

20 23



**FAITH BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Love, Grow, Serve, Reach

2023 THEME

“God First”

based on Matthew 6:33

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness; and all these things
shall be added unto you."



2023 MISSION

Daily put God first in everything we think, say, and do.

Love God and others, grow together,
serve others, and reach the lost.

NOTE FROM PASTOR CARLSON

Dear Faith Baptist Church Family,

As we reflect on the year that has passed, our hearts overflow with gratitude to our gracious God. In 2023, under the theme “God First,” inspired by the profound words of Matthew 6:33, we endeavored to prioritize the kingdom of God in every aspect of our lives. This theme has not just been a motto, but a transformative journey for each of us.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed the miraculous work of the Lord in our midst. We rejoiced as many found salvation, stepped into the waters of baptism, joined discipleship classes, and as numerous visitors walked through our doors, many invited by you, our faithful members. We’ve seen projects and renovations completed, vibrant events for men and women, and powerful services, including an unforgettable Easter Sunday and revival service. These moments stand as a testament to our collective commitment to daily put God first in our thoughts, words, and actions, to love God and others, grow together in faith, serve those around us, and reach the lost.

However, this year also brought challenges. We bid farewell to several families whom God called elsewhere and

mourned the death of beloved members. Yet, in these trials, we witnessed the strength of our church and the unwavering faithfulness of our God. His blessings have been evident in every step, even in the midst of hardship.

It fills my heart with joy to hear first-time visitors describe our church as one of the most friendly churches they have ever visited. This spirit of warmth and welcoming is a true reflection of our desire to live out our mission.

As your pastor, I am immensely grateful of the great spirit and attitude that has permeated our congregation. Seeing you all live with the desire to put God first has been a profound encouragement.

Let us step into the future with faith and determination, continuing to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, assured that He will add unto us all that we need.

With heartfelt thanks,

Pastor Clay Carlson †



2023 CHURCH STATS

11 SALVATIONS

4 FAMILIES JOINED

1 BABY DEDICATION

17 BAPTISMS

70 NEW VISITING FAMILIES

450+ CONGREGATIONAL SONGS SANG

156 TOTAL CHURCH SERVICES

The year 2023 at Faith Baptist Church was a remarkable period of spiritual growth and community engagement, marked by significant milestones. Throughout the year, we witnessed the powerful work of God, as 11 individuals accepted Jesus as their Savior! We also celebrated 17 baptisms, a public declaration of faith in Christ!

Our church family expanded with the addition of 4 new families, each bringing their unique gifts and enthusiasm to our congregation. We welcomed more than 70 new families who visited our services. Many visitors commented on how welcoming our church was!

Another wonderful event was the dedication of baby Emma, a moment where Pastor Clay and Mrs. Abbi committed to raise their daughter in the way of the Lord.

Our commitment to worship was unwavering, as evidenced by our 156 church services, including Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Midweek services. During these services, we sang over 450 congregational songs, lifting our spirits and

glorifying God through godly music.

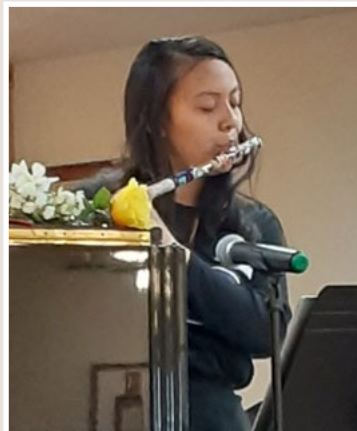
2023 was not just a year of numbers but a testament to the vibrant, growing community at Faith Baptist Church. Each statistic represents a story, a life touched, and a step closer to fulfilling our mission of spreading the Gospel and living out the love of Christ in our community and beyond. As we document these accomplishments, we do so with gratitude and anticipation for what God has in store for us in the years to come. †





MUSIC

The music ministry at Faith Baptist Church is an important part of each service, designed to glorify God and prepare our hearts for the preaching. We are immensely thankful for the dedication and talent of our pianists, **Abigail Carlson, Diane Snow, and Katie Brannan**. Their skillful playing has been integral to every congregational song.



Pastor Carlson led many of the song services, while **Bruce Brannan** and **Mark Snow** stepped in when needed. A particularly memorable moment this year was **Emily Wright's** special performance on the flute, which was a beautiful and uplifting addition to our service.



The choir's performances during Easter and Christmas were highlights of our year, bringing the stories of these significant events to life through song. Additionally, the variety of special songs performed by smaller groups added a rich diversity to our musical offerings.



A heartwarming community outreach was our Christmas caroling event, where many church members spread joy and cheer by singing beloved Christmas hymns like "Silent Night", "Away in a Manger," and "Joy to



the World." These moments of fellowship and outreach were not only a blessing to those we visited but also to each of us who participated.

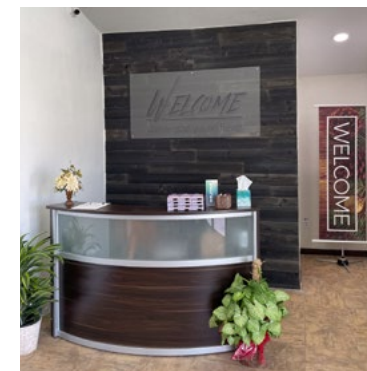
In every note and every song, our music ministry has consistently aimed to glorify God and prepare our hearts for the preaching of His Word. We are profoundly grateful for each individual who has contributed to this vital part of our church music in 2023. †



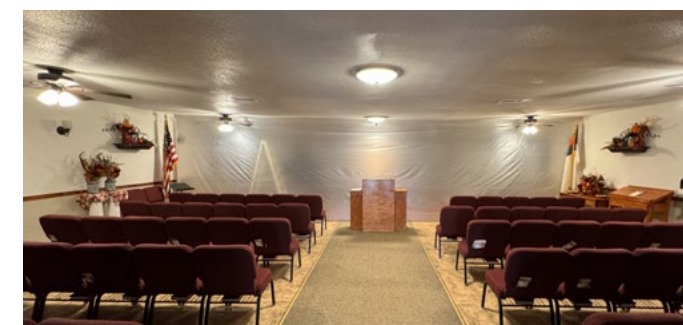
MAJOR PROJECTS

The year 2023 at Faith Baptist Church was marked by a series of significant improvements that have greatly enhanced our church facilities.

We embarked on a major foyer remodel, transforming it into a more welcoming space for fellowship and greeting. In addition, the church office was thoroughly remodeled, which included installing new drywall, lighting fixtures, and carpeting.



In the auditorium, we carried out an extensive ceiling renovation, focusing on repairing and enhancing the drywall. A notable addition this year was the purchase of a baptistry heater, ensuring warm and comfortable baptisms for new believers.



Our commitment to excellence was further demonstrated through the installation of a new sound system and microphone upgrades, significantly improving the quality of sound during

our church services. Additionally, the livestreaming was improved with a camera upgrade, ensuring high-quality video for those joining us remotely.

For added convenience, a new drinking fountain was installed. Another big improvement was the installation of sprinkler system for the front lawn. Lastly, exterior stairs leading to the Fellowship Hall were installed, improving access and safety.



Each of these improvements, from the aesthetic upgrades to the functional enhancements, reflects our ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming, safe, and spiritually nurturing environment for our church family and visitors. We are thankful for the Lord's provision and the generous support of our congregation that made these upgrades possible, and we look forward to the ways these improvements will enhance our ministry in the years ahead. †





EASTER

Easter presents a fantastic opportunity for sharing the gospel, and Faith Baptist Church embraced this wholeheartedly in 2023. In the month leading up to Easter, we embarked on an extensive outreach campaign, inviting thousands to join our Easter services. Over nine dedicated days, we distributed over 3,000 invitations, with our enthusiastic teens distributing over half of them.

On Easter Sunday, we were blessed with the presence of over 125 attendees including children. The day was marked by a significant spiritual milestone, as one individual accepted Christ as their Savior! Our choir

and ensemble delivered beautiful renditions of the songs “Gone”, “Paid in Full”, and “Beyond the Cross”.

Pastor Carlson delivered an impactful sermon, “Life Made New,” drawing parallels between the story of Jairus’ daughter, whom Jesus brought back to life, and the new life we can find in Christ through faith.

The success of our Easter event was a testament to God’s work. It was exhilarating to witness the influx of new faces at Faith Baptist Church and see firsthand the impact of our outreach efforts. This Easter was truly a highlight of 2023! †



MAJOR EVENTS

February 24 CHURCH WORKER APPRECIATION BANQUET where we honored those who volunteer in the different church ministries and a plaque given to **Mrs. Elsa Funchess**, who received a special award for working in the church bus ministry for 50 years, since she was 12 years old.



May 28 – June 2 REVIVAL WEEK with services every day from Sunday to Friday with evangelist Terry Danford and family.

On **June 4** we held our **JUNIOR CHURCH OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY** where we had the adults included in Junior church to show what JR. Church is like.



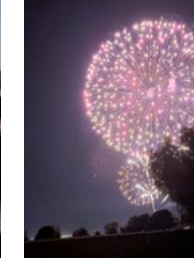
June 11, GOD AND COUNTRY SUNDAY where we honored people that have served our country and gave thanks to God for a great country with religious freedom.



CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS
We held heartwarming church fellowships on January 29th, April 30th, July 30th, and October 29th, strengthening our community bonds.



4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES **July 2** we had s'mores and fireworks after the church service, **July 4** many church members went to Mark and Diane Snow's house to watch the fireworks.



MISSIONARY SUNDAY held on **August 27**, were each Sunday School class dressed up and represented one of the 13 missionaries and mission fields that we support.



HYLES-ANDERSON COLLEGE VISIT We were blessed with a beautiful singing performance by the college singing group from Hyles-Anderson Baptist College on **May 21st**.



WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE VISIT On **July 30th**, West Coast Baptist College's singing group visited our church, delighting us with their songs and preaching.



FALL FESTIVAL October 22, where we had lots of fun activities for the kids including a bounce house, face painting, a hay ride and many games that kept them entertained.



ADULT BIBLE DOCTRINES CLASS From April to June, David Brannan taught a Bible Doctrines Class, teaching the basic doctrines of our Christian faith. Many participants found the class helpful in expanding their knowledge and strengthening their faith.

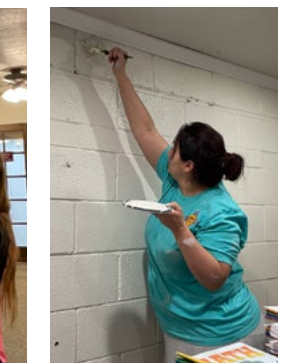


LABOR DAY CONFERENCE On September 4th, our group attended the annual Labor Day Conference at Bella Vista Baptist Church in Albuquerque, NM. Focused on preaching, the conference provided a day of challenge and encouragement. The key guest speakers, Pastor Ricky Gravley and Pastor Todd Lasseter, delivered impactful messages.



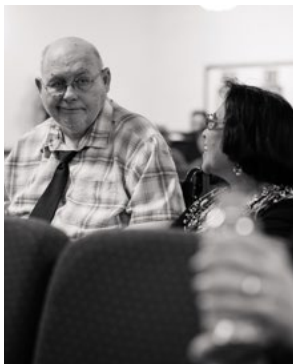
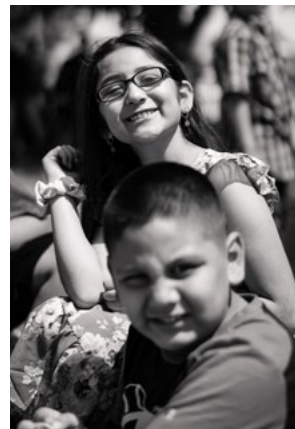
SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE September 25–28, at Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, CA. Pastor Clay and Bro. Mark Snow were blessed by the wonderful singing, preaching, and practical lessons to help in our ministry.

CHURCH WORK DAYS where we painted, organized, cleaned, and completed projects around the building and property.



FAITH BAPTIST
OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY
JEREMIAH 6:16

OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY where we dressed up in clothes of yesteryear and played “drive-the-nail” and had pie eating contests.



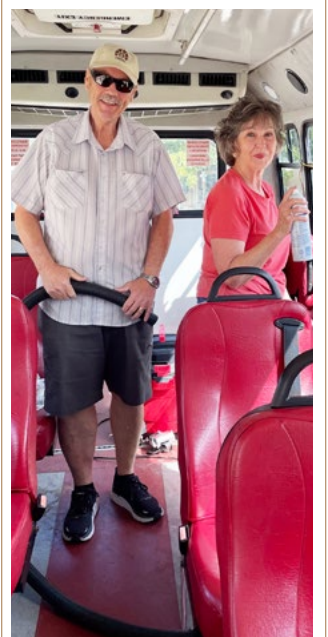
CHURCH MINISTRIES

This diverse range of ministries reflects our church's commitment to serving and nurturing every member of our congregation, from the youngest to the oldest.



THE BUS MINISTRY at Faith Baptist Church has been an essential and vibrant part of our outreach this year, offering a free ride program that has significantly impacted the lives of many children in our community. Every Sunday morning, our drivers, Mrs. Funchess and Pastor Carlson, operated two different routes, bringing dozens of children

each week to participate in Sunday School and Kids Church. This year, Mrs. Funchess drove a total of 1,404 miles, while Pastor Clay covered 1,352 miles, amounting to a remarkable total of 2,756 miles. Fueling these journeys required 275 gallons of fuel, a testament to the commitment and resources invested in this ministry.



Thank you to our **CLEANING MINISTRY** who clean the church every week.

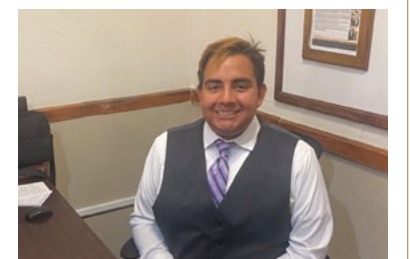


GREETING MINISTRY Folks who greet members and new guests, provide information, and give out connection cards and gifts to new visitors.



USHER MINISTRY Our Usher Ministry is an essential part of our church services. Comprised of men who assist with offerings and seating, they ensure that every service runs smoothly and that all guests feel welcomed and comfortable.

SOUND SYSTEM MINISTRY This ministry plays an important role in each church service. They ensure that our music and sermons always sound their very best.



Faith Baptist Church
SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASSES & TEACHERS

2023



Age 0-K

Linda Melton
 Brandy Beeman
 Regina Romero



Grades 1-3

Elsa Funchess
 David Brannan



Grades 4-5

Jennifer Elizondo
 Eric Elizondo



Grades 6-12

Clay Carlson
 Abbi Carlson



Adults

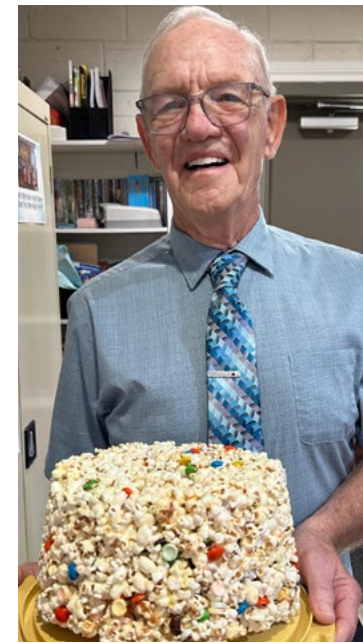
Tim Funchess

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY caters to all age groups with dedicated classes and teachers



KIDS CHURCH Each Sunday morning, our Kids Church offers a vibrant and engaging program for children, staffed by volunteer teachers and helpers.

The service includes songs, object lessons, and Bible teachings. Children can also earn Bible Bucks to spend on exciting toys and items at the Kids Store.



NURSERY MINISTRY where nursery is provided at each service and faithfully staffed by women volunteers.



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Faith Baptist Church hosted four Men's Prayer Breakfasts in 2023 on February 4th, May 6th, August 5th, and November 4th. These Saturday morning events offered fellowship, delicious food, practical Bible lessons, and prayer. These gatherings strengthened friendships and uplifted the spirit of our church's men.



LADIES FELLOWSHIPS AND RETREAT

In 2023, Faith Baptist Church hosted four Ladies Fellowships on March 23rd, June 15th, September 21st, and December 7th. Many ladies attended a rewarding Ladies Conference in Roswell.

These events fostered connections, spiritual growth, and sisterhood among our church's women, combining enjoyable activities with lessons from God's Word.



SMALL GROUPS Initiated in November, our Adult Small Groups ministry fosters deeper relationships and spiritual growth within smaller group settings. The positive reception of this new ministry has been encouraging, and we eagerly anticipate its continued growth and impact in the future.

ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP In 2023, our church launched a focused initiative of one-on-one discipleship for new Christians. These sessions teach what it means to be a follower of Jesus—embracing a life of love and devotion to Him, renouncing sin, and sharing the message of salvation through faith in Christ. This personalized approach has been well-received, with several members beginning weekly meetings with their discipplers, marking a significant step in their spiritual growth and understanding. †



Youth!

Throughout the year, our church's Youth Activities offered entertaining games, fellowship, and Bible lessons, enjoyed by our youth group.

Teen Spring Banquet April 14

The teens enjoyed an evening of dressing up and playing games together at our first Teen Spring Banquet. The guest speaker was Pastor Larry Lewis from Ruidoso Baptist Church, whose sermon challenged us to be great for God.



Teen Camp July 10-14

Hosted by Bella Vista Baptist in Cuba, NM from July 10th to 14th, Teen Camp was a highlight for our youth. The theme, "I Am Persuaded," inspired the teens to turn away from sin and devote themselves to God's service. The special speaker was Brother Bob Ross. The camp, filled with fun activities, was made possible by the youth's efforts in fundraising through Krispy Kreme Donut sales.



Youth Rally At High Plains Baptist Church in Clovis, NM



Pickleball

Throughout the year, our youth group frequently enjoyed playing Pickleball, which became a favorite pastime for many of them.



Video Skit "Spiritual Warfare"

A standout moment for the youth group was the creation of a video skit titled "Spiritual Warfare." This skit was not only extremely funny but also insightful, highlighting the importance of recognizing the spiritual battles we face.



Southwest Our Time Youth Conference, Albuquerque, July 26-28

From July 26th to 28th, Pastor Carlson and a few young men in our youth group attended the Southwest Our Time Youth Conference in Albuquerque, hosted by New Heights Baptist Church. The theme "That I May Know Him," based on Philippians 3:10, resonated deeply with the young people who attended. Evangelist Caleb Garraway's preaching was both a blessing and a challenge.



Gospel Way Baptist Church Youth Conference Grand Junction, CO, October 27-28

The Gospel Way Baptist Church Youth Rally in Grand Junction, CO, took place on October 27th and 28th. Themed "Great Are Thy Works," it reminded us of God's incredible deeds. Evangelist Caleb Garraway, as the guest speaker, delivered several powerful messages that challenged our youth.



Youth Activities

Throughout the year, our church's "Youth Activities" offered enjoyable games, fellowship, and Bible lessons, enjoyed by our youth group.



SAYING GOODBYE

On September 3rd, we held a farewell party for longtime members Bruce Brannan and his daughter Katie. Joining Faith Baptist in 2007, the Brannans have been fundamental to our church's growth and spirit. Bruce has been a dynamic force, passionately involved in soul-winning, teaching in kids' church and Sunday school, leading songs, singing in the choir, and participating in many other ministries. His dedication and faithfulness, even in times of difficulty, have been truly inspirational.

Katie's growth within our church has been remarkable. From a young age she has attended our school, Faith Christian Academy and always brings a smile with her everywhere she goes! She was an active member of the church youth group. After graduating from the academy in 2020, she worked in the school as a teacher's



assistant. She served in many areas of church ministry including soul-winning, Kids Church, Sunday school, choir, as a church pianist, and more. Katie's journey and contributions have been invaluable to our church community.

The departure of the Brannans leaves a notable void in Faith Baptist Church. Their dedication, service, and influence have been blessings to us all, and they will be deeply missed.

The Falcon family, Chris, Mona, and Isaac, who joined us in 2022, quickly became integral to our church. At their farewell on October 8th, we commemorated Mona's joyful service in the greeting ministry, Chris's commitment to our security ministry, and Isaac's involvement in both the sound system ministry and youth group. Though their time with us was brief, their impact was profound.



We also mourn the loss of Rosa Elva Mendoza, a beloved member who passed away on August 28 at 82 years old. As the mother of Mrs. Funchess, whose husband Tim Funchess founded our church in 1995, Rosa's passing leaves a significant void in our hearts and church. Her memory and legacy at Faith Baptist Church will be treasured and remembered fondly. †



The Faith Baptist Church Thanksgiving Fellowship was a heartwarming occasion filled with gratitude and friendship. Members of the congregation brought a delightful array of homemade dishes, creating a feast that was as nourishing to the body as it was to the soul. The evening was further enriched as many shared personal testimonies of thankfulness to the Lord, reflecting on the blessings and lessons of the year.

Pastor Clay brought a message titled, "Gratitude is Attitude, not Altitude." He conveyed that gratitude is a matter of perspective and is not influenced by our circumstances, whether we are on a mountain top or in a valley. Drawing from 1 Chronicles 16:34-36,



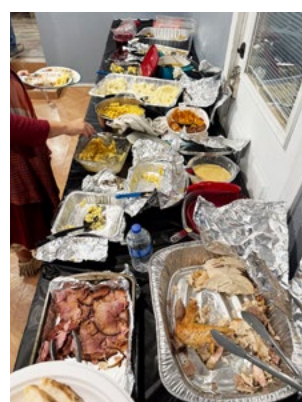
he reminded us that making room for God in our hearts leads to a natural sense of thankfulness.

Pastor Clay emphasized the importance of directing our gratitude towards God, the

giver of all good things. He spoke about the continual presence of reasons to be thankful, irrespective of our life's highs and lows. Reflecting on the scriptural text, he pointed out that our gratitude should be constant, not just during moments of abundance.

The sermon concluded with a reminder that gratitude stems from our attitude and not our altitude.

The Thanksgiving Fellowship was not only a time of sharing and feasting but also a reminder to be grateful and thankful in all circumstances. †



Christmas Season

The Christmas season was packed with activities, including a Family Game Night on December 15th, a Christmas Program on December 17th, Christmas Caroling on December 22nd, and a special Christmas Service and candlelight service on December 24th.

Christmas Play

December 17

Our special Christmas program where we celebrated the joyous tale of Jesus' birth. Experience a heartwarming presentation filled with music and narratives, lovingly brought to life by our children and choir.

Teen Sunday School Party

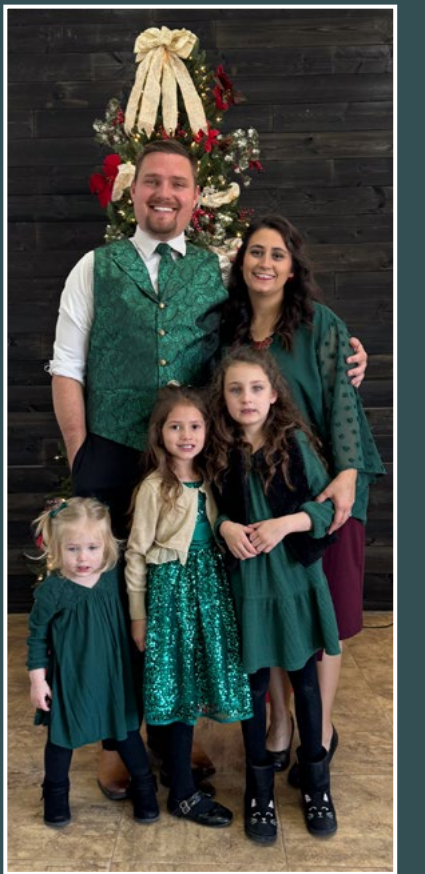
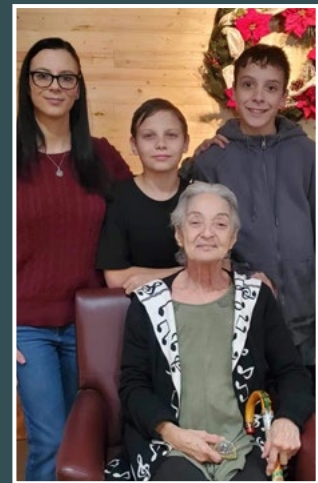
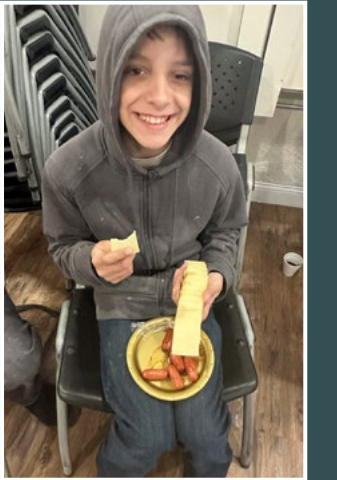
Game night



December Baptisms



December Ladies Fellowship



OUTREACH

In 2023, Faith Baptist Church made a significant impact in Carlsbad through our soul-winning and outreach programs. We distributed an impressive 3,678 invitations, fostering community connections and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our dedicated

members had gone out over 75 times into Carlsbad neighborhoods, engaging with residents and inviting them to our church. God blessed our efforts and we saw several folks saved and visitors who came to our church services as a result of our outreach. †



MISSIONS

At Faith Baptist Church, our commitment to global missions is deeply rooted in our desire to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world. This year, we demonstrated our steadfast commitment through the annual Faith Promise Giving Commitments. On January 29th, our church families generously pledged to support our missionaries, committing over \$1,300 per month towards missions.

We were honored to periodically receive and share prayer letters from each of our missionaries during our Wednesday evening services. These updates brought us closer to their experiences and challenges, highlighting the impact of our support and prayers.



We continued to support our current missionaries, each serving in unique locations and ministries. Our

missionaries include the **Aguiar** family in the U.S., the **Dice** family in England, the **Dunn** family in China, the **Haynes** family in the Navajo Nation, the **Jellison** family to the military service members in Japan, the **Jordan** family in the Dominican Republic, the **Leslie** family in Croatia, the **Pallivathukal** family in India, the **Parak** family in Siberia, the **Shull** family in Cambodia, the **Urling** family in Mexico and El Paso, and the **Wood** family in the Middle East.

Hosting missionary Dheidrick Hobbs and his wife was a profound blessing. Brother Dheidrick, a native Navajo, was saved through the ministry of Pastor Mark Haynes, whom we began supporting as missionaries in 1996. Faith Baptist Church was the first church to support Pastor Haynes and the first church where he preached after beginning his deputation. Brother Dheidrick's visit reminded us of the enduring fruit of our commitments.

Our increased financial commitment and continuous support of our missionaries underscore our dedication to spreading the message of salvation through Jesus Christ worldwide. We rejoice, knowing these efforts spread God's love and word, changing lives around the world! †

This year was particularly momentous as several missionaries, including the Dice, Parak, and Wood families, finally reached their mission fields after extensive training and support-raising efforts.

Additionally, we started monthly support for the **Villafranca** family, missionaries in Alaska. We are thrilled about what God will do through their ministry.





Love, Grow, Serve, Reach

Join us as we love and worship God,
strengthen our relationships, serve others,
and share the message of Jesus in Carlsbad, New Mexico.



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