



FBC NEWSLETTER



Finding Strength

When You're Broken

PASTOR JOEL ODONDI

Life has a way of hitting the "reset" button when we least expect it—and all too often, it feels more like a "delete" button. We've all been there: standing amidst the smoke of a situation we didn't ask for, wondering how things fell apart so fast. In **1 Samuel 30:4-6**, we find David in exactly that spot:

"So, David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God."

THE WEIGHT OF "ZIKLAG"

David and his men returned home to Ziklag only to find it ransacked and their families gone. They didn't just lose their possessions; they lost their peace, their security, and their hope. David was devastated, confused, and—to make matters worse—his own people turned on him.

You might be standing in your own "Ziklag" right now. Maybe it's the heavy silence of unemployment, the sharp sting of a broken relationship, the weight of grief, or the exhaustion of being misunderstood. Perhaps life has felt so dark lately that you've even wondered if it's worth continuing.

If that's you, please hear this: **There is hope, and you are not alone.**

THE TURNING POINT: LOOK UP, NOT AROUND

When David reached the end of his rope, he did something radical. He didn't look for a bottle, a distraction, or a scapegoat. He stopped looking at the ruins and started looking at his Redeemer.

In **Psalms 42:5**, we see the solemnest coaching his own soul: *"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."* It's tempting to try and numb the pain with money, substances, or temporary escapes. But those are just bandages on a wound that needs a Physician. David chose to "strengthen himself in the Lord." He poured out his broken heart to God, and in that honesty, he found the strategy to move forward.

(continued on page 7)

Get to Know:

JAMES AND MEGAN WELBORN

Hello First Baptist family! We are the Welborns—James, Megan, Mary Jane, and Annie—and we are thrilled to finally call Salina "home." Our journey here was a 3,000-mile winding path orchestrated entirely by God.

We first met at church in North Carolina while James was in the Army and Megan was in medical rotations. Life eventually pulled us in different directions: Megan moved to Illinois for her surgery residency, while James set off to hike the **Continental Divide Trail** from Mexico to Canada. While walking those thousands of miles through the wilderness, James felt the Holy Spirit clearly urging him to reconnect with Megan.

That reconnection led to a life-changing moment in the clouds: **James proposed to Megan in a flight he was piloting**, officially clearing us for a lifetime of adventure together.

What followed was a season of beautiful sacrifice. After much prayer, James paused his pilot training to move to Illinois so Megan could finish her residency. During those years, James earned an Airplane Mechanics degree and stepped into his favorite role: stay-at-home dad to our first



daughter, Mary Jane. A fellowship later took us to Pennsylvania, where our second daughter, Annie, joined the crew.

Now, the Lord has brought us full circle back to Salina. Megan is a General Surgeon at Salina Regional Health Center, and James has finally resumed flight school at Kansas State. We found FBC Salina through a recommendation from our previous pastor and immediately resonated with the mission to make disciples.

We've settled into South Salina, where we enjoy slow Saturday mornings with cinnamon rolls and coffee. Whether we are backpacking, flying, or baking, we are energized by our family time and

eager to see how God uses us in this community. We can't wait to get to know you all!

Season of Prayer and Fasting

There is still time to join FBC Salina's Season of Prayer and Fasting. During the season of Lent, we encourage everyone to intentionally pray and fast each Wednesday. Have any questions or challenges? Reach out to Pastor Kevin or Pastor Joel for guidance during this time. The following are suggested fasting and prayer methods:

- Fast Tuesday evening after dinner, until Wednesday evening dinner.
- Drink fluids to stay hydrated.
- If unable to fast because of a physical or mental health condition, fast from something other than food such as social media, tv, etc.
- Pray during the times you would normally eat.

Who, not What, is the Church?



PASTOR KEVIN HAZELTON

*“Here is the Church,
Here is the steeple,
Open the doors,
See all the people.”*

Perhaps you learned this children’s rhyme at an early age as you laced your fingers together to create a steeple. It’s a precious way of teaching children to value the church. But it has one fundamental flaw that can plague us throughout our lives if we do not recognize its error: the Church is NOT a building where people gather to worship, fellowship, pray, and learn about Jesus. **The Church IS God’s people!**

In my ordination paper I wrote, “The Church is the universal representation of all believers in Christ past, present, and future.” The Church is all Christians from all times in all nations. Jesus made this clear in Matthew 16:18 when he said, “On this rock [declaration that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

The Greek word translated church is *ekklesia*, which means “a gathering of called out people; an assembly of the people.” The Church is those called out of sin into

relationship with God through the sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. If you are eternally saved by the blood of Jesus, you become part of the Church.

Think of the Church as an ocean. The ocean is composed of countless drops of water. No single drop of water is the ocean, yet every drop together is the ocean. In the same way, no single Christian is the Church. Yet together, all Christians are the Church.

The Bible uses many metaphors to describe the Church: the human body, the temple, a flock of sheep, a family. Each is another way of saying the same thing: **The Church IS God’s people!**

Our FBC Statement of Common Faith says this about the Church:

We believe that the Church was instituted by Jesus to be the people of God and is made up of all true believers regardless of race, gender, age, or station in life. The church visible is the local congregation of believers. We regard evangelism and missions for the salvation of the lost and social transformation to be essential works of the church as well as individual callings.

Yes, First Baptist Church has a building with doors and a steeple where people gather to worship, fellowship, pray, and learn about Jesus. But that’s not **who** we are. We are God’s people, united by Jesus Christ to Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples.

Templo Emanuel - The church in Havana, Cuba.



During our recent Annual Congregational Meeting, Amy Schroller, who is currently the Discipleship Deacon, shared a passionate plea to all members particularly in the Children Ministry. I strongly felt that this needs to be reiterated in the Monthly Newsletter. We thank Amy for being honest and sharing her heart out. Since this came from her heart, I have minimized editorial adjustments. *Pastor Joel Odondi*



A Call to Serve in Children's Ministry

AMY SCHROLLER

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

DISCIPLESHIP CALL

From the bottom of my heart – I truly want to thank every one of you who is serving in FBC in any capacity. This message is not meant to discourage but to encourage all FBC members to be part of what God is doing here at FBC Salina.

Many people today are check-the-box Christians. We come to church on Sunday mornings, listen to the sermon, and then go home, not serving in any way. We come back the following Sunday to check the box once again. Most people are pretty good at loving God, but loving others is proof of true discipleship, so we must love one another and make disciples in the process.

If you do not actively serve in the church,
I would challenge you to ask yourself why **not**?

REASONS TO SERVE IN THE CHURCH

- **SERVING IS PART OF DISCIPLESHIP IN ACTION**

Jesus gave the mandate to “go and make disciples” in Matthew 28.19.

It is no secret that finding volunteers to in the children's ministries is a challenge. How will they grow spiritually if we must stop offering children's Sunday School or the Wednesday night program due to lack of volunteers?

If we don't have people serving at FBC, then how are we loving others and making disciples?

- **SERVING IS PART OF OUR IDENTITY AS CHRIST FOLLOWERS**

Serving isn't just something we do - it's part of who we are as followers of Christ. Jesus didn't only service strangers or large crowds; He served those close to Him. He poured into His own community.

In the same way, we are called to build up our church family. If our own community is struggling, how can we expect to serve others effectively?

- **SERVING DEMONSTRATES LOVE AND ACTION**

It is a tangible way to show love for others and live out our faith. When you serve in the children’s ministry here at FBC, you’re not just caring for children in the moment - you’re investing in their future and in the future of our church. Every act of service plants seeds that can grow for years to come.

- **GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF US UNIQUE GIFTS AND STRENGTHS MEANT TO BLESS OTHERS**

Serving others helps us discover those gifts and put them to use for His glory. Sometimes people serve simply because they are willing - and that willingness matters - but they may feel tired, disconnected, or discouraged. Often, that’s because they aren’t serving in a place that aligns with how God has gifted them.

So, what do we do when there’s a need and no one else seems willing to serve? We step in with humility and obedience, trusting God to use us—even as we pray and work toward helping each person find a place where they can serve with joy, purpose, and the right heart.

CALL TO ACTION

If you feel God calling you to be part of the Kids ministry, kindly contact **Amy Schroller** or **Pastor Joel** for further instructions.



“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

Update on Cuba

PASTOR KEVIN HAZELTON

As I shared recently on the prayer chain, the nation of Cuba is experiencing a severe energy crisis due to a US oil blockade. Fuel is scarce, electrical blackouts are widespread, and many people are struggling to provide food for their families. Due to the desperate conditions, my travel to Cuba to train pastors has been postponed until November. Join me in praying that conditions improve for our brothers and sisters in Cuba.



*“Food is scarce,
but our garden
produced the
first
strawberries.*

*Dios es bueno -
God is good!”*

Pastor Filipe



Pastor Filipe, Anicel, David (10) and Leslie (7).

LOVE GOD | LOVE OTHERS | MAKE DISCIPLES



*Taste of CrossTalk Global
Havana, Cuba*

Holy Week

Palm Sunday / March 29

9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services



Maundy Thursday / April 2

6 p.m. Dinner and Communion
at FBC Salina

Good Friday / April 3

Easter / April 5

7 a.m. Sunrise Service
at Indian Rock Park Shelter

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
at FBC Salina

10 a.m. Easter Worship
in the Sanctuary



March Sermons

Have you written and shared your story - your testimony? Do you know your evangelism style? Are you praying for opportunities to point others to Jesus?

As we finish our "Got Style" sermons, reflect on these questions. Let's commit to being doers of the Word.

**Sermon Series:
Got Style?**

March 1 - Pastor Kevin & Jed Phillips
Acts 17:16-34

March 8 - Pastor Kevin
Psalm 27

March 15 - Pastor Kevin
Psalm 84

March 22 - Pastor Joel
Isaiah 41:1-10

March 29 - Palm Sunday
Pastor Joel
Matthew 21:1-11

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GOD'S PROMISE

After David committed the crisis to God in prayer, God gave him a clear instruction. David followed it, pursued the enemy, and **recovered everything that was stolen.**

God cares deeply about the details of your struggle. God doesn't just want you to survive; He wants you to live a life rooted in Christ. But that shift begins when we stop focusing on the "mess" and start trusting the Gospel.

A RESTORED LIFE

Words are easy to say, and I know that when you're taking medication just to keep your nerves calm, "cheer up" feels like an insult. This isn't about "feeling good"—it's about finding **Christ.**

Jesus says, "Come unto me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." He wants to beautify what has been desecrated and restore what has been lost. He won't force His way in, but He is waiting for your invitation.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." — Psalm 147:3

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 5

10 a.m. NEW 4-Week Bible Study Begins
6 p.m. Out of Touch @ John Show's

Tuesday, March 10

6 p.m. Elders

March 16-20

Spring Break - **NO** Kids/Youth Programs

March 20-22

Women's Encounter

Tuesday, March 24

6 p.m. Elders

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

**February 28 -
March 17**
Pastor Joel in
Kenya

Join Us in Person

Sundays

Worship at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Praise & Growth Groups at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Prayer Group at 9 a.m.
FBC Kids and Youth at 5:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

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