

# FIRST FOCUS

## **FOLLOWING GOD'S CALLING- THE MELLO FAMILY**

On Sunday, Caleb and Terrah Mello shared the exciting news of God's work in their lives over the last few months. They've accepted an invitation to move to South Africa. They'll be working with Knysa Hope, a new non-profit (NGO) focused on reaching people in Knysa, South Africa for Jesus. I wanted to share a bit of their story (in their own words). Contact the Mellors at [ctmello523@gmail.com](mailto:ctmello523@gmail.com) to learn more about their journey, or visit their website at [www.mellos4knysna.com](http://www.mellos4knysna.com).

"We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to share with you what the Lord is doing in our life; how He dramatically changed the direction of our family. We both have been involved in short-term mission work and involved in ministry our whole life, both at FBC and the churches where we grew up, but never felt called to full-time vocational ministry. I have been working a full time job at a large corporation and Terrah has been teaching music in various capacities. We have two wonderful little kids and love serving here at First Baptist. We were really happy with the life the Lord has given us. But since the beginning of this year, there was something more our family needed to be doing. We weren't sure what that was, but we knew the Lord had something big for us.

As we were in continual prayer about where the Lord was leading us, He used the work of this church over Good Friday and Easter to clearly call our family to the mission field full time. We were overwhelmed. But never before had we felt the Holy Spirit's leading so strongly. We knew this was what God wanted for our family. Through much prayer and a series of amazing events, it was clear the Lord was directing us to join an amazing ministry in the town of Knysna, South Africa.

Knysna is a beautiful town on the coast of South Africa. Its natural beauty and wonderful climate create a tourist driven economy and invites the wealthy to build and vacation there. Yet minutes away from the beautiful tourist areas lay the outer townships where life is much more difficult. Homes are often pieced together with metal scraps and if one is very lucky, cinder block. The economic disparities are exacerbated by the harsh topography of the region. Knysna's unique geography further divides the city into small enclaves that are disconnected from each other and each has unique cultural and even language divisions. So how do you reach such a fragmented community for Christ?

The missionary team on the ground there has started an organization called Knysna Hope which will, through various initiatives, engage the community of Knysna, to build relationships with people, share the gospel, and bring people to Christ, much like the various ministries of First Baptist in Tallahassee. These initiatives will include skills development, food relief, youth engagement, a Christian radio station, crisis pregnancy intervention, and the fine arts.

Knysna Hope has only been in official existence for a couple weeks, and using resources already available, the only initiative started thus far has been the founding of the only Christian radio station in the region called Grace Radio. Since the church start-ups in Knysna and the missionary team on the ground there already cannot be everywhere nor have the resources available to start all the initiatives of Knysna Hope, the missionary team in Knysna is looking for specific people with specific qualifications to come and get this ministry off the ground.

Because of our specific education, work, and ministry experiences, we believe the Lord has uniquely equipped us for this ministry. The missionary team has formally asked Caleb to come be the chief organizational officer for the Knysna Hope organization and coordinate the ministry efforts across the city in each of the unique cultural enclaves.

# THIS WEEK

## FIRST STEP

Are you new to FBCTLH, or maybe you've been a regular attender for the past few months? If so, please join us for our next "First Step" with Dr. Shiell to discuss what it means to be a member of our church family, and how to get plugged in here! We will meet THIS SUNDAY at 10:15AM in the welcome center. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Watt ([hannah@fbctlh.org](mailto:hannah@fbctlh.org)).

## GRIEFSHARE

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. This is a thirteen week series that incorporates the use of a facilitator, video, discussion and a workbook. Join us Sunday's from 3:00-4:30PM for our fall series. Contact Lindsey ([lindsey@fbctlh.org](mailto:lindsey@fbctlh.org)) for more information.

## NEWLYWED CLASS

Have you recently tied the knot but want to make sure that your life together doesn't end up tangled? Come together with other young couples for the Newlywed Seminar. This informal gathering is a great opportunity to meet other newlyweds and gain a solid foundation for a lifelong marriage. For more information, email Jim Cooke at [jimcooke4@embarqmail.com](mailto:jimcooke4@embarqmail.com).

## DIVORCECARE

Someone you know may be hurting. Make sure they know about DivorceCare, a weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. It incorporates the use of a facilitator, videos, discussion, and a workbook. Anyone may join the group at any time during the 12 weeks. We meet Wednesdays in Adams 315 from 6:00-7:30PM. Contact Lindsey ([lindsey@fbctlh.org](mailto:lindsey@fbctlh.org)) for more information.

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER REQUEST

This upcoming Friday and Saturday (September 25 and 26), we will be providing a new roof at the LARC House. LARC operates eight group homes for individuals with disabilities. Their funding has been cut three years in a row by the Legislature, therefore, they do not have the funds to replace the roof. John Chafin serves as LARC Board President and will be getting the funds for the materials, but we need help with labor! If you are able to help on Friday, Saturday or both days contact Hannah Watt ([hannah@fbctlh.org](mailto:hannah@fbctlh.org)). Thank you for your willingness to help!

## BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Is God calling you to be a foster parent to one of the hundreds of children in need of foster homes in Florida? Are you ready to show God's love to these children? Florida Baptist Children's Homes has an opportunity for you! Start by joining us for an orientation. For more information contact Jennifer at [Jennifer.Register@FBCHomes.org](mailto:Jennifer.Register@FBCHomes.org) or call (850)878-1458.

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor  
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00AM Church-wide Bible Study Options  
10:15AM First Step, Welcome Center  
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Connect Center  
10:30AM First Joy Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201  
5:00PM First Brass, Adams 200  
6:00PM Bells of Praise, Adams 211

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

6:30PM International ESL Class, Chason 2201

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

11:00AM Senior Ladies' Bible Study, Large Meeting Room  
4:45PM Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall  
6:00PM Childcare, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Preschool Class, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Elementary Music & Missions, Duval 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Adult Bible Study, Sanctuary  
6:00PM Moms Connect, Adams Basement  
6:00PM Women's Bible Study, Adams 301  
7:00PM Youth Praise Team, Adams 211  
7:00PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201  
7:00PM Chamber Players Rehearsal, Adams 200  
7:15PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
7:15PM Veritas, Adams 317

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:30AM International ESL Class, Chason 2201

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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Terrah has been asked to start and run one of the primary initiatives of Knysna Hope and that is the Garden Route Academy of Fine Arts. The academy will engage the community by partnering with the local schools to use the power of music to build relationships across cultural divides and reach people for Christ. Alongside the Academy, she will also help start the South Africa Institute of Christian Music which will focus on training and equipping clergy and lay members from congregations in Knysna and across South Africa with a desire to serve their local congregation in music.

The academy, institute, and other initiatives that will be developed under the umbrella of Knysna Hope exist for the sole purpose of enhancing the church's presence in the community, building relationships with people, and bringing them to Christ.

The Lord has drastically changed our plans, and our future looks much different than we every pictured just a few short months ago. But we couldn't imagine anything more exciting for our family!"



## RECEPTION FOR RHONDA SMITH

You are cordially invited to a reception in honor of Rhonda Smith and her 18 years of service as Minister to the Children of First Baptist Church. The festivities will take place on Sunday, September 27 in two stages. The first part of the reception will begin at 11:00am as SMBS is ending. Those who have attended traditional worship and Sunday School are encouraged to greet "Miss" Rhonda and enjoy the celebration at this time. We'll pause for a bit, then continue with the party at around 12:15 as the congregation exits the contemporary service. This event will be very child-friendly (of course!) and might even bring out the child in you! Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for Rhonda's faithful ministry to our children as we also look forward to exciting days ahead with her in the new role of Minister of Pastoral Community.

## INVITATION FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

### The Music Ministry of First Baptist Church

cordially invites you to

**"Come Home for Christmas."**

The Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra will present our annual Christmas musical  
Sunday evening, December 13 at 6:00 pm

And we need you. If you sing, play an instrument, or are skilled in any aspect of stage/dramatic production, we would love for you to take part. You can sign up anytime in the next few weeks. Call or email Lenoir in the music office for more information. 222-5470, Ext. 201; lbrewer@fbctlh.org

# SERVE

## FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of September, we will join the Children's Home in providing boxed tissues, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper. Collection bins are in the College Avenue foyer, the welcome center, by the elevator on the first floor of the Adams building, and in the main office.

## MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the [fbctlh.org/Serve](http://fbctlh.org/Serve) page for more ways to get involved now in serving in and through FBCTLH.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

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PERIODICALS  
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**THE VISION NEWSLETTER**

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For submissions, address corrections, or to unsubscribe, contact x132 or [hello@fbctlh.org](mailto:hello@fbctlh.org).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Vision, 108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

**SERVICE RECORDINGS**

[fbctlh.org/sermons](http://fbctlh.org/sermons)

Our Traditional Worship service is broadcast on Comcast Channel 21 at 11:00AM each Sunday.

Contact x215 or [lee@fbctlh.org](mailto:lee@fbctlh.org) with questions.

If you are homebound and would like to be on our mailing list to receive a free DVD of our worship services each week, please contact x201 or [lenoir@fbctlh.org](mailto:lenoir@fbctlh.org). All other requests are \$5, and can be made at the front desk or online at [fbctlh.org/contact](http://fbctlh.org/contact).

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

September 23 - taco salad bar: taco seasoned beef or chicken, chips, refried beans, cheese sauce, lettuce, tomato, onions, jalapenos, olives, sour cream, ranch dressing, salsa, dessert

**FINANCIALS**

Financials will be available next week.

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – Eric Palm

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Byron Folsom
- 10AM Eris Wilson
- 11AM Daryle Gray
- 

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, September 20

- 8AM Ben Hart
- 10AM Brent Daniel
- 11AM Eric Palm

Wednesday, September 23

- 6PM Jim English

<b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP</b>	9:00AM
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	10:00AM
<b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP</b>	11:15AM

# RECONCILIATION DIPLOMATS

2 Corinthians 5:14-21