

THE WITNESS



JULY 2025

Luke 1:76-79 | *⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

There is a divine calling found deep in the words found in Luke 1. It is a calling that stretches across generations and reaches into our present moment as a church. Zechariah's prophecy over his son, John the Baptist, speaks of preparing the way for the Savior, proclaiming salvation, and presenting the light of His mercy into the world. **What we must come to see is that it's not just John's mission. It's our mission.**

With the summer mission experiences fully underway, I wanted to take a moment to remind you of the vision that our Mission Team has shared with us this past year: the **1:77 Initiative**. Over the next 7 years, as a faithful family here at FBC, we are committed to:

1 church plant or revitalization | We believe the local church is God's primary strategy for reaching the world.

7 global mission partnerships | We are called to go with the love of Christ beyond our walls and borders.

7 years of prayer, provision, and participation | Missions is not just an event... it's our identity.

This is more than a campaign. It's a calling. It's our response to the mercy of our God already administered to us so that others might be invited to it. Luke 1:76 says John would *"go before the Lord to prepare his ways."* We desire to do the same with every outreach, every conversation, every mission trip, and every prayer. We will prepare our neighborhoods and the nations to receive Jesus. The goal will be the same no matter the location. As Luke 1:77 states, we will strive *"to give knowledge of salvation"* and proclaim *"the forgiveness of sins"* in Christ Jesus.

Luke 1:78 reminds us why we go: *"because of the tender mercy of our God."* This initiative is not fueled by pressure or pride, but compassion. We will go driven by the words of Jesus in John 20:21, *"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'"* Wherever the shadow of death still lingers, we will carry the light of Christ.

As the **1:77 Initiative** takes shape, you'll see regular updates on potential church planting locations or revitalization efforts, profiles of our global mission partners, participation in short-term trips, local outreach opportunities, and monthly prayer updates for supported ministries and missionaries. This is not a call for everyone to do everything; rather, it is an invitation to simply do something. Whether through **prayer, provision, or participation**, every one of us have a role to play in the **1:77 Initiative**. What can you do today to get involved? I'm glad you asked...

You can start with **PRAYER**. Ask the Lord to give you a heart for missions and for salvation.

You can always **PROVIDE** financially. Tithing faithfully allows the church to have the ability to send and support. We also have a Missions Fund that will directly support the **1:77 Initiative**.

You can choose to **PARTICIPATE**. As you begin to hear about opportunities to go, pray honestly for the Lord to lead you to go on mission.

This is our time to join in what God is doing across the street and around the world. Let's be faithful like John. Let's prepare the way. Let's carry the light. Let's walk the path of peace together.

You Are Loved,

Pastor Jason
#OneSeventySeven

UPCOMING EVENTS + INFO

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

A new Sunday worship schedule will go into effect on **August 3, 2025**. Worship gatherings will be at **8:30a and 11a**, and Sunday School for all ages will be **9:45-10:45a**. This schedule change allows for the many people who serve on Sundays, as well as our valued guests, plenty of time to comfortably navigate across our campus without missing a moment of important teaching and time in community.

MIDWEEK KICK-OFF

As August quickly approaches, we are getting ready for another semester of Midweek at FBC! Join us **Wednesday, August 6 at 5:30p** in the gym for Midweek Kick-off as we share a meal together, pray as a family, hear from our Equipping Course facilitators, and FBCKids volunteers will have a brief meeting. [RSVP here for Midweek Kick-off.](#)

EQUIPPING COURSES

There are discipleship opportunities each **Wednesday night at 6:30p** for every age and season of life. FBCKids (birth-5th) and Driven Students (6th-12th) have worship and teaching environments with age-specific biblical training. Equipping Courses (EC's) are available for all adults, and special topics and facilitators change each semester.

- **Mens' Studies** (B-203)
 - Monte McCall | **Aug 13-Dec 17**
- **Womens' Studies** (D-207)
 - Honey Teal | **Aug 13-Dec 17**
- **Prayer Meeting** (The Annex)
 - Russ Jenkins | **Aug 13-Dec 17**
- **Grandparenting** (D-105)
 - Gary & Peggy Puckett | **Aug 13-Oct 29**
 - Gail Rooks | **Nov 5-Dec 17**
- **Living a Life of Prayer** (D-206)
 - Kathy Selph | **Aug 13-Oct 29**
 - Deborah Ruffin | **Nov 5-Dec 17**
- **Believing in VS. Following Jesus** (D-205)
 - Ernie Thompson | **Aug 13-Oct 29**
- **Heaven: Our Eternal Home** (D-202)
 - Garth Forster | **Aug 13-Oct 29**
- **Spiritual Warfare** (B-205)
 - Harold Blevins | **Aug 13-Oct 29**
- **Understanding the Bible** (D-202)
 - Pastor Jason Teal | **Nov 5-Dec 17**
- **The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi** (D-205)
 - Allen Smith | **Nov 5-Dec 17**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

— **Luke 1:76-79**

NOTE OF THANKS

Little Children of the World thanks each of you for making Christmas special in the Philippines by giving 1113 little cars, Spam, jewelry, shoes, flip flops, stuffed animals and other items. May God bless each of you as you have blessed God's little ones and their families at LCP in Dumaguete City. It is wonderful to have a church who cares, shares, and prays for its partner ministries.

We love you all,

Brittany Foster, Marie Lou Abbott, and
Glenna Waller

BUDGET UPDATE

As of May 2025

Required: \$613,226.92

Received: \$471,578.84

CHURCH STAFF

Jason Teal | Senior Pastor
Russ Jenkins | Executive Pastor
Allen Smith | Young Adult Pastor
Josh Adams | Student Minister
Jennifer Zeager | Children's Minister
Melinda Henson | Financial Director
Carrianna Simmons | Communications Dir.
Sarah Kingry | Pastor's Admin. Assistant
Audrey Topel | Ministry Admin. Assistant