

STAFF

Neal Thornton

Senior Pastor
pastorneal@coatsbapist.com

Jimmy Newkirk

Associate Pastor
jimmy@coatbaptist.com

Jonathan Waggett

Worship Pastor
jonathan@coatsbaptist.com

Teresa McDaniel

Admin. Assistant

Armida Avery

Admin. Assistant

Mark Langdon

Facility Coordinator

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Greetings church family,

Last month Coats Baptist Church had the joy of sending a mission team to Guatemala. This month another goes to Honduras. Missions. Missions. Missions. That's what we are about!

I praise God for a church on mission, a church that seeks to advance the gospel and obey Jesus' Great Commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20) Missions is part of our DNA, it's part of our *culture*.

Church culture is formed by 1) Confession – what we believe, 2) Conviction – what we value, 3) Conduct – what we do. You can tell a lot about a church, or any organization, by simply looking at their culture. One Sunday at Coats Baptist will show a people who are gripped by the Great Commission and living life *on mission*. I hope our culture soon turns into strategy for the nations.

On a past Sunday night I shared a little about a mission trip I recently took to Southeast Asia. I traveled with three others from Southeastern Seminary to train local pastors and church leaders in the field of preaching. We worked with missionaries supported by SBC Cooperative Program dollars. Thank you for affording me the time away and most importantly for giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

In sharing about my experience and recounting those of others, I listed a few ways to further a Great Commission focus in our church.

Seek to leverage your life (1 Thess. 2:8) – God has blessed every Christian with time, talents, and treasures. He wants to use you just as you are to reach the nations.

Support missionaries (Philippians 4:14) – Send gifts, write letters, and pray. We will continue to take more opportunities in the year to come.

Give to the Lottie Moon (2 Corinthians 9:7) – Money moves ministry. It's just that simple. Missionaries depend on the faithful giving of faithful stewards. Keep it up!

Get a passport (Proverbs 16:3) – I'm just crazy enough to believe that 100% of folks without a passport never get to the nations. A call to go is a call to prepare.

Go. See. Serve (Matthew 28:19-20) – You will not appreciate the words of Jesus until you set your eyes upon the needs of the nations. Go and be changed forever.

Two days before the 19th century Baptist missionaries Adonirum and Ann Judson departed for Burma, Ann wrote these words in her journal –

"Though our trials may be great, and our privations many and severe, yet the presence of Jesus can make us happy, and the consciousness that we have sacrificed all for His dear cause, and are endeavoring to labor for the salvation of immortal souls, will enable us to bear our privations and trials, with some degree of satisfaction and delight."

God bless you church. To the nations we GO!

Pastor Neal

MUSIC • NOTES

Songs often contain stories. As believers, we have the privilege to sing about the greatest story ever - the story of Jesus. And it's a true story! Many songs are also birthed from a personal experience in the writer's life. This is the reason we can often relate to song lyrics. This week, I have been reading a devotional from He Reads Truth called *Hymns of Hope*. Below are excerpts from the devotional reading and story behind "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus". Written over a century ago, it is a simple, yet powerful, hymn of faith. Understanding the hymn-writer's story sweetens the words of this precious hymn even more.

In 1875, Louisa Stead married and gave birth to one daughter, Lilly. When their child was only four years old, the family was vacationing on the shores of Long Island when their lives were abruptly changed forever. There on the beach, Louisa and Lilly watched their beloved husband and father drown while attempting to rescue a boy from the waters of the sea. With no way to financially support themselves after Mr. Stead's death, Louisa and Lilly were left in poverty.

The depth of sorrow experienced in the unexpected death of a spouse has to be unimaginable. The depth of despair in facing the uncertainties of poverty must be crushing. But in the bleakest moments of life, it seems that God's grace shines most brightly. It was out of this personal tragedy that the words of this classic hymn were penned. As the newly widowed Mrs. Stead walked through the darkness of loss, it was by God's grace that she persevered in her faith and plunged beneath His healing, cleansing flood of mercy. God's sustaining power rescued her from drowning in her sorrows, and in His comfort she learned to trust in Him more and more.

What a precious Jesus we worship and serve, a Savior who assures us that He is with us every moment, and will be with us until the end. Oh, how Jesus has proved Himself over and over.

I usually provide you with new songs to listen to in my article, but this week I encourage you to rediscover and be encouraged by theologically rich hymns of the faith. Here are a few suggestions to get you started: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling", "Be Thou My Vision", "And Can It Be"

In Christ,
Jonathan

CAMPBELL • MOVE • IN • DAY

Campbell students return soon and we have an opportunity to show our love for them at Freshman Move-In Day on Saturday, August 18. Contact Jonathan if you are able to serve anytime between 8 am—12:30 pm.

SENIOR • ADULTS

Senior Adults will travel to Main Street, Southern Pines on Wednesday, August 15 where we will visit a museum of memories that is housed within a Christian bookstore. It has been described as promoting the Genesis account of creation including verses from the Holy Bible, a Taxidermy Hall of Fame, an Antique Tool Museum, random sports memorabilia, and modern day collectibles. We will eat lunch at Chapman's. Cost is \$8/person which includes lunch. We will leave at 9 am and return at approximately 3 pm. Contact Gail, Sherry, Kathy, or Bonnie to sign up.

Also, money for the Fall Jubilee in beautiful Gatlinburg is now due. \$75.00 is due immediately and the remaining \$75.00 will be due by September 9. Please see Gail, Sherry, Kathy, or Bonnie to pay.

Coats Baptist Church
 PO Box 297
 Coats, NC 27521

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 Children's Church 8:30 am & 11:00 am
 6:00 pm Evening Worship Service

LIFE • ON • MISSION: DISCIPLESHIP!

Last week, a few team members and I had the privilege of praying with two people with remarkably different responses to their condition and to the gospel. The two were about the same age and their homes less than 100 yards apart. Most likely, they had lived their entire lives in the tiny Guatemalan community in which we met them without having ever ventured out. Culturally, their life experiences must have been remarkably similar.

Rosario lives in a nice home compared to her peers. Her family takes good care of her but, she is now facing some undiagnosed, and major health issues. Her prospects are quite dim. With a room full of her praying family, we presented the gospel to her as clearly as possible. Her repeated response was simple, and very tragic: "I belong to the (such and such) Church". She gave no evidence of saving faith in Jesus. Her focus was on current circumstances and her only hope in an organizational membership.

Daniel lives just up the hill. His entire sheet-metal and tarp home would fit in any one of our Sunday School classes. He's never had electricity. Heart disease and probable tuberculosis left his bedridden body extremely weak and emaciated: picture a WWII concentration camp survivor. Unless God intervenes, his remaining time on earth is very short. His only care comes from those who may stop by from the community. When asked about his relationship with Jesus, he wept aloud with joy, praising Jesus for His blessings, and thanking Him for a glorious, eternal home in heaven. Daniel radiated with a love and peace that truly surpassed all understanding.

These examples happen to be from Guatemala, but they could be anywhere, including Coats. As I reflect, I'm forced to examine myself. Two questions come to mind: First, am I fully trusting in Jesus or is my hope in the things of this world and having my name on the Church roll? Second, does my faith produce radiant joy? Am I truly "forgetting what is behind, and reaching forward to what is ahead, (pursuing) as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13)? It is my prayer that you consider the same.

Pastor Jimmy
 Phil. 3:10

AUGUST

- August 7th Worship Ministry Christmas in August (7:00 in the choir room)
- August 8th Grocery Assist (5:30)
- August 12th Ladies Breakfast (9:45)
- August 12th Deacons Meeting
- August 16th Men's Ministry Meeting (7:00)
- August 18th Campbell Freshman Move-In Day (8:00-12:30 at CU)
 Back to School Bash (2:00-4:00)
- August 26th Sunday School Promotion Day



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!
Saturday, August 18
2:00—4:00 PM

This CHURCH-WIDE event will include fun, food, and games for all. To participate, please bring supplies to donate to our local schools as the new school year begins!

CULTURE • OF • PRAYER

It is our goal to create a culture of prayer within the Church. As such, we are beginning to use a monthly prayer card that will have two purposes. On one side, you will have the opportunity to document your personal prayer requests. You may choose to include your name or not. The other side will include prompts for organizational level prayer (e.g., children's ministry, missions, etc.). Cards will be collected the last Sunday of each month. The next Sunday, members may pick up one of these collected cards to pray for during the following month. All cards will be prayed over by the Pastoral Team and this will be repeated monthly. We hope you choose to participate. It is a joy to serve you.

Your Pastoral Team

WOMENS • MINISTRY

A Ladies Breakfast will take place on Sunday, August 12 during the Sunday School hour. Join us to learn about God's calling on educators and how you can pray for them during this upcoming school year. As a Sunday School class, feel free to bring school supplies to be donated to local classrooms such as: hand sanitizer, dry erase markers, gallon sized zipper bags, paper, pencils, notebooks, bookbags, Kleenex tissues.