



# The Branch NewsLETTER

*"I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:5*

A Monthly Publication of Live Oak First Baptist Church  
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## Week of Prayer for North American Missions March 6–13, 2016 and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal: \$70 million

An Urban Pioneer, Family Pastor, Corporate Trainer. What could these people have in common? By God's amazing grace these people have answered God's call to serve as North American Mission Board (NAMB) church planters to some of the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

With nearly 259 million people in the United States and Canada without a personal relationship with Christ, NAMB began **Send North America**, focusing on mobilizing missionaries and churches. This year, the prayer focus is on six church planters serving in six cities: Cleveland; Washington, DC; New Orleans; Montreal; Portland; and San Diego. During the week of prayer, we will learn a little about the challenges of sharing Christ in these bustling, fascinating, yet lost metropolises.

Our churches' prayer and financial support is vital to the ministry of these servants of the Lord. 100% of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes to support more than 5,000 missionaries, start new churches and reach the lost.

*"I am the  
resurrection  
and the life."*  
JOHN 11:25



*Resurrection Day  
March 27, 2016*

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**Time Change is March 13<sup>th</sup>  
Spring Forward**

Don't forget to set your clocks  
ahead 1 hour  
Saturday Night March 12<sup>th</sup>



## From Our Pastor

Easter instantly causes the Christian to think of the passion of Christ and His resurrection. Why does the resurrection mean so much to the believer? The resurrection of Jesus gives divine assurance, spiritual victory, and fulfills man's immortal hope for the future. The resurrection is God's answer to man's need.

In Matthew 9:36–38, Christ saw the multitudes and had compassion for them. A possessing passion for souls caused Jesus to come from heaven into this world of woe and drove Him to Calvary to die for those souls. Jesus saw the multitudes as “sheep scattered abroad”, lost, sin sick, depraved and in despair. Romans 5:8 declares, “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Oh what love. Jesus is God's answer to man's need.

Christ also called upon His disciples, and calls upon all Christians to visualize, agonize, and evangelize, so others can know of His passion and resurrection powers. First, He calls His disciples to visualize. He wants us to see the plenteous harvest, ripe and ready for gleaning. Second, Christ calls upon us to agonize. “Pray ye therefore.” In the third place, Christ calls us to evangelize. When He asks us to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest, He means for us to become the laborers. Man is God's means to proclaim Christ's passion and resurrection power.

Do you have the passion for souls like Christ? Are you resting in His resurrection power? Will you obey His call to visualize, agonize, and evangelize? Let's meditate on Christ and His words and consider how God can use and empower us as His laborers. Jesus is alive and He is Lord.

Your Pastor,  
*Brother Donald*

## From Our Minister of Music & Education

These words, penned by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) and based on a Medieval Latin poem, speak for us:

“What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend, for this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make me Thine forever, and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.”

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) wrote “Alas, and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sov'reign die? Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I? At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day!”

So many hymns help us focus on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins so we can have eternal life!

Then...comes the morning! Resurrection Day!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788): “Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!”

Robert Lowry (1826-1899): “Low in the grave He lay, Jesus, my Savior! Waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord! Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes; He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!”

Cecil Alexander (1818-1895): “He is risen! He is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice: He has burst the three days' prison, let the whole wide earth rejoice: death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory. He is risen! He is risen! Christ has won the victory.”

*Happy Easter! Happy Resurrection Day!*

*Paul*

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Tonie Wooten     | 18 Rachel Dorchester |
| 4 Earline Paul     | 19 Doraine Hilliard  |
| 13 Gloria Lavender | 21 Gloria Cranford   |
| 14 Peggy Coleman   | 21 Danny O'Neil      |
| 14 Graham Hartness | 21 Mary Aguilar      |
| 16 John Glowacz    | 28 Nell Matthews     |
| 17 Jackie Carter   | 31 Douglas Carter    |

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# Women's Ministry Meeting



March 17  
Thursday  
6:30 pm

## Taking Up Your Cross— Requires Action

How can we reach nearly 300 million North American people who need to know Jesus personally? Answering that question, NAMB (North American Mission Board) launched the national strategy *Send North America*. Each of us has a role—some individuals and churches as church planters, all as supporters through prayer and giving.

Join us for Bible study, dinner, and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Check in the foyer for the menu and sign up sheet to help with food for the meal.

# Lively Oaks Meeting

March 10  
11:30 am  
Tip Top Cafe  
For ages 50+



Join us for lunch at Tip Top Café at their new location on 13835 Nacogdoches Road. Enjoy classic American "comfort food" in a 50's diner atmosphere. We will carpool from the church at 11:30 a.m.

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## Deacon of the Week

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|----------|-------------|
| March 6  | Mario Ward  |
| March 13 | Ken Bean    |
| March 20 | Lalo Peña   |
| March 27 | Don Stewart |

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## VBS is right around the corner!

Now is the time to volunteer so you will know which class to go to at the 2016 SABA Vacation Bible School Conference on April 1, 6:30 pm or Saturday, April 2, 9:00 am at Northeast Baptist Church. Make plans to attend either the Friday or Saturday session that best fits your schedule.

**Our Vacation Bible School is  
June 12–16, 6:30 to 9:00 pm.**

See Freddie or Paul to volunteer.