

2023

acts 1:8

HERE, TH VERYWHERE.

The Gospel to Eswatini

Disaster Relief
Communications

Togo, Africa

Trunk of Treats

Local Opportunities
Abound



... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

acts 1:8

HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE.



Fall 2023 - Spring Baptist Church

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Here, There, Everywhere.

For the last several years, we have focused on Acts 1:8 when speaking about our missions work here at Spring Baptist Church. Acts 1:8 states, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Jesus did not say that you could be a witness or that you may be one. No...he said you will be a witness. Some of you may be thinking, "Pastor, I can't live in a grass hut in Africa and tell people about Jesus." Maybe not, but you can walk across the street to share the gospel with your lost neighbor. You see, missions is not just about witnessing to people halfway around the world. Sure, that's part of it, but Jesus' plan involves much more than that.

So why did Jesus mention the locations he did in Acts 1:8? He gave his followers the blueprint for carrying out the mission. It starts in our Jerusalem, which for us is Spring, Texas. Our community is ripe for sharing the gospel with our neighbors, those in our schools, and our coworkers. Finding ways to love and serve others in meaningful ways demonstrates the love of Christ.

Moving outward from home is Texas and the United States (our Judea and Samaria). Texas is one of the fastest-growing states in the country. Hundreds of people move here each day and need to hear the gospel. Moreover, the country is moving away from being a Christian nation, and the need for national missions has never been greater.

Finally, many people groups around the world (the ends of the earth) have never heard the gospel. According to the International Mission Board, approximately 60% of the world's population is unreached. Unreached people groups need Christians to come and share the good news and serve them in practical ways.

In the following pages, you will read stories about how people like you are going here, there, and everywhere to fulfill the calling God has placed in their lives. What about you? How will you serve those who need to hear about Jesus?

In His name we go,



Dr. Mark Estep
Senior Pastor





Our Jerusalem & Judea

Here.

Ministering to Families in Spring, Texas

Trunk or Treat and Eggstastic Events Draw Thousands to Campuses

Have you ever been invited to someone’s house for dinner? The first place you stop is their front porch. You ring the doorbell. They let you in. How nice of them! But no matter how many times you are invited over, you have to stop at the front porch first. As we continue to be a church that lives ON MISSION and fully fulfilling the Great Commission, we host events like **Trunk of Treats** and **Eggstastic** to welcome families to the front porch of our church. Our hope is that while they are on our campus interacting with people that they will experience what life is like when you are fully changed by Jesus. It’s not boring, it’s an adventure! As we serve, love, care and laugh together God provides opportunities for us to invite them into something much greater than just the “front porch”. That invitation is to know, love, and cherish Jesus every day of their lives.

by Neal Livingston



acts 1:8
HERE. THERE. EVERYWHERE.

Soul Safari

Homeless Ministry

Ministering to Houston's Homeless Population

For several years, Spring Baptist has supported Soul Safari. This ministry, founded in 2012, shares the Gospel and ministers to the hearts of those who come. Individuals are provided Bibles, food, water, clothing, blankets, and more to the North Houston homeless population. Several churches partner with Soul Safari, including Spring Baptist. Bill Zaffos of Spring Baptist shares, "I know that actually sharing the Gospel with others can be difficult. It was for me, but I have been blessed ever since. I would encourage you to come just once, and you will be blessed." Soul Safari meets on the second Saturday of each month, rain-or-shine, from 9-11 AM at the corner of Kuykendahl and FM 1960. They always need donations such as towels, sheets, and blankets. In the Fall, backpacks, light jackets, and casual shoes are beneficial as winter approaches.

We have seen an increase in Spanish-speaking individuals and are in real need of bilingual volunteers to help share Jesus with those the Lord is bringing each month.

As area construction continues, wooded areas that house local homeless camps are disappearing—this translates to more opportunities for Soul Safari to minister.

Just as a reminder about what the Soul Safari's mission is: We are to boldly share the Gospel to the homeless, hopeless, helpless and needy on FM1960. Should anyone accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, we will help and encourage them to join one of the churches in the area to learn more about Him.



by **Bill Zaffos**

If you are interested in learning more about Soul Safari, Please contact Bill Zaffos at Bill Zaffos wpzaffos@gmail.com





Our Jerusalem & Judea



Here.



VBS 2023 - Reaching Others Here at Home

As we remember that Spring Baptist is not just a church that does missions, but rather has a mission, we draw upon Matthew 28:19 to go into all the world. Our biggest family outreach opportunity each summer is our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS)—right here at home. As we began VBS 2023, we challenged our leaders to consider the words found in Psalm 25:4 which say, “Make your ways known to me, Lord; Teach me your paths.” You see, following Jesus changes the game. As we embarked on our summertime VBS adventure we knew that God would bring us an incredible group of kids eager to create, play, sing, dance, and laugh. We also knew that this incredible group



of kids would hear God’s Word and be challenged to make Jesus the center of their lives. This year we celebrated VBS over the course of three weeks both in-person and online. In the end, God provided over 350 volunteers and well over 1200 kids. We were overwhelmed by God’s goodness. In addition, nearly 100 kids gave their lives to Christ. We are grateful that VBS remains a priority for every member here at Spring Baptist Church. From the youngest to the oldest, God does great things when the church comes to together for a singular purpose.

“ In addition, nearly 100 kids gave their lives to Christ. ”



by Neal Livingston



If you are interested in volunteering with VBS, please contact Pastor Neal Livingston at nlivingston@springbaptist.org





Our Samaria

There.

Student Worship Choir on Mission in Miami

by **Marty Richardson**

Student Worship Choir Mission Trip

In the midst of the busy summer of 2023, the Student Worship Choir embarked on their annual Student Choir Mission Trip. This year's trip took the group through Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. The first part of their journey was focused on Dauphin Island, Alabama. The choir was able to lead worship at two different in-patient drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities, as well as provide hands-on ministry to senior adults and those in need on Dauphin Island through service projects.

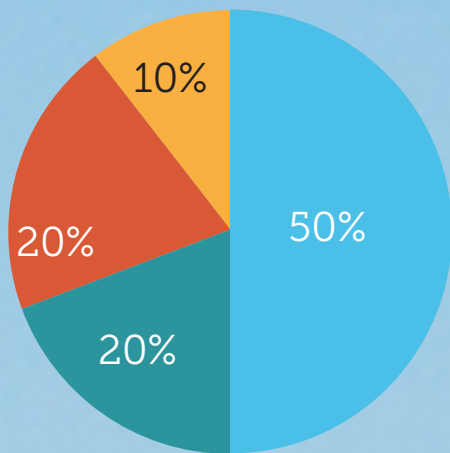
The trip continued after a long overnight bus ride as the students ministered in Miami, Florida. This leg of the trip gave the students opportunities to lead worship, work with inner-city kids at a summer day camp, participate in a beach worship and baptism service, and spend time in a senior adult community center. This varied and packed nine days of ministry highlighted our students' giftedness and allowed them to share the gospel, their testimonies, and the love of God with many people.





acts 1:8

HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE.



- Lottie Moon International Missions
- Annie Armstrong North American Missions
- Spring Baptist Missions
- SBTC Reach Texas

Traditionally the Lottie Moon offering is taken up by Southern Baptist Churches at Christmas time and the Annie Armstrong offering is taken up at Easter. Here at Spring Baptist Church, we take up one offering during October - December that funds all of our mission endeavors throughout the year. **For more information about missions at Spring Baptist, please contact Jason Mayfield at jmayfield@springbaptist.org**



Our Samaria

There.

Amateur Radio Key in **Disaster Relief**

SBTC's Disaster Relief Team activates its resources whenever a disaster hits an area. As part of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Spring Baptist mobilizes teams to help. In recent years, our church has helped following disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, and tornadoes.

Serving in Disaster Relief has many facets, including cleanup, cooking, childcare, and communications. Recently, the need for amateur radio operators, also known as Ham radio, has proven to be paramount in areas where traditional communications are down. Storms can bring down internet, cell, and other communications following disasters. Amateur radio provides a method to keep teams connected and abreast of things changing on the ground during cleanup. There is a need for licensed amateur radio operators to assist with Disaster Relief efforts. For more information, please contact Jason Mayfield.

by Lance Mericle



All Out in Togo, Africa



This past summer, I had the opportunity to go to Togo, Africa, in July with First McKinney Baptist Church, where I served as an intern. I went along with about 20 high school students and Youth Leaders. Over the course of a week I saw God move in so many incredible ways. First, we participated in a church plant that began that very Sunday at the beginning of the week we got there. We led worship, and the Youth Pastor at First McKinney gave a message. So many people gave their lives to Christ, and it was so incredible.

Throughout the week, we did community outreach, where we went out to several communities, presented the gospel, and invited them to church services. We also would do cleanup of the streets in the surrounding areas to help make them look a little better and did some outreach as we did that as well. We also had two soccer championships (or football as they call it), the first of which my team won. Throughout the week, we worked on building a wall on the top floor of the compound we were staying at. By the end of the week, several hundred had given their lives to Christ, and it was incredible to witness and experience it. I got to see a whole different side of doing ministry on this trip, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to go.

by Jackson Durow





Our Ends of the Earth

Everywhere.

Eswatini, Africa Opportunity!



**APRIL
13-24,
2024**



Spring Baptist is partnering with Project Love One to send a mission team to Eswatini, Africa, April 13-24. Project Love One is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission through community development projects in clean water, nutrition, health, and education. We will be taking a small team to serve the vulnerable families in a rural area of Sigcaweni alongside the local church to minister to not only the physical needs but to share the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

Eswatini has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in the world, which has created an enormous orphan crisis. Many children live in child-headed and granny-headed homes. In addition, in Sigcaweni, many widows struggle to provide for their children without a job or income. While 90% of Swazi people profess to be Christian, only 6% know what it means to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

For many living in Eswatini, Christian theology is combined with the indigenous religious practices, especially in the rural areas. Project Love One is committed to creating sustainable solutions to address the areas of malnutrition, hunger, poverty, and lack of clean drinking water while shining the truth of the Gospel message into the darkness. Building relationships is a crucial foundation to all of Project Love One's community development projects, and by partnering with the local church, our mission team will have a tremendous opportunity to share the truth of the Gospel message and show the love of Jesus Christ to Eswatini's most vulnerable. Project Love One has been bringing small teams to Eswatini since 2020. God is strengthening friendships with the community on each trip. The joy and enthusiasm of the community is overwhelming on each return.

by Elaine Hurtado

Spring Baptist's team to Eswatini will have an opportunity to serve the people in Sigcaweni in the following ways:

Farming God's Way is a sustainable solution for providing food and nutrition to those living in poverty and areas subject to frequent droughts while teaching God's all-sufficiency and the Biblical truth of honoring God as the one true God. Our team will be able to prepare widow's lands or assist in teaching this farming technique.

Serving the Widows through home repairs.

I Timothy 5:3 tells us to *"Take care of any widow who has no one else to care for her."* Many widows have homes that need minor (and some significant repairs). We have identified several of the most vulnerable widows our team can serve alongside the church in Sigcaweni by installing windows and doors, and patching up plastering on the mud and stick homes.

One-day marriage retreat. Eswatini is a polygamist society. While still practiced by some professing Christians, we are hopeful as the truth of the Gospel penetrates the culture, that the Swazi Christians will adopt the Biblical view of marriage. Our team will have an opportunity to teach a short marriage conference and encourage the men and women to follow Christ's example.

Clean water is essential to tackling preventable diseases in Eswatini. Our team will have the opportunity to bring water filtration systems to people who do not have access to clean drinking water. We will also share that Jesus is the living water that truly satisfies us.

Sharing the Gospel Our teams will serve the local church by teaching the children, sharing testimonies, or sharing scripture from God's word

at two different churches. Project Love One has partnered with a rural church in Sigcaweni, where over 150 children attend weekly.

In addition, we will serve with a small home church in the hills above the capital city of Mbabane. After church, we will have a meal with the people and have an opportunity to play with the children.

On each trip God uses the unique talents and abilities of those from the body of Christ to minister specifically in various ways. It will be exciting to see how God will bless not only the people in Eswatini as Spring Baptist fulfills the Great Commission, but also how God will grow the faith of those who go and serve.





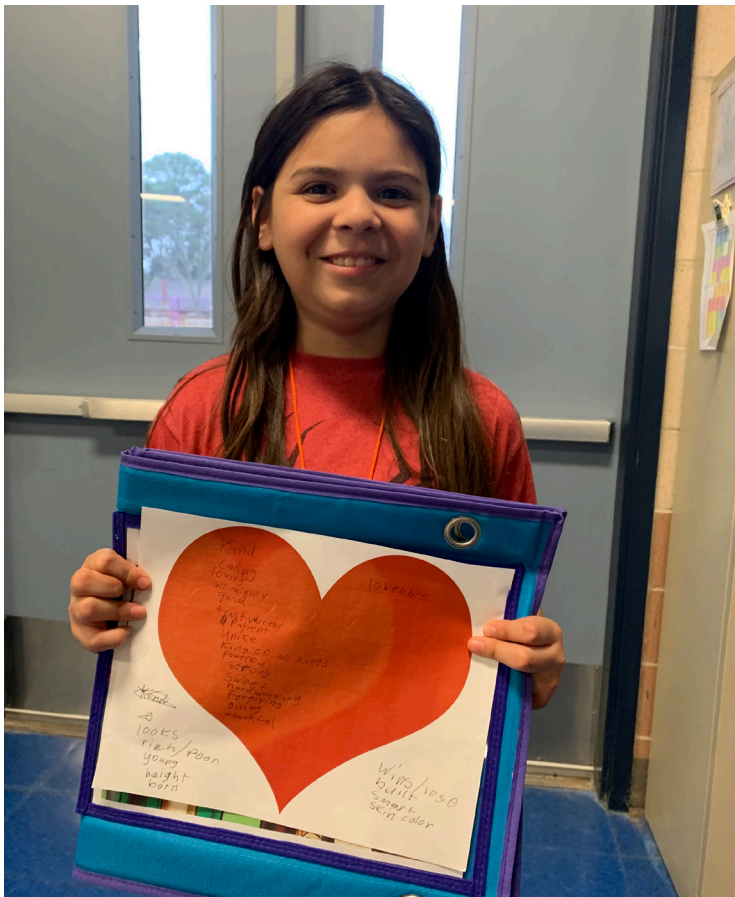
Our Jerusalem & Judea

Here.

Klein Campus Reaching Children for Christ

CareNet Pregnancy Center & Pregnancy Assistance Center North

The Klein Campus is on mission, ministering to area children and families. TeamKid (formerly Good News Club) is growing at Roth Elementary in the Klein ISD School district this year. This year at TeamKid, we will take kids on a journey through the four Gospel books that tell us about who Jesus is and why He came. Last school year, we ended with 74 registered, eight volunteers who dedicated so much time each week, one profession of faith, and two students given a Bible who didn't have one before. This school year, we started with 77 registered and new kids attending each week! We are looking for more TeamKid Leaders who live for Jesus and are passionate about teaching children the Bible. It's incredible to watch kids grow in their relationship with Christ and see others just begin their journey. If interested, please contact Kaitlin Harmon at kharmon@springbaptist.org on more information on how to be a part of TeamKid!





So Much More than Childcare

Have you ever walked in somewhere, and it just instantly felt like home? That's the space our Mother's Day Out strives for our families to feel when they walk through our doors. It isn't just a safe place to drop off your kids, it's a place where you can know that they are being loved on, cared for, and MOST importantly, being shown and taught about Jesus. A place where not only the kids are being fed the Word of God, but so are the parents, and the teachers as well. We have the privilege of meeting families in various walks of life, which often gives us opportunity to minister and show God's love. Spring Baptist Mother's Day Out is not just a place for our kids to feel loved, but for our families as well.

Luke 18:16 – *Jesus said, "permit the children to come to Me, for the Kingdom of God belongs to them."*

by Chelsea Highley





Our Ends of the Earth

Everywhere.



Pack a Shoebox- Share the Gospel

Change the Life of a Child- Change the Life of a Community

Samaritan's Purse is calling on churches and families to pack more shoebox gifts than ever before for Operation Christmas Child(OCC)—making sure millions of children experience the Good News and great joy of the holiday. Samaritan's Purse is committed to its mission of reaching millions of children across the globe with hope.

The Samaritan's Purse project has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts—filled school supplies, hygiene items, and

by Lance Mericle



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HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE.

children worldwide for more than two decades. This is a mission project for the whole family. Simply pack shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items, and fun toys.

The organization also offers an option to virtually pack a shoebox gift. Through this online tool, churches and groups can also set up a goal page to rally together to reach a larger goal. It's easy—simply set a goal, invite your friends, and start packing! Whether your goal is 50 shoeboxes or 5,000, anyone can "Create a Goal Page" and work together with church members, friends, and family to share the hope of the Gospel with children around the world.

Spring Baptist is committed to helping reach people for Christ through Operation Christmas Child. ***When you give to Operation Christmas Child, you are not just providing a gift for a child. You are providing a gospel presentation for the family and the community. It is estimated that one box provides 11 people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.*** Make plans for your family to participate each year. **In 2023, Operation Christmas Child is celebrating 50 million children discipled.**

Your Family Can Participate in This Project!

OCC is a great missions project you can get your entire family involved in.

For more information please contact Bill and Linda Herring at Inoherring@gmail.com

To learn more visit samaritanspurse.org/occ

***"Declare his glory among the nations,
his wondrous works among all peoples." - Psalm 96:3***

Spring Baptist
put together **1682**
shoeboxes. Plus as
a collection site,
we packed up
10,486 shoeboxes





Everywhere.

Our Ends of the Earth



The Gospel in a Guatemalan Prison

by Sherri Chapman

I've visited many prisons here in the U.S. However, nothing could have prepared me as I entered the prison at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. The oppression was stifling. I felt a weight on my spirit before entering the guard shack.

The prison was an open area with few buildings and many awnings. At the same time, it wasn't bright but very dark, with makeshift living quarters and workstations in every space and corner available. People were everywhere. Also, there

was an almost intolerable stench. I had to focus on breathing through my mouth so as not to lose my breakfast. The walking spaces were tight and narrow at times with people.

Many people were lying around and doing nothing, but others were busy doing all manner of things. Some were cooking in makeshift kitchens in the many nooks and crannies. Others were crafting hammocks and bags of all shapes and sizes from colored plastic strips. Many had food items and snacks for sale and were announcing

their wares. It was almost like the peanut and popcorn vendors at a baseball game in the USA— but without the atmosphere.

Somebody showed us a makeshift assembly area under an awning that would make a suitable spot for worship. As the service started and we began to sing, it was like we weren't in a stinky prison. Instead, we were in the presence of God. There was a praise team, a pastor, and a congregation. I could've closed my eyes and been in a Sunday morning service at any Spanish church; the prisoners assembled there had a hope that I would've thought impossible in the squalor of that place. Can you imagine prisoners being happy and praising God for His goodness? That was incredible!

After the service, we passed out the prisoners' food packages and personal necessities. As we walked, feeling people bearing down on me was oppressive. You could feel the spiritual oppression.

I talked with Pastor Garcia, one of the inmate pastors at the prison. He asked me to pray for him as I was talking to him. He said, "pray that they will let me out of here." I said, "of course." But what he told me next broke my heart for him and who knows how many others in his shoes. He said, "I have done my time but haven't been called up for release." I was stunned. It was so surreal that a person could fulfill his sentence and not be released—and even more unbelievable was that someone would forget him like that. He said that

his time had ended months ago. I was floored that he had nobody to advocate for him; then I realized that he DID have an advocate: Jesus Christ, who sacrificed His life for pastor Garcia and all of humanity. Jesus knew exactly where he was.

Everywhere I turned, there was spiritual oppression. I felt a weight on my spirit much of the time we were there. But, as I looked around, I saw the believers throughout the prison—faces with hope. Hope was there if one only looked for it. God gives hope to all who seek Him and make Jesus the Lord of their lives.

Hector Ponce was an inspiration to me. He was happy even though he was in prison and would likely be there for years. He exuded the Lord in his every action. He was the hands and feet of Jesus in the Puerto Barrios prison; I admire his love for God. I hope and pray that I can be as joyful and dependent on my Lord in adverse circumstances as he is.

After we left and were relaxing at the beach the day before we came back from our mission trip, I asked myself, "What did I come away from this experience with?" The answer was that no matter where you are or under what circumstances you find yourself, you always have the option of hope in God through Jesus. If the inmates at Puerto Barrios prison can have hope in Christ—so can we.





Upcoming 2024 Trips
Central America - TBD
Eswatini Africa - April 2024
Paris, France - July 2024

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

Matthew 28: 19-20



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