

THE WITNESS

First Baptist Church of Yantis Newsletter

February 2026

What do we do with chaos around us?

The world is in chaos. Nothing seems to make sense anymore. Every day we hear of unbelievable actions. What's the problem? What do we do?

The problem is the world is lost. People in the world are lost. Their actions are mere symptoms. Although seeing God as He has revealed Himself in His creation, they have rejected God. So "(ESV) Romans 1 18" ... the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ... 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Rejecting God, God lets them go to pursue sin. And the culture reflects those choices. Our culture grows darker and darker.

As the culture that is more and more shaped by the world's lostness pushes forward, many look to a variety of means to stem the tide. Do we look to the government? Elect people that share our cultural viewpoints (and we do need to elect Christians)? Pass 'righteous' laws to force everyone back in line (some laws do need to be passed to curb lawlessness)? But is that the ultimate solution? Does trying to reinstate external morality solve the problem? Meanwhile, do we criticize, bash, make fun of, and/or curse the enemy? Do we lose our Christian distinctiveness and look no different than the world in our attitudes and behavior?

The world is lost. There is a need for a Savior. (ESV) Romans 5 8 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God." The solution is spiritual. The problem is sin. The solution is in the Savior. The only solution for a lost world is the gospel. It has a spiritual problem.

There is a need for revival.

Real transformation.

A real return to God.

Individually.

And only then can the larger culture be transformed.

In practice, what can I do? I can't change the world. I can't manufacture revival. My yelling and screaming accomplishes nothing. My anxiety has no effect. My criticism of the radicals changes nothing.

I propose that the most radical impact we can have is the same as a handful of people had when Jesus ascended. They had no ability to change the culture or the government (they couldn't even vote). The only means of impacting a lost world was to share with people about Christ: What He did – die for sin. What happened after He died – He rose again and offers life to all who will come to Him. And any individual who does come, He will save and change from the inside out. Radical life change. And they shared this gospel while maintaining Christlike attitudes and lives themselves.

And they shared. And some received the message. And everywhere they went, the world turned upside down because of the radical nature of what happens when people hear the message of the gospel, embrace it, and are transformed. And after almost 300 years, the nation itself changed. The culture changed. National stability arose from the chaos (one can argue whether this national change was for the good or bad, but that is another story).

We control little. We can vote. We can pray globally.

But, very practically we can have the most impact within our sphere of influence. The people we see every day. We can live so that others see a difference in our lives. Not mere religion, but life. We can share the message of the gospel and offer others hope as well. And perhaps over time, the groundswell will result in revival that changes the culture. But whether the culture changes or not, we would have done what we were called to do. Not to change the culture, but to be changed, and to be the influence whereby others around us are changed. This is the Christian life and calling.

Pastor Danny

Youth Ministry update— February

January has been a great start to the semester for our youth ministry! We kicked off a new study through the book of Philippians, focusing on how our faith in Jesus doesn't just change what we believe—but how it actively shapes who we are and how we live. Our students have been engaging well with Scripture, discussion, and one another as we dive into what it means to follow Christ with joy and obedience in everyday life.

Looking ahead, February is shaping up to be a busy and exciting month. Although WinterJam will have already happened by the time you read this, we're grateful for the opportunity our students had to worship alongside thousands of other believers and hear the gospel clearly proclaimed. We'll also be welcoming missionaries to speak with our students this month, giving them a broader picture of how God is working around the world and how they can be part of His mission.

We're also beginning to look ahead to summer camp, with our first fundraiser coming soon—likely in March. Camp continues to be one of the most impactful weeks of the year for our students, and we're excited to start preparing for it now.

Outside of Wednesday nights, our Monday Guys Bible Study has been going strong and has been a huge encouragement. It's been awesome to see students show up consistently, open God's Word together, and grow in their faith and friendships.

Please continue to pray for our students and leaders as we move through the semester—that we would have wisdom, endurance, and hearts fully focused on pointing students to Jesus. We're thankful for your ongoing support and partnership in this ministry.

**In Christ,
Dennis and Sam Wagner**

Music Worship

I know that the ice was hard as a rock in some places towards the end of January, but hopefully, our faith has always been solid as a rock no matter the weather. As we worship together this month, our music will point us back to the faithfulness of God and the joy we have in praising Him with one voice. Whether through familiar hymns or newer worship songs, our prayer is that each service helps prepare our hearts to hear God's Word and respond in obedience.

Thank you to our praise team, musicians, and volunteers who faithfully serve week after week. Your dedication is a blessing to our church. As we look ahead toward the spring season and prepare our hearts for Easter in the weeks to come, I invite you to continue worshiping boldly—singing not for an audience, but as an offering to the Lord. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6)

Sincerely,

Craig Ingram

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- ⇒ **AT-A- Glance:** Jan. Gifts \$25,593 2026 Gifts: \$25,593 2026 Budget: \$246,900

February Outreach

With January behind us (and winter, I hope), it's time to move forward.

Attendance has been pretty good, despite the sickness that has been so rampant. We have run 70-79 in worship in January. Maybe this last week off will help stem the tide of the flu. It seems every week we have had 10 or more regulars out.

We have provided a Ministry Interest Survey the last couple of weeks. If you have not completed one, pray about how God has gifted you, what interests you, and how God might choose to use you. It is important for you and for the church to get connected in ministry. We need each other.

So how do you get involved in ministry. 1) Be faithful. The number one qualification for ministry is faithfulness. Faithfulness to the main ministries of the church, e.g., Sunday School, AM Worship, Bible Studies, etc. From this faithfulness, opportunities to serve come naturally

2) Let us know of your interests (form, personally). 3) Seek to be part of the existing ministries of interest (watch/help).

We desire you to provide input concerning the proposed special events of the church in 2026. On February 8, after the service we will have a church planning meeting. At that time we will provide a tentative plan for the events of 2026, ask for feedback about these events, and solicit other ideas for new events that we might consider. Be aware. Be involved.

To make the February 8 event even more enticing, we will need to eat also. So we will have a soup/chili cookoff before the meeting. We desire people to bring their favorite recipes of soup and/or chili. A prize will be awarded to the favorite in each category. And we will eat as much of the contest items as possible. It will help us if you sign up beforehand if you are bringing food.

Our quarterly men's breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 7 in the Faith Life Center at 8:00 AM. The time includes a full breakfast and then a time to hear a local speaker give his testimony or share scripture. A great time of fellowship. A great time to invite friends and neighbors. Men from other local churches often participate with us.

Also, if you like to walk, join the group that has started walking in the Faith Life Center gym every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:00-10:00 AM. See the Couch's with questions.

Pastor Danny



A Christian Responsibility: VOTE!

The Texas election primary is March 3. Living in a nation where each of us IS the government (at least theoretically), this represents our time to shape that future government. Since our governmental system has become one of party versus party, the party platform almost forces us to vote along party lines in a general election. Thus, the primaries are the place where we really have choices. Now is the time to research candidates. Now is the time to discern who best represents our Christian views. And now is the time to vote accordingly.

Let's pray ahead of time for wisdom. Let's vote our Christian conscience, as directed by the Holy Spirit. May we not be people followers. May we not jump on personality bandwagons. Let's seek to make the choice the Christ would make. Who would He vote for? Let's put forward people who share our values and live out those values in the world. These will be qualified to represent us.

This is the main chance for us to make a difference in our government. Do it! VOTE!

Pastor Danny