



The Global Flyer

FIRST BAPTIST ATHENS

Cooper Canyons

Forty-eight years ago, Viola and I first heard about the breathtaking train journey through the Copper Canyons in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. This train experience traverses a series of canyons that are larger (longer and deeper) than the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Initially built by the Mexican Government to connect roads from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast through this rugged terrain, it is now maintained as a tourist attraction while also providing transportation between small villages along the route. The Copper Canyons are not only awe-inspiring natural wonders but also home to the Raramuri Indigenous People, also known as the Tarahumara. Over the years, FBC Athens has been actively engaged in ministering to the Tarahumara people, in partnership with Ernesto and Olga de Santiago who reside in Creel.



Last week, Viola and I finally had the opportunity to travel to Creel and embark on the train journey to the Pacific Coast and back. It was an unforgettable experience! We marveled at magnificent scenery, visited quaint Tarahumara villages, stayed in beautiful colonial towns, and met some of the most welcoming people. It was a time of relaxation and the fulfillment of a long-postponed dream. Additionally, we had the privilege of meeting with our missionaries, Ernesto and Olga and hearing firsthand about their ministry. They shared stories of past mission projects of FBC Athens and the incredible results that emerged from our mission teams' contributions to the growth of the ministry among the Tarahumara people. Ernesto and Olga continue to lead this work, training Tarahumara pastors and leaders. It was a special joy to spend time with them and witness how God is working through their ministry.

Several months ago, when we planned this special trip to Mexico, we did not anticipate being away during the solar eclipse. Although we were saddened to miss such a magnificent demonstration of the grandeur of the universe created by God, we could not alter our plans. Such choices between two good things are not uncommon in life. During our 30 years as missionaries, we missed numerous family birthdays, weddings, Thanksgivings, Christmases, and other special events. It was a choice that we made and yes, it saddened us to miss this time with family. However, the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:29 have always been a source of comfort to us: *Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.* Indeed, this has been true in our lives. Even though we missed the eclipse here in Athens, we gained a new home and new family in Creel, Mexico. As followers of Jesus, we trust that as we serve Him, we do not miss out on anything. God chooses to bless us in ways that are far greater than we can ever imagine.

Jim Palmer

Watch Online @
Lovingtheworld.com
YouTube
Vimeo
Facebook
8:30AM
11AM Worship Center
11AM Bilingual

Members' Birthdays

Sun, April 14 – Ed Newton, Mollie Carter
Mon, April 15 – Jim Palmer, Matthew Owen
Tues, April 16 – Judy Trammell, Abigail Starkes, Gary Moore, Dorothy Hinds
Wed, April 17 – Loyd Miguel, Stacy Hurst
Thurs, April 18 – Margarita Zavala
Fri, April 19 – Teresa Day
Sat, April 20 – Ethan Smith, Sandi Pulley, Carla Pinedo, Clara Love, Carter Harraid

Prayer Requests (church attendees & families). Please call with updates

- Becky Pemberton's brother, Fred Ham...on ventilator/Methodist ICU, Midlothian
- Margaret Austin...pacemaker scheduled 4-29 at Christus Heart Hospital, Tyler
- Terry McNatt...back pain, surgery pending
- Lisa Wilson...blood clots/home
- Piper Gillert...broken femur/home
- Laura Pool...hospice care at home
- Elizabeth Flores' daughter, Vania Maldonado and daughter Aleyah/UT Health, Tyler NICU
- Drew & Lori Douglas' daughter-in-law, Thiana Douglas...cancer surgery 3-28/home
- Josh Moreno...blood pressure issues, cardiologist appointment pending
- Claudia Limon...stress testing
- Gracie & Carlos Murillo's son, Max...awaiting kidney transplant match
- *Hospice Care: Anita Wiggin's brother, Bill Meadors; Lisa Collins' mom, Glenda Beard; Roger Littleton's sister, Elizabeth Boynton; Tammy Womble's mom, Jessie Dixon*
- *Military: Hattie Graham's granddaughter, Karah Lawyer (E5/GSM2) Asian Countries; Judy Ward's granddaughter & husband, Gabriella & Tanner Burtrum, South Korea*
- *Cancer Diagnosed: Laura Pool; Bill Hauck's sister, Marie Kirby; Daniela Matchael's sister-in-law, Joana Cortez; Cindi Livingston, mother of Anna Fay Wicker's daughter-in-law; Doris Raney's niece, Stacy Bates; Rusty Morris; Miriam Inestroza's mother, Luce Torres; Trayona Skiles; Mary Boehler's niece, Denise Leach; Kellis White; Jack & Paula Harris' son-in-law, Carlos Banuelos; BJ Davies; Bob & Tonya Foster's son, Jim*
- *In Rehab or Recuperating: Betty White's brother, Dwaine Coley; Dwight Millar; Lisa Montgomery's mom, Selah Mason; Nikki DuBose's mother, Nancy Kissinger; Nikki DuBose's brother, Donnie Kissinger; Wanda Kinney; Wanda Kinney's daughter, Jeudi George; W.D. Farnham; Rebecca Habibelahian; Bill Dye; David Yarbrough; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Billy Fleming; Cindy Henderson; Christy Warnock's brother, Duncan Frizzell; Ginny Hedge; Linda Whitmire; Linda Campbell; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Brady Pollock; Barbara Hearn's nephew, Jeff Shumate; Barbara Hearn's great nephew, Blaise Shumate; Kern & Barbara Railsback's granddaughter, Waverly; Beverly Moore; Shirley Bailey's sister, Charlott Hutson; Win James; Drew Douglas' mom, Pam Douglas; Katherine Hellwig; Marylyn Wright's sister, Jeanne Gage; Laura Pool's sister-in-law, Brenda Bickley; Tom & Catherine Ward's sister-in-law, Elaine Baldwin, Tom & Catherine Ward's daughter, Brandy Shirvinski*

Bible Reading Plan, Grace & Peace

Day of the	Date	Scripture
Sunday	4-14-2024	Luke 15:1-10
Monday	4-15-2024	Luke 15:11-32
Tuesday	4-16-2024	Luke 16:1-18
Wednesday	4-17-2024	Luke 16:19-31
Thursday	4-18-2024	Luke 17:1-19
Friday	4-19-2024	Luke 17:20-37
Saturday	4-20-2024	Luke 18:1-17