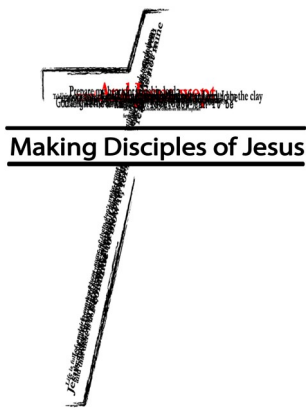


September 2019

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ who go to make disciples of others.*



# FIRST PRESS

On May 26, 2013 at 4:30am the Jascon 4, one of three tugboats towing an oil freighter off the coast of Nigeria, started to sink. Harrison Odjegba Okene, the tugboat's 29-year-old cook, immediately knew something was wrong. As the vessel descended 100 feet to the floor of the Atlantic Ocean pitched upside down, Okene was tossed to and fro in his small quarters. He groped his way in the pitch darkness through the icy waters, finally finding a cabin with a four foot air pocket. He made a make-shift platform and stacked two mattresses together in his attempt to escape the rising water.

Dressed only in his boxer shorts, Okene sat on the mattresses and waited for help. But the thought of being rescued seemed remote. So Okene, a follower of Jesus, started to pray the Psalms: "Oh, God, by your name, save me," and "The Lord sustains my life." Okene told reporters, "I started calling on the name of God .... reminiscing on the verses I read before I slept. I read the Bible from Psalms 54 to 92. My wife had sent me the verses to read that night when she called me before I went to bed."

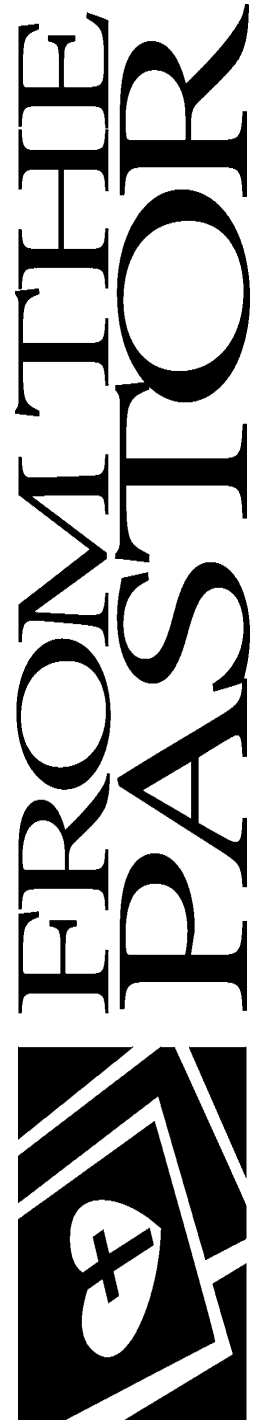
Two-and-a-half days later, Okene was certain the rest of the eleven man crew had drowned and that he would also drown. Then he heard the sound of rescuers and started banging on the steel walls of his cabin with a hammer. The Dutch divers who found him couldn't believe their eyes. As they reached out for a hand of a man they assumed was dead, the hand grabbed theirs.

To this day, Okene believes his rescue after 72 hours underwater was the result of divine deliverance. He told a Nigerian newspaper, "The rest of my life is not enough to thank God for this wonder. It is incredible."

Do we believe that God can work similar miracles in our and other people's lives? Do we truly believe? Or, do we surrender to what appears to be the inevitable? If you know of a marriage that is struggling, pray. If a loved one is seriously ill, pray. If finances are stretched, pray. If ministries are struggling, pray. If hearts are hardened toward Jesus, pray. Pray. Pray. Pray. Jeremiah 32:27 encourages us: "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind, Is anything too difficult for me?"

Keep the faith,  
Pastor Tony

*(article was submitted two days prior to his heart attack) God Is Good!*



Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Thank you for your faithfulness and prayers during this time. As I hope all are aware now, Pastor Tony suffered a massive heart attack on Saturday August 17. He had been playing tennis with Bryce, his brother in law Wade and his nephew when he began to feel some chest pains. Sheri encouraged him to call 911 and was taken to Hanford ER. Our God is a God of details because the heart attack happened in the ER. Tony's heart stopped for 15 minutes. Once stabilized he was air lifted to Community Regional Medical Center in Fresno. He is making great strides but still has a long road ahead. Again, we thank you for all the prayers and support and ask that they continue. To stay up to date on Tony's current condition go to our website or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Your staff and session are working diligently to continue First Presbyterian ministries and day to day operations in Tony's absence. We ask for your prayers as we faithfully serve and look to do God's will here at First Presbyterian Hanford.

We have been able to bring in Pastor Steve **Nilmeier** as a guest speaker for the next several weeks and continue to search for pastors and speakers. Sunday's may look a little different in the coming months but your staff and session are praying about the best way to move forward being ever mindful of our financial situation and the members of our congregation.

A care calendar has been set up to allow people to sign-up and help with the needs of the Winterowd family during this time. Go too [www.my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/winterowd-family](http://www.my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/winterowd-family) and you can see the family's requests, from preparing meals, doing grocery shopping, providing rides to and from school, and more. As needs change and evolve the care calendar will reflect this. If providing rides or cooking meals is not an option for you but you still wish to help, the church office will be serving as collection point for monetary gifts. To avoid any future tax issues to Tony we request that any checks be made directly to the family. You can also purchase Visa gift cards or give cash. Drop them off at the office M-F 8:30am-11:30am or mail them to the church.

Again we thank you for your prayers. They have been felt by the staff, the session, and the Winterowd family.

Blessings,

Jaime Christoph  
Children & Youth Director



## A Message From Your Missions Ministry Team

Would you like to be a “missionary” this fall and give a simple tangible gift to a child that perhaps has never received a gift before? And more importantly - a gift that opens the door for that child to be introduced to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ!

*Now is your opportunity!*

**Operation Christmas Child** is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international relief organization. The program originally was started in the United Kingdom in 1990 as a Wales-based shoebox gift project. Three years later, the program merged into a partnership with Samaritan’s Purse and since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has become a global program facilitated through hundreds of thousands of trained volunteers.

The “mission” of Operation Christmas Child is to provide local churches around the world with shoebox gifts as a way to reach children in their communities. In each shoebox receiving country, Samaritan’s Purse partners with a volunteer National Leadership Team that consists of year-round volunteers from various church denominations and equips their ministry partners—a local pastor or church leader—to be the volunteer representatives. The local ministry partners distribute the shoeboxes to children in their communities. For many children, this is the first gift they will ever receive! More important than the items inside the shoebox, the gifts are an opportunity to share God’s love and the good news of Jesus Christ with children in need!

After receiving shoebox gifts, many boys and girls are invited to enroll in ***The Greatest Journey***, a 12-lesson discipleship program. The program introduces boys and girls to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and encourages them to grow as faithful followers. This connects children to local churches who can, through discipling relationships, teach and nurture the children in faith. The Gospel booklets are available in more than 75 languages and are given out with shoebox gifts around the world. Through the program, the local ministry partners are able to establish long-term, caring relationships with children and families by sharing the love of Jesus Christ. In 2018, 10,623,776 shoeboxes were distributed throughout 112 countries and territories.

First Presbyterian Church once again will be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year and it is your opportunity to offer the gift of life through faith in Jesus Christ to a child across the world through a simple shoebox! Shoeboxes will be available in the church Narthex soon so that you can participate! Come join your Missions Ministry Team and become a “shoebox missionary” this year!

Serving as your Mission Ministry Team –

Jeff & Dorothy Crass, Bob & Rowena Curiel, Enrique Garcia, Joanna Jones,  
Sue Kinney, and Pastor Tony Winterowd

# Church DEACONS

**Reminder!** Deacons hope you can bring some non-perishable food on **Sept. 1** to feed those in our community who are in need.



**Alpaca Box**



**Will Ewe?**



*Operation  
Christmas Child  
Samaritan's Purse  
Dedication*

**Sunday, November 24**

## **Cream Pie Contest and Dessert Auction after 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck September 29<sup>th</sup>**

***Do you have a sweet tooth?***



Then please join us Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, after the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck to bid on a great dessert. The auction will raise money for our 2019 EPC Askings. To date members and generous donors have donated \$2,688.00, leaving us a balance of \$1,188.00 still needed to send to EPC.

Potluck – Please bring the following:

\* Families – main dish \* Couples/Singles – salads & sides



**Fall Body Life**

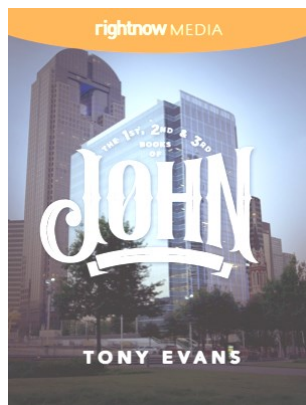
**Dinner—6:00pm**

- Adults, \$6
- Teens, \$5
- Children (to age 10), \$3
- \$18 (max for family)

**Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Study:**

Comfortable Christianity often means a weak Christianity. In this study on John's three letters, Dr. Tony Evans challenges Christians who have grown comfortable and complacent in their faith. Fellowship with God is the essence of our faith, and Dr. Evans walks through 1, 2 & 3 John to paint a picture of love, obedience, and truth. In a world that hates Jesus, we are called to love Him and His people with a fierce love



This is a great opportunity to buy a delicious dessert. The amount for the purchased desserts will be applied towards your EPC Askings. If you prefer to make a donation above and beyond your gifts and tithes, for your EPC Askings,

this would be greatly appreciated. *Purchase your dessert to eat after the potluck & buy another to take home.*

**Please do not bring desserts for the auction, they will be provided.**

Join us for the fun, good food and wonderful desserts!

*Watch the weekly church bulletin for more information on the Cream Pie Contest.*



The Finance Ministry Team



# Church Campout

## October 18-20

Morro Bay  
State Park  
Campground

**BREAK**  
TRADITION  
**ING**

~~ Cost \$85/family

**New Location has these amenities:** Across street there is a restaurant, kayak rental and museum that has children interactive displays about local animals; adjacent is a golf course

**Includes:** a campsite to be shared with another family, s'mores Friday night, breakfast & taco dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday

Non-refundable Deposit of \$15 due when signing up.

NEED to have sign-ups soon to confirm sites together

*Some of the planned activities: meditations and praise time each evening and mornings, Sunday worship, game time, fellowship, fun and much more!!*

**Don't want to camp? ... Get a hotel room on your own and join us during the day for activities including the meals at \$30/family and \$15/person**

RSVP & Questions contact:  
Kevin McCarty 559-707-7357  
or [sherylmccarty@gmail.com](mailto:sherylmccarty@gmail.com)

**OPTIONAL:**

Friday BUILD-YOUR-OWN Sandwich bar dinner served 5:30-7pm Cost \$15/family or \$5/person (reserve & pay in advance)



Sep 6	Dorothy Shaw	265 Sycamore
Oct 4	Laurie Essepian	7837 Fargo Pl
Nov 1	Rosemary Clark	1980 Rio Hondo Wy
Dec 6	Sue Hensel	860 E. Grangeville, #59

Ladies

First Friday Coffee and Prayer

Women of the Church please join us for "First Friday Coffee and Prayer."

**Friday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00am-10:30am**

We are creating a new directory!



**Lifetouch.**

Will be here to take pictures

Oct. 24 - 26

Everyone is Welcome, not just church members

Book your session now at: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b142x29/>

# Faith & Fellowship

**Many opportunities for you to join with others . . .**

## Jolly 1's & 2's

We have two functions in September. The first is Rest Home service on September 15 at 2:00pm at Kings Rehab. We could use a music leader and someone to give a devotional. If no one comes forward to play piano, I can do it. We hope to see you there.

Our second function is a train trip to Fresno to eat at Shepherd's Inn. You will need to get your own train ticket. We are going there on September 21. Train tickets for seniors for the round trip is \$10.64. The train leaves Hanford at 9:34 am and arrives in Fresno at 10:16. Shepherd's Inn does not open till 11:00 so we will be there slightly early. The return trip leaves Fresno at 1:49 and arrives in Hanford at 2:24. If we plan to eat around 11:00 we should be able to make it to the 1:49 train. That gives us 2-1/2 hours to order and eat. If you feel you cannot manage getting on and off the train (Amtrak has not been real helpful) let me know and I will arrange drivers to take you to Shepherd's Inn. The food is outstanding and well worth the effort to attend. Let me or your caller know if you wish to attend and what mode of transportation would be best for you by September 15. I will then ask Shepherd's Inn staff to make room at their long table for us.



## **Women's Society (Agape)**

*Agape begins September 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. We will have a special speaker. All adults are invited to come and join us. Suzanne Tabers and Georgina Snyder will be providing refreshments. If someone could volunteer to give the devotional it would be appreciated. I will have a booklet ready for all who attend. You may find many open slots for you to fill in. Thank you for your support of Agape each year.*



Couples of all ages are invited to  
**"Date Night"**

**Sept 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

**FPC Fellowship Hall**

Julie LeFils will lead us in a fun, funny and informative time concerning how to better communicate with our spouse.

***A fabulous catered dinner is included!***

Childcare available....\$30/couple.  
RSVP to the church office (582-0283)



## **CPR Training**

*Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>*  
*8am—2:30pm*

### **FPC Fellowship Hall**

\$50 registration fee,  
Lunch provided  
& Childcare available

Please RSVP to the office  
(559)582-0283



Questions, Comments, Concerns or  
Ideas...contact:  
Jaime Christoph 850-776-5234



**ALL children need “grounding” in  
the truth of God’s Word.**

AWANA TruthSeekers lays a firm foundation by teaching a chronological overview of the Bible through lessons, songs, and scripture memorization.



Let's get as many children as we can to plug into and power up with God's Word!

### **AWANA TruthSeekers**

meets **Thursday afternoons**  
from **3:30—5:00pm**  
at **220 Dewey St.**  
*5 year olds—5th grade*  
*boys and girls are welcome.*  
See you there!

## **Guys & Gals**



### **BIBLE STUDY**

**2nd & 4th Sundays**

Contact Jaime Christoph at  
850-776-5234 for more information.

P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93230

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**First Presbyterian Church**

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.  
Church Office: 415 N. Redington St.  
Mail: P. O. Box 1185, Hanford, CA 93232  
(559) 582-0283—FAX (559) 582-0336  
[www.fpchanford.org](http://www.fpchanford.org)

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 88  
Hanford, California

**STAFF:**

Tony Winterowd	Pastor
Tom & Margie Fritz	Music Directors
Janice Mills	Music Ministries
Jaime Christoph	Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
Davena Clemente	Child Care Coordinator
Annette Rajskup	Office Manager
Gail Forsythe	Bookkeeper
Nancy Roller	Custodian

Send staff emails to  
[staff first name@fpchanford.org](mailto:staff first name@fpchanford.org)  
send prayer requests or other information to  
[office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)

## September Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3. Ruben Hernandez                           | 19 Brandon Wigton                                   |
| 5. * Lance & Caryn Larson                    | 20 Gail Forsythe, *Tim & Lynette Bowers             |
| 7. Susan Feaver                              | 22 Andrew Garcia, Nathan LeFils, Dorothy<br>Lehmann |
| 8. Duane Koppenhaver                         | 25 Wes Lehmann                                      |
| 10 Hope Kinney, *Tony & Sheri Winter-<br>owd | 27 *Enrique & Liz Garcia                            |
| 11 Rickey LeFils                             | 29 Lori Cossey, Beverly Rodriguez                   |
| 12 Sostenes Infante                          | 30 Trent Burch, *Kevin & Stacey Jones               |
| 13 Delaney Cuzzort                           |   |
| 15 Enrique Garcia                            |   |
| 16 Kailyn Christoph, Nick Elvena             |   |
| 17 Norman VanBeek                            |   |

**Please contact the office with any updates, additions or corrections.  
We don't want to miss anyone or list your special date incorrectly.**