



SEPTEMBER 2009

[fbcmodesto.com](http://fbcmodesto.com)

## From Pastor Wade



I remember only one “sort-of” word to an old song: “Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes ...”

The word runs through my mind as I write this note to you. I have been on the pastoral staff of FBC for almost 29 years. I don’t know of a ch-ch-change in church life that affects people more than pastoral staff changes. And I guess that’s the way it should be.

We’ve been blessed with many great pastors in the years I’ve been here. If you’ve been around more than 20 years, you’ll remember pastors Bill Yaeger, Peter Johansen, Bill Stewart, Ron Blanc, Loyal Friesen, Jerry Collins, Louis Witt and other great servants of our Lord. Each one was different in personality, gifts and ministry ... and

each one deeply loved by many.

It’s not often that we see three of our pastors leave in a matter of months, and the rattle of “ch-ch-changes” moves through the church. Couple this with the many changes in our city, county, state and nation, and it can be downright unnerving and worrisome.

I’m going to miss Mike Moran and Matt Moore. I miss Mike Emmert already. But I respect their decisions. I believe they are acting on God’s leading, and that God will bring us great servants He has already prepared to take up ministry among us.

Please pray for one another, pray for Mike, Matt and Mike as they work through transitions, and pray God will help us locate His choice servant pastors to continue and expand His work among us.

God will help us and sustain us through these changes. He always has!

Wade

Junior High Pastor Matt Moore will become Pastor To Families at San Ramon's Church of the Valley on September 20.

While it's hard to say good-bye to this couple we've grown to love over the last two years, it's clear that the opportunities awaiting them are exciting and God-ordained.

The Moores return to their home church where Kelsey's dad, Mike Pedlowe is senior pastor. Matt's new position replaces two pastors from that church who have recently been called to other ministries. He will not only lead children and youth, but also minister to families and occasionally preach.

"Although we're sad to see Matt go," says our high school pastor, Jeff Harmon, "we're thankful for the creativity and energy he has brought to the junior high ministry over these past few years. Our junior high students have been challenged to grow in faith and reach their friends because of Matt and Kelsey's ministry. I will miss Matt's passion for the lost



and the way his life demonstrates the value of the potential of young people."

Matt says, "I'm returning to the church I came from, but being here in Modesto has really helped me mature and grow. Now I'm ready to have more responsibility. I'm really looking forward to the challenge. I want to see God work in the lives of families."

During Matt's two years leading our junior high ministry, many students have given their lives to Christ. "That's one of the highlights," says Matt. "I'm also grateful that we have had such a great team of volunteers reaching these kids."

Matt fondly recalls the creative ways his team made Wednesday nights the place to be for students. "When we did 'The Price Is Right' 40 guests came. That night, amid the fun and craziness, a dozen kids accepted Christ and they are still around!"

Matt continues, "Every camp has been better than the previous, with each one being incredible. Another great thing: we challenged students to be in the Word every day for a year. We took 10 students who achieved this to Disneyland. They are still going strong.

"I'd like the students to know I'm going to miss them," says Matt. "I've loved being their pastor and I look forward to seeing them grow in their faith and stay connected as years go by."

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# Defining Moments: SoulScape

“My defining moment came when I realized that I can always be friends with God and keep talking to Him.”

“The puzzle pieces reminded me that God knows the big picture. I am going to take mine home, put it in a frame and write the Romans 8:28 verse to include with it.”

“My defining moment came with Romans 8:28 when I realized God really does work for good even though it feels the opposite of good for me.”

“God opened the door for me to meet someone who is not a Christian. God’s laid it on my heart to pray for her now and after SoulScape.”

“Psalm 139 showed me that God knows exactly what’s going on in our lives. I also have the reassurance of Heaven.”

“I have something to focus on with new challenges: to meet with God on a daily basis since I don’t know where the puzzle piece goes.”

Those comments are from some of the 102 women of all ages gathering at Old Oak Ranch for their annual SoulScape retreat on a warm summer weekend in August. Some were there for rest and refreshing, some to reconnect with old friends and some to make new ones. Some were there with desperation to connect with God, needing a fresh wind to blow through

their hearts. None were disappointed.

Guest speaker Debbie Alsdorf shared from her life, her pain from being a rejected pastor’s wife when he left her, the deep depression that resulted and God’s renewal in her life through Psalm 139 and Romans 8:28. Using illustrations familiar to all women, she challenged everyone to grow “Deeper in Him.” She taught the core truths that God’s love knows us, protects us, made us and values us. She used a beautiful puzzle picture to illustrate what God sees and the pieces inside that often make no sense alone. Each woman walked forward to pick a piece of the puzzle out of the box to take home to remind her that God is in control of her life and can be trusted.

Everyone came away from the retreat with a deeper understanding of what it means to be “Deeper in Him.”

by Jackie Tharpe



## Matt and Kelsey Moore Returning Continued

Matt says it’s clear to Kelsey and him that God has said it’s okay to go back to San Ramon. Both the senior pastor and the worship pastor have had cancer, and while they are doing better, Matt senses that he could share the weight of ministry. He longs to help them and God has opened the door so Matt can do just that.

He adds, “I’m only 45 minutes away, so you’ll see my face here visiting now and then. We are all part of God’s Church!”

# Amazed In Mexico

For a Californian, Mexico often lives in our imaginations as a country much like our own, just a little poorer and maybe more unsettled. But when 24 First B students and eight staff members went there to build houses for needy Mexican families, we were

by Paul Mollett

reminded just how different life there can be as we saw what poverty looks like.

Our journey and our labor bonded us because of Christ's presence.

Without Him, the project could have been a good community service project, albeit exhausting. Leaving early from Modesto, we were able to set up camp at our Mexican destination before nightfall. Anticipating a hard week to come,

we awoke early Monday and headed to the work site where we saw what was very common in Mexican home construction - garage doors and random scraps of plywood thrown together with nails. These were the walls of homes. Bathrooms were roofed with scrounged items like the roof of an old van.

Taking notice of these poor conditions we jumped right into our work, knowing we were working with God's energy and because of His calling. We began mixing cement

slabs and framing walls. Day two was exciting because we saw the two houses take the shape of actual houses. With walls going up first thing on Tuesday

everyone was excited. Seeing the roof being squared and nailed in, we finished Tuesday's workday ahead of schedule with our house fully roofed, tarpapered, chicken-wired and windows installed.

On Wednesday, we began to finish the job we had started by applying two coats of stucco and finishing minor details of what was now a new home.

We were a little emotional as we watched our team foreman hand the keys of these two houses to their new owners. The families were so deeply thankful for the blessing of a home, the best way

they could thank us was cook the food we had brought for dinner - Mexican style. We shared this amazing meal with them. Some of the kids in the area found out that there was going to be food that day, and we had lots of little helpers running around on the work site!

Because we finished our workday early, we had planned to relax the next day. Plans changed when we received word that a slab needed to be poured for another house. We were tired but willing to do anything we could to help finish another home so another family could enjoy what many of us take for granted. We finished the cement slab that day, and our sponsors, Amor Ministries, said we did it in record time.

The joy of a job well done motivated us to do excellent work as we finished



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# Amazed In Mexico Continued

the stucco on yet another house. On day four we finished that slab in record time, as well as the stucco on an unfinished house, cleaned all of our tools, ate lunch and still arrived back at camp by 1:30 pm to enjoy our day of rest and relaxation.

On Friday, we woke up early, packed everything from our campsite and headed home with a new understanding of the different ways God works to show His love. Many of us also came home with a thankful

heart for everything we use on a daily basis - things that are not even options in Mexico, like showers with running water!

It was awesome to see God work through high school students to change the lives of those who are less fortunate. We did see poverty up close, but we also witnessed pure gratefulness and joy as the people responded to the love of Christ.



## Talk Around The Rock

Our church recently hosted the memorial service for Sgt. Steven May, the police officer who for seven years had been in a coma as a result of a car accident that happened in the line of duty. About 753 attended the service, and 600 were uniformed officers. They shared a meal together in the Pavilion after the service.

That same week we hosted a funeral service for Donald Lichliter, a CalTrans worker hit by a vehicle as he worked on the highway. Of the 1,065 who attended that service, 695 were CalTrans workers in their orange and green safety shirts.

It was an honor to help bless the grieving families, friends and our community by providing a space and support for these two events. The message of Jesus was clear in both services.

Judi Paterson, wife of Pastor Ross, spent part of her childhood on the mission field in New Guinea where her dad and mom served for seven years. Their mode of transportation was her dad Frank's beloved 1955 DOT Scrambler motorcycle, a bike that proved invaluable in family emergencies, as well as those of locals and other missionaries.

On their recent sabbatical trip to their native New Zealand, Ross and Judi heard how Frank, now retired, had been searching for another DOT Scrambler. His heart was set on once again owning this favorite mode of transportation, but he was told only six had ever been imported to New Zealand. When he found one for sale, he discovered it was the very bike he had treasured on the mission field all those years ago! Frank bought the bike and fully restored it, and this November he will ride it 1,242 miles across New Zealand to raise money for Missionary Aviation Fellowship.



# Seeing God Work In Costa Rica

What can God do when we focus our hearts around His work? That's the question 17 students and staff hoped to answer as they prepared to serve the people of Costa Rica in July.

Our plan was to serve alongside the ministry of the Guaycara Baptist

Temple and Pastor Rogelio Taylor in Rio

by Pastor Jeff Harmon

Claro, a town of about 8,000 people located in the southern tip of Costa Rica, far from any tourist attractions. Pastor Rogelio began the church seven years ago in an area where there is very little Christian influence. The church has grown steadily, but being the only pastor and employee of the

church is more than a full-time job for Rogelio. His wife, Johanna, helps with leading worship and organizes programs for children and youth. Our goal for the week

was to provide ministry that would encourage the church and reach new people for Christ in Rio Claro. We planned a Vacation Bible School for the kids and basic English workshops for the adults. God had some great things in store.

The first day of our VBS was a great success with 85 kids arriving to participate in crafts, games, songs, Bible stories and snacks. As we taught the kids about God's great love for them, we built great friendships with them and the Costa Rican teenage helpers. Each day new kids came. Toward the end of the week, when

Pastor Rogelio gave an invitation to the kids to receive Christ as their Savior over 60 kids responded. It was an incredible moment. At the end of each day, all the groups came together to sing and celebrate what God was doing.

Each evening, we built relationships with teens and adults as we taught basic English. Many Costa Ricans are eager to learn English because that skill opens job opportunities for them. Students took detailed notes and loved to try their new talent with anyone who would listen. Many new people who had never come to church participated, and they all received an invitation to return to a church service. Rogelio and others of the church will continue

nurturing these relationships in the hopes that they will soon give their lives to the Lord.

One of the sweetest aspects of the whole trip was the relationships



formed with the teens of Rio Claro. Even when we were just playing soccer or hanging out and eating ice cream, God was at work. Over the course of our trip, we came to see that our Costa Rican friends were not very different from us. They are growing in their faith and learning how to be better followers of Jesus. Even though we don't speak the same language, we serve the same God, and that gives us unity.

So what can God do when His people focus their hearts around His work? We now know that He can do mighty things, and the impact of our trip to Costa Rica will be felt for many years.

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# Big News: Around The Rock Becomes Weekly Update

Since 1996, Around The Rock has arrived in mailboxes at the start of each month, bringing inspiring stories, ministry reports and information to the First B family. Starting next month, Around The Rock becomes an electronic newsletter that will arrive in your inbox every week.

The weekly update will make it possible to communicate timely stories and up-to-date information to our church family. Because of the cost of conventional printing and mailing, the effectiveness of Around The Rock has proven to be increasingly limited, allowing for a monthly newsletter only, rendering many stories out of date. With an e-newsletter we can bring the latest news and most current stories to local homes as well as to our friends around the world.

The newsletter will continue to offer inspiring stories about God working in lives. Each week you'll read about the focus of upcoming

weekend services. You'll also be informed about campus activities, events, news from across the globe, and occasionally you'll see special messages from the pastor.

An e-newsletter is good stewardship, saving about \$19,000 each year. It also frees up our communications staff to be more creative and effective in the other projects for which they're responsible.

You'll be able to sign up for the newsletter online or at church soon. We know that some of you don't have computers. There will be other new ways to keep you informed and in the loop!

You can contribute inspirational story ideas! We want to know about how God is intersecting lives and how He's changing people. If you have a story that brings glory to Him, let us know! Simply email **Update@fbcmodesto.com**. We can't cover all the stories folks send in, but we'll certainly try.

## Seeing God Work In Costa Rica Continued





# SEPTEMBER 2009

## Women's Ministries

### **Sisters begins Sept 13**

- 9 am, Office Bldg, rm 207
- *Gripped by the Greatness of God*

### **GriefShare begins Sept 16**

- 6:30-8:30 pm, 1325 11th St
- 13-week support group for women grieving the loss of someone close
- Contact Pat:  
pshuman@fbcmoesto.com

### **Bunko Night, Friday, Sept 18**

- 7-9 pm, The Point, downstairs
- Small fee

### **Fall Groups begin in September**

- Various days, times and locations
- Details in the kiosks or online
- Childcare for Tuesday morning groups only

### **MOPS begins in September**

- For mothers of preschoolers
- First and third Thursdays; Bible study on second Thursday

### **Encouragement and Prayer Groups**

- Perfect Gifts, for moms of children with special needs
- Contact Kathy: ext. 2121 or kweltner@fbcmoesto.com

Women's Ministries questions?  
extension 2316

## Young Marrieds & Young Families

### **Sundays**

- 9:10 am, Pavilion Garden
- Marriage Focus begins Sept 6

Young Marrieds & Young Families questions? extension 2373

## On-line Giving Available

### **Visit [fbcmoesto.com](http://fbcmoesto.com)**

- A safe and secure way to give
- Pull down the Resources menu to begin

On-line Giving questions?  
extension 2360

## Church Office Closed

### Monday, September 7

In honor of  
Labor Day

## Home Groups

### Home Groups – a place to belong

- Connect with other adults
- Study God's Word
- Various groups and locations
- Call or go to [fbcmodesto.com](http://fbcmodesto.com)

Home Group questions?  
extension 2370

## Monday Night Church

### Service and Meal

- Monday, Sept 14, 21, 28
- 6 pm, Pavilion

### Volunteer Opportunities Available

- Assisting students

Monday Night Church questions?  
extension 2350

## Membership Class

### New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, Sept 13, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931
- Taught by various pastors
- A basic introduction to First B and how to get connected, no need to pre-register for this class, start with any session

Membership questions?  
extension 2370

## Recovery In Christ

### Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

### Search For Significance For Women

- Thursdays, 7 pm, Pavilion Garden

### Thursdays, 7 pm, Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

*Various groups available for men and women. Our recovery ministry is designed to help people work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone.*

### Divorce Care

- Beginning Sept 3
- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Family Room

Recovery In Christ questions?  
extension 2350

## Military Prayer Wall

### Prayer Cards Available

- Remember to pray for those who are serving in the armed forces
- Pick up a prayer card in the worship center lobby on Sundays, next to the Military Prayer Wall

### Let Us Know

- If there has been a change in the status of your friend or loved one
- Forms available in the lobby next to the wall or go to [fbcmodesto.com](http://fbcmodesto.com)

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

### Junior High

#### Fusion Center Stage

- Sundays, 9 am, Chapel

#### Fusion Inside Out Small Groups

- Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, Chapel

#### Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhigh.com

### High School

#### The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Concourse

#### 128/Fuel Groups

- Wednesdays
- 6:45 pm, Pavilion Concourse

#### Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

### College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

#### IGNITE - Sundays

- 7 pm, Pavilion Concourse

#### Potato/Salad Bar

- Sunday, Sept 20 after IGNITE

#### Fall Retreat

- Oct 2-4, Chinquapin, \$90

#### Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

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Student Ministries questions?

extension 2506/2508

## Single Adults

### Single Focus

- Sundays, 9 am, The Point, upstairs
- This month *Our Relationships - What's Happening?*

### Camping trip

- Get details from Terry, 304-4953

Single Adult questions?

extension 2373

## Park Cafe

### An Opportunity To Have Fun And Serve At The Same Time!

- Be a part of this hospitality ministry during the second hour on Sundays
- It's fun and training is provided
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?

extension 2373

## Family Dynamics Marriage • Family • Parenting

### Sundays

- 9 am, The Point, downstairs
- *A Life With James* – learn about what makes healthy relationships in our marriages and families

Family Dynamics questions?

extension 2373

## Men's Ministries

### Men's Small Groups

- Various times and locations

### Soft Top and Sports Car Run

- Saturday, Sept 19

Men's Ministries questions?

extension 2355

## Pacesetters

### Sundays

- 10:30 am, Pavilion Garden
- *Luke, Christian Ethics and A Christian's Closer Walk With Christ*

### Annual Concert & Dessert with

#### Guest Singer: Ms. Lillie Knauls

- Friday, Sept 25, 6:30 pm
- Tickets on sale in the street on Sundays or in the church office

### Sunday Lunch Bunch

- Sept 13, noon
- Pavilion Garden
- Single adult women 55+

### Modesto Rotary Senior Fun Walk

- Friday, Sept 4
- Breakfast, walk and goodies
- East La Loma Park, Edgebrook Ave

### Bowling Meeting and Signups

- Wednesday, Sept 9, 12:30 pm
- McHenry Bowl, Modesto

Pacesetters questions?

extension 2355

## First B Prayer List

### Pastoral Staff

Wade Estes  
*Senior Pastor*

Tom La Core  
*Children's Ministries/Membership*

Jeff Harmon  
*High School Ministries*

Travis Edgerton  
*Student Worship Ministries*

Gary Kuhlman  
*Interim College Ministries*

Paul Zeek  
*Adult Ministries*

Ross Paterson  
*Senior Adults/Men's Ministries*

Terry Benner  
*Singles & Marriage Ministries*

Gayleen Terry  
*Pastoral Ministries, Women*

Cliff Sexton  
*Pastoral Ministries*

Claude Terry  
*World & Local Outreach*

Larry Bull  
*Worship Pastor*

Paul Andrew  
*Business Administrator*

### Board of Deacons

Corey Acree • Greg Blount  
James Davis • Ted Dickason  
Curtis Grant • Sean Hulin  
Dennis Hurst • Rick Myers  
Randy Reeves • Dennis Smith  
Steve Strand • Ben Ward

## Worship

### Worship Choir

- Rehearsals begin Thursday, Sept 17
- 7 pm, The Point, downstairs
- High school age and up

### Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm, Worship Center
- High school age and up

Worship Ministry questions?  
extension 2113

## Believer's Baptism

### Sunday, October 25

- 9 & 10:45 am
- An opportunity to express your faith in Jesus Christ publicly and allow others to share in your joy

*If you'd like to be baptized, please call the church office*

Baptism questions?  
extension 2370

## First B Saturday Night

### Worship Service

- 6:00, Chapel
- Music with a guitar-driven feel
- Live teaching brings practical information from the Bible that will make a difference in your life
- Children's programs

First B Saturday Night questions?  
call 521-0181

## World Outreach

### Reception for Yousef Dakwar

- Sunday, September 20, 5:30 pm
- Pavilion Garden level

### Night of Prayer For The World

- First Monday each month
- Cancelled this month due to Labor Day

### Chinese Ministry • Sunday

- 9 am, adult Sunday school, The Point, upstairs
- 10:45 am, worship service, The Point, upstairs

### Laotian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, 1325 11th St

### Cambodian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, Office Bldg, rms 207 & 213

World Outreach questions?  
extension 2320

## Kid Country

### Totally Tweenage Movie Night

- Friday, Sept 4
- 6:30 pm
- Sports Court

### Good News Bible Clubs In City Schools

- You can provide prayer support, supplies or teach

### Christian Martial Arts Class

- Ages 8-17
- Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am
- The Family Room
- Small monthly fee

### Opportunities Still Available

- Many opportunities for you to help children learn more about Jesus
- Fill out a 2009 Kid Country helper card and turn it in Sunday

Kid Country questions?  
extension 2120