

# THE FIRST WORD for .... December 15, 2024



## First Baptist Church Eden

A Place of Grace to  
Believe, Belong, and Become

101 Burleson Street (325) 869-3681

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday Small Groups 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Pastor: John Curry (432) 923-2163 edenpastor@frontier.com

Worship Ministry Leader: Mike Turner conchospringsgolf@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry Leader: Loren Briggs (325) 656-3234 loren3484@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry Leader: Pam Young (432) 413-3205 jeunejoven@gmail.com

Adult Ministry Leader: Teresa Escue (325) 450-7279 edenfbsec@frontier.com

**FBC Eden exists to bring glory to God by becoming a "3E community":  
Embracing God in worship, Encouraging one another in love to become  
fully-devoted disciples, and Engaging the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

**December 15:** Baptism

**December 18:** 5:45 PM—Join us for caroling at the Nursing Home

**December 22:** Nursing Home Ministry

**December 23-27:** Church Office Closed for Christmas

**December 24:** 5:00 pm Candlelight Service

**December 29:** Paise & Worship

Bring it On Chili Cookoff, following morning worship

**December 31:** Church Office Closed

### Bring it On!

Bring your favorite chili recipe (or alternative) and join us for a Potluck after church on the 29th. We will have the crackers and Fritos.

### Lottie Moon Offering

**Goal \$2,500**

**Received \$1,190**

### FOR THE RECORD ...

Worship ..... 85

Small Groups..... 66

Wednesday Night..... 43

### Today's Message "Joyful Anticipation"

**Habakkuk 3:18 9:6**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

The tiny Baby cries. The cattle are lowing softly as His mother lovingly holds Him in her arms gently rocking Him back to slumber. This is Deity in diapers in Whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell (Col 1:19). The shepherds came and reported back that they had indeed seen all that the angel declared and they were amazed at the privilege given them to be the first to go and worship the new King. Later the single brilliant star would guide the travelers from the east and they, too, would worship the toddler who gleefully ran from room to room throwing the gold coins in the air, stopping only to take a deep breath and smell the frankincense and myrrh, which was a far cry from the smells of the fishermen He called to follow Him as He sought to reveal the goodness and love and mercy of His heavenly Father. All these unlikely events open the door to heaven through this Son of Man, He who is also the very Son of God whose purpose for coming included the wearing of this frail covering humanity calls skin. Skin which for the sake of the souls of mankind would endure terrible brutality and worst of all He would feel totally alone as though abandoned by the Very Father who sent Him. This is the Saviour who understands our aloneness, our pain and all the trials we walk through from day to day. Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for planning and orchestrating the coming of Your precious Son and for His obedience to Your redemption plan. Thank You that such grace and mercy flows to us from You because of Him. Thank You for being both The Gift and The Giver. Teach us to celebrate the joy of Christmas every day and not just one a year in December. Thank You.

Stella Taylor



**MISSIONARY PRESENCE  
CULTIVATES  
GOSPEL ACCESS**

Missionaries find the lost and provide access to the gospel in a way they can understand it.

Gospel access means that people have a chance to respond to the saving message of Jesus Christ. Gospel access doesn't look the same in every culture. Sometimes it means a copy of the Bible translated into a people group's written language. It might mean a series of Bible stories told orally that can be shared among an illiterate people group or biblical truths in sign language shared among the Deaf. Sometimes gospel access requires creative means like digital engagement or healthcare initiatives. Though it looks different in different nations and among different peoples, the truth is the same: they need the message of the gospel before they can believe.

We're bringing the gospel to the lost in cities and hard-to-reach places and among the dispersed and displaced. This is the biblical model we see in Scripture—missionary presence. Every hour of every day, an IMB missionary is faithfully living and serving among those who need salvation through Jesus Christ. This has been true since 1845. The work, this Great Pursuit, will take each of us. God didn't give His commands to a select few. He gave His commands to the Church—to all believers. We need you to partner with us and we need you now. Every day, 174,202 die without Christ. There's no time to waste.

Let's join in the work together to reach the nations.