

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of May 2nd, 2021

We know the Apostles and their new churches experienced several deadly earthquakes, had to endure famine and periods of intense persecution, and there was little anyone could do about disease or plague. Any Christians who survived these and remained in Judea or Jerusalem in the 70s AD, were then caught up in the Jewish war with Rome, the ruin of the city of Jerusalem and many other cities, and the total destruction of the Jewish temple.



Besides the tribulations the early Christians faced, some in these churches would have seen Jesus crucified with their own eyes. Some would have been told by Jesus in person, “Take up your cross and follow me,” and, “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”

And yet!

The New Testament letters and stories describe people with so much positive energy. The resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit clearly filled the people with life. Given their suffering, they would have been forgiven for generating gloomy, pessimistic letters, full of complaints, longing for better times and a more Godly government. Instead, we see people with hope, determined to love and serve God and each other. The contradiction between the early church’s suffering and its joy, is one of the more dramatic and compelling bits of evidence we have that Jesus rose from the dead.

The First Baptist Regina group that visited Lebanon met people from across North Africa and the Middle East. Their stories sometimes sounded like they were straight out of the book of Acts: dramatic church growth, incredible church work – but also persecution. It was startling when they told us, “We don’t ask for an end to our troubles. We ask for courage and for more people to come to Jesus.”

There is reason for tears and weariness, just as there is reason to take heart.

May you find the grace sufficient to persevere daily. Together, may we serve Jesus and one another, in love.

With my prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel M. L.', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Joel

Notable Words & Music: A Tribute to John Nelson

When: Sunday, May 30th at 7 pm

Where: On Zoom

Join us for a virtual celebration in gratitude for 35 years of faithful ministry to First Baptist Church, the Regina community, and beyond.

“With God’s Blessings, Best Wishes on Your Retirement, John.”

Lebanon Fundraiser 2021

On Sunday, April 18th, we held our annual missions fundraiser in support of our partnership with Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM), the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD), and the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS).

The Botros family, our missions partners in Lebanon, joined us on Zoom, from Beirut. Dr. Botros spoke in the morning service and he and his family answered questions afterwards during our virtual luncheon. We heard moving stories about the difficult conditions in Lebanon and the role of the LSESD in helping to meet the challenging needs.



L to R: Timothy (Timmy, 15), Almess, Emad, Nathaniel (13)

Luncheon highlights:

- The Botros family answered questions that had been submitted beforehand, and also some that were asked during the luncheon. Each member of the family took part in this, thus allowing us to see the situation from each of their viewpoints, and to get a feel for what their lives are like. Timmy and Nathaniel shared that, even though their schooling is online at this time, they appreciate that they are able to meet with friends about once a week to play football in the park.
- Lebanon has been without a government since their prime minister resigned in October, 2020. The absence of a government has created more challenges for the Lebanese and impacts the people’s lives in many different ways.
- We also heard about the major economic issues that the Lebanese are facing, such as soaring inflation. Despite strict lockdowns and fears of COVID-19, many must work in order to feed their families. Lebanon does not have the safety nets that Canada has.
- Another situation that is having a major impact on the Lebanese is the huge number of Syrian refugees living in their midst.

- We watched a video, “[Ministry of Presence in the time of Covid](#),” which speaks of some of the hardships brought on by COVID-19 and what the LSESD is doing to meet the many, challenging needs, including delivering nutritional meals to vulnerable families, visiting them through phone calls, and praying for them.
- We heard an informative report from Heather Russell-MacLean. She shared:
 - A brief portion of Lebanon’s history: Against the backdrop of the legacy of war and civil unrest, the challenges faced by the Lebanese have been exacerbated and multiplied by COVID-19, the financial crisis, and the massive port explosion of last August.
 - Another part of Lebanon’s history is the major impact that refugees have had on the Lebanese. A small country of 4 million people, Lebanon had already welcomed hundreds of Palestinian refugees in the 1940s and on through the 20th century. With the onset of the civil war in Syria in the early part of this century, over a million Syrians fled for their lives into Lebanese cities and mountains. This massive influx of people drove wages down, the price of goods and rent up, and put pressure on schools and health systems. Added to these tensions was the reality that Syrian had invaded and occupied Lebanon for over 20 years. Churches have struggled to know what to do, many choosing to help their former enemies.
 - An overview of the LSESD – their organizational structure and the various areas that they are involved in, in ministering to the people of Lebanon, including the Syrian refugees. These areas include children’s education in a Christian context, seminary education for students from the Middle East and North Africa, relief and development in partnership with local churches and organizations to support vulnerable families, and ministry to vulnerable children and youth.
- Lauren Snook showed us photos from the SENT team’s trip to Lebanon in 2019. She also shared how she was impacted by her experiences on the trip.

Supporting the work of the CBM in Lebanon makes a lot of sense! “The infrastructure is already there, so our role is to pray, to learn, and to donate. This is how each and every one of us, can make a tangible difference.” (Heather RM)

Last year, our church raised \$9,633 from our Lebanon fundraiser. As of April 28th, our donation total is \$3,360. Our target for this year is \$9,000 – let’s see if we can beat it! For more information, visit [our website](#).

Ways to give:

1. Online with a credit card: <https://www.givetogo.org/team/FBCRegina>
2. Mail, or drop off, your donation to First Baptist Church, 2241 Victoria Ave, Regina SK S4P 0S4. (Please do not leave cash in the mailbox.) If you require an in-person pick up, call the church at (306) 359-1450.
 - Make cheques out to “CBM.”
 - Note “SENT Lebanon” in the memo line or on the envelope.

Signs of Spring...



Online Dramatization on the Life of Jesus

“The Chosen” is the first-ever multi-season show about the life of Jesus. Created outside of the Hollywood system, “The Chosen” helps us see Him through the eyes of those who knew Him. No matter where you are in your journey with Jesus Christ, this show is for you! You can watch full episodes by streaming them on your phone or tablet, or cast to your TV using Roku or Chromecast.

Ways to access this series:

- [Android App](#)
- [Apple App](#)
- [Youtube](#) (Season 1)

Season 2 is available on the new App. (See above for links.) For more information, please contact Karlee M, send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.



The CEO of Ikea was just elected president of Sweden. He should have his cabinet together by the end of the week.

Therapist: What brings you in today?

Me: I have a terrible fear of tsunamis.

Therapist: How bad is it?

Me: It comes in waves.

I saw a microbiologist today. He was much bigger than I expected.

I just crashed my new Kia. Now I have Nokia.

Website Update

On Sunday, April 25th, we transitioned over to our new website. The address has not changed (firstbaptistregina.ca). While it will look somewhat different, we have attempted to maintain an appearance that reflects the traditional aspects of our church, while at the same time, simplifying pages and improving site navigation.

As you find your way around on the new site, here are a few pointers to get you started:

- The main header (showing church name and dome image) and the footer appear on every page. To return to the home page from any page, click on the church name or dome image.
- Above the main header on the right hand side are small icons/links for the Calendar of Events, Facebook, YouTube, and email (to send an email to the church). These links are on every page.
- The banners (sliding images) on the home page can now be controlled by the user. When you hover over a banner, it pauses on that banner, and also reveals the controls:
 - Arrows at the sides to go forward or back, or scroll through the banners more quickly.
 - Dots at the bottom – these enable the user to go directly to a specific banner.
- All information about the upcoming Sunday service is now on a separate page. To access it, click on the “Sunday Service” link right under the banner.
- Also below the banner is a link to the Calendar of Events. As before, each entry on the calendar provides a link to information about that event.
- Right below the main header on every page, is the main menu. (Welcome, Media, Get Connected, Grow, Give, COVID-19) Hovering over each of these shows you the drop down menu for it. You can then click on the option you want.
- To the right of the main menu, you will find two small icons:
 - Search (magnifying glass icon)
 - Technical help (question mark icon)

As with anything of this nature, there will undoubtedly be bugs to work out. We ask for your patience while this is happening.

Please note: If you would like help in navigating the website, please call the church at (306) 359-1450, or send an email to [the church](#), and someone will contact you to set up a time to assist you over the phone.

What's happening at First?

Morning Prayer

Join us each morning, Monday to Thursday at 7:15 am to begin your day with scripture and prayer, via Zoom. Visit our [website](#) for the link.

Children

Our children's program is online at this time. For more information, contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth

The youth are meeting alternate Friday evenings at 7:00 pm via Zoom. For more information, contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adults

Learning for Life: Eric Warren is leading a 5-week series on the book of Ephesians: "The Mysterious Plan for Everything." This series looks at three questions: 1. What is God's ultimate plan for Humanity and the Cosmos? 2. What is His universal plan for the Church? 3. What is His unique plan for individual Christians? Paul assures us this plan will be accomplished by the same power that raised Christ from the dead. In the midst of the uncertainty fostered by the Pandemic, this timeless letter reassuringly reveals and reminds us of our inclusion in this unfolding cosmic plan. For more information, contact Eric or see [our website](#).

Voice: A small group for women who like to read and enjoy lively conversation. The group meets every second Wednesday from 7 to 9 pm, using Zoom. For more information, visit [our website](#), email [the church](#), or contact Lauren S or Bonnie AW.

Reading through the Old Testament: In this online reading group, participants are reading through the Old Testament chronologically. The group meets every Thursday at 10:30 am, via Zoom. For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Gospel of John small group study: Pastor Richard is leading a small group online that is looking at the Gospel of John. There are two groups meeting, via Zoom. The first group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm (*please note that this group's meeting day has changed from Sunday to Thursday*), and the second, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 10 am. For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Novel Study

Voice is holding a novel study on Saturday, June 5, 2021. The book chosen for the study is "Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption," by Katie Davis. It is the inspirational story of a young woman and her journey to Uganda to live and work with some of the poorest people in the world. For more information, visit [our website](#), contact Lauren, or call the church at (306) 359-1450. The discussion will take place at 10 am over Zoom.

Tithing during the pandemic

With the COVID-19 crisis limiting contact with others and restricting meetings of groups, please do not neglect the financial needs of our church.

We have several ways to provide your regular tithes and donations to the church:

1. Mail your gifts to the church or call and leave a message at (306) 359-1450 to arrange for an in-person pick-up. Please place your cheque in your regular offering envelope (or any envelope marked "Offering"), and seal that inside another envelope addressed to: First Baptist Church, 2241 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK S4P 0S4.
2. Establish a **Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) Plan**. This will automatically transfer funds from your account into the FBC Regina account on a regular basis. Please email the church or contact the Treasurer if you would like to set up PAR, or change your commitment.
3. Make an online donation:
 - Use **Interac e-Transfer** to donate from your phone or computer to FBCRegina@gmail.com (*no fee or cost to the church*)
 - Use a credit card with a PayPal account via the **PayPal Giving Fund** (*no fee or cost to the church... 100% of your donation reaches us and contributes to our mission*)
 - Use a credit card or PayPal via **CanadaHelps** (*a fee of 4% is deducted from the donation*)
 - Use a credit or debit card via **FBC ChurchTrac** (*the church is charged a fee of approximately 3% for each donation*)

PLEASE refer to our website at firstbaptistregina.ca for more specific information on these contribution methods. You may also contact the treasurer at (306) 775-1497 or email the church at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net for further details.

I told my daughter, "Go to bed. The cows are sleeping in the field." Puzzled, she asked, "What's that got to do with anything?" I chuckled, "Well, that means... it's pasture bedtime."

My teenage son treats me like a god. He acts like I don't exist until he wants something.

No more Suez Canal jokes. That ship has sailed.

