



SEPTEMBER 2011

Jay Smith to speak at FBC September 4



First Bible Church has the privilege of having **Jay Smith** preach Sunday, September 4. Jay has cross-cultural missions in his blood. He was born in a remote village in India's Himalayas. As a teen he became convinced that the gospel was absolutely true and relevant. At a mission conference in 1981 he encountered two numbers that changed his life: Only 1,500 missionaries were ministering to the 800 million Muslims in the world.

In 1992 he was asked to come to London where he visited Speakers Corner, where hundreds of Muslims converge each Sunday to hear virulent Islamic preachers. However, Smith found addressing Muslims' objections to Christianity in the usual way next to impossible. He decided to take an alternate approach: defend historic, orthodox Christianity; answer untruths that Islam proclaims about the Bible, Jesus and Christians and hold Islam itself accountable for the actions of its followers.

FBCers who have gone to London on Mission trips with Campus Crusade have met Jay and affirm this is one Sunday you do not want to miss the opportunity of hearing him.

“Unshakable Truth – Relevant Faith”



There are certain unshakable truths that should stand at the core of every believer's faith and be reflected in how we live out our lives in relationship to God and to others.

We are partnering with Central Baptist and other local churches to bring in **Josh McDowell** to speak to this truth. This is a must for parents, grandparents, and middle/high school students to hear and learn.

The sessions will be held at:
Central Baptist Church, Decatur AL
Wednesday, September 28th and
Thursday, September 29th
6:00-8:00 pm

Mark your calendar and plan to attend and discover what you believe and how this leads you to behave within a biblical community in which you belong. Learn the essentials of a relevant faith and take home the passion to pass your faith on to the next generation.

*No childcare provided

McDowell News — continues on Page 2

The Josh McDowell Ministry was formed to reach young people worldwide with the truth and love of Jesus. Well known as an articulate speaker, Josh has addressed more than 10 million young people, giving over 24,000 talks in 118 countries.

In 1991 Josh founded Operation Carelift to meet the physical and spiritual needs he discovered in orphanages, hospitals, schools, and prisons in countries of the former Soviet Union. Nearly one million children have received school supplies, food items, hygiene items, and toys from the volunteers that travelled twice a year to share God's love with them.

Since 1960, Josh has written or co-authored 120 books including:

More Than a Carpenter -- 15 million copies in 85 languages.

New Evidence That Demands a Verdict -- named one of the twentieth century's top 40 books and one of the thirteen most influential books of the last 50 years on Christian thought (by World Magazine). In addition to many other awards, Josh has been nominated 36 times for the Gold Medallion Award and has received that award on four occasions.

In spite of all the honors and awards he has received, Josh will tell anyone that his greatest joys and pleasures come from his family. He and his wife Dottie have been married 40 years. They have four children and five grandchildren.

Welcome To Our New Members



Chris & April Lee,
Cooper, Carysn, Cohen



Rachel Solorio



Michael McWhorter



Clint & Ahbra Northcutt,
Taylor, Davis, Josie, Callen

Looking Ahead with Steve...



Steve Bateman
Senior Pastor

I am still optimistic about the future of the church. Two decades of research suggests that I shouldn't be; that the church is losing some hard fought ground. For some reason, we seem to be failing to transfer the Christian faith to the next generation. Many kids who were raised in church stop going during the college years. Some return, but more than previous generations, many never do. For many of them, church has become irrelevant. Of those who remain in the church, survey after survey confirms a broad biblical illiteracy. Professing Christians don't know their Bibles and they are unable to articulate and defend even the most basic doctrine. On top of that, the culture has become more openly hostile toward the Christian faith. Especially since 9/11, the faulty argument goes like this: *Religion causes hatred and war. Christianity is a religion. Therefore, Christianity causes hatred and war.* The best thing to do, some argue, is to eliminate or at least marginalize the church. Remove it from the public square. And then, to make matters worse, the world economy continues to falter. The

church is not immune from the consequences. Every missionary I know is behind in their support. As many, if not most, churches are cutting budgets, the missionaries they sent are not quite sure how they can continue to stay on the field.

To borrow from old Tom Paine, "These are the times that try men's souls...", and only for slightly different reasons than they did in 1776.

So why am I optimistic?

Easy. Because Jesus is optimistic...in the extreme. *"I will build my church," he promised, "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Mt. 16:18).

You and I need to hear that promise and take great comfort from it. He did not say, "I might," "I want to," "I'll try." He said "I will." So we press on with great confidence obeying the Great Commission. Ours is not the first generation to face adversity in that cause, even if it might be the last. *"He is coming again to judge the living and the dead!"* But if he comes on our watch, will he find us faithful? If he does

not come on our watch, will the next generation find in us an example of steady, loyal service to our King?

My job is to equip you for the days ahead. With that in mind, consider two new series of messages beginning in September.

Sunday Mornings: In September we will begin an exposition of the Gospel of Matthew.

When nations rage,
skeptics mock,
economies crumble,
enemies threaten,
bodies fail,
plans change,
tragedy strikes,
friends disappoint,
hope wanes,
pessimism reigns,
Jesus Christ is still King of
Kings and Lord of lords,
eternally,
absolutely,
positively,
supremely,
manifestly,
indisputably,
incomparably
SOVEREIGN! You'll see
that theme throughout Matthew's
Gospel.

Sunday Nights: Also in September, we begin a new semester of the Sunday Evening Bible Study with a series called, *Seven Things Every Christian Ought to Know*. This is mere Christianity, basic Christianity, essential Christianity, the sine qua non of Christianity. This is meaty doctrine that previous generations of Christians knew by heart.

And you will too, if you start and finish this course well.

Come with me as we walk through ancient truths! This is for all people at all stages of their spiritual journey. Unbelievers will benefit from knowing what the Christian faith teaches before they can make an informed decision about it. Young believers will benefit from being established in the basics. Mature believers will benefit by learning

transferable truths they can impart to their children or small group as they “make disciples.”

God knows what challenges we will face in coming years. Knowing that is his department, and since he has already provided you all the means of grace you need, being prepared for those challenges are your department.



Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is a group for moms who are pregnant or have children birth through Kindergarten.

At MOPS we strive to encourage, equip, and develop every mother to realize her potential as a woman, mother, and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. MOPS provides a welcome break—to make new friends and know that you are not the only mom experiencing the struggles and joys of raising young children.

A typical MOPS meeting consists of an informal time of fellowship, a devotion, either a speaker or a craft, and time spent in a small discussion group.

MOPS meets at First Bible the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, August through May, from 9:15-11:30am. Childcare and snacks are provided. Come and join us!

If you want more information please contact us at mopsdecatur@gmail.com, on Facebook at MOPS-Decatur, AL, or at <http://mopsdecatur.blogspot.com>.

Mark Your Calendar



Church wide outside work day is scheduled for October 1 from 7:30 to noon. Lunch will be provided at noon. We will need a few chain saws, pole saws, hand saws, loping shears, axes, shovels, rakes, etc. and trailers with trucks to pull them. We will raise some of the tree canopies, improve the walking trail area, clean the fence line, mulch around trees and shrubs and give the grounds a good general clean up. In case of rain, we will have several inside projects.

These work days are a perfect way to build relationships between men and to have our sons interact and begin relationships with the adult men in the church. Please write this on your calendars. **Neither Alabama nor Auburn play at home that day.** Contact Gary Kessinger at 256-301-9196 or Darrel Phillips at 256-260-3770 for more specifics.

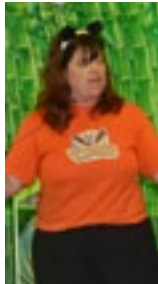
Children's Ministries



Joni Clark
Director

Attention Parents: For the safety and security of all our children, and to help Shine leaders/teachers, please make sure you have your children checked in at the nearest kiosk, and ask your children to wear their nametags at all times. Also, please be prepared to show your parent sticker tag to the Shine leaders at pick up.

Shine Summer Snapshots



**PandaMania
Coordinator
Kelly**



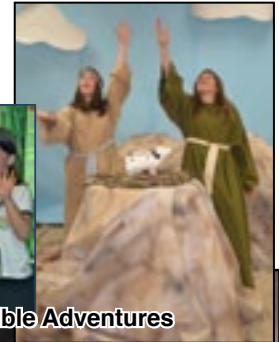
Thanks to the many people who help with teaching, crews, games, crafts, worship, snacks, decorating, etc!



**Packing classroom
gifts for
Francis Nungester**



Wild Bible Adventures



Bamboo Crews



Bamboo Blast Games



At this summer's **WinShape Camps C3 Day Camp**, kids came "i-2-i" with their Creator as they learned about their identity in Christ and how to live in intimacy with Him. This year we had the largest Decatur WinShape day camp yet with 274 children. First Bible Church provided outreach scholarships for 45 area children, most of whom attend Francis Nungester Elementary school.



Youth Activities



Wayne Campbell
Pastor to Students



Alexander Roberts
Assoc. Director of
Student Ministries



Wednesdays
6:00 eats \$4
1-8 starts at
6:30 pm
out by
7:45-8:00

FLORIDA'S BIGGEST CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

ROCK THE UNIVERSE
MULTI-DAY EVENT
SEPT 9+10 4PM-1AM

FRI 9
SWITCHFOOT

SAT 10
CASTING CROWNS

DAVID CROWDER

THIRD DAY

ANBERLIN
PLUS
GRITS
FAMILY FORCE 5
RHEMA SOUL
HYLAND

★ NEW FOR 2011 ★
FAN ZONE
AND
NIGHTLY CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE
FEATURING
CASTING CROWNS ON SAT

RELIENT K
PLUS
RED
TENTH AVE NORTH
BRANDON HEATH
LIVE FISH

MY COKE REWARDS™ LIVE KARAOKE | SPONSORS | Chick-fil-A

Contact Wayne if interested in a trip to this music festival at Universal Studios.

September Deacon for the Month



Chris Howard

Sympathy

Please express Christian sympathy to: **Meg Jones** (her great-grandmother, **Eugene Gray** (his grandmother); **David Linderman** (his mother, Laverne Linderman); **Linda Collins** (her mother, Ann Stephens) and **Shannon Allred** (her grandmother, Ann Stephens); **Dave Truitt** (his grandfather, Buddy Cagle).

SEPTEMBER

- Sep 4 Jay Smith, Speaker
- Sep 5 Labor Day
- Sep 8 Mission Committee Mtg 5:30 pm
- Sep 9 MOPS 9:30 am
- Sep 11 Sunday Evening Bible Study resumes
- Sep 11 Awana & First Team 5:15 pm
- Sep 13 Elders Meet 6 pm
- Sep 20 Decatur Outreach Committee Meet 5:30 pm
- Sep 23 MOPS 9:30 am
- Sep 23 1st Day of Autumn
- Sep 28-29 Josh McDowell Conference @ Central Baptist 6:00-8:00 pm

September 2011						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Come to hear **Josh McDowell's**

UNSHAKABLE TRUTH: RELEVANT FAITH

Learn the essentials of a relevant faith and take home the passion to pass your faith on to the next generation.

Wed. Sept. 28, 6:00-8:00pm
Part I- (This is a Two-Session Seminar)

Thurs. Sept. 29, 6:00-8:00pm
Part II- (This is a Two-Session Seminar)

by Internationally known speaker and author of *More Than a Carpenter* (15,000,000 copies worldwide)

These events are FREE for Grandparents, Parents, and Students (Middle School & High School Age) no child care

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH • DECATUR
FBC Phone 256-353-2711 • 2801 HWY 31, South



The FBC Bowling Team starts Tuesday, September

6 @ River City Lanes. The City Church League games are played at 6:15 p.m. each Tuesday (30 week season). We will try to rotate so we each bowl no more than every other Tuesday. Co-ed, handicapped — skill level makes no difference. Come out and have fun!

Contact:

Jon Sedlak, 256-353-9102 or colemansedlak@aol.com.

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS



Around the World

Reported by Maria Coker

Brucato, Andy and Linda

- Praise that Camp Exchange went well with a good number of non-Christian teens attending and who made friends with Christian teens from the US and UK.
- Pray that Andy will soon receive government certification to enter the prisons as a pastor. He continues to work with prisoners here in Bologna who have come to faith and are doing Bible courses by correspondence.

Cavaco, Teo and Madalena

- Praise God for the missionary

project that involved 10 youth summer missionaries in two teams, one lead by Teo and Madalena. Pray the children were reached.

- Praise for the gift given to buy the bicycles for the project.
- Pray for a place for us to rest during a short vacation.
- Pray for guidance concerning our missions changes.

Cowser, Brom and Betty

- Pray for guidance and wisdom in the selection of themes and Scripture for the radio broadcast.

Diaz, Armando and Liset

- Pray for protection of the Miami Navigator families (finances, possessions, everything that concerns us). We have seen an increase in violence in the city.
- Pray for divine encounters to share the Gospel and supernatural health and strength as we continue to minister to the unsaved, leading Bible studies and disciplining one-on-one.
- Pray we deepen our relationship with the Lord individually and as a team.
- Pray doors are opened for op-

Mission News continues on page 9

Ministry at SummerPlace Apartments

•This summer, we began a weekly “**Read to Me**” program at the Apartments. Each Friday, either Ingrid Paine, Laura Hellard (along with her assistants/children Eleanor and Charlie!) and I rotated reading our favorite children’s books for an hour or so. Sometimes children wanted to do more “school work,” so we did math or science. Some older boys hung around to listen after bringing their younger siblings. We noticed how the children relaxed and became drawn into the stories.

•During **Reach Week**, Mike Smith, Tom Varwig, Kristine Beadle, Joy Mills, FBC teens Ralph Clay, Rickie Lash, Jeffrey Williams, and our tutored students helped paint the playground equipment and spread mulch at the playground. When the volunteers began painting, so many children begged to help, we ran out of paintbrushes. The playground is the central gathering place, so the kids gained great pride in their work. Everyone left wearing blue, green, yellow, red proof of their labor.



•You helped us sponsor seven of the children to **Win-shape Camp**. We also took them swimming once each month this summer. They’re looking forward to tutoring this year and to remaining or getting on honor roll. Therefore, we need more tutors. I know the Holy Spirit is nudging some of you to join us on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 2:30 - 4:00. You can arrive later or leave earlier. Contact **Robin Wozniak** at robwoz@charter.net or 256-353-9139.



opportunities in local churches to develop intentional discipleship and leadership training. In September, we will be ministering to over 100 young adults in Homestead.

Franklin, Bill and Ginann

- We're praising God that the Jya Ying Church is getting a vision for reaching out, not just focusing on the people already in the church. Pray for their new young pastor that God grant him wisdom beyond his years.
- Pray for us as we look for a coffee shop to use as an "office" in the new church plant area.
- Pray for Ginann as she and two ladies from Jya Ying Church start mentoring the younger women in the church this month. Pray we can encourage these women-one is the pastor's wife.

Fuller, Kent and Marion

- Praise for being spared from the effects of the Tropical Depression that passed over Belize Saturday, August 20th.
- Praise for growth at Roaring Creek Church with the youths taking responsibility for leading the service and caring of the facility.
- Pray the Evangelical Association of Belize will recognize the need to get many churches involved and promote the need for interdependence among the evangelical community.
- Pray God will continue to give us good health to serve people/churches in Belize.
- Pray for Kent as he ministers to pastors and leaders country-wide - to encourage, challenge

and equip them for greater effectiveness to local fellowships.

Gosnell, Brent and Lindsay

- Pray we would get connected with many students and have many opportunities to share the Gospel - that students would come to know Christ.
- Pray for the 500+ students that we will be calling who filled out surveys at our tables.
- Pray for endurance for the next 6 weeks. We will be going non-stop on campus. We have activities almost every evening and weekend.
- Pray for Lindsay, she is 17 weeks pregnant. Pray for health for Lindsay and the new baby.

Grubb, Glenn and Sharlene

- Praise for the Yawa New Testament, dedicated in Papua after 28 years of work to complete..
- Praise that Max had a good summer.
- Pray for Glenn as he wraps up the written report from the accident investigation back in May.
- Pray for Max as he begins his second year at John Brown University, that he gets settled, get a good start on his studies and grow in his walk with the Lord.
- Pray for Glenn's allergy issues – that allergy shots can be scheduled to begin soon.

Gute, Wayne and Kitty

- Pray for the general elections in Guatemala in September. These involve the president on down to the local arenas. During this time, there is usually an increase in violence and demonstrations. Pray for the safety of all Christians there.

Harper, Brian and Abbey

- Praise and prayer for the Bible studies getting started on the book of John. Praise that the Lord is moving students to study - also pray that students will be moved by the Word of God into a relationship with Christ.
- Pray for the continued growth and maturity in Christ and the Gospel for the church and campus staff.

Herlein, Lynne

- Praise God – I finished my Bachelor's degree and graduated in August!
- Praise God for the 45 students enrolled in the Children's Ministries Institute. Students are from all over the world and 21 states.
- Pray for the students as they have a heavy schedule in September. They will attend classes, have written work, practicums and real life ministry with children.
- Pray for Good News Clubs beginning throughout the country in September. Pray God would open doors in new schools so more children can be reached with the Gospel and disciplined.

Ittermann, Loreen

- Praise for the excellent FBC mission team ministering in Moldova as they interacted with many national pastors and their families, the orphans, camp kids and also helped with construction work.
- Praise for the positive response of our Jewish contacts as the FBC team provided a dinner and program for them, including

the sharing of the Gospel.

- Pray for the Titus Retreat, with 125 national pastors and their families, be a time of renewal, physically and spiritually.
- Pray for the financial needs of all aspects of the ministry to be met.

Jaeger, Mitch

- Pray for my family as we deal with the loss of my grandmother.

Kraai, Arthur and Meg

- Praise God for providing full support! We're thankful for FBC!
- Pray for Meg and Sam's visas to be granted so we can leave for Japan.
- Pray that we would fall more in love with Jesus every day.
- Pray that we would be able to "leave well" – to have good closure and meaningful goodbyes.

Kyle, Tommy and Heather

- Praise - our adoption meetings went great in the Dominican and the adoptions are now moving forward. Still no guarantees but moving in a positive direction.
- Pray for the first character coach's training for Nations of Coaches the last weekend in September.
- Pray for continued efforts in raising support for the ministry, that God will supply every need and we KNOW He will!
- As always, pray for protection over our family.

Moles, David and Bethanne

- Praise for the great summer with our two oldest girls home! Continue to pray for Emily as

she seeks employment now that she has graduated college. Pray for Caroline as she returns for her junior year in college, that she would grow spiritually and connect with solid Christian girls.

- Pray for Bethanne as she gets her two year screening after her bout with kidney cancer. Pray we get it scheduled at our local hospital and that the outcome is clear. There are no external signs to suggest any problem but we'd like to have only one terminal diagnosis at a time!
- Praise that David's job in Leadership Development in charge of hiring staff is going well and has allowed for the flexibility he needs. He has been able to hire 15 new Part-Time Field staff this fall for schools around the Mid Atlantic.

Nannen, Scott and Stephanie

- Pray for international students arriving at campuses all over the country. Pray for their transition to the States, for their culture shock and for loneliness. Pray they would cross paths with Christians in their universities and in the community who reflect the love of Christ to them
- Pray in particular for Kenneth, Mandy and Shirley – some of the Chinese international students we are getting to know.
- Pray for our kids – John, Joey and Emily – as they begin a new year of school. They will be attending a different school. Transitions can be hard for them, so please pray for a good school year and their teachers.

North, John and Lois

- Pray for John as he teaches a Bible conference on Spiritual Growth and a seminar on Evangelism the next weekend. Pray for strength; that God will use John to advance His work in those churches and individuals.
- Pray for John as he travels to the US for the missions board meetings. Pray for insight and direction as they lead the mission. Also pray for fruitful meetings with supporters while there.
- Pray for Lois – strength, encouragement and energy as she manages home and family during John's trips away.
- Pray that Jesus will live His way of life through us, speak His messages to those in our lives through us and draw us relationally close to Him.

Robinson, Durand and Ruth

- Praise for GEM staff training in effectively sharing our faith, making disciples and multiplying churches. We are already seeing open doors and pray for more new believers!
- Praise for the mission focus of discipleship/church planting in 50 key cities in Europe over 5 years. Pray as I visit 7 of these cities this fall to meet believers and identify the beginnings of expanding the Kingdom!
- Praise for the 150 people who served in Europe this summer and their leaders. Two of the teams are staying for 3 years to do follow up. Pray that God would provide leaders for each of the 50 key cities. Thank God for Derek Dominguez, who is helping me with this large project.

- Pray for our children, one is getting married in September. They have relocated to Seattle and are looking for jobs. Also for Ruth as she looks for employment. Pray I find ways to use my creative talents for the good of others.
- Pray for our walk, that others will be drawn to follow Jesus.

Rogers, Buddy and Kathy

- Praise for safety during our travel. We logged over 15,000 miles while we were in the US.
- Praise for the ministry of our church that continued well while we were in the States.
- Pray for the ability to recover from our travels and for preparations for the new school year.
- Pray for God to use the series on the Life of Christ to help people come to know the Lord and grow in Him.

Rupp, Jim and Nadine

- Praise for the new church building that was dedicated in July in Latani. Churches from 10 little villages participated. This exemplifies Juan and Rosa's strength to motivate cooperation. He always requests our prayer for God's blessing on their ministry.
- Pray for Jim as he seeks medical attention for an injured rotator cuff.

Schaaf, Mark and Kathy

- Thank you for your prayers during our time with the ministry from New Jersey. It was a good time and we ministered both in the Lawley church and community and in Swaziland. Continue to pray for the fruit to grow. God answered prayers for our safety even during a protest demonstration and a bull elephant charge!
- The conference we had on teaching people who are oral learners went well and we have been able to put some of our newfound knowledge to work. We need more practice so that it is more natural to us. Please pray the Holy Spirit will use our efforts in helping people learn about God. We will use this method with a group of new believers we are discipling in the Lawley church.

Stephenson, Mike

- Praise the Lord for a good week of meetings for the Team Leaders in Dallas during July.
- Pray that I can manage funds to allow for needed dental work.
- I ask for prayer that we might be able to open one or two new locations for the pastors' training ministry soon. At present, only the training at Centennial Camp is available but hope to have others soon!
- Please begin praying for funds I will need for next year's convocation (goal of \$1500, estimated airfare and fees). This will be a convention of all CAM missionaries worldwide.

Wintter, Kathleen

- Praise for the 2 women who trusted Christ at English Camp in July in Romania. Also for the two Bible study groups meeting regularly.
- Praise for the Day Camp with mostly Gypsies in Serbia. It went very well, although there were only about 30 teens daily. Pray God will soften their hearts for Him.
- Pray for me as I continue 9 groups of English students at the refugee camp. I enjoy the classes with them, I will not be able to keep up the pace when school starts back in September. Continue to pray that other Christians will be able to enter the compound and help with the teaching and relationship building.