



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**Good morning, church. I hope this rainy Monday morning doesn't get you down. Keep in mind that "in the heavenlies" where Paul says we are already seated, the Son is always shining. Can I admit something to you? This past week in Honduras has refreshed my spirit and renewed my passion to see God's will accomplished through my life and in His church. Yes, I fell asleep very early both Saturday and Sunday evenings, and yes, I slept very soundly both nights, and yes, I will admit that on this rainy Monday morning I feel like I could sleep another 8 hours, but my heart is full, my spirit is soaring, and I am so excited that it's hard for me to sit still to type this Missive. God is so good!**

**I tried to express my gratitude to our church staff yesterday for taking up the slack in my absence. I**

**know they covered the ministry side of things by visiting our people who went into the hospital, and I heard that Zack preached a fantastic message. I hope to listen to that sometime today. I failed to mention my gratitude to Bro. Chuck Ledbetter for covering me on Wednesday night. I feel so blessed to have deacons – especially a chairman – who is so willing to step up and lead in every way that is needed. My friends, I promise you that in the 38 plus years I have been a pastor that I have never seen a group of deacons so ready and willing to minister like our deacons. God is so good!**

**The Father is doing an amazing work in the lives of people who are coming to First Baptist. I am so grateful for those who will be baptized in the near future. God has truly touched these young people and adults who are making these decisions. We have a number of people who are praying about becoming members of our church, and I believe they will be doing so in the near future. I love to see the numbers of people who are eager to get**

**involved in the different ministries of our church because that is a sign of God moving in their hearts. I am looking forward to some possible new ministries that the Strategic Planning Team will be sharing at their Special Called Business Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. I can't wait for our "Missions Conference: Why We Go" that will take place on March 14-15 where we will be hearing from all of our FBCD missionaries along with a special guest from New York City.**

**But do you know what gets my heart really pumping? Thinking about March 8<sup>th</sup> and our "Faithful to the Father" Day at First Baptist. He is always so faithful to us, and He placed this on my heart several weeks ago. We need to be faithful to Him. I looked at our attendance numbers, and all of them are trending upward, but do you know that we have over 400 people who are regularly attending our church? Just not all at the same time. Can you imagine the excitement that would happen if all 400 of us showed up at the same time? The excitement would be not only in our**

**church, but also as our community saw all of the cars and all of the people in attendance. Can you imagine how pleased the Father would be that all of us were together in worship? But our faithfulness must extend beyond our attendance. We must be faithful in our giving, too, so I am asking that you pray about your stewardship between now and that Sunday. If you aren't tithing, would you consider trying it for a few Sundays? If you are tithing, would you pray about giving a little extra? Starting new ministries and providing the facilities for new and ongoing ministries is expensive, but we don't give because God needs our money. I have always believed that where God guides, He provides. BUT He always provides through His people by laying on our hearts that we need to give – not for Him but for ourselves. Then, we must also be faithful in our going. Jesus' primary purpose in creating His church – and the reason for the existence of First Baptist Church Dadeville – is to go into all the world to make disciples. Each one of us must take this Great Commission very personally and**

**decide that we are going to do exactly what believers in Jesus Christ are supposed to do: share our faith with a hurting world through our words and our deeds. So, as you prepare your hearts for March 8<sup>th</sup>, will you pray about anyone that God has laid on your heart who might need to hear from you how to be saved? Would you pray about inviting them to join us in church as well on March 8<sup>th</sup>? I believe that this could be a day of transformation for all of us as we join our hearts together in worship, and I hope that you will be a part of it. By the way, everything I have mentioned in this paragraph is what I mean by being “Faithful to the Father.”**

**If you have read all of this, God bless you! I am so happy to have gone to Honduras last week and to have seen how God blessed through our mission team, but I am happier to be back home with you where I continue to see God pour out His blessings upon this church.**

**I love you,  
Bro. Ben**

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