
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JACKSONVILLE

ADVANCE

INSIDE & OUTSIDE
THE WALLS

ADVANCE: verb \əd-'van(t)s\

to move or bring forward; to bring into consideration or notice; promote:



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JACKSONVILLE
AFTER THE "GREAT FIRE OF 1901"

MAY 1

1901

The “Great Fire of 1901” erupted in the heart of Jacksonville, destroying 146 city blocks, displacing 10,000 people, and destroying more than 2,500 buildings, including the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville.

The city was in ruins.

Undeterred by the destruction and the daunting task, Dr. W.A. Hobson and his flock of 150 **RESOLVED TO REBUILD**. The church had persevered through three name changes, occupation during the Civil War, and a court intervention during their 62-year history. This fire, albeit a great one, would not thwart the **ADVANCEMENT OF GOD’S KINGDOM** through FBC JAX.

February 2, 1903. The cornerstone of the new sanctuary was laid at the intersection of Duval and Hogan.

A **FOUNDATION OF FAITH** was rebuilt in the heart of downtown Jacksonville.

It was only **THE BEGINNING** of things to come.



FEBRUARY 2

1903

W. A. HOBSON

SO THE WALL WAS COMPLETED...WHEN ALL OUR ENEMIES HEARD OF IT, AND ALL THE NATIONS SURROUNDING US SAW IT,
THEY LOST THEIR CONFIDENCE; FOR THEY RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WORK HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE HELP OF OUR GOD.
NEHEMIAH 6:15-16

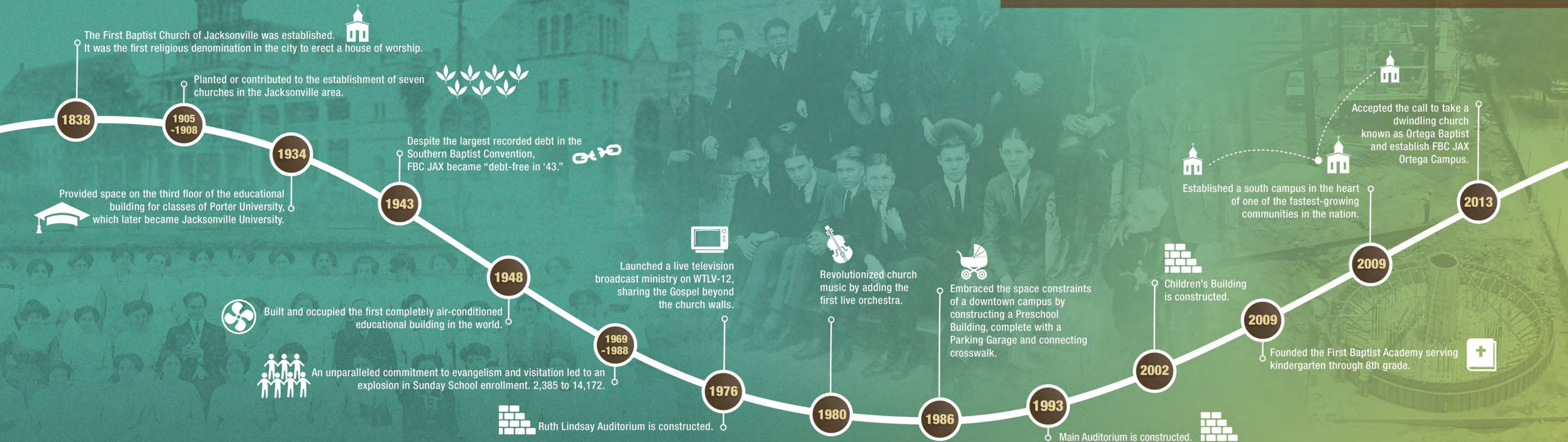
Since its inception, the culture of FBC JAX has been marked by INNOVATION and INVESTMENT.

INNOVATE: verb \ 'i-n' - 'vāt \

to introduce something new; make changes in anything established

INVEST: transitive verb \ in - 'vest \

to use, give, or devote (time, talent, etc.), as for a purpose or to achieve something



March 2014

The city of Jacksonville is now home to more than 850,000 people. Increasingly, the population growth is occurring outside of the downtown corridor. During the last twenty years, the four counties surrounding Jacksonville experienced population increases that equate to more than 80% growth in those combined counties.

In essence, our local mission field has become the five-county Jacksonville region which is home to more than 1,338,000 people spread over 3,200 square miles.

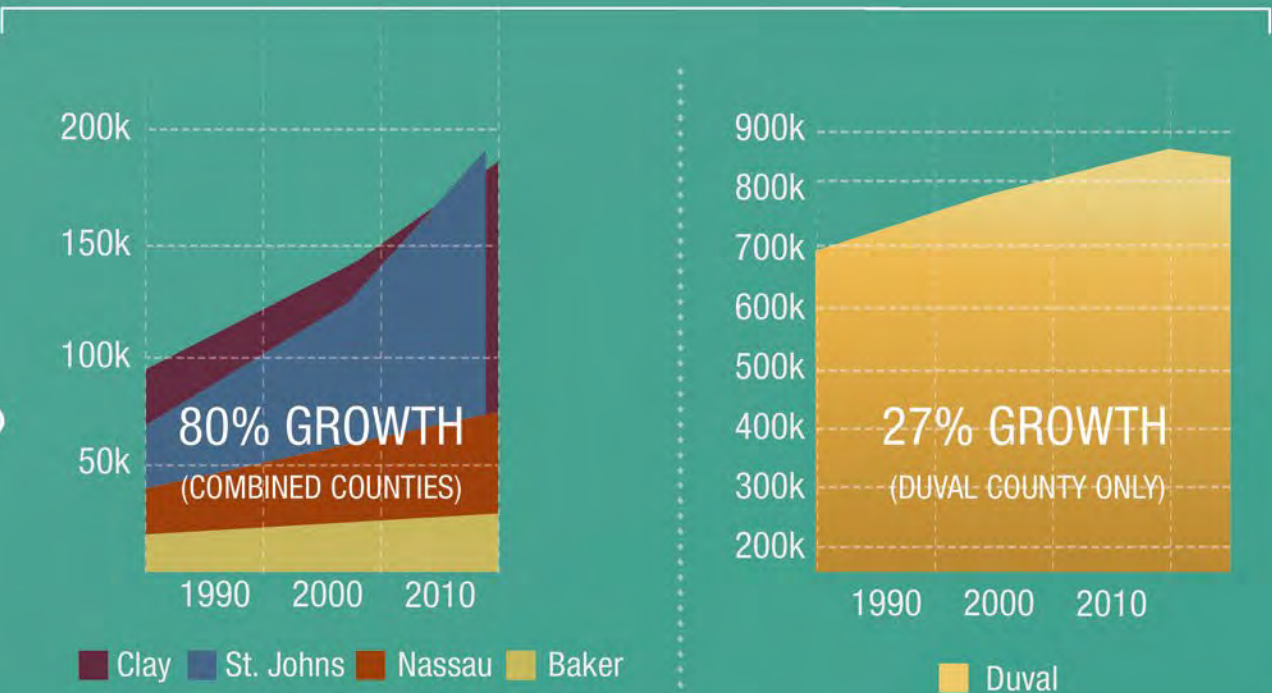
In order to fulfill our mission to “glorify God and make Him known” in these changing times, we must return to our roots. Innovation and investment are the hallmarks of FBC JAX.

It’s our turn. Will you ADVANCE with us?



Jacksonville & Surrounding Areas
Population: 1,338,000+

Jacksonville, Florida
Population: 850,000+



Jacksonville

Jacksonville & Surrounding Areas



When I look back on the history of this church, the hand of God is so evident. God used men like W.A. Hobson, Dr. Homer Lindsay, Sr., Dr. Homer Lindsay, Jr., and Dr. Jerry Vines, as well as the faithful members of FBC JAX, to share the Gospel with this city and bring thousands into His Kingdom.

Look back at the timeline in the front of this book. This church has been advancing the Kingdom of God for more than **175 YEARS**. It has always done whatever needed to be done to reach people.

How did they do it? **PRAYER. INVESTMENT. INNOVATION.**

Folks, the world is trying to tell us that the church is ineffective. It is irrelevant. It is out-of-date. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has not and never will be irrelevant. If we are not careful, though, the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, can become irrelevant. We cannot be satisfied with our history and what God has done in the past. We must continue to **ADVANCE**, even when it seems impossible or even radical.

I consider it a great privilege to be your pastor. It is also a tremendous responsibility. I believe we need to accelerate and expand the ministry of First Baptist Church. We need to **INVEST** in some of our current ministries and **CREATE** new opportunities to share the Gospel.

I want to invite you to join me in a two-year, church-wide initiative to **STRATEGICALLY** and **CREATIVELY INVEST** our resources to impact this community for Christ. In a normal 24-month period, our church budget is \$26 million. By committing an additional \$13.6 million over the same period, we can **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH** within our walls and more **EFFECTIVELY REACH** those outside of them.

I believe God has more **KINGDOM MOMENTS** to add to the timeline of FBC JAX. I believe God is calling us to advance.

Will you join me on this journey? **JUST IMAGINE WHAT WE COULD DO...**


Mac Brunson, *Senior Pastor*

ADVANCE
INSIDE & OUTSIDE THE WALLS

REVITALIZE **DOWNTOWN CAMPUS**

 **EDUCATION**
 (2013)

CURRENT BUDGET	IF WE ADVANCE
\$2,990,000	\$2,200,000
	\$5,190,000

9,968 ON THE
 SUNDAY SCHOOL
 MINISTRY ROLL

WORSHIP
 ATTENDANCE
4,400

216
 BAPTISMS

488
 JOINED THE
 CHURCH

300
 IN 1 ON 1
 DISCIPLESHIP

2,805
 CHILDREN & WORKERS
 WERE INVOLVED
 IN VBS

 **COMMUNITY LIFE**
 (2013)

CURRENT BUDGET	IF WE ADVANCE
\$961,000	\$35,000
	\$996,000

PASTORAL CARE

 **2,883** HOSPITAL VISITS
316 BEREAVEMENT VISITS

 BENEVOLENCE: **236** FAMILIES IMPACTED
 GRIEFSHARE: **50** FAMILIES IMPACTED

RESULTING IN
 **24**
 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

FBC JAX LIBRARY

 **43,802** TOTAL ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR CHECK OUT

PASTORS' CONFERENCE

 **1,200** ATTENDEES

IF WE **ADVANCE**

- Complete Preschool Building Renovation (Floors 3 & 4) (\$2,000,000)
- Invest in Sunday School and Specialized Training
- Rejuvenate Ministries to Young Adults, Students, Children, and Special Needs Adults and Children

IF WE **ADVANCE**

- Train Members in Biblical Counseling
- Offer Marriage Enrichment Opportunities
- Continue Counseling, Hospital, Church Library, and Bereavement Ministries
- Minister to Hurting and Needy Families
- Expand City-Wide Outreach Events and Annual Pastors' Conference

WORSHIP
(2013-2014)


CURRENT BUDGET	IF WE ADVANCE
\$1,931,000	\$70,000
\$2,001,000	





CHILDREN'S CHOIR

 ENROLLMENT: **413** STUDENTS **69** WORKERS


MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA


 CHOIR ENROLLMENT: **105** STUDENTS **20** WORKERS


 ORCHESTRA ENROLLMENT: **21** students **4** WORKERS

 2014 TOUR: **87** STUDENTS **19** WORKERS

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

 CHOIR ENROLLMENT: **87** STUDENTS **8** WORKERS

 ORCHESTRA ENROLLMENT: **51** STUDENTS **6** WORKERS

 2014 TOUR: **84** STUDENTS **12** WORKERS

ADULT CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

 CHOIR ENROLLMENT: **269**

 ORCHESTRA ENROLLMENT: **60**

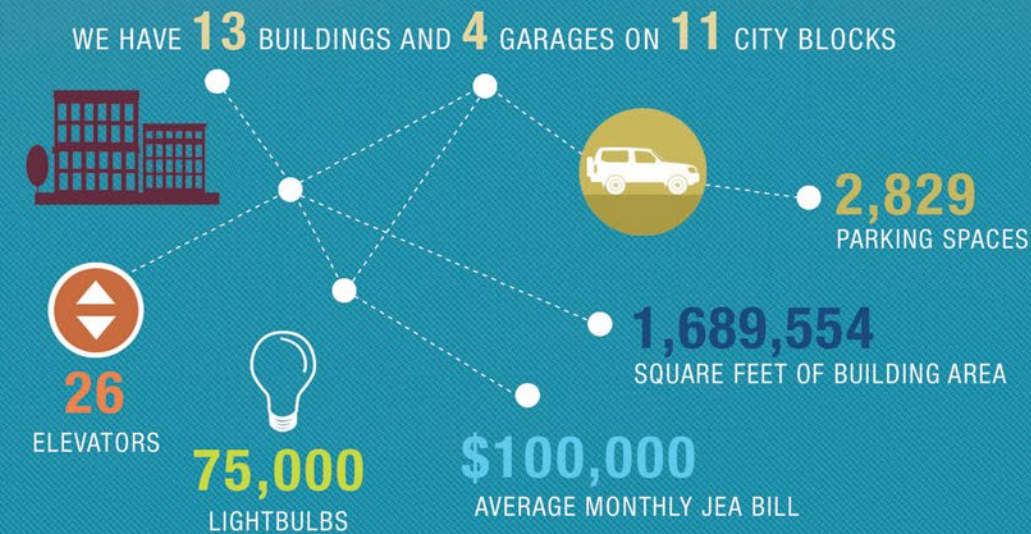
IF WE **ADVANCE**

- Fully Fund Age-Graded and Adult Choir and Orchestra Programs
- Produce Seasonal and Community Worship Events (Passion Play, Kingdom Kidz Musicals, Christmas @ First)
- Expand School of Music Opportunities

FACILITIES (2013)

	CURRENT BUDGET	IF WE ADVANCE
	\$8,540,000	\$2,442,000
		\$10,982,000

AROUND OUR CAMPUS



DINING ROOM



ADMINISTRATION

	CURRENT BUDGET	IF WE ADVANCE
	\$5,889,000	\$280,000
		\$6,169,000



IF WE ADVANCE

- Renovate Ruth Lindsay Auditorium (\$1,000,000)
- Renovate Music Suite and Orchestra Rehearsal Room (\$700,000)
- Complete Necessary Maintenance Projects (\$250,000)
- Maintain Building Services, Security, and Food Services

IF WE ADVANCE

- Offset Escalating Insurance Costs
- Offset Rising Business Expenses



ESTABLISH **COMMUNITY CAMPUSES**

"... we must not be selfish in the Lord's work. It is important that we have and hold a strong central church but we must have others, and all stand together for God and the Baptist cause in this growing city."

-1908. Annual of First Baptist Church Regarding New Church Plants

○ SOUTH CAMPUS

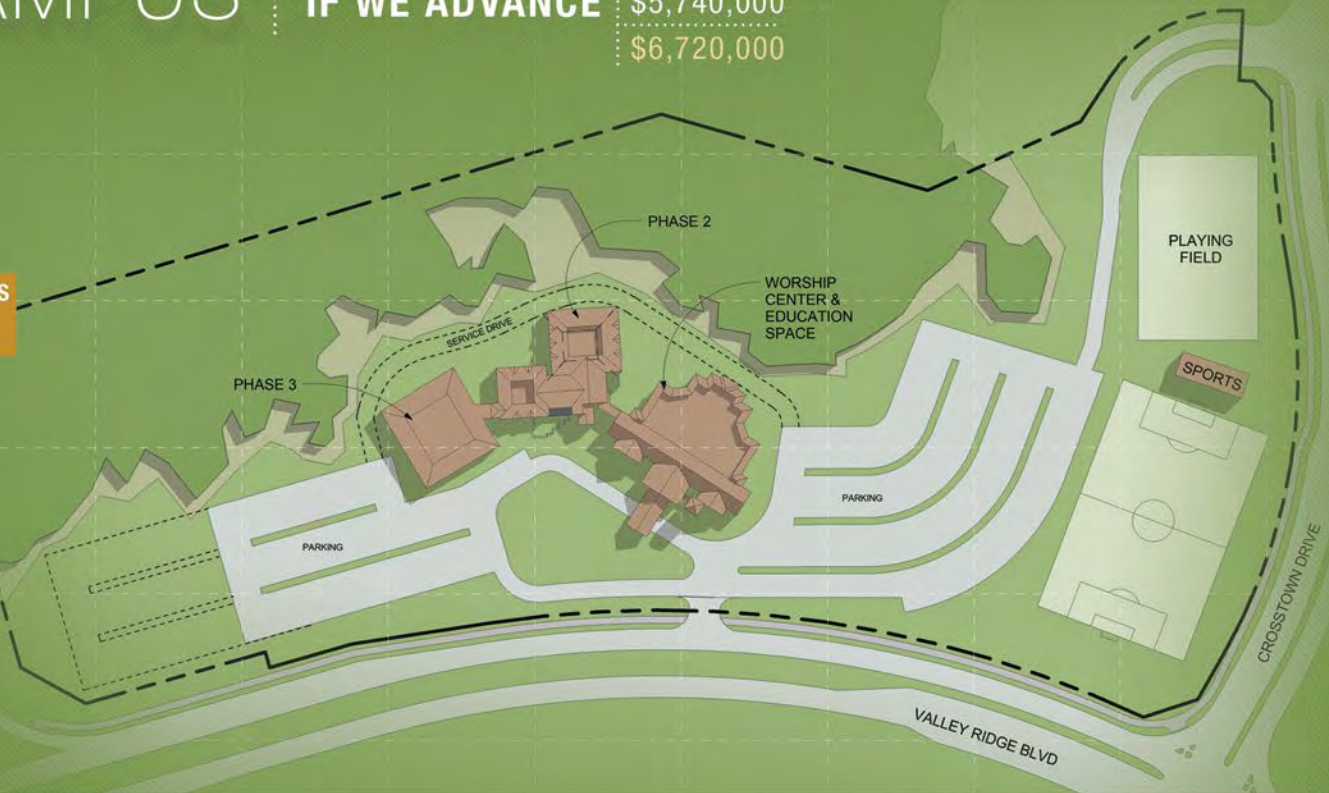
CURRENT BUDGET	\$980,000
IF WE ADVANCE	\$5,740,000
	\$6,720,000

10
BAPTISMS
IN 2013

270
CHILDREN & WORKERS
WERE INVOLVED
IN VBS

510 ON THE
MINISTRY
ROLL

WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE
335



○ ORTEGA CAMPUS

CURRENT BUDGET	\$296,000
IF WE ADVANCE	\$100,000
	\$396,000

5
BAPTISMS
IN 2013

163 ON THE
MINISTRY
ROLL

WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE
150

○ NORTH CAMPUS

CURRENT BUDGET	\$0
IF WE ADVANCE	\$800,000
	\$800,000

○ IF WE **ADVANCE**

- Construct Permanent Facility and Retire Short-Term Land Debt (\$5,640,000)

○ IF WE **ADVANCE**

- Expand Ministry to Impact Community of 150,000

○ IF WE **ADVANCE**

- Establish a New Campus to Reach Northern Duval and Nassau Counties and Camden County, Georgia

CREATE **DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT**

COMMUNICATIONS (2013)

CURRENT BUDGET \$3,360,000
IF WE ADVANCE \$180,000
\$3,540,000

AUDIO

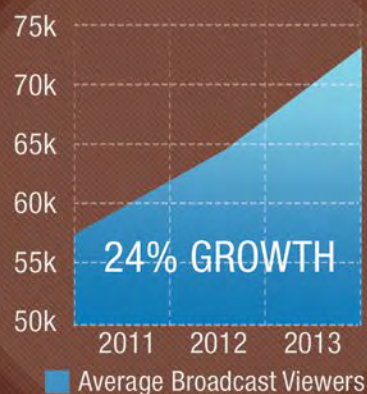
AV TECHS SUPPORTED **259** EVENTS

PERFORMED **1,486** AV SETUPS

PRODUCED **154** PODCASTS AND **312** RADIO PROGRAMS

VIDEO

- **297** VIDEOS PRODUCED IN 2013
- **104** LOCAL BROADCAST PROGRAMS A YEAR
- LOCAL BROADCAST AVERAGED **72,800** VIEWERS A WEEK.
- HIGHEST VIEWER WEEKS (LOCAL BROADCAST)
101,018 (4/13/13) **100,969** (5/26/12)
- **1,100** FREE BROADCASTS NATIONWIDE



WEB

FBCJAX.COM | 🔍

WEBSITE VISITS
398,166

UNIQUE VISITORS
151,659

PAGEVIEWS
1,426,462

TOP 2013 SERMON ARCHIVES

- 1 JOURNEYS WITH PAUL – UNIQUE VIEWS: **6,760**
- 2 FAMILY BUSINESS – UNIQUE VIEWS: **5,353**
- 3 KINGDOM PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING – UNIQUE VIEWS: **4,738**

COUNTRIES REACHED THROUGH WEBSITE (OUTSIDE OF U.S.)

- 1 CANADA
- 2 BRAZIL
- 3 UNITED KINGDOM
- 4 GERMANY
- 5 AUSTRALIA

SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK “LIKES”

AS OF JAN 1, 2013: **2,463**
AS OF DEC 31, 2013: **4,224**
INCREASE: **71.5%**



TWITTER “FOLLOWERS”

AS OF FEB 18, 2013: **1,640**
AS OF DEC 31, 2013: **1,915**
INCREASE: **16.8%**

REACH AND ENGAGEMENT

AVERAGE DAILY REACH FOR 2013: **4,622**
AVERAGE DAILY ENGAGEMENT FOR 2013: **372**

MENTIONS AND TWEETS

TOTAL MENTIONS (FEB 2013 – DECEMBER 2013): **367**
TOTAL RETWEETS (FEB 2013 – DECEMBER 2013): **171**

TOP COUNTRIES REACHED

- 1 PHILIPPINES
- 2 BRAZIL
- 3 GERMANY
- 4 INDIA
- 5 NIGERIA

TOP STATES CONNECTED

- 1 FLORIDA
- 2 GEORGIA
- 3 TEXAS
- 4 NORTH CAROLINA
- 5 VIRGINIA

IF WE **ADVANCE**

- Create Online Campus (\$100,000)
- Continue Television and Radio Broadcasting
- Improve Internet and Social Media Communication
- Provide and Support Community Campus Streaming



INCREASE FUNDING AND PARTICIPATION IN MISSIONS



MISSIONS

CURRENT BUDGET	\$2,106,000
IF WE ADVANCE	\$700,000
	\$2,806,000

OUR LOCAL INTERNATIONAL CONGREGATIONS

ATTENDANCE

African Ministry	45
Slavic Ministry	25
Vietnamese Ministry	85
Burmese Ministry	65
Spanish Ministry	24
Chinese Ministry	25
Korean Ministry	10
ESL (English as a Second Language)	20



OUR MISSION TRIPS

In 2013, FBC JAX sent Mission teams to **8** countries: Panama, Haiti, Costa Rica, Vietnam, Burma (Myanmar), Philippines, Germany, & Spain. Nearly **50** people participated in short-term mission trips in 2013.

If we ADVANCE we expect that number can **triple** in the next 18-24 months.

OUR MISSIONARIES

There are **28** missionaries associated with FBC serving in **21** locations, both domestic and international. Currently **19** of these missionaries receive financial support from FBC JAX.

OUR LOCAL MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

FBC has partnered with several key local ministries to reach our community for Jesus Christ:

- Sidewalk Funday School
- First Coast Women's Services
- Trinity Rescue Mission
- Florida Baptist Children's Homes
- Jacksonville Baptist Association
- Rethreaded

FOOD PANTRY

There are **50** volunteers serving. In 2012, the pantry distributed **386** boxes of food to families, both within our fellowship and special needs outside of the church. In 2013, that number increased to **418**.



IF WE ADVANCE

- Expand International Southern Baptist Missionary Support through Lottie Moon and Direct Financial Support
- Support National and State Conventions through the Cooperative Program
- Support Church Plants (Paramount Church in Columbus, OH and Epiphany Fellowship in Philadelphia, PA)
- Partner with Local Ministries
- Continue Our Support of Local International Congregations at FBC JAX
- Expand Short-Term Mission Trip Participation

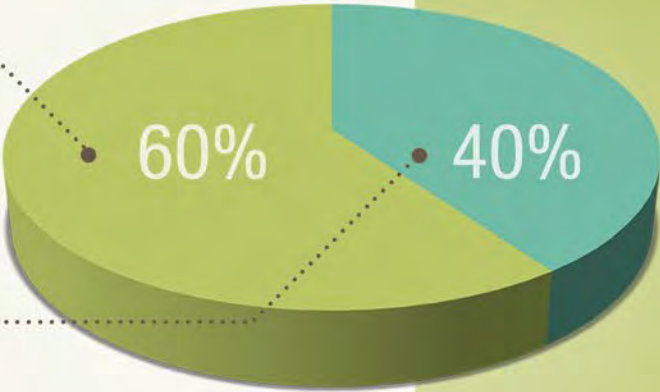
USE OF FUNDS SUMMARY

INSIDE THE WALLS

Make disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and people
\$23,700,000

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

Glorify God and make Him known to everyone...everywhere
\$15,900,000



ADVANCE IS A ONE FUND APPROACH
TO STEWARDING GOD’S RESOURCES
ONE FUND TOTAL: \$39,600,000

ARE YOU READY
TO **ADVANCE** ?

“Then they said, ‘Let us arise and build.’ So they put their hands to the good work.”
Nehemiah 2:18b

EVERY GIFT MATTERS...FIND YOUR PLACE ON THE WALL

To fully fund our Advance vision, we need everyone to participate. Not everyone can give the same amount, but everyone can give something.



Where is your current place on the wall? Where would you like it to be?

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us," Ephesians 3:20

RESOURCE IDEAS

- RELEASE TREASURES
Convert coins, jewelry, antiques, collectibles or other goods which are no longer needed or meaningful into cash.
- POSTPONE EXPENDITURES
Postpone purchases of cars, furniture, or remodeling.
- REDIRECT EXPENDITURES
Redirect expenditures on coffee, sweets, manicures, eletronics, etc.
- DELAY DREAMS
Delay activities on your "bucket list" (vacations or workshops) and reschedule them for a later date.
- WELCOME WINDFALLS
Redirect unexpected cash, bonuses, or inheritances to a contribution for Advance.
- CONVERT TIME TO CASH
Resource additional income from a part-time job, consultation, or freelance jobs to Advance.
- REALLOCATE ASSETS
Convert stocks, bonds, real estate or other securities to cash.
Note: Before making a commitment of this type, you are encouraged to consult your CPA, tax attorney or financial advisor. For additional help, contact the FBC JAX Foundation.

GIVING WORKSHEET

Sunday, April 13 has been set aside as **Advance Commitment Sunday**. Please utilize this worksheet to help calculate your current level of giving, as well as determine your advance gift. Remember that your commitment to advance is not an "over and above" offering, but a total of what you intend to give for the next two years.

\$ What I normally give in a year
(General Fund + Building Fund + Media Ministry + Lottie Moon, etc.)

↓

+ \$ My expanded giving (see resource ideas on adjacent page)

↓

= \$ x 2 years → = \$

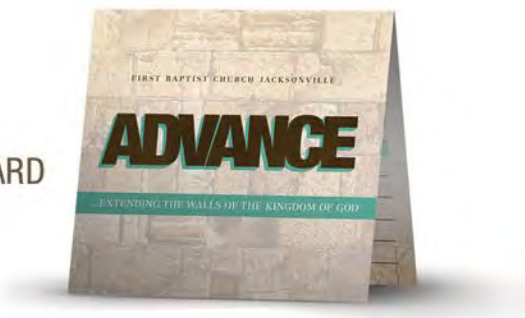
↓

Additional gift from stored resources + \$

↓

MY **ADVANCE** COMMITMENT = \$

ADVANCE COMMITMENT CARD



ADVANCE

COMMITMENT DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

On this day, each family within our church will have the opportunity to make their personal Advance commitment. The commitment will be illustrated in two ways:



- 1 **THE ADVANCE COMMITMENT CARD**
The Advance Commitment card, which will be mailed to your home, represents your personal financial commitment to Advance. A giving worksheet and commitment card example can be found on the previous page. Please pray about what you will give over the next two years and bring your completed commitment card to the Commitment Service on **April 13**.



- 2 **THE ADVANCE WALL BLOCK**
The Advance Wall Block, available on March 30 and April 6, is an illustration of your desire and commitment to be part of the wall. It represents your intention to engage in and support the ministry of this church through prayer, worship, service, giving, fellowship, and discipleship. Detailed instructions will be provided with your block, but each family will fill and decorate their block in a personal way. (Ideas include inserting photos, written verses, or a copy of your commitment card inside the block, as well as decorating the outside of your block). During the commitment service, everyone will have the opportunity to place their commitment card inside the vision wall and add their family's block to the wall.



CALENDAR

Commitment Sunday
April 13

Easter Sunday
and Passion Play
April 20

First Fruits Sunday
April 27

ADVANCE
DEVOTIONS
AND SERMON NOTES

DEVOTION: 1
NEHEMIAH 1:1–3 (NASB95)

ADVANCE

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capitol, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. 3 They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.”

Nehemiah was of the Hebrew nation, a descendant of those Jews that had been taken into captivity by Babylon nearly 150 years before Nehemiah’s birth. During the course of history Persia had overthrown Babylon and now it owned the Jews. For their part, the Jews of Nehemiah’s day were part of Persian society. They lived their lives as Persians, though recently a group of Jews had been permitted to return to Jerusalem.

Though living as a Persian, and a successful one in terms of wealth and status, Nehemiah was interested in God’s people...his brothers and sisters, the Jews. They were on his mind and in his heart. He wanted to know their condition.

Why do you think Nehemiah cared so much about the condition of the people in Jerusalem?

Living in a culture of affluence and accomplishment can impact the hearts of believers so that they lose sight of the condition of their brothers and sisters. How does the world affect your concern and interest in the lives of fellow believers?

4 When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Why do you think Nehemiah was so moved emotionally concerning the plight of people in Jerusalem?

Nehemiah wept, mourned, fasted and prayed. These seem to be a progression of responses to the bad news he received. Describe what each of these four responses indicate was going on in Nehemiah's heart as he thought about the Jerusalem congregation.

Crying: _____

Mourning: _____

Fasting: _____

Praying: _____

Is there a person or a group of people that move you to crying, mourning, fasting, and praying? If so, who and why?

DEVOTION: 3
NEHEMIAH 1:5–10 (NASB)

WEEK OF MARCH 23

5 I said, “I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, *6* let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father’s house have sinned. *7* “We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. *8* “Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; *9* but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.’ *10* “They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

What are the character traits of God that Nehemiah is counting on that will cause God to answer his prayer?

What responsibility does Nehemiah charge against himself for the plight of the people for whom he is praying?

Pray a prayer similar Nehemiah’s for your church and for people about whom you are concerned.

DEVOTION: 4
NEHEMIAH 1:11 (NASB)

ADVANCE

11 “O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man.” Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

In this section of Nehemiah’s life he was about to do something bold for the good of his relatives in Jerusalem and for the name of God. He was going to risk asking the king to allow and to provide for a plan to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah personally had much to lose from a material and professional standpoint, but the good of his heart’s desire outweighed the chance of loss so he determined he would take the risk.

What did Nehemiah value above his own life, position, and possessions?

Why was that more valuable than his comfort and security?

What do you value enough to risk your comfort and security to accomplish for God’s glory?

SERMON NOTES

MARCH 30

DEVOTION: 5
NEHEMIAH 2:1–6 (NASB)

1 And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. **2** So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid. **3** I said to the king, "Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?" **4** Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. **5** I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." **6** Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, "How long will your journey be, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time.

When the king asked Nehemiah what he was requesting, he replied with specifics. What are you specifically requesting God to allow and provide for you to do for His kingdom?

Taking risks for God and stepping out on faith can be a scary thing. Nehemiah said he was “very much afraid.” How did he deal with his fear?

As you think about what you want God to do in and through you, what fears are you facing?

Talk with God about what you are asking Him to do and the fear this is creating in you. Lay those fears and requests before God and ask Him for success.

7 And I said to the king, "If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah, **8** and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go." And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.

Nehemiah was operating for the king's pleasure ("if it please the king"). Jerusalem belonged to Persia. It was not good for that city to lie in ruins. So Nehemiah worked his plan, but for the good of the king, and the hand of God was on him giving him favor in the king's eyes.

Why should God grant you favor in the things you are asking Him to do in and through you?

[illegible]

Who stands to be helped based on your requests? How?

Nehemiah had a vision (a mental picture) of what he was seeking to accomplish. What's your vision?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no vertical margin lines, and the paper appears to be a standard notebook or ledger page. The background behind the paper is dark and textured, possibly a wooden surface.

17 Then I said to them, “You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.” 18 I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king’s words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good work.

Why did the people heed Nehemiah’s words and catch his vision?

What is the response of people who embrace a vision?

How are you embracing a godly vision?

What in your life is that vision changing?

1 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. 2 He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?” 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, “Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!” 4 Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

What was the aim of the enemies of the builders?

Describe the attack that came against the builders.

How are you being attacked regarding the godly vision you have embraced and are taking action to accomplish?

Why are you being attacked? Who is attacking you? (Identify them personally and spiritually.)

Pray to God about the attack you are experiencing, including the attackers. Pray a similar prayer to the one the Jews prayed when they turned their enemies over to God. (4:4-5)

14 When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."

What motivated the builders to fight against their fears?

How might what you are striving to accomplish for God's Kingdom have a glorious impact on your family members?

How does this godly impact on those you love motivate you to keep your faith in Christ and continue with your vision?

What specifically does Christ (“who is great and awesome”) offer to you to confront your current fears and hardships?

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. **16** When all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations surrounding us saw it, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

Why do you think God enabled these people to accomplish the impossible?

According to verse 16, who received glory in the accomplishment of the vision? How?

How might God be glorified in the accomplishment of the vision you are pursuing?

[illegible]

Praise God for the accomplishments and victories you have experienced thus far in your journey with Him.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no vertical margin lines, and the paper appears to be a standard notebook page without any text or markings other than the lines themselves.

ADVANCE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no vertical margin lines, text, or other markings on the paper.



Glorify God and make Him known to everyone...everywhere.