

FIRST CHRONICLES**FEBRUARY 2019**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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**February 2019
Pastor Mike Hagan**

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February 14 is Valentine's Day. If you look underneath the surface propaganda for the reason we celebrate "love" on that day, you will find a conspiracy among jewelry merchants, flower vendors, and Hallmark.

Be that as it may, we should focus on love all the time and February is covered by "all the time." So let's think about what we can do to highlight "love" this month.

I know that if Barbie tells me she loves me or gives me a hug or puts her hand lovingly on my arm, I am good for days if not months. For Barbie, those things don't tell her I love her. I have had to learn how to express my love so she receives it. What do I do or say?

- I encourage her to do what energizes her, like grab coffee with a friend or order a quilt kit from Etsy, or take extra time to read to our grand kids. I'm not saying I give her permission to spend money or take time; I wouldn't assume that as part of our relationship. I do want her to feel she has freedom, and even my help, to do the things that build her up. Love ya babe.
- I find Barbie knows I love her when I do things for her. We share almost all marital tasks anyway as a couple. If I say she made a great meal, she is appreciative but for her it doesn't say I love her. So I do the dishes after a meal or make the bed or help clean up around the house. And if I can't, I tell her why I can't this time and will find another time to help. Of course, if I waited 45 years to get back to a promise, that might be a problem.
- I stay away from doing things that our culture or I might think says "I love you" but that she thinks are frivolous or silly. Seldom do I buy flowers for her, for example, not because I think it's wrong but because she hates spending money on something that will die in a week. When we were less financially able to make such purchases, I did so too often. I'm careful now. The same thing about cards.
- I carefully do not draw attention to her in public or write about her in ways that might tell others we love each other. Yeah, right. Wonderful cherry pie at the soup and pie dinner, by the way, sweetie.

What can I say? I'm incorrigible. But I love you. More and more, and ready for 45 more. The rest of you – find your own way to love those you love.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February 1 A.J. deBoer
3 Tanner Doeden
Genola Eben
5 Gerald den Hoed
Brenna Kramer
7 Brandon Jurrens
11 Logan den Hoed
Linda Riemersma
14 Crystal deBoer
16 Cole den Hoed
Molly Kramer
17 Pat Johnson
Gayle Wagenaar
19 Henry Boneschans
Alan Eben
20 Judy Eben
Jodi Schrick
21 Brian Eben
Abigail Eben
22 Bryce Block
Gracia Schrick
23 Bryan Kramer
24 Connie Christians
26 Kent Harms
Rhonda Kruse
27 Matt Christians
28 Gary DeBoer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



February 11 Bryan & Rachel Kramer
11 Bill & Deb Middendorp
17 Dennis & Gracia Schirck



SCHEDULES

GREETERS



Sunday, February 3

Keith & Terrilyn Arends

Sunday, February 10

Henry & Joan Boneschans

Sunday, February 17

Brandon & Katie DeBoer

Sunday, February 24

Doug & Donna DeBoer

NURSERY WORKERS



Sunday, February 3

Jolene

Sunday, February 10

Amber

Sunday, February 17

Barbie

Sunday, February 24

Donna

AWANA (6:30-8:00 P.M.)

Awana shirts need to be worn every club night!



Wednesday, February 6

Hawaiian Luau Night

Come festive for a luau.

Wednesday, February 13

Guys Night Out

Bring your dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, etc.

Wednesday, February 20

Measles Night

Memorize those verses and "dot" up your leader. Be infectious

Wednesday, February 27

Color Your World Night

Wear your favorite color tonight.



Mission News~ Dennis & Nancy Palmer (Cameroon, Africa)

Dennis & Nancy, who are doctors at the Mbingo Baptist Hospital, were able to spend several weeks in the states visiting with family. They also had the opportunity to attend the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, KY.

In Nancy's latest email, she informed us the NAB Conference has the goal of raising \$100,000 to join with the Cameroon Baptist Convention in meeting the tangible needs of victims of the conflict. The NAB Cameroon Crisis Relief Fund will be used to assist payment of medical bills of the wounded.

There is still a lot of unrest in the Cameroon, causing fewer patients coming to the Hospital and too many coming later than the doctors like to see. Also, many families are displaced, therefore making it a longer trip to the hospital. This has caused additional financial difficulty for the patients to pay their bills.

Please pray for negotiations to begin between both sides in the conflict. Continue praying that more people will be saved.

~Mission Board



Step By Step He'll Lead Us
The Middendorps
February, 2019



We survived the busy blessed Salvation Army Christmas bellringing season! For those of you that do not know, the Salvation Army hires individuals for \$10 per hour to stand outside of Jewel/Walmart/ Walgreens/etc. to ring the bell and raise money for our church/organization. We were able to hire 72 bellringers for our Christmas campaign. Of the 72, over half are currently homeless, and many of the others have previously been homeless. Here are some of the highlights:

Every single morning we were able to have devotions with the employees who showed up to work for the day. Captain Paul, a couple other people training to be pastors, and Bill, would lead the devotions. We have always done devotions in the past, but this year was different. We gathered everyone in from outside and we made a strategic effort to have real Biblical devotional time, even if it meant getting out the door late. The bellringers were very attentive and engaged with the devotions!

This year, Captain Paul didn't want to just focus on the Christmas story, but instead started with Genesis, explained sin entering the world, and how God was always seeking out a relationship with His people. We worked through the sacrifices, prophets, and kings all prophesying to the coming Messiah. Ultimately, we celebrated how the baby Jesus born on Christmas is the Messiah; but we didn't stop there. We ended the year with explaining how this is not the end of the story, but really only the beginning. We talked about Jesus' life, His death, His resurrection, and ultimately how we need to be ready when He comes again in the near future. We talked a lot about what our lives looked like before we encountered Christ, and how our lives can be fully transformed by having a personal relationship with Christ our Savior every day.

We had a gentleman come in looking for work one day. He actually had intentions of applying at the thrift store, but came to our church address by "mistake". After explaining that he was in need of a job, Deb shared that we were still hiring for seasonal bellringers, and he could apply right away. He sat down with Deb and told her that he had to be honest up front about his past. He was just released from prison a few months ago and was having a really hard time finding work. He had been in prison for the last 15 years and this was going to be his first Christmas with his family. It was amazing to hear how God had watched over Fred and his family while he was in prison. Fred was able to keep a relationship with his sons, and his wife stayed faithfully married, and waiting for him to get out. The Salvation Army is one of the few organizations/companies that are willing to take a chance and hire individuals with serious criminal backgrounds. Fred turned out to be one of our best bellringers and was overjoyed to be able to provide for his family this holiday season! Currently, he is applying for full time work and Bill is giving him a good reference. He and his wife are believers and have been attending our church on Sundays.

Unfortunately, the bellringing season is only about 6 weeks. Now that the season is over, all of the employees will have to find other work or rely on their pension/social security/disability benefits or panhandling to make ends meet. We are already seeing quite a few of them back on the streets, having spent all of their bellringing money on hotel stays.

We had such a short Christmas vacation (working 6 days a week, traveling on Christmas Day to visit our families, and coming back to Chicago on New Year's Eve) that we were not able to see many of our friends and family. We miss you all very much and are looking forward to coming back to NW Iowa this summer and reconnecting with our friends and First Baptist Church family.

Prayer and Praise:

- ~Please pray for many of our bellringers with criminal records to be able to find stable employment
- ~Please pray for the seeds planted through devotions and our interactions throughout the bellringing season that hearts are softened and open to receiving God's truth, love and light in their lives
- ~Please pray for Darien that his eyes would be open to seeing God's right path and that he would choose God's best and walk firmly in it
- ~Praise God for His blessing on generous donations in our communities to help The Salvation Army continue meeting needs in Christ's name
- ~Praise God that Brandi has been accepted to quite a few colleges, and please pray for her/us as she decides where to go next year.

Bill, Deb, Darien, Brandi, BilliJo, and BobbiJo
20 West Touhy Ave ~ Lot 149
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Thank you for all the boxes you packed for Operation Christmas Child and partnering with us by bringing them to our drop off location. What a joy. Please continue to pray for the journey of the boxes and the children who will receive them-that their hearts would be open and ready to receive the Good News. Merry Christmas!

~Amy Schulte

Thank you very much for gifts toward the Spirit Store. May God bless your generosity. We appreciate you all.

~Your friends at ATLAS

Thank you for the snacks and gifts this holiday season. I'm very thankful to have such a supporting home church!

~Ashley DeBoer

We wish to thank the carolers for coming to sing for us. We really enjoyed it. ~Harold & Helen Eben.

The CE Board would like to thank all those who came to the soup and pie dinner to support the campers. We truly appreciate it.

Thank you for the Christmas care package. ~Daniel Kramer

Thank you for the care package at Christmas time. I also appreciate your prayers each week.

~Hannah Kramer

All Women Invited

Please join Christian Hour Circle on Tuesday, February 12th @ 7pm. We will be making freezer meals to be used to hand out to help people who are having surgery, who are ill or just to be a blessing to those who are going through a difficult time. We would love for you to join us. Sign-up sheet will be in the front foyer for items to bring. Thank you.