

Baptist Bugle

March 2021

First Baptist Church of Morris

Pastor - Steve Larson

Youth Director - Leslie Meloun

1650 West Route 6 - Morris, Illinois

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Pastor's Ponderings -

There are those in Christianity today that would tell you the Church is dead. Or they would say the Church is dying and will soon be completely dead. According to Scripture, the Church is the bride of Christ. Christ, the Bridegroom is coming back for His bride; the Church. So how can the Church be dead, or dying, or on its way out? The Church cannot die. It's always wise to check man's teachings with Scripture before we believe it. Ephesians 5:23-27; Revelations 19:6-9; Matthew 25:1-13 are just a few of the references to Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His Bride, and Christ returning for His Bride.

The Church is not dead. However, there IS something going on in the Church today, like maybe never before. There is a great sifting taking place. The Church is being shaken to its very foundation in order to determine what is of God and what is of the world. Only what is of God will remain. It is a process of purification that is taking place before Jesus returns for His Bride. I believe, as we get closer to the day of Christ's return, we will see more separation in people. They will either continue to draw closer to the Lord and become more serious about following Him, or they will fall away. I think there will be less "casual" Christians. Many people are leaving the church today. It no longer applies, it's no longer important. There is a growing percentage of Biblical illiteracy in the Church. All across our country, people are walking away from the standard; that being the Word of God. They no longer have the will, or the determination to stand and declare that the Word of God is the standard in all matters of truth. But when you lose your rudder, let's face it, you drift. People will either grow increasingly hungry to hear God's Word, or they will become increasingly cold toward God's word as their hearts grow hard and the Word becomes offensive to them. God's Word, by its very nature will do the sifting. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." The Word of God is alive, it therefore exposes the deepest parts of our very nature. It is constantly analyzing and judging and sifting the thoughts and purpose of the heart. The key is to let the Word have its way in our hearts; allowing the Holy Spirit to use the Word, showing us what is of God and what is not. The sifting is not bad as long as we surrender to it. We must submit as the Holy Spirit

prompts, using God's Word to show us how God wants us to live. When we resist the Holy Spirit's leading and the Word's teaching, we put ourselves in a dangerous position. It is incredibly dangerous to lose our desire for the Word of God and resist the Holy Spirit's leading in our lives.

Keep a tender heart towards God. Love God's Word. Remain absolutely dependent on Jesus. Let the Holy Spirit lead you. Let God love you. Love Jesus with all your heart. This is the life of readiness and dependency. Luke 12:35, says, "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning." With tender hearts towards God, we stand dressed in readiness, waiting for Christ's sure and certain return. God loves you today, and the Blood of Jesus His Son, cleanses us from All of our sins. Amen! Thank you, Lord!

God bless you today,

Pastor Steve 

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

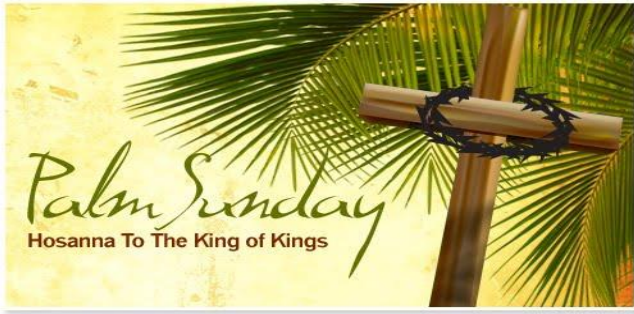
Women of Prayer
Tuesdays at 2:00 pm

Men in Action
Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm
Will be starting "*Twisting the Truth*", a study by Andy Stanley
Learning to Discern in a Culture of Deception
All men are invited to join us!
Please contact Stan Motter

Women's Afternoon Bible Study
Wednesdays at 1:00 pm
Are studying the "Book of Mark; *Becoming a Servant*"
All women are invited to come
Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625

Women's Evening Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Are studying the *Jennifer Rothschild's study, "Take Courage"*
a study on the book of Haggai
All women are invited to come
Please contact Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527

Single Moms' Group
Every other Wednesday Evening at 6:00 pm [*new time for now*]
If you are a single mom or know of one who would
enjoy meeting with others, please invite them to come with you!
Please contact Kristi Larson



MARCH

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 28
8:00 am “Mask Required”
10:15am “Mask Optional”

Boards to Meet on Tuesday, March 9
3:00 pm -Board of Diaconates
4:00 pm -Board of Christian Education
5:30 pm -Board of Trustees



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday night March 13th !!

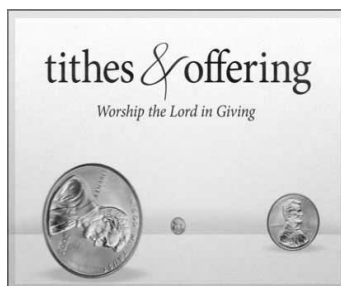
UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
February	\$25,720.00	\$28,490.00

“The Monthly Amt. Received includes offertory that has been mailed in.”

Church Mortgage is Paid in Full!

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!





Children's Church

Each Sunday - during Worship Service



Pre-K thru 3rd Grade will meet from 10:30-11:00am
in the old Adult Sunday School classroom
Masks are available, if desired

Any questions, please call the church office at 815-942-0812

GOOD NEWS CLUB

Grades K-5

Join us each week, either Tuesday or Thursday, now through April 29. Be with us via Zoom from 4-5pm for a fun and action-packed hour of learning about God. The clubs are designed to teach character and morals. Activities include singing, Bible lessons, scripture memory, missionary stories, and review games. Clubs are free and are taught by volunteers sponsored by *Child Evangelism Fellowship* (CEF). All leaders are trained and screened for a very safe hour. GNC is open to ALL children, regardless of faith and/or religious affiliation or belief. CEF is a non-denominational, Bible centered organization founded in 1937 that is active in all 50 states and around the world.

There is no charge for *Good News Club* Online, however, parents need to register the child(ren). Complete a registration for each child at www.cef3rivers.org. If you had registered for the Fall 2020 session, please re-enroll your child for this session. For any questions or comments, call 815-741-0366.



Feed My Starving Children
Saturday, May 8, 2021
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Live Nativity
Friday & Saturday, December 10 & 11, 2021
5-8 pm

OUR YOUTH OUTREACH



Awana Club
First Baptist Church
Ages 4 yrs. to 8th grade

We are very excited to have an Awana Club here **at First Baptist Church!**

Awana Club is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at **4:00 – 5:15pm**

You may register by calling the Church office @ 815-942-0812

Registration is required

Awana Club mtgs. this month...

Sunday, March 7

Meet at church

4:00 - 5:15 pm

Sunday, March 21

Meet at church

4:00 - 5:15 pm

**Questions –
call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson**

WE HAVE BEGUN AWANA AGAIN!

We will be set up a little differently right now to allow for social distancing, and the children will need to wear masks while indoors.

Our activity time will be outside weather permitting, so in order to meet during

daylight hours, we're planning on beginning at 4:00 and going til 5:15.

We are looking forward to seeing you!



Youth Group
Ages 5th – 12th Grade

Sunday, March 14

6:00pm

Meet at Church

Sunday, March 28

6:00pm

Dinner & Movie

*Questions -
Call Leslie Meloun*

Nursery Coordinator

We are looking for someone who is interested in the volunteer position of Nursery Coordinator. If you are interested, please call the church office.

We are also looking for people who are willing to volunteer in the nursery during our church services and Sunday school.

Please contact the church office if you are interested!



**We
were made
for
WORSHIP!**



PLEASE JOIN US.....

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 8:00am

(masks are required for this service)

Offering plate will be available

Practice social distancing (if not family)

This is a sermon only service

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 10:15 am

Offering plate will be available

Sunday Morning Children's Church (preK-3 grade) during this Worship Service

Sunday morning Multi-Generational Bible Study - 9:00 am

w/ Jeff and Claudette Swiggett

Sunday morning Post-High Bible Study - 9:00 am

w/ Rick Enlow

***We are not able to offer child care at this time
If there is anyone interested in being Nursery Coordinator,
please let the church office know.**



Multi-Generational Bible Study

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am



All ages will meet in the Sanctuary. This is a new spin on Sunday school, and will be in place through May of this year. This class is taught by Jeff and Claudette Swiggett. It is family oriented, so it's a special time for families to worship together. It will be all the Sunday school classes combined, including the Sunday morning Adult class that has been meeting. Looking forward to seeing you!



Post-High Bible Study

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am

This class is specifically for young adults that have recently graduated from High School. The class is being taught by Rick Enlow. The class offers "questions and discussions" based on Bible scripture and world events, allowing students a vocal platform. Sound interesting? Come check it out!

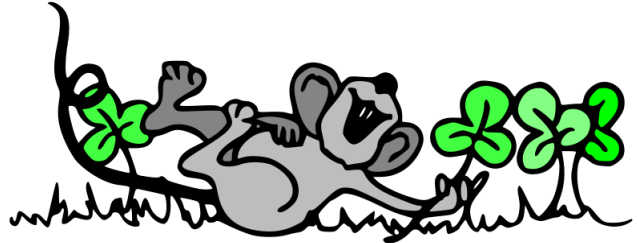
Council From a Friend is Pleasing

The more we care about a friend, the more we will want to
build them up. Sincere praise is a treasured gift.

“The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.”
Proverbs 27:9 NLT

March Birthdays

- 2 Sondra Rankin
- 3 Earlene Stulgis
- 6 Paul Livingston
- 8 Zooey Zavala
- 11 Laurie Wilkinson
- 12 Jim Paulson
- 13 Lynn Cox, Brian Gagliardo, Joe Hemmersbach
- 15 Jan Kresse, Bucky Phillips
- 20 Sarah Vershay
- 21 Donna Binion, Peggy Laing
- 24 Jane Battersby
- 25 Matt Spangler
- 26 Gretchen Goebel, Shannon Motter
- 28 Chris Zierman
- 30 Kayla Hamilton, James Sellers
- 31 Doris Lanning, John O'Brien, Alyssa Schultz, Bob Edmundson



March Anniversaries

- 2 Bob and Mary Hill
- 7 Tracey and Alicia Steffes
- 12 Marty and Shirley Myre
- 15 Jeff and Claudette Swiggett
- 16 Terry and Mary Warrick
- 17 Emmett and Bonnie Joneson, Keith and Jennifer Smith
- 19 John and Carla O'Brien



CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY!
You'll find the books in the "Check Out What's New" section,
located on the top shelf next to the book return basket.
HAPPY READING!

How Much Is a Little Girl Worth? by Rachael Denhollander and Morgan Huff

How Much Is a Little Girl Worth? is Rachael Denhollander's tender-hearted anthem to little girls everywhere, teaching them that they have immeasurable worth because they are made in the image of God. Armed with this understanding, girls will develop confidence in their own value and blossom into women who can face any challenge life puts in their path.

*You're beautiful, worthy,
and you should be loved
because of all that you are.
Different from anything else in the world,
you are precious beyond the stars.*



"You are a Child of God... You are wonderfully made, dearly loved, and precious in His sight. Before God made you, He knew you... there is no one else like you!" Psalm 139

He Knows My Name

I have a Maker, He formed my heart;
Before even time began, my life was in His hand.

*He knows my name;
He knows my ev'ry thought;
He sees each tear that falls,
And hears me when I call.*

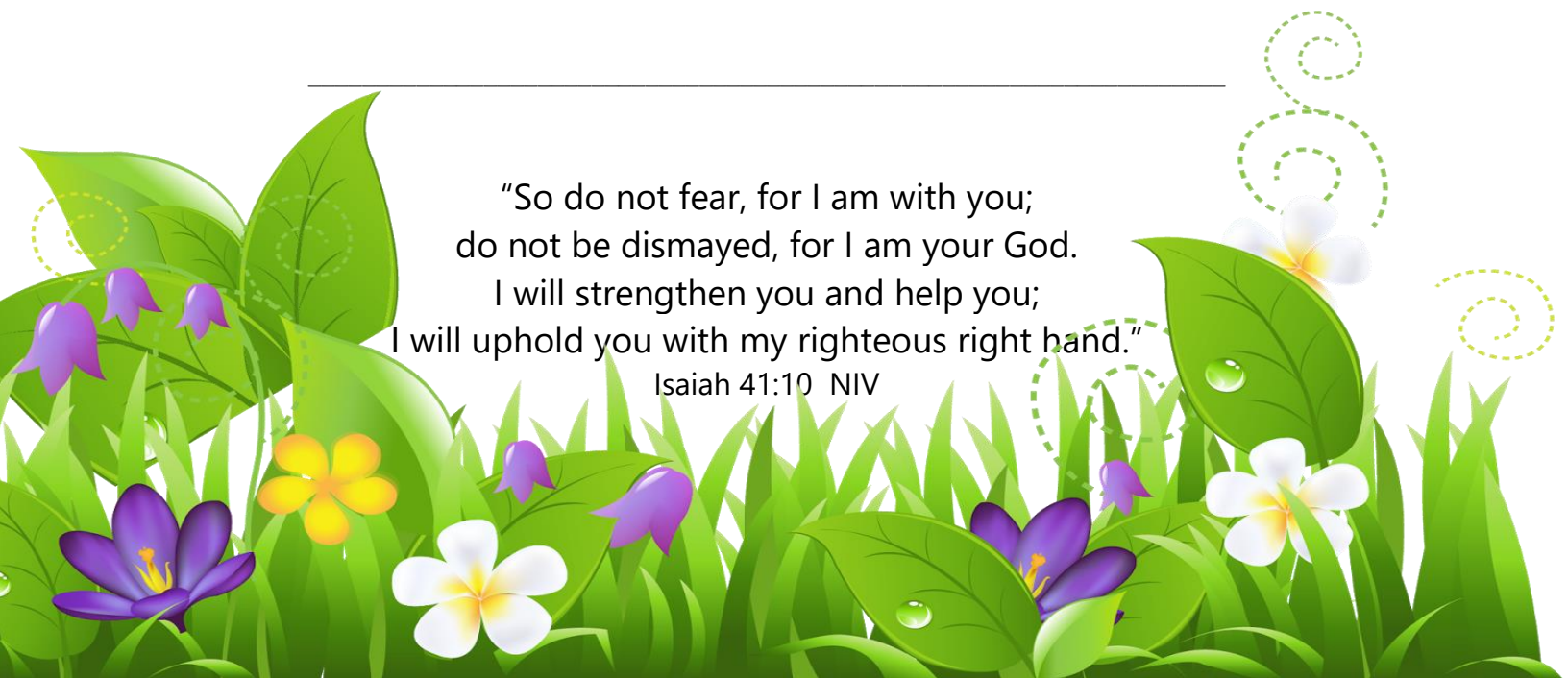
I have a Father, He calls me His own;
He'll never leave me, no matter where I go.

*He knows my name;
He knows my ev'ry thought;
He sees each tear that falls,
And hears me when I call.*

*He knows my name;
He knows my ev'ry thought;
He sees each tear that falls,
And hears me when I call.
He hears me when I call.
He hears me when I call.*

"So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10 NIV





American Baptist Home Mission Societies
SINCE 1824

Connect. Cultivate. Change

America for Christ Offering 2021 March 14, 21, and 28

“For the purpose of equipping saints”
Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV

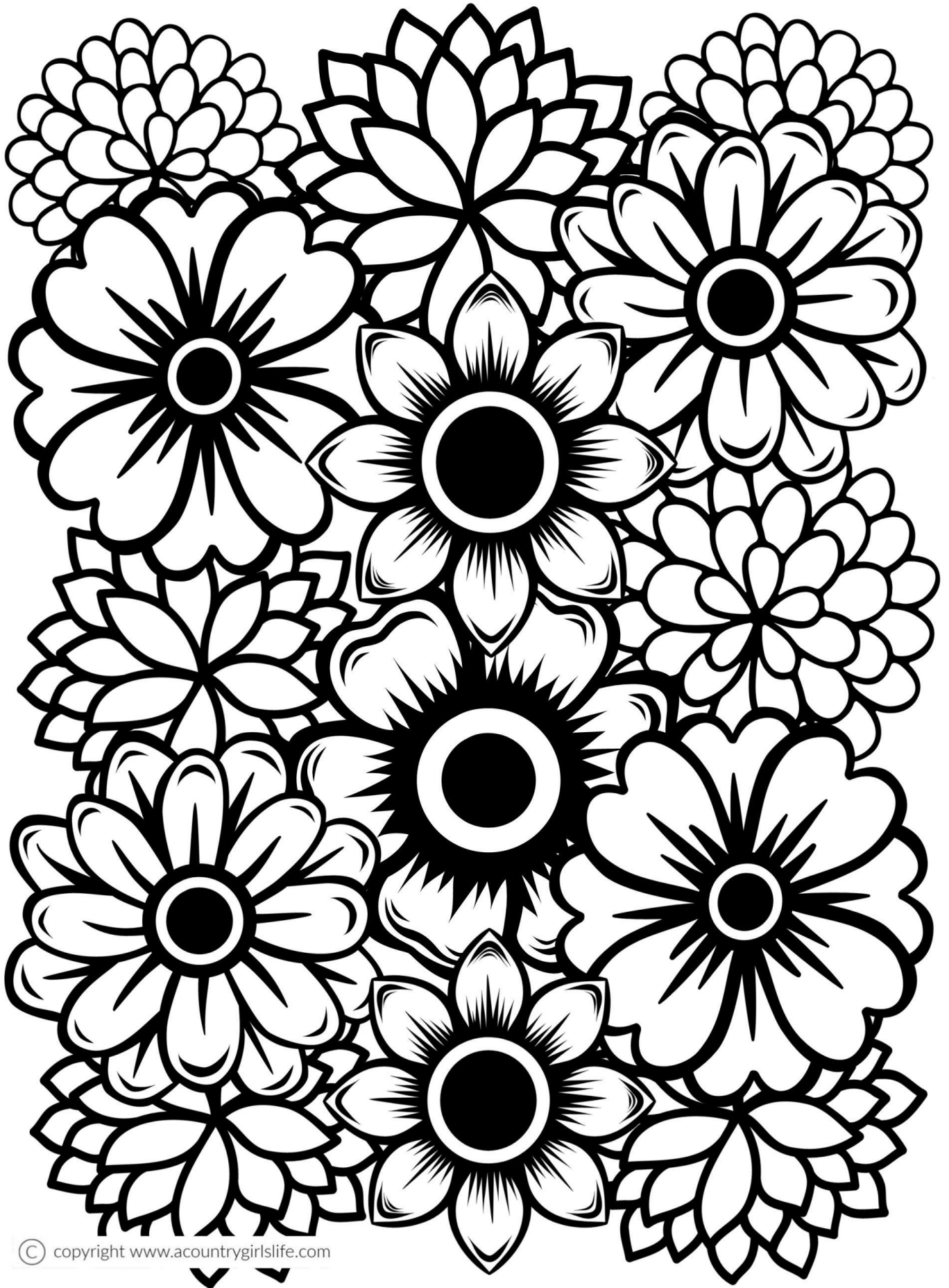
...focusing on our discipleship and leadership empowerment ministries, which nurture the faithful followers who find their call and life’s work as the hands and feet of Christ.

How is my gift making a difference?

Your generous AFC gifts support our mission – connecting our partners to cultivate leaders and equip disciples who bring healing and transformation to communities across our nation and Puerto Rico. Your contributions share God’s love by:

- Cultivating Leaders – Strong leaders advance the mission of faith communities.
- Equipping Disciples – Broadening the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- Healing Communities – We believe the power of Christian love can-and will-change the world.
- How is the AFC Offering used? The offering is distributed in three parts:
 1. 59% supports the ministries of ABHMS
 2. 12% supports the offering’s promotional and deputation costs
 3. 29% supports regional ministries. (ABHMS is the only mission board to share its offering with American Baptist Churches USA regions)

www.abhms.org/afc

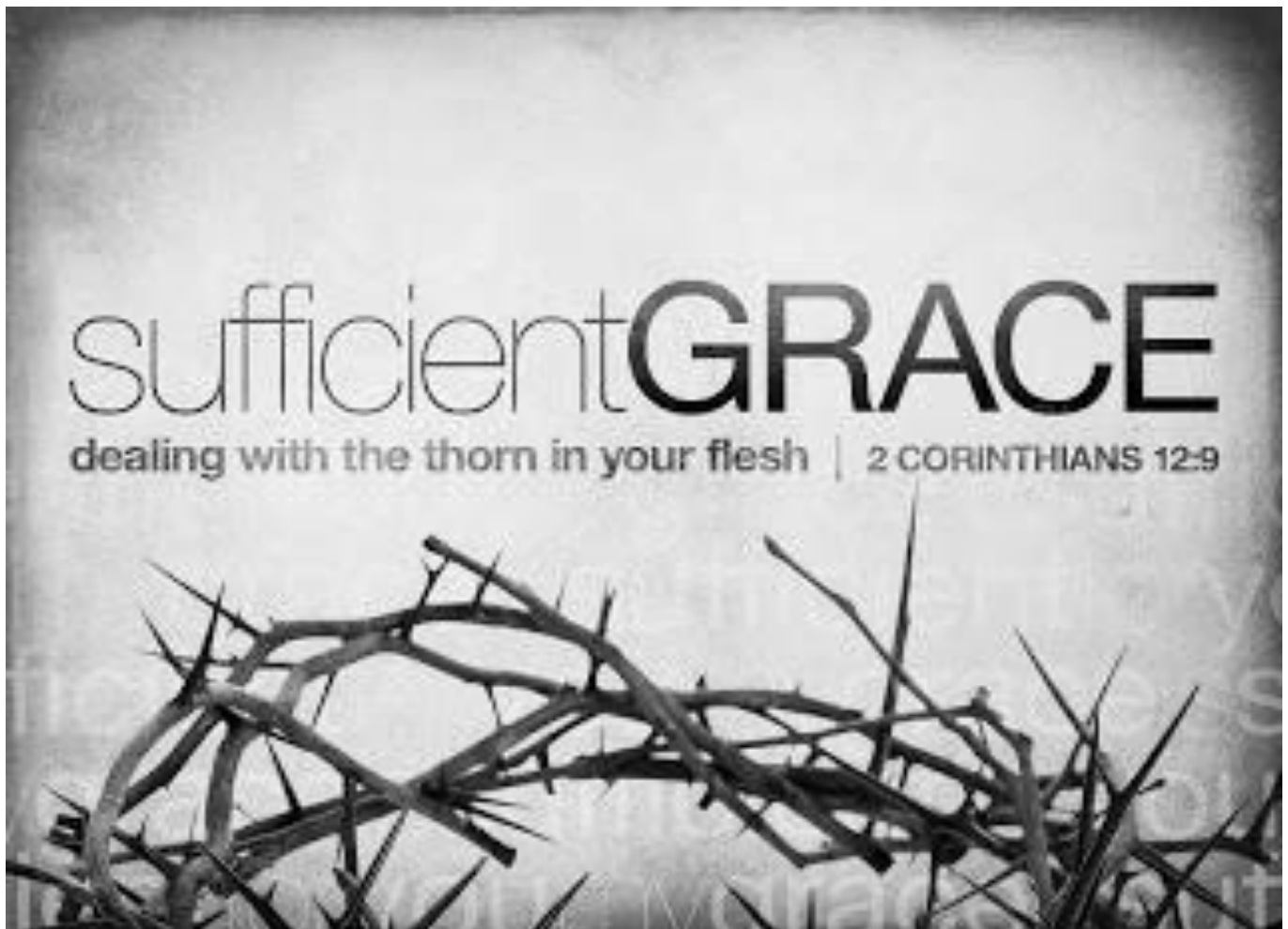


Not all guilt is bad. GOD uses appropriate doses of guilt to awaken us to sin. We know guilt is God-given when it causes “indignation...alarm...longing...concern...readiness to see justice done” (II Corinthians 7:11 NIV).

*GOD’s guilt brings enough regret to change us...
satan’s guilt brings enough regret to enslave us.
Don’t let satan lock his shackles on you.*

Max Lucado

Grace



COFFEE CUP MINISTRY

This ministry is to help encourage each other right here at First Baptist Church.

- 1) You will need to bring a cup, of any kind, to the Church by the first Sunday of the month. Be sure to label the bottom with your name.
- 2) Inside the cup you can put your special prayer requests, special needs or anything else you wish to have prayed for during the month. The cups will go on a table in the foyer.
- 3) Each of you will choose a cup. Every morning, as you drink from that cup, you can pray for the individual. On the last Sunday of the month you will return the cup to the Church table. You may add a special note for that person if you wish.

Depending on the interest shown, we would like to continue this ministry monthly.

Any questions, you may contact Leslie Meloun.



Special Prayer Request

Special Need

Please pray for