



"...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1-2

RACERUNNER REVIEW

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FAITH BIBLE COLLEGE, NORFOLK, VA



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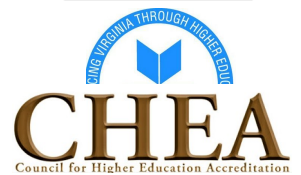
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***Grounded in the Word, Growing in Christ, Giving Back to the Church***



### Back to Kenya!

Shannon Terhune, our former FBC President and current Board Chair and Pastor of Raleigh Heights Baptist Church, was able to once again travel to minister to dear Kenyan brothers and sisters. Their 10-day preaching and teaching trip included teaching 38 pastors, delivering the graduation message for 18 graduates, participating in a large wedding, visiting church schools, playing with orphans, and being genuinely blessed by the warm Kenyan reception.



## For Everything There is a Season

As we have come to the end of another fantastic semester, I am reminded of the words of King Solomon (Eccl. 3:1). He stated that, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (ESV)." We all know this reality intuitively and experience this reality in differing ways depending upon our perspective. The season which has just come to pass will not come again in exactly the same way. If it was a good season, that reality may bring some anxiety or fear for the upcoming season. If it was not a terribly good season, that reality may bring a sense of relief or hope for the upcoming season.

For each of us, the end of one season and the beginning of another is a time to reflect on what has happened and what we wish to happen going forward. As students, faculty, board members, and supporters of FBC, I would like to challenge each of us to reflect on what God was doing in the season which has just passed, and how He was trying to prepare us for the one to come. I would also like to challenge each of us to go into this next season with the expectation that because He is I AM, we can! Because He is I AM, we can expect the I AM of last season to be the I AM in the next. Because He is I AM, we can trust that He will draw near to us as we draw near to Him. Because He is I AM, we can go forward with boldness and confidence that this next season will bring Him glory and us closer to His kingdom!

For me, a new season has already begun. When I stepped into the role of Academic Dean of FBC, I knew that it would likely be for a season. I thought that it might be for a longer season, but God has chosen otherwise. God has grown the church I get to pastor more than twofold, and the needs of His people have grown with it. As a result, this semester will be my last as the Academic Dean of FBC. It has been an incredible honor to serve you all in this role. While my role as Academic Dean is coming to an end, my service to you and the college will not. I will continue to be a member of the faculty and a supporter of the college as well. I thank you all for allowing me to be a part of this grand journey with God at FBC!

Rev. Bryan K Breland



### **Thank you!**

*You did it! We were able to collect 1086 pairs of shoes!*

*These shoes will help micro-business owners support their families and the local economy. A good portion of them will likely go to Central and South America. Lydia, our shoe drive coordinator, and the staff have enjoyed those who have partnered with us through this special fundraising project.*

*We'd like to thank the following ministries for their participation and encouragement!*

**Avalon Hills Bible Church / Christ First Church / Faith Community Church / Water's Edge Church  
New Beginnings Christian Outreach Ministries / Peninsula Chinese Baptist Church  
Tabernacle Church of Norfolk / along with students and locals folks who dropped off shoes at our office**



***I want to support FBC students to be Grounded in the Word, Grow in Christ, and Give Back to the Church***

*I have enclosed:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$1,000  \$2,000  \$5,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other*

*I give online at [www.faithbiblecollege.com](http://www.faithbiblecollege.com). If you regularly give online, thank you!*

*Would you like your gift to recur monthly? Check that option the next time you give online.*

*I would like to know more about Legacy giving. Please get in touch with me about details.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ I have a new address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pray for me \_\_\_\_\_

***You will receive a tax-deductible receipt for your gift. Thank you!***



## Meet the Baxtons and receive "food for thought"

As a young Marine 42 years ago, John was stationed at Camp Elmore in Norfolk. He met Sharon through a fellow Marine. That began a beautiful journey of raising 6 kids and serving the Lord together.

It was while attending a Gospel service at a base chapel in Okinawa, Japan, that they began truly growing in Christ and learning how to serve Him. Through John's military career, the Lord brought them to churches where they worked in many diverse ministries. They served from building projects to youth ministries and youth choir to food lines. John felt the Lord's calling while in Jacksonville, FL. At that time, Sharon envisioned that their future ministry would be feeding people through perhaps a food truck while sharing the Gospel. After John's retirement, God led them back to Virginia where Sharon was raised. Due to some traumatic experiences in her childhood, however, this was not where she wanted to be. But they started a Bible study in their home of about 5-10 people that kept growing to where they began renting space within a local church. Up to 40 folks were attending. John said that the members of the other church would peek their heads into their room because they could hear them praising the Lord! John and Sharon were sure that they were called to ministry.



13 years ago, they moved their church into a Newport News building beside a men's rescue mission. They began meeting the physical needs of those in their area, providing nonperishable food, blankets, etc. God also led them through a process of meeting the needs of young Marines and others in the neighborhood who just kept coming their way. They now also work with the USDA program at six different sites every month to serve people who pick up food. Their names are on the Food Bank website from which they get calls - John, his brother-in-law Jeff, and other church members help with those needs.

John and Sharon feel so blessed. Serving the homeless was difficult at first because they had a hard time not seeing why the people couldn't just get a job and make their lives right. But through Faith Bible College courses, their perspective began to change. Classes such as Evangelism and Anthropology helped them see humanity differently. They began seeing the homeless as created in God's image, having the DNA of the Father in them. This changed their whole church approach and how they thought. Through the Romans class, they were reminded not to judge because it is only God who can judge.

Sharon admits that she used to want a glamorous church where everybody came in smiling and smelling wonderful and looking good. But that is not who God is giving them! Regardless of who they are (or how they smell), their church provides breakfast for folks every Sunday during Sunday School while they teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They had seen that people often get the 'middle of the story', but they needed to start at the beginning with Jesus. They needed to see who He really is, the God who loves them and has saved them, not the church or who the pastors are. John knew that some folks come to get what they want and become professional churchgoers, but they really need God's Word. So they changed their Sunday School from teaching a curriculum to studying straight from God's Word so everyone leaves with 'food for thought.' Folks are responding. Some have given their lives to Christ and are continuing to grow in Him.

The Baxtons share that they are learning in the process. John started understanding what a NC pastor had shared - that you can't treat church people like you would treat Marines who did what they were told! And you can't get out of character; you have to remain in the character of the Lord. Sharon realized her original vision of feeding people and sharing Jesus was only a partial picture - she hadn't envisioned the details as the Lord had planned! They praise God for all the godly men and women who spoke into their lives, counseled them, and weren't afraid to tell them the truth. Accountability is important.

Sharon has been working on a book about dysfunctional families and how you can take dysfunctional ways into God's house without really knowing what that means. While researching, she identified the dysfunction in her family growing up, but then realized she was bringing that into her own family - everything had to be perfect and in its place, including the house, the kids, etc. She didn't know that those behaviors carried their own dysfunction. She feels that through FBC, God is helping her rightly divide His Word of truth. She knows that each course has been part of God's plan for her and, as He answers her questions about her own life, she can now share with confidence. They feel that they used to only skim the surface, but truly knowing and understanding the Bible is the greatest gift that they can give others.

Christ never stops amazing them. From free bags of brand new men's sweaters to a man in Walgreens who said, "This is on me," John was reminded "...with love and kindness I have drawn thee" (Jeremiah 31:3). God was showing him, "This is what brings people to Me, not your preaching, but it's the love." They have cut out activities that were all about the passion of ministry to focus on sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Sharon's brother Jeff and his wife Janice have been in ministry here with the Baxtons from the start. Sharon talked with Janice about FBC and they decided to take classes together. They are both on schedule to get their degrees in May 2024.



***Our College is small but mighty,***

so we celebrate our students with all of our might when they complete their degree programs!

On **June 3rd (NOTE THE NEW DATE!)** we will be having our 2023 graduation.

We will let you know the location and time as soon as we have received a final confirmation.

Please mark your calendars and come support our FBC students.

Watch them walk, hear from the students themselves, then enjoy some refreshments together following the ceremony!

**Would you pray with us?**

*As our Spring season changes to Summer, would you please keep FBC in your prayers? Here are specifics we are praying about:*

- For the health and mental strength of our students as they finish their final projects, papers, and assignments, and for a smooth and meaningful celebration for our graduates
- For a new Academic Dean who has a heart for God, FBC, and our students, and the skills needed to thrive here
- For someone(s) to help us in the strategic areas of fundraising/development, legacy giving, and a veterans endowment (3 volunteers or 1 person with many skills)
- For God's favor financially as we head into a typically lean time of year and that He bless our efforts to be good stewards of His resources
- For this year's Hap Cup to be a terrific event of fun and relaxing fellowship as well as a successful fundraiser
- For God to continue to bring us students who want to grow in Him through our summer courses

We asked some of our donors a few questions to find out more about them and their ties with Faith Bible College. (They could check more than one response for the first 2 questions.) Here's what we learned:

**How did you first hear about FBC?**

- 25% Church or Pastor
- 15% Friend or Family member
- 55% FBC faculty, staff or Board member
- 15% Other (included Lighthouse 100 radio)

**How do you receive information from or about FBC?**

- 75% letters & newsletters by mail
- 55% letters & newsletters by email
- 20% word of mouth
- 15% I'm a student
- 45% I'm staff, faculty, or Board member

**What 3 words come to mind when you think of FBC?**

Biblical (5), grounded (2), growing (2), giving, faithful (2), faith, Teaching Biblical Truth, excellent instruction, truth, truthfulness, loving, love of Jesus, God, learning about God, Christ-centered, Christ honoring & oriented, laborers, world, Fellowship, Brotherhood, Caring, student focused, genuine, thoughtful, wealth-of-knowledge, gracious, family, inspiring, encouraging, quality, integrity, parochial, support the church, resourceful, accessible, serving, conservative, doctrinal, sincerity, founded in Faith

**What compels you to give (monetarily, book donations, etc.) to Faith Bible College?**

"We believe in the standards that Faith holds to and want to keep Biblical truth being taught and lived." *"I always do those things that please the Father."* "I love learning the Word of God and providing opportunities for others to learn as well." *"I enjoy spending time in God's word and I would like others to be able to also"* "The opportunity to aid in the Biblical education of our students" *"needs that arise"* "FBC has a mission to fulfill in teaching God's Word that is worth supporting." *"I know that Faith is a place where people encounter the truth of God and grow in their personal relationship with God because of the things they are learning, so I give because I know my money will be put to good use and therefore impact the kingdom of God."* "Because it is associated with my long-time friend, Hap Struthers" *"I believe what FBC is doing is led by God and can help so many Christians."* "I believe in what FBC stands for!" *"the importance of Biblical education to advancing the Kingdom of God"* "Belief in the mission of the school" *"To advance His kingdom"* "Strategic location for the military. Emphasis upon a Bible centered, spiritually driven approach to education" *"I respect the work that they do. I know the Bible is taught diligently, and God is loved and worshiped. And the students have gone out into the world and spread the Gospel."* "Support" *"Simply committed"* "God-given ability to fill a need."