



The Stuff Inside

A little girl walking down the street with her mother, stopped at a balloon vendor's stand. He was selling helium-filled balloons. The child was intrigued as she watched the balloon man occasionally let go of some strings releasing a few balloons into the azure sky – blue balloons, red, green, white, black, and yellow balloons!

Marveling that helium-filled black balloons floated as easily as red and green ones when the vendor let go of their strings, the curious child said, "Excuse me sir, how come when you let go of the balloons – green balloons, white balloons, red balloons, even black balloons – they always float up into the sky?"

The man replied, "Love, it's not the color of the balloon that matters. It's the stuff inside."

This story was often used by Desmond Tutu who was a South African social rights activist and retired Anglican bishop. He rose to worldwide fame during the 1980s as an opponent of Apartheid, which was a system of institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination in South Africa between 1948 and 1991.

His story reminds me of a familiar Sunday school song:

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

The Gospel has always been for the whole world. Be blessed as you share that good news this week. Les

Last Week

Sept. 10, 2017

Attendance

Worship Service – 111
Sunday School - 59

Stewardship Report

Giving Toward:

Current Expense	\$2417.00
Missions	\$280.00
Building/ Maint. Fund	\$311.00
OGHS - Texas	\$105.00
Good News Shoes	\$885.00
Total:	\$4083.00

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Sept. 12

1:00 p.m. – Women's Bible Study

Sunday, Sept. 17

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service

Teachers This Sunday

Nursery

Helen Steffen / Angie Bynum

Kids' Time

Joyce Evans / Chris McFarren

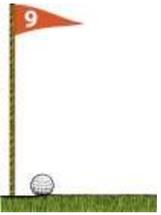
LOL

Michelle Tonner

Thanks!

Thank you to all who participated in the Lunch/Ice Cream Social and to the Becomers Sunday School Class for hosting. We collected \$885.00 to go toward the Good News Shoes ministry.

Golf Scramble Report



The FBC golf outing last Sunday was a blessed day. Twenty-one people gathered under a clear sky with a perfect temperature of 72 degrees. Two teams tied with two under par (34) on the beautiful nine-hole golf course. Don Reeves won the putting contest to finish off an amazing afternoon.

Choir

The first Choir practice is scheduled for Thursday, October 5. Even if you couldn't make the kick-off, we would still love to have you join us to sing.



Kids' Club & Movin' Up

Our Wednesday evening programs of Kids' Club and Movin' Up are combining. All school-aged kids will meet at the same time. We will do some activities together and may split up into age-based groups for others. We will begin each evening with a fun supper starting with PIZZA on Wednesday, October 4. The rest of our time will include a lesson, music with Sarah, and games or a craft. Stay tuned for more information!

Birthdays

Please add Stephanie Gerber to the church's birthday list for this month. Her birthday is September 13. We welcome any corrections to our lists. If we are missing someone's birthday, please let the church office know!



Prayer

Prayer – Street Fair is a festive time in Bluffton. There are many good things to eat and cool things to see. But please pray for protection over our town. Unfortunately, ungodly people often seize this chance to do evil. Also ask that our police officers have wisdom.

Why Do Natural Disasters Happen?

Through devastating natural events the earth is often restored in valuable ways. For example, some kinds of pinecones require intense fire to burst open for subsequent germination. Humans have proven that wind is necessary for trees and other plant life to be strong and vibrant. Science has also demonstrated that floods and earthquakes are often highly beneficial occurrences in nature. They shape the environment and contribute to an inhabitable planet.

These natural occurrences usually only become evil when humanity gets in their way. An earthquake on the ocean floor rarely receives any attention, unless it creates a tsunami that threatens the wellbeing of people. If such harm is unleashed upon humans, then both the earthquake and the tsunami are viewed as evil. But occurring in isolation, these catastrophic events rarely stir up any discussions about why bad things happen.

Devastation on earth sometimes has to do with human choices and foolishness (moral evil). Human foolishness could include things like building huge population centers on known fault lines and danger zones, not taking proper precautions in construction, or failing to have an efficient evacuation plan and warning systems in place. With our own strength and ingenuity we humans cannot effectively regulate the normal cycles of nature. But we can adjust ourselves to nature in order to mitigate some of its more deadly effects on civilization.

New Orleans was the perfect example of human arrogance, neglect, and apathy in the face of known dangers from hurricanes. This city did not take the proper precautions in building a technological defense against hurricanes when it was known for decades that it was in danger of a disaster. The Netherlands is an example of a country that did take the proper precautions in protecting itself from flooding and went on to survive without incident. So should we blame God for the apathy of New Orleans? This means there is not a strict separation between natural disasters and human foolishness (moral evil); nature's ways and man's decisions are more interwoven than we realize or care to admit.

However, many times natural disasters are not the result of human choices. In these cases we have three options. First, it is a judgment of God. Why shy away from saying that a natural disaster is a judgment from God? The Bible has no problem calling natural disasters judgments—floods and earthquakes are perfect examples. But this does not mean that every natural disaster is a judgment. We are just asserting that judgment is a possibility.

Second, we live in a fallen world that has been warped and damaged by sin's devastating impact. The original perfect creation did not include such painful destruction against humanity. But through the redemption of Jesus we now look forward to a new day when sin's negative impact will be removed. All sorrowful devastation will be gone. There will be a brand new heaven and earth.

Third, we have no idea why devastation happens through natural disasters, other than saying God will somehow use these horrible circumstances in ways we don't fully understand. The final option is not a cop out. That is how the problem of evil is explained in the book of Job. Humility says, "We humans are severely limited in our ability to know why things happen in this life. But we can pray in faith while trusting that our LORD loves humanity, resting in the fact that the Creator is all-powerful, and holding onto our conviction that God is all-knowing."

Make It A Great Week!

Les



Homebound Members

Christian Care

Joan Sills – Room 222
Mildred Huss – Room 219B

River Terrace

Phebe Edington – Room 134
LaVera Krummen – Room 116

Signature Healthcare

Bonnie McAfee – Room 403B

Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Barbara French – Room 216

As we co-labor with other churches
in our community,
this week we pray for:
Six Mile Church
Pastor Bruce Holland

First Baptist Church

260-824-1558

firstbaptist@adamswells.com

fbcbluffton.com

First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell
Cell phone: 260-273-9073
Music Director: Sarah Landell
Secretary: Debbie Cantrell

Sunday:
9:00 a.m. – Sunday School
9:50 a.m. – Coffee/Tea Time
10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time
10:15 a.m. – Worship Service