

# SPANISH MINISTRY

Le escribo estas líneas al pueblo de Dios aquí en FBC Horizon City mientras estoy en medio de algún sufrimiento durante un tiempo de recuperación de una cirugía mayor. Reflexionando sobre las palabras del Salmo 103: 1-5. Ha sido difícil bendecir a mi SEÑOR en medio de días dolorosos, pero ¿cómo puedo olvidar que es Él quien me ha sostenido y continúa bendiciéndome? De la misma manera lo bendigo y lo adoro por todos Sus beneficios.

Probablemente todos hayan escuchado que tuve que someterme a una “cirugía a corazón abierto”, y estoy en la fase de recuperación. Debo agradecerles, como pueblo de Dios, por sus oraciones. Las he sentido y han marcado una diferencia en mi vida.

Esto también ha sido una prueba para la Congregación española, pero puedo decir con certeza que el pueblo de Dios ha respondido a la situación y varios han tomado en serio las palabras de Jesús cuando dijo que nada prevalecerá contra Su Iglesia.

Margel y yo estamos esperando pacientemente para regresar a la comunión con todos ustedes y alabar a nuestro Señor unidos en armonía. Hay mucho que falta cuando se adora desde un sofá frente a un televisor. Espero verlos a todos pronto, si Dios quiere. Su siervo, *Norman Torres*

I write these lines to God's people in Horizon City FBC during a time of suffering and recuperating from major surgery. I've been pondering the words of Psalm 103:1-5. It has been difficult to bless my Lord in the middle of painful days, but how can I forget that it is He who has sustained me and continues to bless me? In the same manner, I bless and worship Him for all His benefits.



Probably all have heard that I had to have “open heart surgery,” and I am now in the recovery phase. I must thank you, as people of God, for your prayers. They have been felt and have made a difference in my life.

This has been a trial for the Spanish congregation as well, but I can say with certainty that God's people have responded to the situation and several have taken to heart Jesus' words when He said that nothing will prevail against His Church.

Margel and I are waiting patiently to return to fellowship with you all and to praise our Lord, united in harmony. There is quite a bit missing when worshiping from a couch in front of a T.V.! Hope to see you all soon, God willing.

Your Servant, *Norman Torres, Pastor*



**Yard Sale**  
**March 27**  
**7am—noon**

**Work Day!**  
**April 24,**  
**8am - noon**

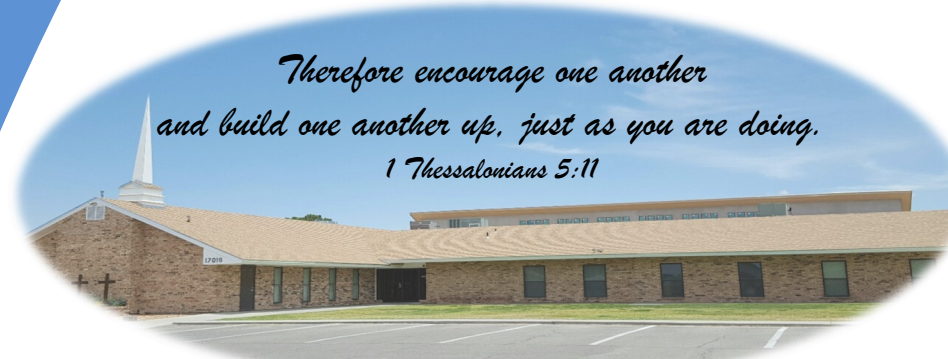


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## First Baptist Church of Horizon City



*Therefore encourage one another  
and build one another up, just as you are doing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:11*



## THE ENCOURAGER

No. 28

March 2021

*“I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.” Psalm 122:1*

Coming to God's house will always bring joy to the true follower of Christ. Worship should cause both reverence and celebration. Fellowship with other believers brings hope and encouragement as we share our burdens and our victories.

On November 21 of 2013, a slab of concrete was poured for a new building as we responded to a God-given task of increasing our discipleship and family ministry capabilities. Our resources were quite limited, and as a church we waited, prayed and saved money as we could. In February of 2016, the first walls were erected. We have seen miracles in funding and timing that have allowed us to complete this building in the five years since 2016.

Scripture tells us that “no Word of God is without power,” and we now have a beautiful tool for the kingdom and are debt free. One of the core principles that we practice is to “always rejoice, always pray and always give thanks” as we are instructed in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

We are planning for a special time of dedication on May 23, 2021. This date is the closest Sunday to the anniversaries of the date when we started as a mission and the same date that we became a church. This is a significant mile-

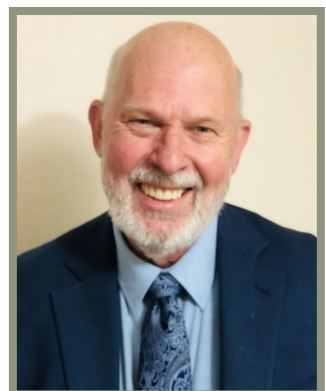
stone, and we want it to be a day of rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving.

To help us celebrate this day, there are two former pastor families, Jim and Karen Hogg and Jim and Karen Young, who will be visiting with us and participating in the celebration. Judy Goodwin, the wife of former pastor Bud Goodwin, will also be joining us on this day. As a church, we want to take the best care of them that we can in their travels, accommodations and meals during this time, as we honor them and express gratitude for their part in laying a solid foundation for our congregation.

There are many special touches that will be part of this day. Begin praying now for this time, and plan to be involved in any way that God allows. We want to make this day a day of sincere dedication of not just the building, but also our lives, as we seek to please our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is LORD,

*Pastor Wes*





## DEALING WITH COVID



There is some encouraging news with our Covid situation. Our state has been fully opened, and the mask restrictions have been legally lifted. This is wonderful news for our church, but we want to be cautious how we move forward.

Thank you for your willingness, as a congregation, to follow our guidelines for the past year as we have worked to honor God and each other. Our county will still have the authority to move back to the 25% restriction and 6-foot social distancing if the number of Covid patients reaches 15% of total bed capacity in our hospitals for more than 7 consecutive days. We are monitoring this number daily at the church. At the time of this writing, our county has been under this threshold for the past two weeks.

Here are our suggestions. Be thoughtful of others. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so at all times. If you are sick or have Covid symptoms, please stay home. Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer frequently. Respect the personal space of others. If you are really edgy about having a lot of social distancing, come to the 8:00 service that has a lower attendance.

Our chairs are still set up to encourage social distance, and we will be dropping the space between families from three chairs to two chairs at the 10:00 service. We are still fogging the building and sanitizing the bathrooms on Saturday evenings. We still have masks and hand sanitizer available.

Many of our at-risk members are already immunized, and many others have already had Covid. We are working hard to get this right, and there is much to celebrate. If you have questions or concerns, please contact any member of our staff.

 **TITHE.LY** Get the app and search for  
**First Baptist Church of Horizon City.**  
Choose from any of our designated funds to give to this ministry.

## MISSIONS GUATEMALA

Three of our church members will be going to Guatemala in April to assist with a medical mission trip. We are quite excited because doctors and dentists from Honduras and Guatemala will be leading the medical clinics, with the help of nurses and other medical personnel from Missouri.



There are some things you can help with: We need several large suitcases for transport of medical gear, children's ministry materials, etc. We will also need money to pay for additional bags. The luggage, plane tickets and in-country costs have already been paid for the team. The third bag of supplies will cost \$150 per bag, and we also need the children's ministry items to go in them. We had intended to purchase most of this in Guatemala, but scheduling will not provide enough time for the shopping, sorting and other issues for this particular trip and team.

At the dollar store (or whatever cheap source you can find) we can use jump ropes, checker boards and checkers, frisbees, ankle hoops with balls, crayons, coloring books and individually wrapped small candy. Pop rocks and fun dips are among the most desired candy options. We could also use reading glasses in the lower range (1.50 to 2.75—please do not bring glasses stronger than 3.0). We will need these items to be brought to the church by Wednesday, April 7.

Please note that if you donate a suitcase, it will not be returned to you.

 Find us on Facebook  
Video of our weekly sermons are provided each week  
  
**First Baptist Church Horizon City**

## Youth & Children News

God has been so good to us through this time of Covid-19 challenges. We have been having limited meetings since last year and are now excited to resume more normal events! Even with the restrictions, we have seen God grow our youth, as well as myself, in many different areas. Our next exciting event is our yard sale on March 27 (7AM – 12PM). If you have anything you would like to donate to our yard sale, please feel free to drop it off at the church beginning March 22<sup>nd</sup> or contact the church office at (915) 852-3027 for help in picking up your donation. All the funds that we raise will be going to help fund summer youth camp. We are stoked to be able to re-start this amazing event with our youth!!! Youth camp will be held in El Paso on June 27<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be joining three other churches in hosting a fun and safe camp. More information will be available soon. Please join us in praying for this time to be fruitful. Camp is a time for young people to grow spiritually, and much work goes into the planning to make it a profitable time. If you can help sponsor a young person, please let me know.

Youth Pastor Dallas Kyle



Children's ministry has been so much fun! We praise God for each child and love to see that they are still participating in our Kingdom Kids program on Wednesday nights. There is plenty of room for more kids, so please invite boys and

girls ages 4 through the 5th grade. We are also providing Sunday school and children's church. Kids love learning about God and Jesus while we maintain safe distances, with masks. There are adult classes; too, so bring the whole family at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. It is great to have so many classrooms now that our building is finished!

This summer, we will be having Vacation Bible School!! **The dates will be July 12<sup>th</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup>.** We

are so excited for this after last year was canceled. VBS will be run in a safe and fun way. Please block these dates on your calendar so you can participate. We will have more information soon, so get ready for some fun!

Dallas Kyle,  
Youth Pastor

### Get ready for Summer Camp!

