

The Witness

Volume XIX, Issue IX

Newsletter

September 2022

Fresh Life Bursts from Unexpected Places

They won't die. Amazingly, they burst forth in blooms at the least opportunity.

We have some lilies along the front of our property. They never get watered. By this time of the summer, they are dried up and dead (or at least seemingly so). I have thought many times, of removing them altogether. Ugly. Catching debris in their long dried-up leaves.

But then we will get a shower of rain. And suddenly, overnight, everything changes. Stalks of green seem to grow before our eyes. Flowers erupt everywhere. Our 20 or so plants transform from death to life. The transition happens quickly. Little is required. A few drops of water and suddenly life takes over. I never cease to be amazed.

What a visual picture of spiritual life! Just like our lilies, a seeming deadness easily enters our lives. It can be ravages of age and sickness. The results of sin. The spiral of depression and discouragement. The impact of complacency. The staleness that comes from mere Baptist ritual and/or a general sense of dead churchiness. A thousand distractions can draw us into a dullness that withers our lives.

But how quickly our lives can be renewed! How quickly our lives can be transformed. The seeming deadness of our lives can be changed from dry, stunted ugliness to beauty, usefulness, joy. When we allow the water of the Word to penetrate us and we yield to it, the Holy Spirit

erupts life within us. If we listen to the Spirit call us back to a vibrant life in Christ, the beauty of Christ is manifest and fruit is produced.

If we allow Christ to refresh our lives, things change. If we seek Him to be real in our lives. To pursue Him with all our might. To ask Him to water our souls. To ask for renewal / revival in our hearts. We too can suddenly spring back to life. He will produce a freshness and fruitfulness that is the natural (supernatural) result of Him at work in us.

As we begin to depart from the parched Texas summer, let us also leave our own spiritual dryness behind. Let's reengage with the One who loves us. Let's allow Him to be the center of our lives. Let's seek to serve Him as we have opportunities in the many outreach plans in the Fall. Let's ask Him to revive us within. Then let's display life and fruit that comes from Him.

Danny

From the Heart

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

We live in a world full of fear; and rightly so. We are fragile beings. The last two years have been especially trying on our faith. I like that Jesus doesn't try to hide the fact that we will have troubles. As a matter of fact, it can be a comfort

to us to realize trouble will come. If Jesus had not told us ahead of time, we may think we are on the wrong path or that He is not in control and that everything just happens at random. We may think that we are totally in control of our own destiny. However, at times when we believe that to be so, we are at our wits end and feel all is lost. The Good news is that God alone is in control and He loves us!

When we have troubles, God knew them long before. God tells us, through the Apostle Paul, that we are to rejoice in our troubles and the end result is hope! (Romans 5:3-5). Troubles cause us to focus on God, our real hope.

Often, I find myself looking for hope on the internet; statistics proving things aren't that bad, a miracle drug to cure Covid, or a new leader who could come to power and fix all our problems. However, my searching is futile. No matter what, God has warned us that we will have trouble. The good news is that He has also told us that we can look to him and be comforted. This world doesn't have to bring you down because Jesus says, "I have overcome the world." He also says of his disciples, in John 14:20, that we are in Him and He is in us. Our citizenship is in Heaven and God assures us that He will get us there. In the meantime, "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Rom 8:37)

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble,

but take courage; I have overcome the world.” -Jesus (John 16:33)

In Him,

Bro Chad

Worship Matters

Our world today is filled with conflict and turmoil. Many of us are seldom at peace and hardly ever exhibit joy. However, we are the children of God and have every reason to rejoice! How can we rejoice in the midst of great spiritual and moral decline in the United States, racial conflicts, death, and war? The answer is simple: JESUS. He is the reason we are a new creation. He is the reason we have hope. When our lives are filled with chaos, we need to simply run to Him and let Him fill us up and refresh us.

**Give me Jesus
By Fernando Ortega**

*In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise, give me Jesus*

*Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus*

*When I am alone ,when I am alone
When I am alone, give me Jesus*

*Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus*

*When I come to die, when I come to die
When I come to die, give me Jesus*

*Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus*

Melaina

A Fall Harvest of Outreach

How will you engage this Fall? Opportunities abound. The church can be impacted if we get involved. Three Fall Harvest Sundays are scheduled.

On September 18, Gary Coleman, the pastor that radically shaped Danny’s pastoral ministry, will be speaking. A Sunday School rally will also occur. The intent is to regather everyone and invite visitors to supercharge our Sunday School.

On October 2, FBC will honor Kent Pate for all the investment he has made in our church. Kent will be retiring as from the RBA at the end of October. Kent will be speaking that Sunday and afterwards a lunch reception will be held in his honor.

Finally, on October 9, Robert Townzen will complete our Fall Harvest Sundays with a unique Sunday Morning event. Robert will be given the entire service to sing and present the gospel.

In addition to these special Sundays, the Wednesday Children/Youth programs will begin on September 21. A Blitz Visitation time to support these programs will occur on Saturday September 10 at 10:00am.

If we desire for FBC to grow and prosper, we need to engage in outreach together. These are just some of the opportunities for you to be involved. Let’s pray and then engage. That is the secret to a prosperous church.

Outreach Team

		Jesus Kids and Wednesday Night Youth Kick-off September 21!		
		Register your student online at *fbcyantist.com*		
		Pray for these ministries as we have an exciting year of activity		
		planned!		

At A Glance

July’s Gifts:	\$31,829. ⁵⁰
2022 Gifts So Far:	\$164,592. ³⁹
2022 Budget:	\$262,763. ⁰⁰

Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**
 Cell: 620-397-1753
 Email: fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net

Youth Minister: **Bro. Chad Ferrell**
 Cell: 903-243-7103
 Email: brochadferrell@gmail.com

Music Minister: **Bro. Chad Ferrell**
 Cell: 903-243-7103
 Email: brochadferrell@gmail.com

Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**
 In the office Mon. - Thurs., 8:30am - 2:30pm

Church Phone: 903-383-2393
Church Fax: 903-383-2384
Church Website: www.fbcyantist.com

Give online!

Go to:
<https://onrealm.org/fbcyantist/give/now>

Don’t miss mid-week activities at FBC Yantis!

Prayer Meeting on Tuesday mornings, 7am.

Ladies’ Bible Study on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am.

Men’s Bible Study on Tuesday evenings, 6:30pm.

Jesus Kids, Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30pm

Youth Service, Wednesday from 3:30-6:30pm