



The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

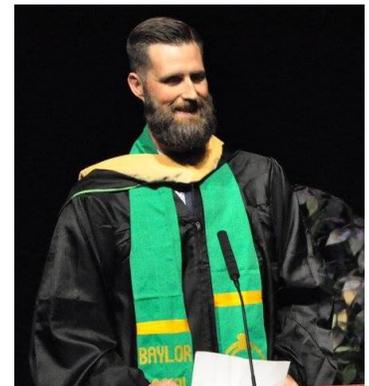
Our Church Plant Officially “Begins” Next Month!

By Jesse Harden

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Psalm 77:11-12

One chief task of discipleship is the discipline of remembering. We are to remember all that God has done in, with and for us. I have been fortunate enough to have had some space these last few weeks to remember. I have been remembering the deeds of the LORD on my family’s behalf. God has been faithful every step of our journey from Albuquerque to Waco and back these last 3.5 years.

As Joanna and I reflect on God’s past goodness and provision for us these last years, we are filled with courage to move forward into this new season of church planting and community development work in the International District of Albuquerque. We have confidence that God’s past faithfulness is a promise of his future faithfulness and provision.



Jesse speaking at his commencement ceremony.

Lord willing, we will return to our home and International District neighbors, June 12. We will have a few weeks to get settled and unpack before I begin working part-time at East Central Ministries on July 1. We have several goals for our first 6 months of life back in the neighborhood. First, we plan to listen to and learn from the Holy Spirit and our neighbors. We plan to spend a lot of time walking, praying and conversing in our neighborhood. We will develop an asset map of the area, identifying and learning about the strengths of our community. Second, we plan to deepen our relationship as a core team of church planters. This core team includes the families that have already committed to be on mission. Third, we will be praying for and with others that are considering joining the core team on mission in the International District as well as those who are partnering through prayer and financially. To this end, we will also be developing an introduction to the church plant that will outline, for the core team and interested individuals and families, the theology, strategy and practical outworking of the mission. The content developed during these first months, will guide the core team and those interested through a 6-8 week discussion/training to begin in the final months of 2016 or the first of 2017. Finally, we plan to begin learning Spanish more aggressively.

Ways we can pray for our church plant...

Pray for God to encourage and protect our growing core team.

Pray that each of us would have wisdom to live boldly and compassionately in love while being faithful in our homes and places of work.

Pray for the International District.

Pray for those who love Jesus.

Pray for those hurting emotionally, financially, socially, and physically.

Pray for churches in the neighborhood to be encouraged and increase in faithfulness and mission.

Pray for financial & prayer support to enable & facilitate all that God has in store for the International District.

The Benefits of Biblical Meditation

By Joe Eastman **Value: Holistic Discipleship**

During this quarter, we have been focusing on the spiritual discipline of biblical meditation. So far, we have looked at the importance of biblical meditation and how we can have confidence in the Scriptures. This month, I would like to take some time to share with you three benefits of biblical meditation.



Benefit #1: Biblical meditation helps us keep fit and focused on the spiritual battle we are in.

Paul writes to Timothy; “This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith” (1 Timothy 1:18-19) He is reminding Timothy that he is in a battle, and that there have already been casualties due to the lack of spiritual stamina to focus on the battle. Biblical meditation helps us keep fit to fight and helps to keep us from having our faith “shipwrecked.”

Benefit #2: Biblical meditation reduces fear and anxiety.

In 1 Peter 5:6-9, we get a good look at Peter’s prescription to deal with anxiety and fear. “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

Peter reminds us to do two things: 1) cast your cares upon God and 2) be sober minded. Biblical Meditation is one of the best ways to ensure we are doing these two things. It is much easier to cast our cares upon God when we are working to be aware of how big and powerful He is and how much He loves us. Moreover, I would contend, that meditating on the Word is how we stay sober-minded and focused in a world that seeks to distract us.

Benefit #3: Biblical Meditation increases our joy.

In Psalm 37:4 we are told to delight in the Lord, and in doing so, He will give us the desires of our hearts. As Christians, the Bible assures us that we are a new creation. This change is so profound that our entire nature is transformed. With this new change comes a new focus - a new way of seeing things - which includes where and how we find our joy. The highest joy for the Christian can only come from our relationship with Christ, and meditating on Him and His Word is where we find this joy. Yes, God gives us good things in our lives that do bring about a certain level of joy, but as Christians, we are now wired to only find complete joy in Christ.

For more on biblical meditation, read the Foothills blog at www.thefoothills.us/blog.

Ministry Updates...

Foothills Prayer Ministry. This ministry is up and running on Sunday mornings for those who come forward to request prayer after the worship service. We need pray-ers! If you would like to participate in this ministry of prayer, please contact Steve Radigan at (505) 934-0299 or radigan.steven@gmail.com.

Foothills Summer Picnics. Did you know that we see our church picnics as a valuable ministry at Foothills? They're one of the key ways we stay connected with each other throughout the summer. Please plan to attend all three of them this summer. *After church on June 19, July 17, and August 21.*

Youth Journey Camp June 20-25. Please pray for our youth who will be attending Journey Camp this month. This will be a week of service projects, worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and fun. The beginning of the week will consist of service projects at East Central Ministries, Foothills, and other places around town. At the end of the week, they will head up to Colorado to go rafting down the Arkansas river.

Building Renovation. The renovation to our worship center and nursery are underway and should be finished by the end of next month. In the meantime, please be careful around the construction sites and please keep your children from exploring these interesting but dangerous areas. See the next page for the latest pictures!

The Foothills Flyer is a monthly newsletter under the oversight of Pastor Joe Eastman that is aimed at keeping Foothills on mission and keeping us committed to our 9 Core Values.

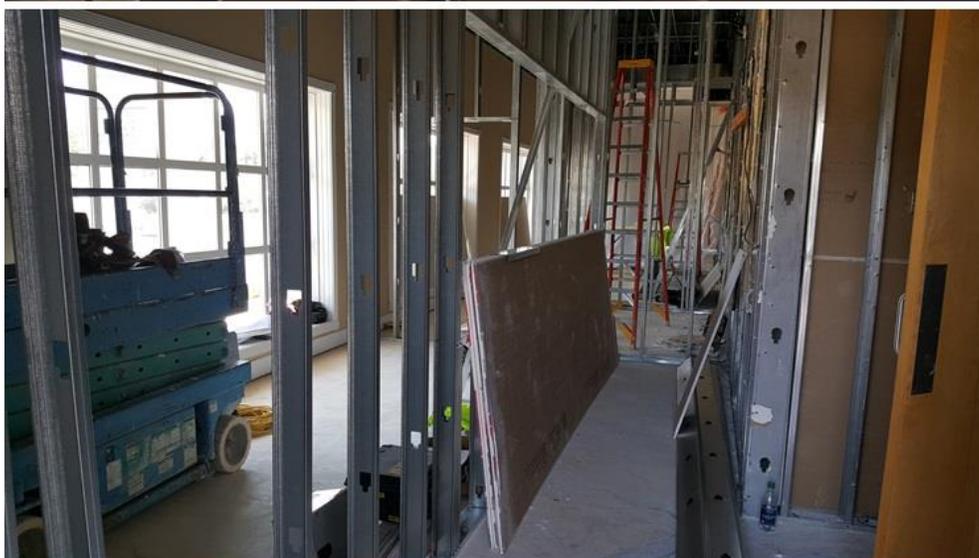
OUR MISSION: Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

OUR CORE VALUES: 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship

Building Renovation Pictures!



In the worship center, the carpet has been pulled and the sound booth is gone. The back wall will be coming down soon!



This is a picture from the north end of the “old” back foyer. The framing for the cry-room and new sound booth is up!



The nursery has grown! It now includes what used to be the hallway that led to the back door and the hall between the youth room door and the “old” nursery entrance.