



## **FIRST CHRONICLES**

**July 2026**

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***“While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”***

– Acts 13:2-3

I’ve been volunteering with the George Fire Department for a little while now. I’ve gone through training and have been on many calls and try to help out in whatever way I can. Everyone on the department, including myself, are firefighters. We all hold that title. But there is only one Fire Chief. Only one person has this role in the department. Similarly, there are only certain people who are safety officers, training officers, and so on. Yes, we all fight fires but there are others with specific tasks that are set apart from us.

As we have focused on seeking the lost this year, I’ve resisted calling everyone “missionaries.” Mission work is different from evangelism and witnessing—though it shares many similar aspects. All focus on sharing the Gospel and all call us toward living lives of Christian integrity. But, while everyone is a witness, not everyone is a missionary.

In the verses above, we see Barnabas and Saul (soon-to-be Paul), set apart for a specific work that God had prepared for them. They were about to initiate God’s call to the Gentiles. By this time, there were thousands of believers in the early church. All of them were witnesses in their areas. But the task for missions was only for a few. Missionaries are set apart and commissioned for a specific work by the Holy Spirit. Generally (though not exclusively), their work is to leave home, live among a foreign people, share the Gospel, disciple new converts, and engage in acts of service in their mission field. This isn’t the call of every Christian—only those God has gifted for this purpose.

Missionaries are not only called by the Holy Spirit to specific tasks, but these tasks should also be recognized by the body of believers. The believers who are a part of the sending church should uplift missionaries in prayer. Mission work is difficult. New cultures, new languages, being away from home and support structures—all of these things and more make missions challenging and demanding. Missionaries need support and encouragement as they engage this arduous work. As the believers did in the verses above, missionaries should be commissioned, prayed for, and supported throughout this work.

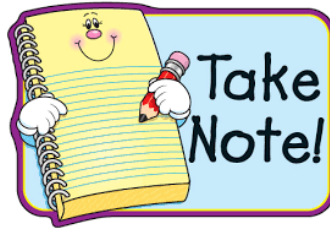
We’re about to send a team out to Tanzania to engage in short term mission work. Not everyone in the church is going—but that’s because not everyone is called to this work in this season of life (but maybe in the future? ☺). But let’s be in prayer for those who are going. Pray for their strength. Pray for their encouragement. And pray that they can present the Gospel with clarity.

But for everyone, short-term missionaries or not, be encouraged to be a witness to those God has placed in your life. Let’s seek and save the lost together.

In Christ,  
Jesse

# OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
<b>Sunday, July 5</b> Community Ministerium Service	<b>Sunday, July 5</b> Community Ministerium Service	<b>Sunday, July 5</b> Community Ministerium Service
<b>Sunday, July 12</b> Nolan & Gwen Kooiker	<b>Sunday, July 12</b> Gerri Spangler	<b>Sunday, July 12</b> Abby Kramer
<b>Sunday, July 19</b> Alan & Terresa Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, July 19</b> Terresa Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, July 19</b> Sarah Gruis
<b>Sunday, July 26</b> Kevin & Lynette Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, July 26</b> Donna DeBoer	<b>Sunday, July 26</b> Katie DeBoer



- If you were a Sunday School teacher last year, we will plan on you teaching again in the Fall. Please contact Alyssa den Hoed if you won't be able to teach, or if you'd like to start teaching.
- If you are interested in helping AWANA this year, please let Rachel Kramer know by July 26. If you volunteered last year in AWANA, we will plan on you helping again unless you tell us otherwise. We are always in need of leaders, and appreciate anyone who can volunteer their time! There will be a leaders meeting on Sunday, August 9 following the morning service. Awana begins September 2 at 6:30 pm!
- Bi-Annual Meeting will be Sunday, July 26, following the morning service. Reports from Treasurer and Mission Fund are due to Crystal by July 5.
- Let's join with other believers in our area to worship God! Instead of our worship service on July 5th, we will be participating in a community service put together through the George-Little Rock Ministerium Association. Plan on gathering for worship in George at the MS/HS Auditorium on July 5th @ 10am. Hope to see you there!
- The Sunday School Promotion & church Picnic will be on Sunday, August 30. Group 5 will work in the kitchen for the picnic. We will be having grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. Please bring a salad and/or dessert to share. We will have a bouncy house, the Amazing Race, and other activities.



July	1	Rachel & Trent Thompson Ruby Deweese Julie Kramer
	2	Caleb Kooiker
	3	Dawson & Bethany DeBoer Hattie McDowell
	7	Trenton Kaufman
	8	Trisha Jacobson
	11	Andrew Kaufman Macie McDowell
	14	Brandon & Taylor Kramer
	17	Maci Arends Dawn Hayenga
	18	Eric & Sarah Gruis
	20	Kevin & Lynette Wagenaar Hank Arends
	21	Sarah Gruis
	25	Dennis & Kim Winkowitsch Ryan Arends Jemma Kramer
	27	Charlotte Kramer
	29	Miriam Kooiman
	30	Doug & Donna DeBoer Herman Christians Danika DeBoer

# Thank You So Much

Thank you so much for the birthday card and gift. I really appreciate your kindness and generosity. I am truly blessed by you all!

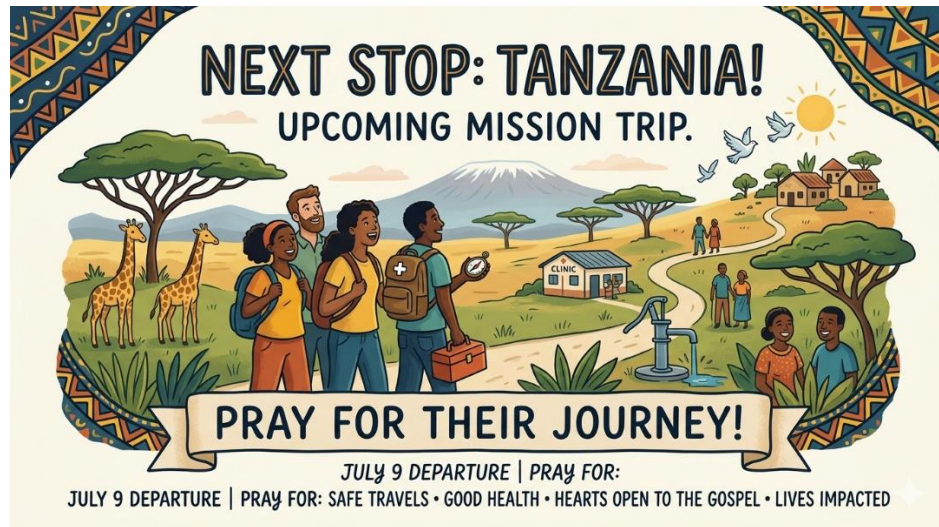
- Katie Sternke

I want to thank the church for the beautiful potted flower arrangement after my recent surgeries. It was very thoughtful. Thanks so much.

- Lesli Kramer

To the First Baptist Church family, Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for mom's service. It was very thoughtful of you all to think about us during this very difficult time!

- The Depo Family (Gracie Depo Christians, Carl & Jenn Depo Family, Bob & Courtney Depo Family, Justin & Randi Depo Family, and Heather & Reco Armstrong Family)



The countdown is officially on! On **July 9**, eleven of our bravest, finest, and most caffeinated brothers and sisters are packing their bags, boarding a very long flight, and heading to Tanzania, Africa!

Please keep our amazing Africa Mission Team covered in prayer as they prepare to depart. We are asking for safe travels, excellent health (and zero stomach bugs!), and that God works powerfully through them as they share His love. Please also pray for the beautiful people of Tanzania they will be ministering to—that hearts will be wide open, and lives will be deeply impacted by the Gospel. Also pray for their families while they wait for them to come home.

**Meet your Tanzania Mission Team:**

Ava deBoer  
Crystal deBoer  
Sharon DeBoer  
Cindy Eben  
Jack Goebel  
Phil Jacobson  
Bradley Kramer  
Darren Kramer  
Janice Krull  
Jesse Sternke  
Miriam Sternke

***P.S. If you see any of these faces around the church this Sunday, give them a high five, a hug, and let them know you are praying for them!***

## July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6:30 PM Youth  7:00 PM Visitation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> George Freedom Days	<b>4</b> Independence Day George Freedom Days
<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Community Ministerium Worship @ MS/HS Auditorium	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>9</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Tanzania Mission Trip July 9-23</div>	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Fellowship Time  10:00 AM Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Youth  7:00 PM Visitation	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Tanzania Mission Trip July 9-23</div>						
<b>19</b> MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Fellowship Time  10:00 AM Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Tanzania Mission Trip July 9-23</div>						
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Fellowship Time  10:00 AM Worship  11:00 AM Bi-Annual Meeting  6:30 PM Discipleship U Bday/Anniv Celeb	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	