

## New Beginnings

From *Pearls of Grace* by Pam Jenkins

"Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel."

Joshua 1:2

Joshua was a faithful servant to Moses and God for years. Moses had died and Joshua watched as all his contemporaries, except for Caleb, die in the wilderness over a period of forty years. It was a new generation and there was a changing of the guard! Joshua was to take up the mantle of Moses and move God's people forward into the promised land. The old was fading in the distance and there before him was the door to the future. No doubt fear was present, and questions arose by doubters as to his ability to fill the shoes of Moses. After all, Moses had been used by God to do incredible things; things never seen before such as the plagues of deliverance from bondage, the parting of the Red Sea, healing from the deadly snake bites, manna from the sky, water from a rock, taking a tree and making the bitter waters sweet, constructing the tabernacle, the tent of meeting where God would speak to him face to face, the battles fought and the giving of the Ten Commandments.

Who could fill such shoes? What lay in store for him by following God? What new battles lay ahead? Moses had buried his wife during his leadership; along with countless others and he lost the privilege of taking the people into the promised land after wandering with them for forty years. If Moses had paid such a great price just to lead them to the desert, what cost would Joshua pay in the future leading them into battle for the land that God had promised?

As the old comes to a close and the new begins to emerge upon us, waves of doubts filled with fear can overwhelm the heart as it contemplates the unknown of what lies ahead. We look back, often with regret, from the days that have now slipped by at the blink of an eye and pray that the next year will be a better one. We often restrict our decisions based upon our limitations rather than on God's limitless power. I'm sure Joshua's first thought could have been; "Where do I begin?" But God made it very simple for Joshua, as He does for us. He told him two things to do, yes only two: arise and cross. Joshua could not remain where he was and fulfill the purpose God had for his life. He could not wallow in self-pity, grief or fear, recite a list of excuses, or wait for a more opportune time to emerge. He had to choose to get up, to stir his heart, to act upon the commands of the Lord going forth to obey all that He had told him to do. Refusing to arise and move forward will defeat the child of God who desires to answer the call of God upon their lives. Courage is not the friend of hesitation.

The second thing Joshua had to do was to cross the Jordan River. This river was the only thing standing between God's people and the land of Canaan.

*Continued inside...*

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BELEN

*Pastor David Guerrero . Pastor Ernest Sanchez*

January 3, 2021

**SAME GOD  
NEW YEAR**

**Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope  
without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;**

Hebrews 10:23

### **Welcome to Church!**

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a "Connect Card" and visit our Connection Desk. We would love an opportunity to get to know you better and encourage you in your spiritual walk, as well as answer any questions!

Contact Information for our Pastoral and Office Staff is provided on our website at [www.fbcbelen.net](http://www.fbcbelen.net), or you may call us at 864-8621.



## Activities for the Week

### Sunday - January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Spanish Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.  
Young Adults @ the Sanchez'  
home - 7:00 p.m.

### Monday - January 4<sup>th</sup>

*Church Office Closed*

### Tuesday - January 5<sup>th</sup>

### Wednesday - January 6<sup>th</sup>

Deaf Fellowship - 5:30 p.m.  
Adult Bible Study  
Children's Ministry  
Choir Practice  
Rooted Youth  
6:00 p.m.

### Thursday - January 7<sup>th</sup>

### Friday - January 8<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday - January 9<sup>th</sup>

Prayer Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

### Deacons of the Week:

Deck Goodman  
Red Flett

### Safety Team - January 10<sup>th</sup>:

Terrence Bock  
Jeremy Bock  
Cindy Tinnin

- **Church BUSINESS MEETING**

To vote on the 2021 Budget  
Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>  
Following the Worship Service

- **Prayer MEETING**

Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 a.m. in the MAC  
Please sign up in the foyer.

- **Ladies Bible Study  
RESUMES**

Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>  
9:15 a.m.

We are not saved  
by obedience,  
for obedience is the  
result of salvation.  
We are *saved by faith*  
because faith leads us  
to obey.

- Charles Spurgeon -

**Baby Church:** The P - 5 class-  
room is open to all parents/  
grandparents with babies.

**Sermon Notes and Children's  
Bulletins are available at the  
Connection Center Desk.**

## Church Office Hours

Monday: Closed . Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm . Friday: Closed

If you need to get a message/prayer request/praise report to a Church Staff member, or would like to receive Church updates, please contact Nadine through Remind. If you do not yet have this resource, below are the options to gain access to this great mode of communication.

## Pick a way to receive messages for First Baptist Church Belen:

### 1. If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/nfagg](https://rmd.at/nfagg)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You will be prompted to download the mobile app.

### 2. If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @nfagg to the number 81010.

If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @nfagg to (201) 676-4319.

*\*Standard text message rates apply.*

**Don't have a mobile phone?** Go to [rmd.at/nfagg](https://rmd.at/nfagg) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

## In Celebration of the Christmas Holiday...

The Church Office will be closed  
Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

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Stepping out into the waters of faith allowed Joshua and the people of Israel to cross over into their calling of God. He could not allow the Jordan to keep him from obeying God, no matter how impossible it seemed to overcome. He had to leave the "how to" to God. When they stepped out into that water, God dried it up before them. After all, He parted an entire sea for them; surely He could part a river. God takes our Jordan's and dries them up before us when we move forward in faith with Him. It was the first step of obedience that cleared a path to walk across. If we cannot face the waters of difficulties in the land of comfort, how will we ever face the enemies in the land of war? God will always meet you at your place of obedience. There are new battles ahead of us, new enemies to face, fears to conquer, new land to tread upon, and walls to bring down. With this New Year before us, beloved, let us say with the apostle Paul, "...One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13). Arise, beloved one of God, step out into the waters of faith and behold the power of God to bring you into the land!