



Monday Morning Missive

As I started my day today, there was a verse that kept coming to mind out of Philippians. “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.” Did you sing this as a round when you were younger? I wish we could sing it together over e-mail, but it just doesn’t work that way. So, you sing it where you are, and I’ll sing it here, and God will receive the glory.

It doesn’t seem possible, but church gets better and better every week. We had great worship, great Bible Study, great Small Groups, great meetings, etc. And we had two new members yesterday. We welcome John and Wendi Rush to our First Baptist family. These folks have already started connecting in a lot of different ways even before they joined. By the way – that’s the key to bringing people into the family and keeping them

here. They need to connect to ministries and studies and service opportunities. So, do me a favor. When you see our guests in worship, invite them to join you in Sunday School, Small Groups, or any other activity of which you are part.

Someone shared an interesting idea with me yesterday after the worship service, and I want to see how many people might be interested. They suggested that we provide small notebooks into which you could place the outlines from my message. In addition, they asked that maybe I include on the backs of the outlines some additional Scripture or study helps as they consider the messages during the week -- maybe even some guidance pointing to the next week's sermon. If that sounds like something you might be interested in, let me know.

We had lots of children here last night in our Sunday Night Live program. I'm sure that's because we had lots of our young adults in Small Groups. I am extremely excited to see what God is

doing in our children's ministry. And Zack reported that they had a great group last night, too. Folks, that is a great blessing to our church, but it means that we are going to have to prepare for the future. That means we need more workers and more space, and we need it all soon. And that means we need to begin praying now for two things to happen. As Jesus taught us, we need to pray for more workers to enter the harvest – to get involved in our ministries as we share the gospel and reach out to families. Second, we need to begin now to think about what it's going to take to get more space. We will be hearing from the Strategic Planning Team in the next few weeks as we report to you about our Field Guide that we received from Visioneering Studios. Pray for God to guide our church as we develop a plan that will lead us into the future. But prayer is only the first step. We also need to be willing to give our service and our money.

Don't forget that this Sunday night we will be ordaining Zack and Forrest. The worship service

begins at 5 p.m. Come out and support these men because this is a very important moment in their lives and ministry.

I don't know if you know this, but Chad McKelvey and I will be heading to Honduras with a medical missions team in February. We need some supplies, so if you are at the store and see any of these items, would you purchase them and drop them by my office? We need pinworm medication, Zyrtec/Allegra, Tums, Zantac, and Priolosec. Generic versions will do. Thanks for your generosity in advance.

Three more things: first, thank you for your generosity in giving to our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. We reached our goal, but that doesn't mean you can't continue to give. Second, WINGS, one of our ladies' mission programs, has asked us to join them in a project to touch the lives of some of our community's senior adults who have needs. There is a huge heart outside of my office door where

you can pull a card and purchase something that will touch the lives of some of these people in need. Finally, don't forget that we are collecting money for the Spates family. These are our missionaries in Nicaragua whose house burned down. They lost many of their possessions, and we need to help them recover from this. Anything that you can give will be a blessing.

As I finish this e-mail, I know I have asked a lot from you, but as we have been blessed, we must give. It is the nature of the child of God to have a desire to meet needs, and all I am asking is that you give as God directs in each of these areas. The great thing about it is that we cannot outgive God. He has promised that when we are generous givers, He will open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon us. That doesn't mean He will give you back your money; it means that He will bless you with His presence, with His guidance, and in so many other ways. It also means that He will make sure that all our needs are taken care of. That's the kind of Father He is.

I love you, church family. Not because of what you do but because of who you are.

Bro. Ben