

FORT WAYNE BAPTIST
Church



February 2022
Newsletter

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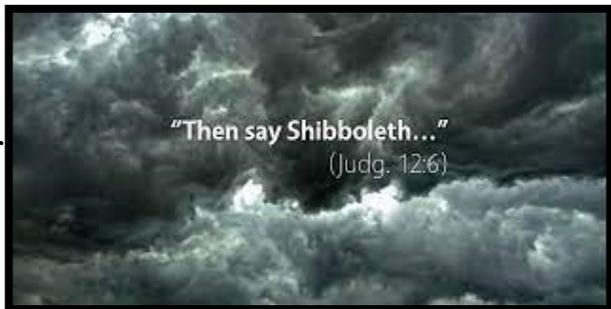
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Sunday:

Bible Study—9:00 AM
Worship—10:00 AM

No Shibboleth

Judges 12: 5 *The Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan leading to Ephraim, and whenever a survivor of Ephraim said, “Let me cross over,” the men of Gilead asked him, “Are you an Ephraimite?” If he replied, “No,”⁶ they said, “All right, say ‘Shibboleth.’” If he said, “Sibboleth,” because he could not pronounce the word correctly, they seized him and killed him at the fords of the Jordan. Forty-two thousand Ephraimites were killed at that time.*



There has long been a tension between faith, or its confession, and works, the tension in the New Testament between Paul and James demonstrates this. Part of the issue, Biblically speaking, is the definition of “faith.” James faith is just another word for belief, something that even the demons have. For Paul, faith is a much more fundamental orientation of life, a primary guiding principal. Nevertheless, Christianity has oscillated between these two positions. To put it another way, the difference between what you profess to believe and how you act.

For centuries after the Reformation, religious wars tore central Europe apart. Protestant against Catholic and Brand A Protestant against Brand B Protestant. While not completely without substance, often the difference between one group and another was a creed, a verbal confession. In their day to day lives they were no different and, for the average person, their division was no bigger than the explanation for the Lord’s Supper, something they did not have a real understanding of in the first place.

In other times religious purity came down to a single issue. For a long time among Baptists, especially in the South, the issue was

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alcohol. No matter what else you did, if you drank you were suspect but if you promoted temperance, you were godly. Beat your wife and kids or give all your money to the poor, it did not matter compared to your stance on alcohol. Other issues have since replaced this, and as long as you are on the correct side, whatever that means in context, then you love Jesus or obviously hate Jesus if you agree with the other side.

Why do we do that? Because it is easy. It is far easier to let a yes-or-no question tell us everything we need to know about a person than struggle with large issues. Far easier to make sure you are seen as good if you dress right and have the correct bumper sticker than to make hard choices.

Christianity was never meant to be easy. It is meant to be a daily struggle. We have no law, no well-defined set of rules, because we are supposed to always be growing. We are supposed to always reflect both on our beliefs and our behavior. The one cannot supersede the other. Good theology does not cover bad behavior nor does good works make up for bad theology. It is important to test, to analyze, and to exercise our faith and, if they want our support, the faith professed by others. There are no easy signs for righteousness, no single issue, no Shibboleth.

—Pastor Scott

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pat Arthur's family as they mourn her passing on 1/18
- Ed Jennings & his family—wife has lumps in her breast to be tested, daughter recovering from tonsillectomy, mother-in-law had mild heart attack 1/15
- Brenda Edwards—discovery of additional lumps in chest
- Les Roberson—liver cancer
- Don Schaab—continued prayers
- Diana (Brenda Routhier's sister)—continued prayers
- Howard Rusk—cancer, continued prayers
- Andrea Lowe (Randy & Sharon Rusk's daughter)—has MS, continued prayers
- Marilyn Elliott (Sharon Rusk's sister)—bladder cancer, continued prayers
- Aryln Fulk (Barb's son-in-law)—continued prayers
- Wayne (Barb's son-in-law)—cancer, continued prayers
- Grayson Barnhart (Dick & Cec's grandson)—3 yr old with juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, continued prayers
- Vaunetta's Family—continued prayers
- Burma
- Haiti



Shoebboxes

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX UPDATES....

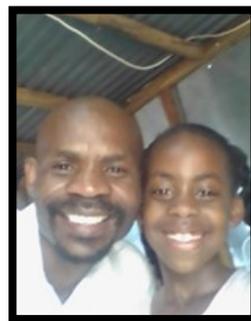
1. I've discovered a note and a picture of a little girl who received one of our shoeboxes back in 2017. She lives in Mexico. Isn't she a cutie?



2. We received a nice long letter and picture of a boy named Zephania who received one of our shoe boxes in 2019 that we packed in November of 2018. He lives in Malawi. He sent us a nice long letter and picture. I wrote him a letter in return to thank him for letting us know he received a shoebox.



3. In 2020 our shoeboxes went to South Africa. One of the families was of Khumonia Manamela. The father sent us two pictures. One of his entire family and the other is of himself and his daughter who received the shoebox. They also sent a letter thanking us for the shoebox.



4. The second family is of Phindile Mgiba of South Arica whose three children....Amu a 14 year old girl, Ntsako a 10 year old boy, and Vutivi a 6 year old boy each received a shoebox. They all thank us for the shoebox. Unfortunately, she did not send pictures of the children.

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I have heard from several people that they enjoy the stories of the children who receive shoeboxes from all over the world. Here are a couple more stories.

When Mariya received a shoebox gift as a child, one of her favorite items was a box of crayons that fueled her creativity as an aspiring artist!

Art supplies are a wonderful way to encourage creativity in a shoebox. Last year crayons were readily available and at a decent price so that my shoebox elves were busy buying up all the boxes of crayons they could find. I'm so glad we were able to put a box of crayons in every one of those 1,202 shoeboxes that we filled. We also included other art supplies like colored pencils, paint sets, construction paper and stickers for the boxes.

In the Philippines an 11 year old boy named Miguel was mad at the world. One parent was dead and the other in jail. He sat in the back with arms crossed, not opening his gift when the other children opened theirs. When asked if he wanted to open the gift, he said no he didn't want it, he didn't believe in God. The volunteer said, Miguel, if there was one thing in the box you really wanted, what would it be? He said, "If there's a God, there's a Spider-Man in this box." She said "open it" and he did. The volunteers never know what is in a box until it is opened so she was just as happy as the young child to find that EVERYTHING in the box was Spider-Man—a Spider-Man doll, toothbrush, notebook, clothing, etc.

Sharon



Fort Wayne Baptist Church

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY NEIL & DIANA SOWARDS!!	3 HAPPY BIRTHDAY NATE EMMERT!!	4	5
6 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Communion Coffee Hour HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIKE WELCH!!	7	8	9	10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DELMAR PROCTOR!!	11 HAPPY BIRTHDAY PHYLLIS ARVOLA!!	12
13 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Noisy Offering Coffee Hour	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour	21	22 6 PM Council Meeting	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour	28					