



FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2022 - MMXXII ISSUE II

735 RIDGE LAKE BOULEVARD | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Just Show Me

Jim Fleming, Interim Senior Pastor

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).

As I was growing up, my dad, Charlie was the foreman for crews that would build things like roads and sewer lines. Working with the local union of Operating Engineers was just one of the challenges he faced. If he needed a bulldozer operator, he would call the union hiring hall and they would send him the next man on the list. Some would come loudly proclaiming their talent, their words often betrayed by a disappointing performance. His standard reply was always, "Just show me."

In the case of the Thessalonians, they had been living for their idols. But when Paul came to town, they made a decisive turnaround. The expectation of Jesus' return had become the defining feature of their lives. To observe them was to conclude: These people really do believe that Someone is coming who will rescue them as they live all-out for God.

Transition Momentum

Bryan Miller, Transition Committee

"Back in the day", people would talk about getting a bird's eye view of a particular issue which meant the ability to rise above the situation and obtain a more complete picture. Today we are all used to a "drone's eye" view of life. The views that come from drone footage provide incredible pictures which enable us to fully see and experience life.

This analogy seems to apply to our efforts in the IPM process as we have sought multiple inputs to enable us to get a drone's eye view of First Evan. These efforts culminated with a major update on Saturday and Sunday to leadership and Sunday School classes. The general consensus seems to be an appreciation for the process but anticipation about when preparation leads to action.

As noted in the graph on the [transition page](#) of the website, the Transition Committee and Search Committee will begin working simultaneously. Relevant information is now being used by the Search Committee. Also, the Transition Committee will be utilizing a number of the inputs to begin preparing the Pre-vision plan which will



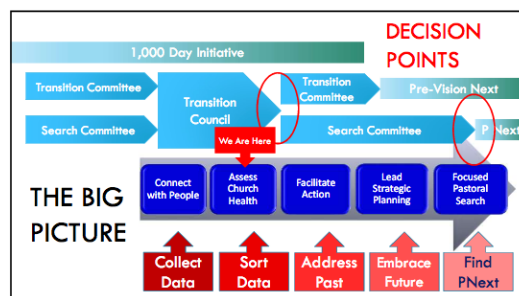
What God did (and continued doing) among the Thessalonians was so amazing, so compelling, that it got the entire town's attention. Words were not needed because their living illustration was so powerful. What would it be like to experience this; to be a part of something so real, so dramatic, that it doesn't need to be argued for or defended; a powerful moving of God so arresting that the illustration does all the talking?

We live in a world of *Charlies*. They want to see the real thing. The God who breathed life into saints in Thessalonika can do the same here in Memphis, TN. Ask Him to start with you! Ask Him to make your life the answer to a world that says, "Just show me."

be used to continue our momentum at the conclusion of our current 1,000-Day Initiatives.

Hopefully, we can all be encouraged that we are BOTH actively advancing our efforts with the pastor search and also ensuring that our church maintains our efforts to fulfill our mission to glorify Jesus and magnify the gospel in all of life until He comes. Signs of our forward movement include the upcoming "Further Up and Further In" cross-generational gathering during the Sunday School hour, Discover First Evan which has a number of folks registered who are interested in membership, strong participation in the Shepherdology 101 classes being led by Pastor Jim, and the upcoming three-week "Partnership in the Gospel" focus for our Global Missions Conference.

First Evan is praying and preparing for our pastor while actively pursuing the work of the ministry which God has entrusted to all of us. Be encouraged and be active in the work of the Lord.



WORSHIP



"The Mission" Sermon Series

When Jesus completed His earthly mission and ascended into heaven, He left behind a team of men and women prepared to carry on what He began. Their assignment has become ours—to reach, grow, and equip people who will follow Jesus no matter what! Join us for the four-sermon series, "The Mission," which will begin on February 13. Get ready to learn exactly what we have been left here on planet earth to do and how to get it done!

This sermon series will bookend three Global Mission Focus Sundays featuring some of our First Evan Missionaries as speakers:

- FEB 13:** *The Mission, Part 1*
Pastor Jim Fleming
- FEB 20:** *The Mission, Part 2*
Pastor Jim Fleming
- FEB 27:** Global Missions Focus
Dan Onu (Romania)
- MAR 6:** Global Missions Focus
Moses Parmar (South Asia)
- MAR 13:** Global Missions Focus
Nadim Costa (Lebanon)
- MAR 20:** *The Mission, Part 3*
Pastor Jim Fleming
- MAR 27:** *The Mission, Part 4*
Pastor Jim Fleming

Reminder: On Sundays, the east side of the Sanctuary is reserved for socially-distanced seating. The Chapel is available for high-risk individuals and is masks only.

Baptism

On Sunday, January 9, we celebrated with three First Evaners who were baptized. To view the baptism videos, visit www.firstevan.org/baptism.



Caroline Fratesi

Nathan Fratesi

Melanie Beach

NEXT BAPTISM: Sunday, March 20, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

If interested in baptism, please fill out the application form by Sunday, February 20: www.firstevan.org/baptismapplication.



"The Lord's Prayer" Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, April 10, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Presented by the Worship Ministry and members of the

Memphis Symphony Orchestra

Singers who are not regular members of the Worship Choir are invited to join us for these special services. On Sunday, February 20, there will be lunch in the Fellowship Hall at noon, followed by a preview rehearsal in the Sanctuary from 1:15–3:00 p.m. Please contact Katelynn Bernardini at 682-8452 or kbernardini@firstevan.org if you would like to attend.

Beginning on February 27, there will be weekly rehearsals on Sunday afternoons from 1:15–3:15 p.m.

MEN



Men's Bible Study 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Led by Buddy Jones
Mondays, February 7–April 25
6:30–8:00 p.m., E135
Wednesdays, February 9–April 27
6:30–7:30 a.m., Zoom

We will study the apostle Paul's two letters to the church at Thessalonica in which Paul, in light of Jesus' certain return, encouraged the believers to continue to live godly, productive lives in the midst of difficult circumstances. The format includes a weekly study assignment, small group discussion, and lecture. To register, [click here](#). Contact Buddy Jones at buddyjones0@gmail.com.



Men's Retreat

SAVE THE DATE:
Friday–Sunday, April 29–May 1
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas
Online registration begins
Sunday, March 27!

Cabins will be on a first come basis. Riverside Resort Campground on the Spring River near Mammoth Spring, Arkansas. More info and prices to come at www.firstevan.org/mens-retreat.

RECREATION



ESCRA Spring Soccer

Season: Saturdays, March 26–May 14
(6 games; No games April 16)
Cost: \$65/player (includes uniform)
Register by Friday, February 18!

If you have a child who is between the ages of 4 & 12 years old, the ESCRA league is a great option to participate in. Playing divisions offered during the season are based on ages as of June 1, 2021.

We need volunteer coaches to sign up to coach our young ones. If you are interested in coaching, please contact us at recreation@firstevan.org or call 901-683-7700. For full details and to register, visit www.firstevan.org/soccer.



Canvas Art Class

Tuesdays, March 29–May 3
6:00–7:30 p.m., E144
Led by Brian Brock
Cost: \$60 (6 classes)
Register by Tuesday, March 1!

With our art program, we walk participants through a comprehensive six-week drawing, painting, and sculpting series that focuses on our relationship with God. Register at www.firstevan.org/canvas.

Blessings to the Johnsons

Since he was a young boy, Jeffery Johnson, our Recreation and Fellowship Director, has dreamed of playing professional basketball. Last spring it appeared a door was opening for him to potentially play pro ball in Europe; Valencia, Spain to be exact. Jeffery began taking the necessary steps to pursue his dream, and it seemed everything was lining up for him to head that way. The evening of March 21, Jeffery was to purchase his ticket to Spain. That purchase never happened.



That afternoon, playing in a pickup basketball game, Jeffery went up to take an alley oop pass and by the time his feet returned to the floor his plans had been drastically altered. A snap and searing pain in his knee would later be diagnosed as a torn patellar tendon. Two surgeries and months of intense rehab would follow. It seemed the door was closed on Jeffery's dream.

In our [worship service on December 26](#), Jeffery shared this story with us. He challenged us to be willing to step out on faith, trust God, and let go of the plane (a reference to a skydiving experience he'd had). This week, Jeffery sent Taylor Park an email in which he said, "I am taking my own advice. I am excited to share that the opportunity to play professional basketball in Valencia, Spain has once again presented itself. I am on track to make a full recovery within the next few months and I plan on seizing this moment." Jeffery will play in the EuroProBasket summer league with the hope of a contract offer either in Europe or the U.S. after the season.

We are very excited for this opportunity for Jeffery, but saddened that he is leaving our staff. Jeffery is an incredibly rare mix of talents. You won't often find an athlete, a coach, an artist, a writer, a published poet, and many other things all packaged together in one person who also fiercely loves Jesus. Jeffery will be sorely missed, but our prayers and blessings certainly go with Mandie and him.

GLOBAL MISSIONS FOCUS

PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

The Global Missions Focus seeks to further the “partnership in the Gospel” that First Evan has with our National Ministry Partners. Since they more easily reach groups unreached by the Gospel than we can, our partnership serves to advance the goal of “making disciples of all nations.”

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

PROJECT



World Relief Memphis comes alongside refugees and other immigrants in vulnerable situations as they rebuild their lives in the United States. In 2012, the Memphis office opened, and they have been welcoming these international neighbors to the Bluff City ever since. First Evan has a history of supporting World Relief Memphis, both in terms of finances and volunteers.

The recent evacuation of Afghan families who were aligned with the United States military has created a huge need for resettlement. World Relief Memphis intends to bring in dozens of families over the next 12 months. These families have been vetted and have been given special residency and employment status in the United States.

The goal for this project is two-fold: **1) Raise at least \$20,000 to assist with this resettlement effort, and 2) Create opportunities for our FEC families to have direct involvement with these families moving to our community.**

WEEK 1 SCHEDULE

CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE PARTNERS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Midweek Fellowship Meal
5:00–6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Interviews with Missionaries and National Partners
6:15–8:00 p.m., A121/A122

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

GMF Kickoff Meal
5:00–6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
GMF Service
6:30–8:00 p.m., Sanctuary
KMC Kickoff (Age 4–5th grade)
6:30–8:00 p.m., C210
(Childcare for kids age 3 and under)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

National Partner Panel Discussion
9:00–11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
(Childcare for kids age 3 and under)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Sunday School Classes (optional)
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Worship Service: Central Europe
10:45–12:00 p.m., Sanctuary
KMC: Travel to France
10:45–12:00 p.m., C-Wing

WEEK 2

SOUTH ASIA PARTNERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Midweek Fellowship Meal
5:00–6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Interviews with Missionaries and National Partners
6:15–8:00 p.m., A121/A122

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

National Partner Panel Discussion
9:00–11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
(Childcare for kids age 3 and under)

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Sunday School Classes (optional)
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Worship Service: South Asia
10:45–12:00 p.m., Sanctuary
KMC: Travel to Nepal
10:45–12:00 p.m., C-Wing

WEEK 3

MEXICO, USA, & MIDDLE EAST PARTNERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Midweek Fellowship Meal
5:00–6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Interviews with Missionaries and National Partners
6:15–8:00 p.m., A121/A122

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

National Partner Panel Discussion
9:00–11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
(Childcare for kids age 3 and under)

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Sunday School Classes (optional)
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Worship Service:
Mexico/USA/Middle East
10:45–12:00 p.m., Sanctuary
KMC: Travel to Egypt
10:45–12:00 p.m., C-Wing
GMF Luncheon
12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall



DAN ONU – SPEAKER



MOSES PARMAR – SPEAKER



NADIM COSTA – SPEAKER

GLOBAL MISSIONS (CONTINUED)

God Always Goes Before Us Alex and Amy Galloway Novo/SentWell, Spain

We were riding a wave of momentum when we last visited First Evan for the 2020 missions conference. Just two weeks later, the entire world shut down for the pandemic, and we, along with our college-aged children, went into lockdown in a borrowed home, and the world entered a weird COVID-limbo.

But we have good news! God has not been caught off guard by this national and global upheaval. He is already ten steps ahead of what is unfolding in real time here in our lives. Right now, all we can see is crumbling structures, scattered sheep, and broken relationships. But God is already putting into place the things that will be needed in the coming years to face new realities of the unfolding times.

Our ministry in Southern Spain is to provide emotional and spiritual care for missionaries on the field. We provide preventative and crisis care through retreats, counseling, and training. In the year before the pandemic, we turned away 151 missionaries for care.

Apparently, God knows the need for missionary care is only going to increase in coming days, because surprisingly, the momentum we had going into 2020 did not slow; in fact, it hit warp speed! In 2020 alone, we received TEN new team members. We hadn't had ten new team members in the last 10 years!

Then, in 2021, after looking for years for a property for retreats and missionary care, a perfect house surfaced with an adjacent lot for expansion. Then as we began to share with donors, God brought in \$650,000 in November and December alone. We are nearly halfway to the money needed for this center, praise God!

While the rest of the world has been in lockdown, God has been rapidly arranging things here to expand our staff and facilities so that when the dust clears from the pandemic, we will be strategically positioned to provide for the sobering challenges that we see on the horizon.

As we face 2022 still needing to raise \$800,000, we are clinging to Isaiah 65:24 which says, "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Be encouraged that despite what we see around us, God is going BEFORE us in these extraordinary days.

For more information about our ministry, 2022 Service Trips on the new property, or to receive our updates, please contact: amy.galloway@novo.org. In case you feel led to give to this missionary retreat center, visit <https://sentwellcenter.novostaff.org>.



Are We Doing Short-Term Mission Trips?

COVID has dramatically changed the landscape when it comes to Short-Term Missions Trips. Just when we think that international travel will return to some normalcy, COVID throws us a curve.

Short-Term Missions Trips are still a strategic tool that First Evan uses to 1) bless the Missionaries and/or National Partners with whom we work, and 2) increase a passion for Global Missions within our congregation.

While several trips are in the discussion phase, there is one trip that is on the calendar. We have again been invited to send people to the **Czech Republic** to assist our ministry partners there (**In-Life**) in an English Camp. University students, who are believers, invite their non-Christian friends to a beautiful venue in the Czech mountains to learn conversational English from Americans. We have had the privilege of providing "teachers" since 2001. The trip is the third week of July, with travel to and from the Czech Republic on weekends before and after the Camp.

If you are interested in this trip or another kind of trip, please contact the [Global Missions Office](#).

Global Missions Team Recommendations

The Global Missions Team is seeking recommendations for new members to serve a three-year term. They must be committed members of First Evan with a deep interest in missions and have sufficient time and concern for worldwide missions to make a meaningful commitment to the GMT. First Evan members may send recommendations to missions@first-evan.org or speak to any current GMT member.



Family First Sunday

Sunday, February 6

10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Every first Sunday of the month will be Family First Sundays—where our K-3rd graders will join us for family-friendly worship in the Sanctuary!

Parents, please remember to pick your child up from Sunday School on First Sundays.

Inviting our children to corporate worship once a month will help them to become familiar with corporate worship, will mix the generations, and will allow kids the opportunity to partake in (if ready) and/or observe the ordinance of Communion.

[Click here for a guide to Teaching Your Child About Communion.](#)



Child Dedication

Sunday, February 20

10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

If you are interested in dedicating your child, please sign up by next Sunday, February 6 at www.firstevan.org/childdedication.

A Look at February



LEARN - SUNDAY SCHOOL

FEB 6: God Gave the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19-20)

FEB 13: The People Worshiped a Golden Calf (Exodus 32-34)

FEB 20: The People Built the Tabernacle (Exodus 35-40)

FEB 27: God Deserves Our Worship (Leviticus 1-4)



LOVE - Children's Church

February Big Picture Question:

What is Worship?

Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.



LIVE - Midweek

February Memory Verse

*Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.*

Psalm 95:6-7

February Spiritual Discipline: **Worship**

KMC 2022: "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands!"

Beginning this February!

A graphic for Kids Missions Conference 2022. It features a dark blue globe on a stand with the text 'KMC 2022' at the top and 'HE'S GOT THE WHOLE world in HIS HANDS' written across the globe. To the right of the globe is a light blue box with white text providing details about the conference.

Kids Missions Conference
Age 4 through 5th grade

Kickoff: Friday, February 25
6:30-8:00 p.m.
(Childcare for ages 3 & under)

Sundays, February 27,
March 6, & 13
10:45 a.m.-noon

www.firstevan.org/kmc

Join us for KMC 2022! Sir Lexalot is back—and this time he'll lead our kids on a walk down the "Roman Road"! Our hope is that your children will leave KMC armored up with the truth and ready to share the good news of the gospel wherever God leads them!

On Saturdays, we offer childcare for kids (ages 3 and under) of those attending the Global Missions Focus seminars (email children@firstevan.org). On Sundays, we will travel to France, Nepal, and Egypt where we will learn about the cultures by tasting foods and making crafts. And we will hear from members of First Evan who have done ministry work in these countries!

STUDENTS



Student Ministries Lock-out

Friday-Saturday, February 18-19
9:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. | Cost: \$50

Join us for our first ever Lock-out! We will be doing a photo scavenger hunt to start the night. We have also rented out Main Event for laser tag, bowling, and arcade games! Bring your friends! Register [here](#).



Student Ministries Midweek

Wednesdays, Now-May 4

Meet us on Wednesdays at Midweek! We play games and have small groups. We are in our series called, "Believe," all about apologetics. For this series, we encourage students to bring a notebook and a pen!



Sunday School

Sundays, January 30, February 6, 13, & 20, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Gym

For Sunday School, Student Ministries will be participating in the "Further Up and Further In" event. For those four weeks, we will meet in the gym to engage cross generationally.

YOUNG ADULTS



Break

Sunday, February 6
7:00 p.m., The Hall's House

Meet us for our monthly worship, prayer, and teaching time! All young adults are welcome. Message Kassie Sanborn at ksanborn@firstevan.org for the address and/or details.



Small Groups

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., The Hall's House OR Fridays, 10:00 a.m., Belltower Coffeehouse

Two weekly group options now! Join us weekly as we study through the book of Jonah! All young adults are welcome. Message Kassie Sanborn at ksanborn@firstevan.org for the address and/or details.



Young Adults Beach Trip

Monday-Friday, May 9-13
Gulf Shores, AL | Cost: \$175

Come relax with us in our beach house and invite your friends! We have 36 spots available—reserve yours today!

PAYMENT PLAN:

February: \$50

March: \$50

April: \$50

May: \$15

Venmo @fecmemphis

Follow us @fec.youngadults

MEMPHIS MINISTRIES



Meet Memphis

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, April 2, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

We will collaborate with our Memphis Ministries Partners across the city in service, hospitality, and relationship-building! If you've been involved in one of our First Evan ministry partners before, this is a chance to invite others to join you in seeking the peace and thriving of Memphis. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve our city, Meet Memphis is a natural entry point to connect with a Memphis ministry. In years past we have held volunteer appreciation events, block parties, manual labor projects, and we need your help! Projects for MEET MEMPHIS are coming together in the next few weeks and registration will open in late February. We anticipate a great event and hope you'll join us! Visit www.firstevan.org/meetmemphis.

ADULTS

ACT II Widows Fellowship

Monday, February 7
10:00 a.m., Chapel

A group for widows that meet the first Monday of each month in the Chapel for prayer and fellowship, unless we have an outing. Our outreach is with our new widows in their first year of widowhood. For more information about this ministry please contact Cathy Graham at cathygraham@icloud.com or 685-1028 or 299-1426 (cell).

SAVE THE DATES:

IRL Weekend: April 8-10

Spaghetti Lunch & Auction:

April 24

		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		H2H Women's Bible Study with Luncheon 1 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall	Midweek Fellowship Meal & Activities 2 5:00-8:00 p.m.	3	4	A Colorful Day 5 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
SUNDAY	MONDAY					
Fur. Up & In 6 9:30-10:30 a.m., Gym Communion Family First Sunday 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary Shepherdology 101 6:00-7:45 p.m., E125/126 Break 7:00 p.m., The Hall's Home	7 Men's Bible Study Begins 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	H2H Women's Bible Study 8 9:30-11:30 a.m., F-Hall	Men's Bible Study Begins 9 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Midweek Fellowship Meal & Activities 5:00-8:00 p.m.	10	11	12
Further Up & Further In 13 9:30-10:30 a.m., Gym	14 Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	H2H Women's Bible Study 15 9:30-11:30 a.m., F-Hall Council Meeting 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall	Men's Bible Study 16 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Midweek Fellowship Meal & Activities 5:00-8:00 p.m.	17	18 Student Ministries Lock-out >> 9:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.	19
Further Up & In 20 9:30 a.m., Gym Palm Sunday Lunch & Preview 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall SS Leaders Meeting 4:30-5:30 p.m., E125/126 Shepherdology 101 6:00-7:45 p.m., E125/126	Presidents' Day 21 Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	H2H Women's Bible Study 22 9:30-11:30 a.m., F-Hall	Men's Bible Study 23 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom Midweek Fellowship Meal & Activities 5:00-8:00 p.m. GMF Interviews 6:15-8:00 p.m., A121/122	24	GMF Kickoff Meal 25 5:00-6:15 p.m., F-Hall GMF Service 6:30-8:00 p.m., Sanctuary KMC Kickoff 6:30-8:00 p.m., C210	26 National Partner Panel Discussion 9:00-11:00 a.m., F-Hall
GMF & KMC 27 Palm Sunday Rehearsal 1:15-3:15 p.m., Sanctuary Shepherdology 101 6:00-7:45 p.m., E125/126	28 Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135	<h1>FEBRUARY 2022</h1>				