



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 45

WHAT WE ARE DOING? AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO?

IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME

Welcome to Volume 2 of the FBCN Newsletter or the “current new normal” editions.

The title of this week’s sermon is, “The Lord Favors A Foreigner” The scripture passage will be Ruth 2.

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” ³ So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. ⁴ And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, “The LORD be with you!” And they answered, “The LORD bless you.” ⁵ Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?” ⁶ And the servant who was in charge of the

reapers answered, “She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. ⁷ She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.’ So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest.” ⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. ⁹ Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.” ¹⁰ Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” ¹¹ But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹² The LORD repay

you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” ¹³ Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.” ¹⁴ And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. ¹⁵ When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. ¹⁶ And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.” ¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. ¹⁸ And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left

over after being satisfied. ¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.” ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.” ²¹ And Ruth the Moabite said, “Besides, he said to me, ‘You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’” ²² And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.” ²³ So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

First Baptist Newsletter—April 14, 2021

Grace and peace from God our Father through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and the only savior brothers and sisters and hello friends!

Just yesterday the pastor of the church I grew up in went to be with the Lord. [Bill Dondit was a dear elder brother in Christ who faithfully served the Lord and loved the churches God called him to pastor.](#) He was married for 60 years and was well loved and highly respected by many. He counted the cost and followed the Lord Jesus to end. Pastor Bill embodied the idea of “coming alongside” people in the church and intentionally

shepherded them with the Word and prayer.

Last week when my dad and I visited him before his home going, Bill's wonderful wife, Dee Ann Dondit issued me a challenge out of love. She looked me in the eyes and said “Brandon never stop memorizing Scripture! Never stop storing up God's Word in your heart! Give yourself to this wholeheartedly!” Here they were—together for one of the last times—ministering to me the minister! What a faithful legacy and indeed she is right! We must have God's Holy Word in our hearts and minds brothers and sisters! What Scriptures are you meditating on and memorizing? What biblical hymns/songs are you giving yourself to memorize? Don't say you cannot! You can and there are great aids [here](#) and [here](#) to help us! Do it alone, do it with your spouse! Do it with your kids! All to God's glory!

This week we saw Ruth's costly discipleship. We said she was a strong sister in the Lord whose sacrificial faith and firm resolution we all ought to imitate and learn from! She embodies what Jesus described in following him later as revealed and recorded in Matthew:

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26)

In what ways have you denied yourself to focus on the greater need for God and His Holy Word?

What crosses are you currently bearing for your savior and your Lord?

Recently I saw a friend say “only the gospel should be what you say that offends someone—spend your precious energy on this alone”. While well intentioned and containing some truth, the world is offended by the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the Word of God as the only sufficient, supreme, ultimate standard. If you tell someone Jesus Christ died for their sins, rose again victorious and offers them eternal life they might say wonderful! But tell them they are sinners and the Lord is a just judge and they need to repent of their sin and must be born again to see kingdom of God. Tell the world that some will not inherit the kingdom of God who practice sin and do not turn from their sin and trust in Christ the savior and Lord—that is overwhelmingly what will cause them deep offense and anger. How dare you you self-righteous, arrogant Christian—you know nothing about my life and God approves of who I am and made me this way!

People are compromising all around us and once faithful Christians are saying foolishly ambiguous “nuanced” things to cover themselves and try to garner the favor of the world. Their appeasement will never work. It is a fool's errand.

In our day Christianity is getting more and more costly. Repentance is illegal. How so? In our state and a few others, [repentance—being humbled to change one's mind to agree with God and then prayerfully, patiently striving to put to death all sin and idolatry in the](#)

context of Christ-like community and with faithful Christians is now illegal.

Canada now has an underground church as some of the civil magistrates who are supposed to serve our northern neighbors and cracked down on faithful gospel-preaching churches and not allowed them to gather and 200 riot police were sent.

When it comes to following the Lord and choosing to pursue a fully God-honoring/biblically faithful life of holiness, in certain once free countries it now deemed illegal for the first time.

Here are a few of the songs we have sung at church and others (we may sing at some point) that have encouraged and blessed me and countless others and I pray they do the same to you:

My Soul Among Lions (a group that sings the Psalms). Their new album Sons of Deliverance is excellent!

A Mighty Fortress is our God
(I am on this album—can you hear me☺?)

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

I will wait for you (Psalm 130)

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

Reformation Hymn

Seeds Family Worship (excellent straight Scriptural Songs)

Soli Deo Gloria!

In and for Christ,



PRAYER LIST

- ✓ Continuing Prayers for comfort for the families that have lost loved ones this past year. Including the families of Juanita Cariaga, Brenda Covington and Carmen Pearson
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for physical needs: Gloria-Lynn Fernandez, Brenda Covington
- ✓ Pray for our shut-ins: Betty Matson, Rita McManus, Maria Hatfield, Nancy Yatabe, Erwin and Elizabeth Lickmann, George Sargis.
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for our Ministry Needs: Pastor Brandon, Kaiti, Eva, Audrey, Patrick and Haddon Myers, Our Deacons, Continued Financial support
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for Spiritual Needs: Leonard Hatfield, Carol Pelfrey's family, Daniel Ruhlman, George Bizadellis
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for: The spread of the Gospel, Our Government, Our Nation, Our Community, Our Neighbors, Our Families, Pray for our members that have lost employment and for those who still have jobs that God will protect. Pray for safety for those who are attending schools during the Pandemic. Lift up all our health professionals and their families who are on the front line of this pandemic. The persecuted in Myanmar. The persecuted Church around the world.

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Pastor mentioned three specific areas of prayer for First Baptist Church of Niles for 2021. Remember these in prayer.

1. Continue to fortify the congregation by increased community prayer, provide opportunities for growth as disciples of Christ and introduce times of fellowship with respect to current health concerns.
2. Fortify the church membership by strengthening the leadership and solidifying the foundational beliefs, i.e. Statement of Faith. Pastor Myers conveyed Pastor McManus' heart for the congregation citing I Corinthians 1:10, *"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."*
3. Nurture a heart for evangelism by reaching the local community and our neighbors..

SAVE THE DATES

All Men of the church are invited to call in to a Zoom Meeting with Pastor beginning on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30pm for approximately nine weeks. The topic of the meeting will be Biblical Eldership and what Scripture reveals about eldership, clearly define what Biblical Eldership is and according to the New Testament concept of eldership Elders lead the church, teach and preach the Word, protect the church from false teachers, exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine, visit the sick and pray. Providing a path to build Church Leadership.

Call information:

Topic: Biblical Eldership

Time: Wednesdays @ 7:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.com>

Meeting ID: 873 1076 7885

Passcode: 269498

To join by audio: 13126266799

Meeting ID: 873 1076 7885

Passcode: 269498

All current and prospective members are encouraged to attend an in-person follow-up discussion around the topics of the current Church Constitution, By-Laws and Statement of Faith. The discussion will be held on consecutive Sundays beginning March 14, 2021 at 9:45am for approximately six weeks, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee plus will be available.

Connect with Pastor Brandon: Lord willing in the next few weeks, Pastor Brandon will be sending you more information about opportunities for him to drop by for a short pastoral visit (in person at your home or online over zoom or another venue). We pray these short visits richly bless and encourage you and those you love towards Christ!

May 2-Potential New Member Testimonials-if you are interested in joining our church family in covenant membership and on mission to God's glory, please contact Pastor Brandon and mark down May 2 on your calender.

May Members Meeting—May 30th following the Lord's Day worship gathering we are planning for a very important member's meeting. Lord willing, we will celebrate and praise the Lord for he is doing, vote together on some important matters including the fortification of our church's core commitments and our spiritual leadership! If you are a member please join us for what should be a wonderfully unifying and edifying time!