

The Witness

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Newsletter

May 2025

Needing more than Oxygen

Without enough oxygen you die. And before you die you get a really bad headache. Well, I have never actually experienced the first, but I have experienced the latter. A few years ago, we travelled to Colorado, and for the first time I experienced a really bad case of altitude sickness.

After spending the night with some friends in Longmont, we made our trek toward Frisco, CO, the most direct way – over the mountains of Rocky Mountain National Park. We made the decision to travel up the one-way dirt road, Old Falls Creek Road, instead of going up the more well-traveled Old Thompson Canyon (actually, I made the decision, Janice had great misgivings about it). But it was a good choice (or so I thought), as we crept up the narrow way in the midst of gorgeous aspens in full color, with great views from the sheer cliffs off the road, and many scenic places to stop. We got out and walked and enjoyed every inch of the way up the mountain to its summit at close to 12,000 feet.

But by the time we reached the summit I knew something was amiss. There was something not right. I felt wrong. Not totally dizzy, but not right. My head began to throb. I was not quite sick, but queasy. Instead of the joy of being outside, I just really did not care much about what was going on. A gurgle developed in my chest, and I had a hard time breathing. We continued our journey over the mountains, arriving in Frisco late that day. My symptoms continued as I had a hard time breathing, sleeping, and eating. Still at over 9,000 feet, I did not get any relief.

For three days, I was miserable, but I did not even consider cutting the trip short. I was man enough to weather this out (yeah! I did spend a couple of days in bed). I am not that old, I thought. I was not going to be hampered by something as silly as not enough oxygen. And in fact, I did not die. My body did finally create enough red blood cells to adapt. We finished the week traveling to Independence Pass (over 12,000 feet) and lived to tell about it. But the truth is perhaps I should not have been so cavalier.

People do die from altitude sickness (true, not generally in the Rockies, but at even higher elevations in the Himalayas). The body needs oxygen – if you don't have enough, things go really bad. My experience was a bit silly, but ask someone with COPD how serious it can be. When the body does not get enough oxygen, the body suffers. The body must have oxygen. Regularly. Continuously.

So it is spiritually. A human life without a constant relationship with God suffers. We were made for Him. Without Him, life just is not right. Often the first symptoms that we do not have Him are subtle - discomfort, uneasiness, a sense of non-wellbeing. But if the symptoms are not addressed, the problems worsen, as life seems of no value, and/or normal routines begin to breakdown. We may try to man up (or woman up as the case may be) and deny it. We may pretend we can make it anyway. We can refuse to realize what is happening. But ultimately, without Him we suffer.

This God has reached out to us. As maker and designer, he has made us with a need for Him. Like a physical body must have oxygen, spiritually we must have God. All sinned and separated themselves from Him. Without Him we are literally in various stages of death. But God sent His Son to die for our sin, so that now we can choose to return to Him. As a Christian, we can again breathe in that life that He offers. But as Christians we still need a constant relationship with Him. Every day. Every moment. He is our life. He is our breath. Living life without Him we wither away.

There is no substitute. We need Him. Let us allow His Word to feed our souls. Let us communicate with Him regularly. Let us allow His life to fill our life. Let us respond as He guides. Let us find Him in His community, the church, among His people. He desires to fill our lives, but we must choose to do the things that allow Him to fill our spiritual lungs.

Danny Parker Pastor of First Baptist Church

May Outreach

April was a great month as we had 96 attending on Easter morning, and another 56 were there for the Sunrise Service. The Praise Team created a great worship event during the morning service. And we had a slew of youth (15?) in both services. Praise the Lord and give deserving honors to those that worked hard to make it happen. Did I mention there was a lot of prayer and inviting going on ahead of time? God is faithful and responds to our prayer/service.

May will provide a number of opportunities to invite folks to the services and church events. Mother's Day (May 11) is the prime focus early in the month. It is always great to celebrate the mothers of the church. This includes birth mothers, foster mothers, and ministry mothers, who have invested in children over the years.

Our quarterly men's breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 3, at 8:00 AM. Lonnie Eaves will be sharing his testimony. The semiannual Rehoboth Associational meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 PM, at Community Lighthouse Baptist Church in Cumby.

We will have a couple of special mini speakers during the month, who will take 10 minutes to present their ministries. Kyle Trumbull will talk about his ministry to Mexico on May 4. The Gideons will present their ministry on May 25. These mini presentations will remind us of our responsibility and opportunities to reach beyond our local area.

The Senior Rally at Lakeview will be held on Thursday, May 8. Steve Couch will be coordinating the event and transportation. Be sure to sign up. We had a great group and a great time last fall. Lots and lots of food, music, and preaching. Did I say lots and lots of food?

At the end of the month on Sunday, May 25, at 5:00, we will have a pre-Memorial Day picnic at the church. The church will provide hamburgers and the fixins. It will be a great time to fellowship and to invite others to a 'nonintimidating' time to experience our folks.

The month closes with our VBS on May 27-30. It will be a four-day morning VBS. Be sure to sign up to help or contact Sam Wagner. We will need lots of workers. This is always a significant time of ministry

Use these events as tools to invite friends/neighbors/family and as an opportunity to serve others.

Pastor Danny

April was an exciting month for our youth ministry! We are so grateful for the amazing support we received during our Dinner and Dessert Auction for camp — thanks to your generosity (and some incredible cakes!), we raised over \$3,000 to help send students to camp this summer!

We also hosted our annual Easter Lock-In, which brought in around 20 students for a night full of fun, connection, and most importantly, a deep dive into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It was a powerful time of reflection and celebration centered around the hope we have in Christ.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for another Hotdog Fundraiser on May 10, so come hungry and help support our students once again! We're thrilled to have over 20 students attending camp this year, and we ask for your continued prayers as we wrap up the school year and make final preparations.

Be on the lookout for a prayer list coming soon so we can be praying for each student by name as they get ready for this life-changing experience.

Thank you for your constant support!

Dennis and Sam Wagner

Music Ministry

The Easter Service was absolutely fantastic! The Praise Team did a marvelous job. Wayne Miles did a great job on Casting Crowns' version of "Glorious Day". Sam Wagner also did a beautiful job on the Cris Tomlin song "I Will Rise". I was blessed to be able to sing the song "My Redeemer Lives". Brother Danny's scripture reading and congregational singing was beautiful. God was truly in this place!

Sr Adult Ministry

The Senior Adult Rally is still going to happen thanks to all the Baptist on Mission Men and Women who have been working non-stop at the camp reconstruction due to the dam-

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age caused by the tornado that ripped thru the camp.

The Lakeview Baptist Camp Spring Sr Adult Rally will be May 8th 2025. The featured speaker will be Greg Zackary with Worship provided by Ricky and Amanda Thompson. The cost this year is \$18.00. The church will provide transportation as needed. Please be at the church parking lot by 7:30 AM if you need a ride that day.

Thanks

Bro Steve

At-A-Glance:

March's Gifts: \$22,042.⁰⁰

2025 Gifts : \$60,990.⁶⁰

2024 Budget: \$286,384.⁰⁰

**Annie Armstrong
Offering Collected:
\$755.00**