THE MACEDONIAN CALL

Acts 16
pages 924-926

developing missionaries who share the love of Christ with our community & beyond
Beyond These Walls
Please pray for Pastor Scott Douglas of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Parrish. He asks for us to pray his church will increase its faithfulness and effect on their community in 2019.

Joyful Hearts Puppet Team
Joyful Hearts, the senior adult puppet ministry, is seeking volunteers from October through April. The puppeteers present Bible-based shows for adults and children in a variety of venues. If you’d like more information, contact Lyle Trumbull at 603-387-7868 or email him at trumbullej@gmail.com.

Asante from Sister Margaret
Thank you to the Pastors and congregation of FBC for amazing support and love during my stay in Palmetto. Please "return the legs" and plan to come to Tanzania, East Africa soon. Blessings to you! ~ Sister Margaret

Centri Kid Camp
Centri Kid Camp will be held at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg, Florida on June 17-21, 2019. This camp is for current 3rd-6th graders and costs $197 per student. A non-refundable deposit of $60 is due by Feb 10. Reservations are limited and will be received on a first come, first served basis. Contact Charlene for more information at 941-722-7795 or ckeller@fbcpalmetto.com.

Next Steps Luncheon
Do you want to know more about FBC’s core values, beliefs and mission? Are you ready to take the next step to membership? Join us for a class that will answer your questions about the heart of FBC Palmetto. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available with advanced registration. Call the church office (941-722-7795) to sign up for the next class.

Wednesday Night Suppers
Wednesday night family suppers resume on January 9 at 5 pm. Please remember to RSVP each week by calling the church office (941-722-7795) by NOON on FRIDAYS to ensure enough meals are prepared. You may also RSVP on Wednesdays while at dinner for the following week’s meal.

Choir & Orchestra Open House
Do you love to sing or play an instrument? Come see what we’re all about at the Worship Ministry Open House on Wednesday, January 16 at 6 pm in the choir room. For more information, contact Pastor Scott at 941-722-7795.

First Impressions Team
Are you looking for a place to serve? We would love to have you join our First Impressions Team as a greeter or usher. Please contact Joy Williams in the church office at 941-722-7795 for more information.
Discussion Questions

• Do you know someone who suffers from selective hearing? What keeps them from hearing?

• What drives us to be part of something meaningful? Give an example of a meaningful event in which you have participated.

• The passage talks about Paul being forbidden by the Holy Spirit from going certain places. How do we know when we’re hearing from the Holy Spirit? How do we discern between God’s direction and our own feelings?

• After each time Paul was prevented from going in a certain direction what did he do? Why is this significant?

• How do we usually respond when God prevents us from moving forward?

• God spoke to Paul with a vision to come to Macedonia. How else can God clearly direct us toward His will? Give an example.

• How is FBC Palmetto going to help FBC Parrish? What role can you play?

• What is God inviting you to do this year? Look at the Serve handout for options.

• What is keeping you from hearing His invitation?

One-Year Bible Reading Plan

WEEK 2

- **Day 6**
  - Mark 5
  - Ps 7

- **Day 7**
  - Mark 6:1-44
  - Ps 8

- **Day 8**
  - Mark 6:45-7:23
  - Ps 9

- **Day 9**
  - Mark 7:24-8:21
  - Ps 10

- **Day 10**
  - Genesis 3:1-4:16
  - Ps 11
Scripture

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:16-20

Pause

1. Why do you think Jesus reminds the disciples that all authority had been given to Him before He tells them to go and make disciples?
2. Reread verse 20 (teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age). How does Jesus' presence change your ability and willingness to go and make disciples?
3. What are you doing in 2019 that is more important than obeying Jesus by making disciples?
4. Who is God calling you to disciple? A work colleague? Your children? A neighbor?

Pursue

Think of someone who has discipled you and invested in your life. Take a moment to thank and encourage that person.

Pray

Thank God that someone answered His call to share the Good News of Jesus with us. Thank God that He has promised to go with us wherever we go for His sake. Ask God to give you clarity on what He is calling you to do to fulfill this great commission. Pray for God to reveal someone to you that you might have a role in discipling. Pray that God would open their heart.
Tuesday-Jesus Is Calling

By George Volpe

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

John 16:13

Congratulations: You made it into another new year. In the 18th century, German people started lighting candles for children's birthday cakes. They added one candle beyond the current age in hope of another year to come. I don't use candles any more on my birthday edibles. But so far, God has given me another year every year. I know that streak is coming to an end. In my more pensive moments, I sometimes think about opportunities God has brought across my path, and how I either responded well or poorly.

God has been pleased to create a universe that displays His unfathomable greatness. Truly it is astounding, far beyond our finite grasp. But it was not complete without His crowning creation: mankind. I suppose God could have given the greatest of His love to mountains or trees or dogs, but He did not. He created man in His image and His love burst into the world like never before. But not everyone He made recognizes and accepts the redeeming love of God.

The Creator came to earth, took human form, and gave His life to provide us with eternal life. But we are still here, part of the grand plan of God. It is not so we can enjoy the sights and sounds and our morning coffee, although those things are nice. It is not so we can just enjoy our family and be comfortable, although those things are great. It is not so that we can feel good, although no one would argue that feeling good is nice. We have a short window of time to respond to God’s call for us to glorify Him—while we’re here.

God gently and patiently encourages us continually to partner with Him as “workers together” in serving others so that we may honor and glorify Him. But who are the “us” and the “we”? We all know Jesus died for every one of us. We all know that the Word of God was recorded for every one of us. And we also know based on Scripture that His call to serve Him refers to each and every person who He has redeemed.

How do you know when God is asking you to act? Consider the following: Are you praying for opportunities to serve Him? (James 1:5) Maybe that unplanned situation that came your way is God’s way of providing you with an opportunity. Is that thought bouncing around in your head consistent with scripture (John 16:13)? What is the counsel of godly people (Proverbs 11:14)?

Finally, are you spiritually sensitive to God’s leading through circumstances where God lights a path for you? Put your trust in Him.
Wednesday
By Kenny Tibbetts

Scripture
“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”
James 1:22-25

Pause
1. What do you think is the difference between a “doer of the word” and a “hearer only?”
2. Can you think of a time in your life when you were a doer? What about a time when you were just a hearer?
3. James compares the words of Scripture to a mirror. How is Scripture like a mirror?
4. In verse 25 James says that if we do the word, and not just hear it, we will be “blessed in our doing.” He also says that we will have to “persevere.” How can we be blessed even as we persevere through difficulty?

Pursue
Memorize verse 22.
“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Pray
Ask God for help in being a doer and not just a hearer. Thank the Holy Spirit for dwelling within you that you would be able to do what the Word says to do and not just hear it. Ask God to grant you the perseverance it takes to follow Jesus even in a world that may despise you for it.
I’ve been reading Robert Coleman’s The Master Plan of Discipleship. He shows something amazing. In the book of Acts the evangelistic strategy is to focus on people who have been prepared in some way to be receptive. For example:

The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost unleashed the gospel on a host of spiritually-sensitive Jews who had come from at least 15 different nations to worship the God of the Old Testament.

The next big harvest comes in Samaria (Acts 8:4-25) where Jesus had earlier laid a foundation by his witness (John 4:4-42).

The Holy Spirit sends Philip to an Ethiopian eunuch who is reading the scroll of Isaiah and is puzzling over whom chapter 53 is talking about!!! (Acts 8:26-39).

The evangelistic breakthrough with Gentiles outside Jerusalem comes with Cornelius, who feared God and gave alms and prayed and had a vision of God’s messenger (Acts 10).

When Paul launched his missionary career he followed the pattern of going first to the synagogue in search of some receptive Jews or God-fearing.

On his second missionary journey his planning was checked twice by the Lord. The Holy Spirit forbade him (for now) to speak the word in Asia (Acts 16:6) and the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go to Bithynia (Acts 16:7). Instead, Paul saw a vision with a man saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us (Acts 16:9). The focus was again on the spiritually receptive.

In Philippi there was no synagogue. So Paul found a place where women prayed outside the city and joined them, and one was converted (Acts 16:12-14).

Of course, there were times when Paul simply “Argued in the market place every day with those who chanced to be there” (Acts 17:17). But there does seem to be enough of a pattern to encourage us in our own evangelism, as Coleman says, “to look for those who want to move for Christ. Life is too short to expend excessive time and energy upon apathetic people.”

This seems right to me—not that we ignore the spiritually callous, but that we focus on the one who seem to be groping for God. To put it another way, we are partners with the Holy Spirit and we should be alert to those who are beginning to be awakened by his grace. Seek out those who are on the stretch for God and concentrate energy on their development. Coleman is no doubt right when he says, “I am convinced that a few such persons are within the influence of every Christian.”
Friday
By Kenny Tibbetts

Scripture

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”
Matthew 9:37-38

Pause

1. How is Jesus’ instruction in verse 38 different from what you might expect?
2. Have you ever felt a burden for, or a strong desire to help someone you couldn’t help? How did that feel? What did you do?
3. Jesus identifies this incredibly urgent need, and then instructs His disciples to pray. How do you react when something urgent comes up?
4. How does this passage change the way we view prayer?

Pursue

You may feel that there is little you can do for the Kingdom of God. You may have a medical or personal obstacle keeping you from the work God is burdening your heart for. Jesus makes clear that when urgent and important needs arise, prayer is our most important tool. Make a prayer list, or journal, of things you can pray for. Make a habit of praying for these things and keeping up with the situations. You will find prayer is far more powerful than you imagined.

Pray

Pray specifically that God would raise up missionaries and pastors where there are few. Pray God would send people to the lost. Ask God to raise them up even out of First Baptist of Palmetto and send them to unreached and difficult places for the sake of the Gospel.
Weekend – Not Yet:
The Trouble with Waiting

By Phillip Hamm

Waiting is hard! And we do a lot of it. A recent study states we wait, on average, 32 minutes each time we visit a doctor; 28 minutes in line for security when we travel; and 21 minutes for someone to get ready to go out. Every year we wait a total of 13 hours on hold for customer service; and 38 hours in traffic. That’s a lot of waiting. And as hard as it is to wait for those things, it seems even harder to wait on God.

It’s hard to trust God when He doesn’t seem to be doing anything. Why is God making us wait so much?! Why would God let us want a baby so bad but not give us a child? Why would God let us want a spouse so bad but not give a husband or wife? What’s taking Him so long to provide the job; better health; or a healed relationship with an adult child? We’re trying to be patient. But God sure does seem slow. In preparation for worship on Sunday read Genesis 37.

Pray for the World:
The World

As you prepare your heart for worship Sunday morning read Psalm 133.

Aid, development and charity work across the globe escalated through the 1980s and 1990s and continues. The civil sector is now the eighth-largest economy in the world, worth over $1 trillion per year globally. Praise God that, more than before, the needs of the most vulnerable and needy are being addressed. Also give thanks for:

a) A more holistic understanding of evangelical mission within the Church. Ministry that cares for orphans and widows, uplifts the poor, brings liberty to the oppressed and sets captives free reflects the heart of God, the values of the Scriptures and the role of the Church. Caring for the downtrodden and vulnerable and demonstrating practically Christ’s love are increasingly the focused activities of evangelical ministry.

b) Doors to many places and peoples previously closed are open to aid workers, educators, technical tradesmen and virtually any other occupation. Pray that this global trend might continue to pave roads for the spread of the gospel to those among whom Christians wish to serve, to non-Christians laboring alongside Jesus’ followers and to community and government leaders who are themselves potentially great change-makers for the Kingdom of God.

(operation world)
Our Pastoral Team

Phillip Hamm
Senior Pastor

Scott Perkins
Music & Worship

Todd Poppell
Connections & Students

Nic Bishop
Encounter Worship & Creative Arts

Kenny Tibbetts
Children & Families

Deacons of the Week:
Ed Knorps & Kris Rickly

This Week:
Tuesday, Jan 8
1:00 pm Stitches for Missions

Wednesday, Jan 9
5:00 pm Family Supper: Spaghetti
6:00 pm AWANA Clubs
6:00 pm Midweek Prayer
6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
7:00 pm Carpenters for Christ Meeting

Sunday, Jan 13
12:00 pm Costa Rica Mission Trip Meeting
6:30 pm "Heaven Is" Men’s Bible Study Begins

Upcoming Events:
Jan 13: High School Youth Resumes
Jan 15: SonShiners Luncheon
Jan 16: "Job" Ladies Bible Study Begins
Jan 16: "Me, Myself & Lies" Ladies Study Begins
Jan 16: Middle School Youth Resumes
Jan 16: Choir & Orchestra Open House
Jan 17: "Job" Ladies Bible Study Begins
Jan 27: Puppet Ministry Open House

Children’s Volunteers
Week 2: Jan 13
Preschool Worship: Karl & Brittany Casciani, Mary Case, Diane Greco, McKenna Kesten, Anna Pavon, Tom & Wendy Roland, Taylor Rowland, MaryLe Sands, Sarah Skipper (e), Kathy Taylor, Reagan Williams
Bed Babies: Gloria Carmen, Mary Grace Graham, Trish Graham, Kim Harrison, Annabelle Rosenthal
Kid’s Worship: Jeremy & Sheila Evans; Katie LaBarr

Weekly at FBC

Sundays:
8:00 am Bible Studies
8:30 am Worship Rehearsal
9:00 am Coffee in The Square
9:15 am Celebration Service
9:15 am Encounter Service
9:15 am Kids Sunday School
9:15 am Bible Studies
10:30 am Coffee in The Square
10:45 am Celebration Service
10:45 am Preschool Worship (3 & 4 yrs)
10:45 am Kids Worship (K-5)
10:45 am Bible Studies
6:00 pm High School Youth

Monday-Friday:
7:30 am WEE World
2:30 pm King’s Kids
8:30 am Church Office

Wednesdays:
5:00 pm Family Supper
6:00 pm AWANA Clubs
6:00 pm Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Bible Studies
6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
6:15 pm Middle School Youth
7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursdays:
6:30 pm Encounter Band Rehearsal

encounter service
Sundays at
9:15 & 10:45 am

celebration service
Sundays at
9:15 am
Welcome Center Update

While demolition continues on the old restrooms on the main hallway of the first floor and Rotunda, the new roof is under construction for the patio area of the Welcome Center.

As walls go up, roofs go on and restrooms get renovated, we are preparing our facilities to reach our community for generations to come. Thank you for your patience and flexibility. Please pray for the safety of the construction team and the progress of their work. Please continue to pray for the unity of our church family.

January 2018

December 2018