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Bringing the Gospel to the Basques



What do amazing food, an unreached people group, and NAMB (North American Mission Board) church planting have in common? Downtown Boise!

The Basque are the most famous people in the world of whom no one has ever heard. They built and sailed Columbus' ships to the new world. They were the first to bring chocolate to Europe, circumnavigated the globe with Magellan, and have gastronomy that is world-renowned. Yet, they remain a people unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While most Basques would tell you they are Catholic, the vast majority only have a cultural identity with the church and no real religious practice. It is estimated that they are 0.03% evangelical, with no church that is Basque in its culture or identity. They have a language that is unrelated to any other and may be the oldest in Europe.

So, what does this have to do with Boise? Boise is home to more than 16,000 Basques, the largest concentration of Basques outside of their homeland in northern Spain and southern France. They started immigrating in the 19th century to herd sheep and continue to arrive today, working in all sectors of life and community. The Basque community remains a very tight-knit group that holds tightly to their cultural identity. While most now speak English as their first language, Euskara (or "Basque") is widely spoken by many from 5th to 1st generation Basque Americans. Hidden in the plain sight of Caucasian America, the Basque remain in desperate need of the Gospel. There are Basque restaurants, dance groups, choirs, clubs, sports leagues, and even a museum, but no Basque church. As a people on mission, what we must see in this unique situation is opportunity!

Matthew and Bethany McDonald moved their family to Boise in April as NAMB church planters. Their goal is to do what has never been done—to start a Basque church! The word Etxea (Eh-chay-uh) is a Basque word that means "house or home" and is traditionally the generational "house of my father." The Lord has given the McDonalds the vision that in Etxea Church, the Basque would feel the call of God to come to the house of their heavenly Father. What would it look like for God to begin a church in Boise that then started churches in other Basque communities in the United States and in their homeland in Europe? The McDonalds are praying that He would do exactly that, and they have hit the ground running.

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Moderator's Message

Hebrews 12 lays out a call that, for certain people, at certain times may be difficult. This call is to endure, press on, rise above circumstances, and remain steadfast in one's faith. Seems simple, right? For the Hebrews to whom this letter was written, receiving this call to endure meant that they were to continue in faith even while being severely persecuted, so much that they considered walking away from the truth of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever considered walking away, saying, "I can no longer do this"? Maybe you have not considered leaving your faith in Jesus Christ, but what about your local church, your denomination, or perhaps even the roles you have been called to serve in these areas? I will admit that I have, even in the recent past, considered these options. However, there are always two lingering questions that remain. They haunt my thoughts and cause my stomach to turn as I wrestle with them. What will I turn to, and where will I go? I am not speaking in the physical sense but the spiritual.

The short answer is that there is nowhere else to go and nothing else to which to turn. No matter what we think in our minds, what picture we attempt to paint for our future, or what greener grass ministry we believe is out there, we have nothing else to turn and nowhere else to go. For myself, Jesus was the answer 19 years ago when I surrendered my life to Him, and He is the answer today. This call to endure means I am to press on with my eyes on Christ. Paul gives us all a great example of how to do this in Galatians 2:20. He writes that he has been crucified with Christ and that he no longer lives, but instead, Christ lives in him. So, I press on, daily dying to myself and seeking our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be the life inside me.

Mike Ellis, TVSBA Moderator

Bringing the Gospel to the Basques, cont. from page 1



Through volunteering at the Basque Museum, Matthew and Bethany have been building relationships in the Basque community. This summer, teams from Florida and Tennessee joined forces to help do evangelism in this new work. Through community surveys, café conversations, prayer walking, attending community cultural events, and serving at a Basque festival downtown, these 18 volunteers helped the McDonalds make new contacts with people at various interest levels. One week later, a team from Salmon Valley Baptist Church and a fellow church planter, David Pryor, joined the McDonalds for the "Basque to School" block party downtown. Using the TVSBA block party trailer, they served chorizo, bottled water, popcorn, cotton

candy, and snow cones to 176 people throughout the evening on the Basque block. They also gave out over 200 backpacks, played with families on bounce houses and lawn games, gave out Bibles, and shared the Gospel with all who would listen.

The result of all these activities is a list of 45 contacts, with more than a dozen that are interested in Bible studies. Thank you for giving to support this incredible work that God is doing. Pray that as the McDonalds follow up with people over the next few weeks, that new Bible studies would begin that lead to disciples that make disciples. Pray, also, for events going on this fall that will help this team to continue to engage with this people precious to the Lord. If you would like to be involved in what God is doing through this work, contact Matthew at matthew@etxeachurch.org.





**Treasure Valley
Southern Baptist Association**

The LORD
lifts up
those who are
bowed down:
the LORD
loves
the righteous.

Psalm 146:8

Annual Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022

9 a.m.

(8:30 a.m. registration),

**Pierce Park Baptist
Church**

**5350 Pierce Park Lane,
Boise, 83714**

R.S.V.P. to

tvsgbaoffice.mring@gmail.com



IDAHO BAPTIST
COLLEGE, INC

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEMINAR

Sponsored by Emmanuel Baptist Church, Idaho Baptist College, and Cadence Ministries

PLEASE RSVP: EASTERLILY1109@GMAIL.COM

When: Friday Sept. 30, 2022 at 6:30pm – 9:00pm MST

Saturday Oct. 1, 2022 at 10:00am – 2:00pm MST

Where: Emmanuel Baptist Church, 3850 Airbase Rd. Mountain Home, ID

Cost: \$5 each at the door --- Saturday lunch included!!!

Babysitting available from birth to 2 years.

With your RSVP, please let us know how many are coming and babysitting information.



A study of the family from a Christian perspective, focusing on dating, courtship, marriage, child-rearing, financial matters, and various developmental stages of family life.

WEBSITE: idahobaptistcollege.com

EMAIL: info@idahobaptistcollege.com

Christmas Dinner & Fellowship

Pastors and Wives
Support Staff and Spouses



Friday, December 2, 2022

(6:30 p.m. appetizers; 7 p.m. dinner)

Location to be decided. We'll keep you posted!

R.S.V.P. to Michele at tvbsbaoffice.mring@gmail.com



CHURCH NAME	TOTAL
Agua Viva	\$ 90.00
Anchor Baptist	
Bend	\$ 650.00
Boise Korean	\$ 300.00
Boise River, Mtn. Home	
Calvary, Boise	\$ 2,438.68
Calvary Church, Nampa	\$ 1,535.60
Calvary, Weiser	\$ 100.00
Central Valley, Cascade	\$ 1,601.00
Central Valley, Meridian	\$ 6,000.00
College Baptist, Meridian	\$ 25.00
Crosspoint, Caldwell	\$ 1,313.73
Emmanuel Baptist, MH	\$ 2,275.65
First Baptist, Fruitland	\$ 351.00
FSBC, Mountain Home	\$ 6,227.32
Idaho Vision Church	
Iglesia Bautista de la Gracia	
Iglesia Bautista de Peniel	\$ 500.00
Ig. Bautista Nueva Esperanza, Caldwell	\$ 205.00
Ig. Baut. Nueva Esperanza, Ontario	\$ 245.00
Lizard Butte	\$ 559.73
New Covenant	\$ 4,641.00
New Life Baptist, Ontario	\$ 406.90
Pierce Park	\$ 1,025.00
Restored Community	\$ 500.00
Riverside Church, Emmett	\$ 2,410.00
Sand Hollow	
Silver Sage Baptist	\$ 502.00
Trinity Baptist	\$ 350.00
University Baptist	\$ 1,851.87
Word of Truth	\$ 50.00
YTD CHURCH GIVING	\$ 36,154.48
BUDGET PROJECTION TO DATE	\$ 31,500.00
OVER (UNDER) Budget	\$ 4,654.48

SPECIAL THANKS to the individual donors who gave \$11,000 toward our camp programs.



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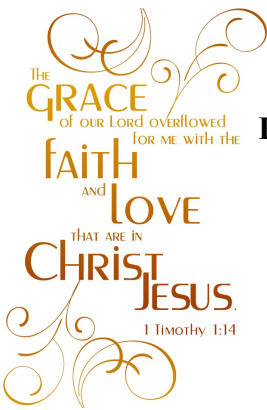
Michele Ring
 Administrative Assistant
 tvsbaoffice.mring@gmail.com
 (Contact--M-Th., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

EVENT REGISTRATION ADDRESS

For all camps, retreats,
 & block party trailer usage
Michele Ring, TVSBA Assistant
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Mountain Home, ID 83647



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MOUNTAIN HOME
ID
PERMIT NO 14



PO BOX 414
Emmett, ID 83617

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“A network of churches cooperation to assist each other in fulfilling the Great Commission.”



WORSHIP
with us

**RESTORED COMMUNITY CHURCH
3633 W. FLOATING FEATHER RD
EAGLE, IDAHO 83616**

FIFTH SUNDAY SING

Sunday
30
October
6 p.m.

Fellowship to Follow
Bring a musical special to share, if you'd like.
A fellowship of the Treasure Valley Southern Baptist Association