicians who are desirous to use their gifts to lift up the name of Jesus. The basis of their singing is found solidly in the Word that lays open hearts and begs them to be made

right before their Maker and ready to receive the Word.

## **Worship through Bible Study**

The men that open the Word and share these truths are intent on one purpose: to teach how to live godly lives, growth in the image of Christ, and daily sanctification. “First and foremost,” shares Bernie, “is the need to repent of sin and trust in Christ if they have not already done that.” For we know that any good works done in the flesh are like a filthy garment, but those who are set apart for His purpose by having accepted the free gift of salvation, are saved for good works and not by good works. The current weekly exegetical study is taking Crossroads through the book of Philippians being led by Luke Rhee. This study portion is verse by verse and grappling with the Scripture even when it is inconvenient. It is understanding why they believe what they believe. One week in November was a time of teaching on thankfulness by Bernie as well as testimonies of several members on God’s goodness and calling them to live faithfully for Him and deny their fleshly weaknesses. What an encouragement that is when they make themselves vulnerable by admitting wrong thinking that led to wrong life-choices and how God redeemed through the circumstances.

God is going to stretch them past their comfort zones. If it weren’t for the people that God puts in their lives, they may be taken away by the temptations of this world that says to live for yourselves, not die to self.

## **Worship through Small Groups**

After a short time of teaching, Crossroads splits into  
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multiple small groups in order to discuss a passage and pray for one another. These small groups help students learn from the Word of God and care for each other.

Nathan says the guys are generally very eager to dig into the text, and that he has to prepare ahead of time for those tricky questions that may come up. “It is good to see people my age sincerely devoted to Christ and encourages me to do the same. Many of the youth despair because of apathy that surrounds them. I am fighting for a sincere devotion to Christ so I can model that enthusiastic walk with Christ.” Nathan shares that a challenge for the guys is a lack of seriousness about life and their walk with God. He says he is up against over-familiarity with the Bible stories and to help them realize the life-changing truth of the Gospel that Jesus came into this world and wants them to be reconciled to Him. He says it is exciting when people come to terms with their sin and want to deal with it. The first step is embracing the Gospel. He sees the role of Crossroads is to teach them to be more outward-looking and to be a part of the whole church.

Because most colleges are so hostile to the Bible and Christians, the students find at FBC something that brings them back to His truth. Even the workplace can pose challenges to their Christian walk as the world is always tempting them to conform to living for selfish ambition. Crossroads small groups give a mid-week break from the lies of the college environment and a place to shelter in His Word, in His presence with His people who give hope and encouragement.



Change does not always happen in one ah-ha moment;

Above: Kimberly Allison. Below, left to right: Kurt Burrows, Jade Wilson, Grant Burrows, Sawyer Shwetz, Natalie Iannetta.

Photos by Bernie Cestone



it is gradual over time through relationships that grow one in knowledge and wisdom as they learn and apply truth to their lives, failing often, getting back to God through His forgiveness, then making those truths alive in their walks. The Gospel is central in their lives, as being constantly reminded of the cleansing needed through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior. When we acknowledge our vileness and His perfect love for us so lost, we come to the feet of Jesus who washes all our sins away. We need to be reminded of our desperate need for His presence in our lives moment by moment. Small groups facilitate a discussion where each person can have an impact on another. This model is not one leader that all go to for advice, but for each person in the group having a common accountability to the other to share in love how one ought to live more for Him, to share burdens and pray for one another as the Lord puts it on their hearts.

## Worship through Fellowship

“If you do not have food, you do not have fellowship,” I have heard in the aisles of our church, and Crossroads is no exception. The balance of the evening always has sweet and savory treats to keep the momentum of the evening going until the last light is turned out. This may be a time to get to know people who have recently joined the group, or to have that conversation with longtime friends. This time has also been known to help a young person discover if a particular person they have eyed on Sunday morning has similar interests, and thus a budding relationship begins. Yep, here is where God can grow young love in a safe environment that honors God. Laura reminds us that Proverbs 18:22 says that if you find a good wife, you find a good thing. Pursuing lifelong friendships that are biblically grounded and Christ-centered that grow throughout adulthood is a by-product of fellowship.

## Worship Every Day

“This is what the LORD says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.” — Jeremiah 6:16. When young people come to FBC, they find a solid teaching, a group of people who are committed to growing them in their faith, who ground them in the Word, people who are committed to one another and unite them in a purpose beyond getting through college and establishing their careers, to meet them where they are at in a fallen world that so desperately needs the authority of the Bible to preserve them for His purposes.

If you'd like more information, please contact Luke Rhee at [LRhee88@gmail.com](mailto:LRhee88@gmail.com), or [818-939-9514](tel:818-939-9514).

## Working in the Background

by Michelle Lane

Paul's letter to the Corinthians speaks of the members of the body and how each of us is called to serve one another in various ways. Though some are called to serve in areas that put them in the forefront of the body, many more are called to work in the background, but without whom the day-to-day functions of our church would not run so smoothly.

In recent years there has been a number of young men working at Foothill Bible Church pulling weeds, pruning, watering, cleaning, vacuuming, setting up rooms, and different projects all to prepare our church for any event taking place on the FBC campus.



Aaron Milosch with his sister Ellyn



Matt Miller Photo by Vonnie Perez

Two of those young men are Aaron Milosch and Matthew Miller. After working at FBC for a little over six years Aaron Milosch, second son of Andy and Jill Milosch, has now moved to Anaheim and is attending Cal State Fullerton. He is also working at a fitness center and tutors English. Aaron started working at church while he was still in high school so he could earn money for a car and college. He was primarily the groundskeeper and though it could often be very hard work, he decided to think of himself as an artist, the church campus as his canvas and the tools he used as paintbrushes. It helped him to see the significance in his work and, therefore, to work harder to have the campus looking good for Sundays. He also learned to adapt to different situations while working with others and leading summer projects. Aaron said, "It was not always easy and you have to put yourself and others in places where they will succeed. It was all about working together as a team towards a common goal—providing a fantastic place where people can enjoy meeting together as brothers and sisters in Christ." He readily admits the lessons he learned during those years at church have helped him be successful academically, as well as in his other jobs.

Matthew Miller has been a part of the Foothill Bible family almost his entire life. He is the fourth son of Brent and Teresa Miller and the older brother (by one minute) of his sister Meghan. Matt started working at church right after high

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school and filled the position vacated by Jared Wilson. He has been there now for five years. When Matt started his job, his duties included vacuuming, wiping down tables and chairs, taking out the trash and setting up tables and chairs mostly for Sunday mornings. Over the years he has been assigned more responsibilities. For example, he must set up rooms for several mid-week Bible studies, Sunday mornings and for AWANA on Sunday evenings. He opens and closes the church on Sundays and he also works on special projects, such as recently helping with the painting of the gym in the Outreach Center.

Matt really enjoys having lunch with the pastors and other staff; that's one of the highlights of his day. Sitting and listening and learning from these men means a lot to him. He also enjoys talking with people during the day and likes to be able to help with anything that anyone may need from getting extra trash cans, carrying heavy items for ladies, even filling the empty paper towel holder in the kitchen. He's always willing and never too busy to help. When asked what he has learned from working at FBC, Matt is very thoughtful in his answer. He says he has had to learn to manage his time and prioritize his various responsibilities throughout the day. Some days go like clockwork, but other days there are different events happening and he has to be able to rearrange his schedule in order to complete his work. A good example of this was on Election Day. Foothill Bible Church was a polling place and Matt had to be at church to open up for poll workers at 5:30 a.m. Since they were in the Outreach Center, he wasn't able to follow his normal routine, so flexibility was needed. However, with diligence he managed to get his work completed and made sure everything was back to normal after the poll workers left, which was around 9 p.m. A long day, but a job well done as everything was in order for the next day when the ladies in Bible Study Fellowship met on campus.

**It takes many to make light the work; many who are willing to serve in those areas that may not seem so glamorous, but yet are so essential.**

It takes many to make light the work; many who are willing to serve in those areas that may not seem so glamorous, but yet are so essential. Foothill Bible Church is an environment that provides many young people an opportunity to begin stretching their wings, gaining valuable job experience and learning many lessons along the way that will carry them to their next job and whatever the future holds for them. Each one serving His Lord by serving others as a member of this body of believers.

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## Give Thanks



*Twenty-five people gathered at Foothill Bible Church on Thanksgiving day and enjoyed a bountiful selection of delicious dishes including, of course, turkey and a ham.  
Photo by Joe Lane*



*Albertine Aka. Photo by Joe Lane*



*Jim and Jessie Wine led the singing which included some Christmas Carols to usher in the season.  
Photo by Joe Lane*

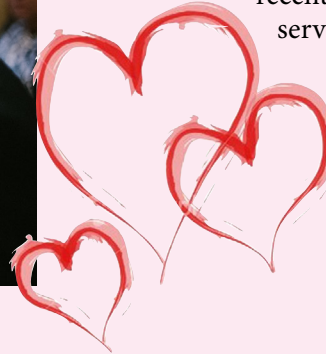
# Wedding/New Member



## Sam and Sydney Shwetz

On December 9th, 2016, Sam and Sydney (Bessler) Shwetz exchanged wedding vows with Micah Lugg officiating the ceremony that was held in Riverside at the Mission Inn. Sam had recently completed six years of service in the Navy, and now the couple is residing in Costa Mesa, California. Sam is the oldest son of Steve and Sheryl Shwetz.

Photo by Spencer Shwetz



## New Member: Ryan Krell

by Bailee Harris

Ryan (23) was born and grew up in Canada as 1 out of 7 children. He was raised in a Christian home, and was homeschooled from kindergarten throughout his senior year in high school. At age 18 Ryan decided that it was important to him to attend a Christian college here in the States, and he's been here throughout his collegiate life.

As Ryan grew up attending church, he couldn't pinpoint a specific moment when he accepted Christ. He remembers saying a prayer with his mom and getting baptized at age 12; he realized what he believed in and decided to make his faith his own. Since attending FBC in August of this year, Ryan has seen the grace of God in his life and in people he's had the privilege of getting to know while fellowshiping here. *"It's amazing that I can just drop into a place like Upland. . .and within three months I've made so many great friends and have a good church family supporting me. The teaching and the shepherding is really taken seriously here at Foothill, and I really appreciate that."*

Children's ministry and worship are two areas where Ryan has previously served back at his home church in Canada (he shared that he used to be a leader in "Stockaders", which is Canada's equivalent of AWANA), and said that he is open to serving in either capacity at FBC *"wherever the need is"*. While attending the Master's College for his bachelor's degree in music he had the opportunity to

play piano in the chapel band as well as accompany the Master's Chorale, and remembers it as a blessing to be able to serve in that way. He is currently finishing graduate school at Azusa Pacific University, and also works as a graduate assistant and studio accompanist for the school of music there. When he's not in school, Ryan enjoys playing piano, reading, scuba diving, hiking, running, and skiing. A fun fact about him is that he has a twin brother who attends The Master's Seminary.

Ryan's favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:1 — *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* He finds encouragement in this verse *"...because of the truth that's there. . .the assurance of salvation, the gospel, and the results of the gospel—to live free and in peace knowing that you're not condemned."*

Ryan Krell  
Photo by Quilaztli  
Pastorelli  
Photography



## A JOURNEY TOWARD BAPTISM

by Sydnee Harris

At a young age, I became a Christian; God opened my eyes to the truth and I spoke with my mom and accepted Christ into my heart, but I didn't become truly serious about my faith until we started coming to Foothill Bible Church. I appreciated seeing how a church was supposed to function with all the deacons, elders, and pastors. God was—and still is—doing an enormous work in my heart and is growing me in my walk and desire for Him.

Until I came here I didn't fully realize the importance of baptism, and I kept pushing it aside due to my fear of going up in front of everyone. However, the desire to be baptized began to grow in my heart despite my fears. As I prayed and asked God to help me conquer my fear of man, he answered my prayer. Two Bible verses stood out to me and made me realize that ultimately my fear of God needed to conquer my fear of man. Matthew 10:28 states that we must fear God, who can kill both body and soul, not man who can only kill the body. Matthew 10:33 says, "But whoever denies me before men, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven." After I deeply sought God about these things, I contacted Micah, asking him about being baptized and set up an interview (this was honestly the most nerve-wracking part). Needless to say, I passed the interview! We set up my baptism for September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Being so excited and nervous at the same time, I invited my grandparents and one of my closest friends and her family to come. When I walked on stage, all my nervous fear went away because I knew that God was going to be glorified through this and not me. He gave me the courage I needed to conquer my fear of man. This was how I knew it was nothing of myself; it was all the work of the Holy Spirit. Knowing that I could never have made the decision to be baptized without God's prodding in my heart. I was so joyful to be an example of Christ that day. Hopefully, as a result, many others who are considering baptism won't wait if the Lord has opened their eyes. Let me leave you with a question that was in my heart while I made my decision: what is preventing you from being baptized? Seeking direction from God in His Word I understood that

He is sovereign and in control. Calling myself a disciple of Jesus Christ, and following Jesus' example, I knew that this was a step that all believers must take - the outward display of the inward reality of what he has done in us. Titus 3:5 says "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing and regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."

*Bio by Julia Buehl*

Growing up in a Christian home, and the middle child of Mike and Lisa Harris, Sydnee excels at soccer and has been learning how to play the guitar while being homeschooled and is currently a freshman in high school. She is an active member of ONE28 and loves her small group led by Julie Thorp. Wednesday evenings are a family affair with older sister Bailee and younger brother Andrew joining the activities planned each week. Learning from Pastor David in the New Testament Survey class and serving in Children's Ministry, she is maturing in her walk and faith.



Sydnee Harris Photo by Lucas Roybal

# Joy to the World!



*On Christmas morning, the children from age 4 through 6th grade sang for the whole congregation. Miriam Hsieh led the children in singing Birthday of a King and Joy to the World. Accompanying the children on piano was Anna Hsieh. A special thank you to Tom Hsieh and Judi Astadurian who worked with the children for the four weeks leading up to the performance. Photo by Julia Buehl*



Art Nakamura, editor-in-chief  
Julia Buehl, editor  
Ann Inlow, layout

## **FBC Connection**

The purpose of the FBC Connection newsletter is to inform and inspire the FBC body of what God is doing in the life of its members. Please note that the testimonies and articles are written by volunteers and do not necessarily reflect the sentiments or endorsements of the elder board. The apostle Paul explains in I Corinthians 12 that the local church is one body made up of many members and gifts. FBC Connection recognizes this diversity in the FBC body and seeks to promote community through this form of communication. On behalf of the elder board of FBC, we invite you to proclaim the excellencies of Christ who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.