

# BIBLE EMPHASIS WEEKEND

## APOLOGETICS

with Shawn Hart from RZIM

Visit [www.fbcarnesville.com/BEW2021](http://www.fbcarnesville.com/BEW2021)

MARCH 6-7, 2021



# THE GOSPEL BIBLE EMPHASIS WEEKEND FOR KIDS!

FOR KIDS BIRTH- 5TH GRADE  
with parents participating in Bible Emphasis

Parents must pick up children at lunch time.

# EASTER EGG HUNT

THE DRIVE-THRU EDITION!



Sunday, March 28  
2-3P AT SUMMER'S FIELD

### CHURCH STAFF

**Greg Burrell** | Minister of Music  
**Russ Jenkins** | Assoc. Pastor of Ed/Adm.  
**Jason Teal** | Student/Young Adult Pastor  
**Josh Adams** | Middle School Minister  
**Jennifer Zeager** | Children's Minister  
**Melinda Merritt** | Financial Director  
**Mary Sanders** | Pastor's Secretary  
**Cara Grobbelaar** | Admin. Assistant

Email: [cara@fbcarnesville.com](mailto:cara@fbcarnesville.com)  
Church # (770) 358-2353  
Social Media @firstbaptistbarnesville

THE WITNESS VOL 55 | MARCH 2021 | NO. 03

# A RANSOM FOR MANY



HIS LIFE FOR OURS

SUNDAY, MARCH 28 | 6:30P





# THE COMMISSION IS NOT CANCELED.

Written by Jason Teal

As of January 1, 2021, the United States surpassed 20 million infections from SARS-CoV-2, and more than 346,000 deaths. On the global landscape, infection cases surpassed 83,832,334. We have weathered some difficult days. Looking back, March 15 remains to me a day that I will hardly ever forget. I actually remember exactly what I was doing when things started to get weird in Lamar County. As I do every spring, I had met with who at the time were my U10 girls soccer team for practice. There are some specific details that come to memory. I remember getting picked at by one of my assistant coaches because I had the nerve to wear a Mary Persons High School soccer t-shirt. At the time I was celebrating a student of ours that had made the soccer team there. Lilou, who is from France, had been living with Mark and Heather Smith at the time. I remember having a conversation with a parent about how we might need to go get some extra diapers to last us for a couple of weeks just in case. I also remember having to tell the girls we would not have practice for a couple of weeks until all of this covid stuff went away. Little did we know that nearly a year would go by and this “stuff” still has not left us.

In reflection today I have had moments of discouragement. I suspect many of you reading this might feel the same way. The normalcy of our lives had been impacted tremendously in many areas. One major area for me personally was the normalcy of church life. If there was anything consistent it was

the function of my faith practice. Now, today, things just are not the same. Many people still do not feel safe to gather. Others find themselves discouraged by low numbers and what looks like a step backward. This could be farther from the truth. The Lord has reminded me that He is in fact still Sovereign and very much active in the lives of those that believe and faithfully trust Him. Do you remember the words from scripture, “For such a time as this”?

“Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”  
Esther 4:13-14

Many people take Mordecai’s rebuke here of Esther to represent personal prestige, personal power, or personal favor. This is not the case. In fact, Esther was being chided for self-indulgence. It is actually in this passage that Mordecai was reminding Esther that the moment she was living in was one that had purpose, not to fulfill her own interests, but to face the enemy head on. Ultimately, she was to risk her very own life with no guarantees of a good outcome for the glory of God. I bring this passage up because I am reminded not to lose sight of the main thing. Josh McDowell has said time and time again in all of his preaching engagements, “Don’t forget to keep the main thing the main thing”. Well,

what is the main thing for the church? Jesus has called us to follow Him. He has provided His Spirit for us that we might be empowered to carry the Gospel to the nations. This mission has yet to be fulfilled. For such a time as this covid season, we have been placed with a responsibility to pursue the fight of faith for the faithless. We cannot miss our kingdom assignment. To quote Pastor and Author, Tony Evans, “To miss your kingdom assignment because you have become too caught up in your personal kingdom itself is the greatest tragedy you could ever face”.

Personally, those are difficult words, but they are words we need to hear. I am grateful that our church has kept the focus on the mission. I want to celebrate with you a couple of things that you may not be aware. While there have been moments that attendance has seemed down, our doors have been open to many visitors that are searching for encouragement and healing. Several young adults have stepped out of darkness and into light by way of Jesus. Yes, salvation is still present. God is still moving. Missionaries are sharing the gospel in difficult regions of the world encouraged by the faithful here at FBC Barnesville. People are praying more than they probably ever have before. There have been good days in the past. There will be great days in the future. Let’s continue to be faithful in the midst of seasons of uncertainty. Remember the words given to us by Matthew 28:20, “... I am with you always, to the very end of the age”.

## Devotional from Dr. Reed Crumbliss

**“Ain’t God good?” I know that’s bad English, but it’s good theology!** Living day-by-day in this sinful, selfish and sickly world, it’s hard not to become sad, depressed, discouraged and overwhelmed by the negativity. This world is infected with trouble, suffering and confusion. But there is medicine available for the infection. I challenge you to take at least two of the following pills to help you find a joyful heart, health and strength for today.

### Available Pills for joy, health and smiles:

1. Name aloud seven blessings that you have today.
2. Recall seven people who have been a blessing to you.
3. Read seven promises of God from His Word.
4. Spend seven minutes praising God for His goodness to you.
5. Find seven occurrences in nature that impress you.
6. Smile seven times (even if it’s in front of a mirror).
7. Reflect on seven spiritual benefits you have.

### My list:

1. A beautiful sunrise today.
2. A couple from church who blessed me unexpectedly last Sunday.
3. Our church, meeting, worshiping and loving God and each other.
4. Our people praying and ministering to those who cannot attend yet.
5. Numerical and spiritual growth among our Youth and Young Adults.
6. Two recent professions of faith.
7. Opportunities for Bible Study through Sunday School and Bible Week-end emphasis. (and Sunday School teachers).
8. Deacons who serve through contacting, ministry and worship.
9. God’s presence in the midst of sickness and death.
10. Our future, both in this life and beyond.
11. God’s work in us, maturing us and strengthening even in tough times.
12. Easter: the Resurrection of Jesus.

I know this is more than seven, but once I started focusing on God rather than this world, I couldn’t stop! Try it! Take two pills of Thanksgiving and see what happens.

I’m honored to be part of the Family for a little while.

## A THANK YOU

Dear FBC Family,  
We can’t pay thank you enough for all of the kindness you have shown us in Ethel’s passing. Please know how much we have cherished every dish, flower, and gift you have given. You have showered us with blessings and love, and we are ever grateful!  
- The Garrison Family

