



CALVARY Connections

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, IDAHO FALLS | APRIL 2024

The Solution to Isolation

...From Pastor Matt

Isolation is a plague in our current culture. Technology has provided us with unprecedented access to information. You can watch church online, go to school online, play games online, and through social media, have thousands of friends with no face-to-face interaction. Isolation used to be an elderly issue, older people who because of health were confined to their homes. Now reality dictates the younger you are, the greater chance you are isolated. Social media and the online world have replaced human interaction. The problem is, you are not designed to function this way. You were created for community. The human soul, no matter how introverted a person may be, needs a place to belong, to feel love, and to know the caring touch of others. The family, a God-designed institution, used to provide a stable platform of belonging. But now, with broken homes and fractured families more common than not, that stable platform has been removed. How do we address this crisis in our culture?

God has given us the solution: it is His body, His bride, the church. For all the bad press the church gets in our country, it is still precious to Jesus and beneficial to His followers. The church provides connection, community, and accountability. The church meets our need to belong, and it also provides an opportunity to serve and love others. No church is perfect, but the church is God's answer to an isolated and broken world. The church carries the hope of the gospel, the church makes disciples for the glory of God. If you want to be involved in what God is doing in this world, then you need to be involved in the church, because it is through Jesus' bride that God is working.

I love my church family at Calvary Baptist! It is a true honor to serve as your pastor. "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

Church Events

- **Apr 12th–13th Pastors' Retreat and Association Meeting**
- **Apr 12th Beyond**
- **Apr 14th Sharing Vietnam**
- **Apr 19th Ladies' Craft Night**



The next meeting for Beyond will be Friday, April 12th at the home of Ralph and Karen Lentz. This will be a meal and a presentation by Ric and Sylvia Guajardo. The meal will be spaghetti with bread and salad, all provided. If you are able to bring beverages or a dessert to share, it would be welcome. The time will be from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

Don't miss hearing from Paul and Stefanie Crockett about their experiences in Vietnam, this Sunday, April 14, during worship.



Women's Ministry April Event



Ministry Opportunity at The Nest Pregnancy Care Center

CBC Women's Ministry is planning a service project at The Nest Pregnancy Care Center, a pro-life, faith-based, non-profit ministry opening in Idaho Falls.

We will meet at the center, 467 Constitution Way, at 10:00am, where we will be making and filling "Mommy Bags," sorting supplies, and spending time praying for this ministry, the volunteers, and the women who will receive care.

Watch the bulletin and the foyer bulletin board for further information. There will be a sign-up sheet, so please sign up so that we can accommodate those who would like to participate.



Youth FUGE Camp

A huge Thank You to all who attended the Dessert Auction!! Over \$4000 was raised to help pay for students to attend FUGE Camp this summer! We have 33 students attending and 7 adults. We are in need of one more adult counselor, so if you would consider serving in this capacity, please see Pastor Tyler. The dates are July 14th – 19th.

There is an important Camp Parent Meeting this Sunday, April 14th after worship service. Parents, don't miss this! Pastor Tyler will give an update on student balances and how they can earn additional money if needed. There will also be information on forms and documents that will be needed for registration.

Student Ministry on Tuesday nights will continue through May; the last one before we break for the summer will be May 28th. Don't miss this time to gather with friends and study, share, worship Jesus, and play!



Operation Christmas Child Report

From Jeannette & Phil
Hartung



THANK YOU for once again allowing Calvary Baptist Church to be a missional drop-off location for the OCC collection week! We couldn't do it without the use of the building and manpower when needed.

Numbers

SE Idaho and surrounding area – 5,270, a new record high!

Northwest (5 state region) – 361,905, a new record high!

United States – 10,051,570

International – 11,330,126

From Idaho Falls the trailer went to Denver, CO for the shoebox gifts to be processed, sorted and cartonized by gender and age. From Denver the boxes went to Mexico, a Hard-to-Reach Area, Native American Tribes in New Mexico, and Mali.

North Carolina Report

Phil and Jeannette Hartung went to Charlotte, NC to team station leads in the processing center for two weeks December 4-16. We each had a station of volunteers we oversaw and guided as every box had to be checked for items that are not allowed to be in the boxes and to make sure they were full (we saw many that only had 1 or 2 items in them). We worked the evening shift, 3-10:30pm Monday-Saturday the first week and then Monday-Thursday the second week. Each day, both shifts processed over 100,000 boxes with a 4-week total of over 2 million Gospel Opportunity boxes! Thank you for your prayers as we traveled and served, as only God could give us the strength to do this ministry. We look forward to doing this again soon.

Packing Party News

This year, beginning in May, we will be collecting items each month, until October, with a packing party on Saturday, November 2. Look for a donation box in the foyer starting May 5, to place your items of the month in. If you don't like to shop, consider donating \$10.00 for each box you'd like to "support." For the month of May, bring in Fashion Accessories or Stuffed Animals. CBC's goal for 2024 will be 200 Gospel Opportunities.

2024 Collection Week:

November 18-24, 2024