

Faith Baptist Community Church & Center – September, 2017

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Greetings from inner-city Cleveland!

September 26, 2017

In our men's Bible study on Saturday mornings, we have been working through a book entitled *The 21 Most Dangerous Questions of the Bible*. Two weeks ago, we considered a question Mordecai asked Esther (recorded in Esther 4:14). Esther was between a rock and a hard place (to say the least), making her response either way a dangerous proposition. In encouraging her to advocate for her people, Mordecai inquired: "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such at time as this?" His intent was to intimate (and celebrate!) the providence of God in placing Esther where she was as queen at a potentially defining moment in time and for a specific purpose. As we all know, the account goes on to describe how Esther's bold faith in the Lord was used to spare the Jewish people (her people) from the decree of death. It is truly amazing to realize that the same God who placed Esther in that critical position is still sovereignly placing people in His service today!

Just recently, we welcomed a new couple to the missionary team at Faith Baptist Community Church and Center. We had been praying that God would supply help by way of additional co-laborers. He has answered our prayers by bringing John and Laura Niemeyer (and family) to us. The Niemeyers served for two terms in the country of Chile. While on furlough, God closed the door to their return to that field. In seeking His direction for their future ministry, God led them to FBCC&C. They bring with them a number of gifts and abilities that will help fill some of our current ministry gaps. John will develop a ministry to teens, assist with preaching, organize outreach and evangelism activities, and oversee building and grounds maintenance. Laura will assist Norma with the women's ministries, teach some children's classes, and be involved in the pregnancy program. Their involvement will allow us to re-initiate some ministries that were put on hold due to time and personnel constraints. Who knows but what John and Laura have been placed here "for such a time as this?"! We are eager to see what God will do through their ministry here at Faith.

It was a busy summer. In many ways, it is good to be back to the structure of the school year. Emily is in eighth grade this year and is already busy with her schoolwork, volleyball practice and games (her team is 9 and 1!), piano lessons, and helping with the ministry in Cleveland. Ben is in fourth grade and enjoying being around his many friends at school. He just began his first year of piano lessons, and is quite excited about this new musical endeavor (we hope that excitement lingers!). He is also a big help in Cleveland. We know this school year will fly by (as they always seem to do). We are so thankful for the training that FBCC provides!

Please pray for Norma Nulph, the founding missionary of FBCC&C. She is struggling with many health issues at present. Pray for our missionary team...Jackie Hopkins, the Niemeyers, and our family. We have much work to do and we need your prayers in that process. Pray for our many dedicated volunteers. Pray for all those in inner-city Cleveland, including our church members and regular attenders, those that are steadily growing, those that have strayed, and those that are yet in need of coming to faith in Jesus Christ. The harvest is both plenteous and ripe. We love and appreciate you.

Serving Christ,

Michael, Sherri, Emily, and Benjamin Vanek